THE FY17 ANNUAL REPORT:
A YEAR OF REAPING WHAT WE HAVE SOWN...

INVESTMENT IN PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS

ENRICHMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

EMPOWERMENT & OPPORTUNITY FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Fiscal Year 2017 was a year of great achievement and great change. In one instance, the great achievement WAS the great change: Georgia Appleseed finally achieved its 10-year project goal when, on January 1, 2017, it launched the new, independent Georgia Heirs Property Law Center (GHPLC).

The creation, incubation and launch of this new state-wide resource was inspired by what Georgia Appleseed learned from its 2006 Katrina project: “heirs property” rendered many Hurricane Katrina evacuees ineligible for FEMA Road Home assistance, which explained why so many evacuees were still in Atlanta more than one year after the storm.

Not wanting this fate for Georgians in what then seemed to be an unprecedented disaster, Georgia Appleseed set out to find a solution. Between 2008 and January 1, 2017, Georgia Appleseed engaged in research, collaboration, and experimentation, with the ultimate goal being to create Georgia’s first independent law center dedicated to serving the individual legal needs of low and moderate-income owners of heirs property.

After years of “just enough” restricted funding to keep the project viable, we finally got our “lucky” break when two major funders effectively joined forces to invest the money needed to transform our dream into reality. This infusion of funding allowed Georgia Appleseed to make a critical hire: Skipper StipeMaas as the first GHPLC Director. Over the next 18 months of incubation (FY16 and early FY17), Skipper’s GHPLC team grew to five – the critical staff needed for a successful launch.

Though Georgia Appleseed showed a net deficit for FY16, we knew the investment would pay off for Georgia. We were also confident that Georgia Appleseed would return to a net surplus in FY17 . . . and we were right! Not only does Georgia Appleseed’s FY17 audit show a significant surplus, but Georgia now has its first independent law center dedicated to ending poverty through land ownership.

FY17 brought other important staff and program changes. First, we celebrated the retirement of our first Director of Projects, Rob Rhodes, and welcomed his successor, Allison Rutland Soulen. Then, we celebrated the next career step for Director of Community Engagement Teddy Reese as he entered private practice in Columbus, and we embraced new program opportunities in Savannah and Augusta.

Spoiler Alert: FY18 will see significant leadership change, too. Upon my retirement, effective January 1, 2018, C. Talley Wells will become Georgia Appleseed’s new Executive Director. Talley has the talent, experience and leadership to take Georgia Appleseed to the next level – I could not be more pleased!

Thank you for your financial and pro bono support that transforms Georgia Appleseed’s vision into increased justice for Georgians throughout our state. We are able to do what we do because of you.

With gratitude,

Sharon Hill
Executive Director
Continuing to Sow Justice: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline

For a dramatic understanding of our work in this area, see the original, short film, “His Story”, produced for Georgia Appleseed at http://bit.ly/GAAHisStory.

Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit

With a generous, anonymous grant, and with support of long-time funders, our Toolkit was updated with the most recent information on school discipline. New in FY17 was Out of School Suspension (OSS) rates by student disability.

Georgia Education Climate Coalition (GECC) – Going “All In”...

GA Appleseed staffers Teddy Reese and Rob Rhodes joined forces with local members of the Dougherty County Steering/Executive Committee of the “All In!” Campaign at the July 30 school year kick-off event for the Dougherty County School System (Albany, GA) and prepared for the “All In!” public awareness campaign in Muscogee County. The “All In” campaign promotes positive school climate throughout the community. Several local community leaders are actively engaged with Georgia Appleseed to broaden community impact.

Student Code of Conduct Review

Georgia Appleseed’s work contributed to the unanimous approval of the new Student Code of Conduct for Athens/Clarke County public schools in May 2017. This new code supports the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, an effective and systemic strategy for dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline.

Juvenile Code Assessment Project: Justice for our Children & Youth

Three years after the unanimous passage of the new Georgia Juvenile Code (eff. date 1/1/14), lead pro bono firms Kilpatrick Townsend and Nelson Mullins interviewed more than 200 stakeholders in FY17, which will lead to data analysis and an official report release in FY18.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

With project support from Georgia Appleseed, Bibb County Schools have achieved 100% implementation of PBIS! Muscogee County schools continued implementation of PBIS, with early data showing positive trends. For more about Georgia Appleseed’s work in Columbus, go to http://bit.ly/GAAColumbus.
Reaping Wisdom & Turning It Into Action:

New Rule for Fairness in Student Tribunals

The 2016 General Assembly enacted a law requiring the State Board of Education to adopt a rule establishing

- qualifications for hearing officers or tribunal panel members who preside at disciplinary hearings, and
- establishing minimum standards for initial and continuing training for such individuals.

The Georgia Appleseed Young Professionals Council’s Tribunal team worked with Director of Projects Rob Rhodes on a Guidance Document with preliminary content suggestions to Georgia Department of Education. A number of Georgia Appleseed’s recommended changes to the proposed rule were embraced by GA DOE leaders, with the final rule approved on July 15, 2016. Georgia Appleseed’s Guidance Document was also approved by the School Board of Education at the July 15 meeting.

Forensic Patients

Presented in partnership with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and Atlanta Legal Aid Society, a CLE on Community Services & Procedures for people found Incompetent to Stand Trial-Nonrestorable (IST-N) was offered and attended by a broad range of community professionals such as attorneys, LMSWs, LCSWs and Certified Peer Specialists.

Sowing the Seeds of Knowledge:

Mutual Respect between Community Members and Officers of the Law

Following the successful January 2016 release of Georgia Appleseed’s Race, Law Enforcement & The Law Report, a focus on data and training were among the recommendations that were pursued the most rigorously. Georgia Appleseed’s Rob Rhodes met with state and local law enforcement leadership to move forward on both state and local level policies. Community engagement continued. We were especially impressed when a high school student used Georgia Appleseed’s community meeting guide to host a community wide Race/Law forum in Lawrenceville in January 2016.

During the Georgia General Assembly 2017 session, legislators approved an increase in the budget to hire a curriculum specialist at the P.O.S.T. council. The curriculum specialist will focus on updating and modernizing the P.O.S.T. mandated curriculum in Georgia for certified law enforcement officers. Funding this position was consistent with Georgia Appleseed’s recommendations.

The Next Generation of Leadership

Georgia Appleseed’s Young Professionals Council, lead by an active executive committee, had a strong FY17 with increased programatic focus on its Student Tribunal work. As well, they hosted a Fall Friendraiser and the most successful Spellbound for Justice (SCRABBLE®) fundraiser to date, with 19 teams participating, more than 100 in attendance and grossing more than $10,000 for the organization.
Reaping Justice: Incubation & Official Launch of the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center (GHPLC)

After several years of planning, Georgia Appleseed achieved its long-term project goal of creating Georgia’s first independent law center dedicated to representing low and moderate income owners of heirs property. Incorporated in 2015, and thereafter incubated at Georgia Appleseed, the new GHPLC, under the leadership of Center Director Skipper StipeMaas, was launched as an independent center on January 1, 2017. GHPLC’s mission is to increase generational wealth, social justice, and community stability by securing and preserving property rights of low and moderate income Georgians. Its website is www.gaheirsproperty.org.

FY17 Financial Overview

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Revenues & Support

- Contributions and Grants: $1,023,175
- Contributed Services: $867,888
- Contributed Facilities: $60,450
- Fundraising and special events: $171,890

Total Revenues and Support: $2,123,403

Expenses

- Program: $1,633,334
- General and Administrative: $146,509
- Fundraising: $216,127

Total Expenses: $1,995,970

Increased Total Net Assets: $127,433

Above financials are from Georgia Appleseed’s FY17 Audited Statements.

1,879 PRO BONO HOURS
FY17 Board of Directors
(as of 6/30/2017)

Georgia Appleseed is grateful & proud of the commitment from its board of directors. The organization has 100% Board Giving.

John H. Fleming
Board Chair
Eversheds-Sutherland

David Sneed
Immediate Past Board Chair
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation

Taylor Daly
Board Vice-Chair
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Paula Frederick
Board Secretary
State Bar of Georgia

Virginia Adams
Board Treasurer
EY

Alison Ballard
Young Professionals Council President
Taylor English Duma

Mary Benton
Alston & Bird

Matthew Bozzelli
Southern Company

Scott Casey
UPS

Alex Clay
Smith Gambrell & Russell

Elizabeth (Beth) Chadwick
Consultant

Charles (Chuck) C. Clay
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

The Honorable Victoria Darrisaw
State Court of Dougherty County

Bob Edwards
Troutman Sanders

Harold Franklin
King & Spalding

Bob Gallagher
PwC

Brian Gordon
DLA Piper

Wade Herring
Hunter Maclean

Sharon N. Hill
Executive Director, Georgia Appleseed

Jessica McKinney
GE Energy

The Honorable Herbert E. Phipps
Court of Appeals of Georgia (ret.)

Diane Prucino
Kilpatrick Townsend Stockton

Randi Schnell
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Neil Shorthouse
LeaderComm

FY17 Staff: Georgia Appleseed

Sharon N. Hill, JD, MBA
Executive Director

Linda Hall Pitts
Finance Manager

Abigail Gross
Director of Development

Tremaine Reese, JD, MPA
Director of Community Engagement

Rob Rhodes, JD
Director of Projects

Alissa Scherb
Development Coordinator

Kermit “Kirby” Thomas
Community Engagement Assistant

Patsy White
Program Manager

FY17 Special Staff Note: We celebrated Director of Projects Rob Rhodes’ retirement at the end of FY17. Rob had joined GA Appleseed after more than thirty years with Holland & Knight and then spent another decade with us sowing the seeds of justice throughout Georgia. We congratulate Rob on his retirement (this time he tells us retirement will “stick”) and wish him all the best. We also welcomed Allison Rutland Soulen as Rob’s successor (effective 7/1/2017).

[Left to Right: Allison Rutland Soulen, Linda Hall-Pitts, Rob Rhodes, Abigail Gross, Tremaine Reese, Patsy White, Kirby Thomas, Alissa Scherb, Sharon Hill]
WE THANK OUR FY17 SUPPORTERS  
(July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017) 
Including Restricted Grant Awards and Cy Pres 

$60,000+ 
Atlanta Legal Aid Society 
(sub-grantee of Georgia Bar Foundation) 
Columbus Office of Crime Prevention 
CyPres 
Fulton County Dept. of Housing & Community Development 
Community Service Program 
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation 
R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation, Inc. 
USD-NAICS Georgia 

$25,000-$59,999 
Roy Barnes & Barnes Law Group LLC 
The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta 
Eversheds Sutherland 
Georgia Bar Foundation 
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP 
King & Spalding LLP 
Zeit Foundation 

$10,000-24,999 
Alston & Bird LLP 
Ben Hill County Commissioners 
McIntosh SEED 
Richard Parades Philanthropic Fund 
Southern Company 
The UPS Foundation 
Troutman Sanders 
Beth Tanis & John Chandler 

$5,000-$9,999 
Atlanta Foundation 
Scott Case 
DLA Piper 
Ernst & Young LLP 
John & Lisa Fleming 
Robert Gallagher 
John & Mary Franklin Foundation, Inc. 
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP 
PwC 
Ron Raider 
Teresa & Joseph Roseborough 
Taylor English Duma LLP 
Patricia Verrill & Joseph Wayland 
Wells Fargo Foundation 

$2,500-$4,999 
Anonymous via Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta 
donor designated fund 
Arnall Golden Gregory LLP 
Atlanta Bar Foundation/LRIS 
Balch & Bingham LLP 
Mary Bear Hughes & Bob Hughes 
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore LLP 
Brooks, McGinnis & Company, LLC 
Elizabeth Chadwick & Mike Politte 
Taylor & John Daly 
Sandra & Robert Edwards 
equifax 
Sharon & Ben Hill 

Interfaith Children’s Movement 
(sub-grantee of Sapelo Foundation) 
Jones Day 
Diane Prucino & Tom Heyse 
Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP 
State Bar of Georgia 
Faye B. Woodruff 

$1,000-$2,499 
Aaron’s Inc. 
Virginia Adams & Derek Elmerick 
Bill Ballard 
Mary & Chip Benton 
Emmet Bondurant 
Heidi & Matthew Bozelli 
Brad Bryant 
Chuck Cantey & Mary Jane Stewart 
Steve Clay 
Alexander Clay 
Victoria Darrasaw 
Dentons 
Development Authority of Fulton County 

dorffermyre, Shields, Canfield & Knowles LLC 
Arthur Domby 
Berit Downs 
Duane Morris LLP 
Alice & Steve Edwards 
Jeff Firestone 
Jessica & Eric Fisher 
Paula Frederick 
Patricia Gorham 
Christopher Graham 
Hall, Booth, Smith P.C. 
Susan & Wade Harring II 
Hunter & Williams LLP 
Stanley Jones & Bobbi Cleveland 
Walter Jospin & Wendy Shob 
Sam Kaywood Jr. 
Krevolin & Horst LLC 
Lawrence & Bundy LLC 
Littler Mendelson P.C. 
Joe Loveland & Pam Driesell 
David Naheah & Catherine O’Neil 
Herbert Phips 
Poliselli 
Progressive Consulting 
Technologies, Inc. 
Matt & Alison Prout 
Marie & Rob Rhodes 
Amelia Rudolph 
Randi Schnell 
Stanley & Adwoa Seymour 
Neil Shorthouse 
Letta & David Sneed 
Trip & Theresa Tomlinson 

$500-$999 
A. Montag and Associates 
Abras Davis Mason Long, LLC 
Allison Ballard & Ramsey Knowles 
Pearson Beardsley 
Allen & Lila Bradley 
Ralph Carl 
Jason Carter 
Michelle Davis 
Dee Downs & Stephen Andrews 
Drew Droop 
Beth-Anne Flynn 
Harold Franklin 
The Goddard School 
Brian Gordon & Logan Ritchie 
Brian Harris 
Shawntel Hebert 
Dustin Heslep 
Philip Holladay & 
Melinda Cooper Holladay 
Holland & Knight 
Charles Huddleston 
Keegan Law Firm, LLC 
Colin Kelly 
Martenson, Hasbrook & Simon 
Beverly Martin 
Micah Moon 
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. 
Rachel Platt 
Sapelo Foundation Organization 

Development Fund 
Portia Shields 
Catherine & John Spellman 
Brooks Stillwell 
Lauren Zeldin 
Rachael Zichella 

$250-$499 
Lynn Adam 
Kim Anderson 
Landan Ansel 
William Baggett Jr. 
Scott Bryant & Hallie Meushaw 
Richard Burris III. 
Cameron Ellis 
Ariel Esteves 
Craig Friedman 
Stacy Funderburke & Helaine 
Woodroof 
Laverne Gaskins 
Margo & Larry Gold 
Stan Hill 
Collette Hopkins 
Cynthia Hucks-Smith & Douglas 
Smith 
Mark Keunert 
Paul & Carol Kurtz 
A. Michael Lee 
Ebony Mobley 
Patrisie Perkins-Hooker 
Ranjana Ramchandran 
Kathy Redgate 
Stephen Riddell 
Rebekah Runyon 
Kendall Soulen & 
Allison Rutland Soulen 
Charity Scott & Evan Harrell 
Suhaill Seth 
Danny Wells 
Joshua Williams 
Emily Willingham & Dixon Adair 
Jennifer Young 

Up to $249 
AmazonSmile 
Michelle Arrington 
Harry Barnett 
Harriet Beardsley 
Geneva Benoit 
David Bersinger 
Thomas Best 
William Boice 
Joy Borra 
Christina Bortz 
Marti Breen 
Ginette Brown 
Kaitlin Carreno 
George & Jayne Cavagnaro 
Chuck Clay 
Viral Dave & Puja Vadodaria 
Michelle & Walter Davis 
Stephanie Delatore 
Pat Dixon Jr. 
Lois Downey 
Dunwoody United Methodist Church 
Marguerite Clare Ellis 
Angie & Jon Goldman 
Good Thinking, Inc. 
Christopher Grippa 
Sally & Jerry Gross 
Abigail & Andrew Gross 
Bradley Grout 
Melissa Gworek 
Chris & Mary Stewart Hagy 
William Harrison 
Terri Allan Hendley 
Corey & Ben Hirokawa 
Adam Humphreys 
Jennifer Ide 
Nick Jenkins 
Joan Johnston 
Lindsay Jones 
Square O Consulting, LLC 

Elena Kaplan 
Gaylen Kemp Baxter & Jeffrey Baxter 
Abigail Larimer Crosby 
Nicolette Lee 
Matthew Lerner 
LaRonica Lightfoot 
Matt Madison 
Lindsay McClelland 
Veronica McClendon 
Laura Mendelson 
Megan Michelsen 
Matthew Moore 
Adam Ozgo 
Cynthia Paine 
Jeff Paine 
Caitlin Pardue 
Sen. Elena Parent 
Kevin Pitre 
Jill Pryor 
Laura Rashidi-Yadz 
Chasity & Teddy Reese 
Christene Rocque 
Mac Rubright 
William Sams 
Phil Sandick 
James Schwarzlose 
Lisa Schweizer 
Lisa Sharp 
Brenn Shoemaker 
Amisha Shrimanker 

Michael Shull 
Lisa Simpson 
Alexis Spade 
Adam Sparks 
Amanda Speier 
Rebecca Strang 
Vanessa Suh 
Eric Tanenbaum 
Steve & Sheryl Teske 
Maria Turner 
Fitzgerald Veira 
Ronit Walker & Matt Bronfman 
Terry Walsh 
Christopher & Meka Ward 
Sally & Melvin Westmoreland 

In-Kind Office Space 
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP 
Pope McGlammery 
The Wright Law Firm 

In-Kind Goods & Services 
4imprint 
5Church 
Active Production & Design, Inc. 
Atlanta Braves 
Atlanta Falcons 
Bank of America Foundation 
Blood-Horse 
Brad Kolowich Jr Personal Training 
Broadway in Atlanta 
Cafe Campesino 
Caribots 
Cartecay Vineyards 
Chamberlain’s Chocolate Factory 
City Winery Atlanta 
Convergent Technologies 
Cranef Creek Vineyards & Winery 
Crazy Baby Clothing 
Crown & Caliber 
DryBar 
Empire State South 
endeve 
Ginger Lily Events & Florals 
Good Thinking Atlanta 
Gottlieb’s Bakery 
Graceful Tables 
Jersey Mike’s Subs 
Kaya Vineyard & Winery 
Leopold’s Ice Cream 
Meredes Benz of Buckhead 
North American Electric 
Reliability Corporation 
Planters Inn 
Porsche Cars North America, Inc. 
Pure Barre 
Real Brands 
Resource Branding & Design 
Rivers Academy 
Sage Cat Media 
Serenbe Playhouse 
Southern Proper Hospitality 
Suzeaam’s Millinery 
The Fur Bus 
The Ilih at Serenbe 
Tim Luddy’s Cantina 
John Wolf 

678-336-7242.

We make every effort to ensure accuracy of the above listings. If you see an error or omission, please contact our development department at 678-336-7242.