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Annual Report—FY16
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Bridging into Our Second Decade: Building on our Strengths

FY16 Project Highlights
Bridging the School-to-Opportunity Pipeline

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
PBIS Muscogee County & Bibb County School Districts
Georgia Appleseed’s Columbus office participated in the training of PBIS coaches for the entire district, conducted by Georgia Department of Education. The Columbus office provided a session on community involvement.

Georgia Appleseed also engaged with the Bibb PBIS District team on preparations for the end of year surveys and summer training for new schools, on the way to 100% district implementation planned for the following school year.

“Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit”
Georgia Appleseed’s online resource, the “Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit,” continued to be a vital component of training for the PBIS coordinators, as the Toolkit allows them, as well as parents and other advocates, to easily see Out-of-School Suspension data including potential disproportionality based on age, race and gender. The Toolkit houses 10 years of data from the Georgia Department of Education. See more online at www.GaAppleseed.org/toolkit.

Georgia Education Climate Coalition (GECC)
Going hand-in-hand with the Georgia Climate Star Rating of our state’s public schools, launch of this Coalition included convening of dozens of local nonprofit representatives and education experts, with the ultimate goal of improving a school’s “climate” (or culture) to be a positive influence, and therefore increase success and wellbeing of the students, faculty and administration. “Good Thinking Atlanta” created the “ALL IN” campaign for GECC, a branded campaign for this initiative that will help communities around the state be “all in” for positive school environments that keep kids in class and out of juvenile court. See more online at: gaeducationclimate.org.

Student Code of Conduct Review
To institute effective and fair student discipline, Georgia Appleseed offered to review the “Student Code of Conduct” for several school districts. Revised student codes of conduct support the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework that Georgia Appleseed contends is the most effective and systemic strategy for dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline and replacing it with the School to Opportunity Pipeline.

Mission: To increase justice in Georgia through law and policy reform and community engagement.
Vision: A Georgia where the voices of poor people, children and marginalized people are heard, and where injustices that no one should endure are resolved.
Values: Balanced and objective research; Data-driven, pragmatic solutions; Collaboration to achieve justice; Courage to tackle the hard issues; The Power of Pro Bono!
(See the current 990 online at www.GaAppleseed.org)
Student Representation in School Discipline Tribunals

In February 2016, the YPC held its first training outside of metro Atlanta, presenting a CLE opportunity in Savannah. Total, more than 130 attorneys have been trained to represent children in foster care going through these hearings. An active effort was also made to train DFCS case workers on this available service.

Bridging Relationships between Community and Police

Race, Law Enforcement & The Law

The January 2016 publication of "SEEKING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: Fostering Crucial Conversations about Race, Law Enforcement and the Law" was publicly debuted at a Symposium at Georgia State University School of Law and hosted by the Atlanta Bar Association, attended by hundreds of members of the legal and law enforcement community. The publication and interview of the report's primary author, Rob Rhodes, graced several publications and media interviews.

Convening meetings to discuss the report and its recommendations, with concerned community members and officers of the law, were held in the metro Atlanta area included collaborations with City of Atlanta's Police Department, Georgia Gwinnett College (Lawrenceville) and City of Hiram, Georgia.

Organizational Updates

Bridging a Path out of Poverty: Heirs Property

Georgia Appleseed continued to incubate the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center (GHPLC), the first of its kind in Georgia focused on the legal representation of low and moderate income owners of heirs property. In addition to GHPLC Director Skipper StipeMaas, Georgia Appleseed also hired Veronica McClendon and Claude Davis to round out the initial staff in preparation for the GHPLC's launch as an independent organization in FY17.

Bridging Humbleness with Recognition: Awarding Pro Bono Success

2016 Good Apple Awards Honorees included the law firm of Nelson Mullins for its extensive pro bono efforts as lead law firm on the Race, Law Enforcement & The Law Project. Also, Elizabeth V. Tanis of King & Spalding, a founding Board Director, was recognized for her years of dedication to the organization. The Young Professionals Council (YPC) Student Tribunal Team leaders, Alison Ballard, Eric Fisher, Craig Friedman and Rachel Platt, were recognized for their service on this important project.

**Important Financial Note:** Georgia Appleseed experienced a decrease in its total net assets in FY16, in large part due to the impact of accrual accounting protocols. Significant grants restricted to the incubation of the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center (GHPLC) were received and recognized in FY15, but were not expended until FY16, thus resulting in the decrease in FY16 net assets. This was so even though all expenditures in FY16 were paid with restricted funding previously raised.
Bridging Philanthropy to Support our Work
Supporters (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) Including Restricted Grant Awards, Cy Pres, and Individual Donors

$100,000+
Georgia Bar Foundation/Bank of America Funding (subgrantee of Atlanta Legal Aid Society)
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
The Sapelo Foundation

$50,000-$99,999
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
Columbus Office of Crime Prevention
Fulton County Dept. of Housing & Community Development Community Service Program (CSP)

$25,000-$49,999
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Jeff Firestone
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and Catherine O’Neil
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Haley Curtis
Shirley and John Fatum
Taimur Ghaznavi
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Tamika McKenzie
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