

**Roadmap to Justice**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2014**



**GEORGIA**  
**Applesed**  
CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE

# On-Ramp to the Future

Georgia Appleseed is helping parents and schools create productive learning climates that keep kids in class and out of the school-to-prison pipeline.

Georgia Appleseed's landmark study of effective student discipline revealed that many Georgia public schools have inordinately high out-of-school suspension rates for minor infractions, often pushing children out of the classroom and into the courtroom.

One way to keep kids in class is to create a school environment that supports productive learning and reinforces positive behaviors. Georgia Appleseed is working in Bibb and Muscogee Counties to gauge the success of school climate change and other strategies in driving down the numbers of kids suspended from school, while improving behavior, academics and teacher morale.

Information is an important tool in bringing about change. So, Georgia Appleseed created its *Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit*, providing easy-to-access and easy-to-understand data on the out-of-school suspension rates for every public school in Georgia. The Toolkit is helping parents understand the problem so they can work strategically with school leaders to keep kids in class and out of court.



*Pro Bono Partners: Ernst & Young,  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP  
and Troutman Sanders LLP*



**GaAppleseed.org/Toolkit**  
VIEWS NOVEMBER 2013 -  
JUNE 2014

**6,148** **3,904**  
TOTAL VIEWS UNIQUE USERS



# Yielding Returns from Heirs Property

We are helping low-income owners of heirs property to unlock the economic potential of their land for the benefit of their families and communities.

In FY14, Georgia Appleseed launched a new effort with the USDA, McIntosh SEED and Ben Hill County to connect pro bono corporate and probate attorneys with low and moderate income farmers and help them create new rural enterprises. Georgia Appleseed volunteers assist the farmers in creating the legal framework they need to develop new agribusiness, with crops like olives, pomegranates and Miscanthus and livestock such as meat goats.



Then the attorney volunteers help protect these new businesses through wills and advanced directives for health care.

*Pro Bono Partner: DLA Piper*



**\$58,649,195**

ESTIMATED FAIR MARKET VALUE OF HEIRS PROPERTY IN FIVE GEORGIA COUNTIES (CHATHAM, CHATTOOGA, DOUGHERTY, EVANS, MCINTOSH)

# Removing Roadblocks for Foster Kids

We are helping foster kids know their rights and achieve educational stability.

Foster kids can face an educational roller-coaster of multiple school placements, lost individualized education plans and delayed enrollment. All undermine academic stability and contribute to a dismal 15% high school graduation rate for foster children.

Georgia Applesed established a pilot program to train lay Education Advocates. Working in partnership with Families First and Georgia CASA, these volunteers are on the front line, present in juvenile court and other settings to protect the individual educational needs and progress of a child in care.

To help foster parents and children access all the services to which they are entitled, Georgia Applesed created reader-friendly reference cards for thousands of foster families outlining their rights and benefits under the law.

*Pro Bono Partner: King & Spalding LLP*



Used with permission of National CASA



**7,800**

NUMBER OF FOSTER KIDS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM "ALL ABOUT YOU...A GEORGIA FOSTER CHILD'S RIGHTS AND BENEFITS" EASY-TO-READ REFERENCE CARDS

# The Road to Due Process

Suspending a child from school for a minor infraction rarely improves behavior, but can set the stage for school failure. Under Georgia law, a student facing an out-of-school suspension of more than ten days is entitled to a disciplinary hearing, called a tribunal. Students rarely have a lawyer at the hearing to protect their right to due process or to negotiate more effective discipline that keeps kids in class.



A new Georgia Applesseed report examines school tribunal hearings and recommends changes to ensure justice and fairness.

Stepping up to help, **Georgia Applesseed Young Professionals Council (YPC)** created a training course that prepares non-education attorney volunteers to represent students in school hearings.

Bringing our projects full circle, Georgia Applesseed learned that foster kids facing a tribunal often attend the hearing alone. If suspended from school, many lose their home placement when a foster parent cannot provide supervision during suspension. Changing placement means having to move to a new school...again.

To minimize this outcome, Georgia Applesseed teamed with the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) and Fulton County DFCS. Now, attorneys trained by YPC can join a list of volunteers ready to answer the call when a foster child faces a school tribunal.

*Pro Bono Partner: Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP*



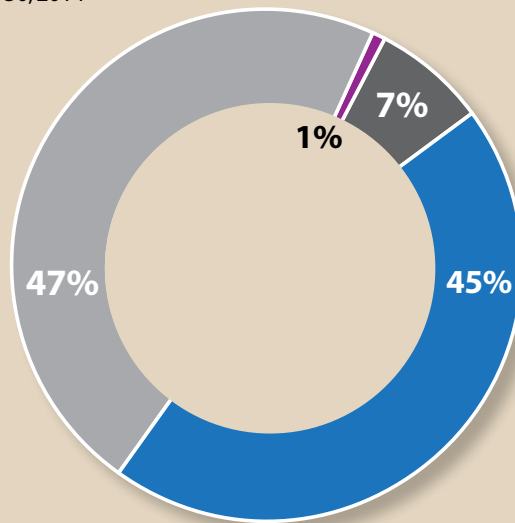
# FY14 Financial Overview

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

## Revenues and Support

Contributions and Grants	\$641,311
Contributed Services	\$667,294
Contributed Facilities	\$17,148
Fundraising and Events	\$104,642

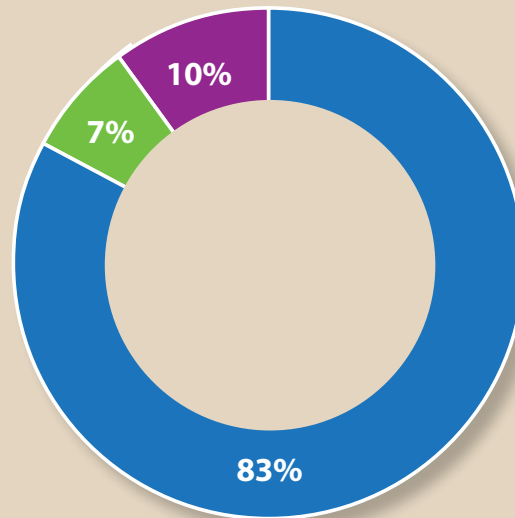
**Total Revenues and Support** **\$1,430,395**



## Expenses

Program	\$1,149,942
General and Administrative	\$101,355
Fundraising	\$137,790

**Total Expenses** **\$1,389,087**



**Increased Total Net Assets** **\$41,308**



**\$640,000**

VALUE OF SERVICES DONATED  
BY PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS



**300**

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS



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and support of our work.*

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*\*We remember with appreciation and respect our friend and colleague, Kent Mast, who passed away on April 24, 2014.*

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Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice  
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530  
(404) 685-6750

Columbus, Georgia Office  
(706) 341-1822

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