



**GEORGIA
APPLESEED**

Center for Law & Justice

FY 2019

Annual Report



A CELEBRATION OF COLLABORATIONS



[Left to Right] Allen Nelson, counsel with Taylor English; former Florida Supreme Court Justice Charles Wells; Georgia Appleseed Executive Director Talley Wells; Georgia State Bar of Georgia General Counsel Paula Frederick; and Georgia Supreme Court Justice David Nahmias.

MESSAGE FROM GEORGIA APPLESEED LEADERSHIP

This was an extraordinary year for Georgia Appleseed. We collaborated with partners to improve school climate, increase school-based behavioral health services, keep children in foster care in school, and enable low-income tenants to live in safe and healthy housing. We celebrated the continued expansion of school-based behavioral health services across the state with funding expected to increase coverage to approximately 20% of Georgia schools by 2020. The year culminated with the passage of a healthy housing bill championed by Georgia Appleseed. It is arguably the most important legislation for low-income tenants to become law in Georgia since the 1970s.

As we reflect on the year and think about children and families we came to know through our advocacy, it is all too obvious that too many Georgia children experience injustices no child should have to endure. The heart of our work is ensuring children have what they need to succeed in school and stay out of the criminal justice system.

Beyond FY 2019, we will continue to work to ensure Georgia children have strong welcoming schools, receive the support they need when they experience trauma or mental health challenges, and live in safe and healthy housing. While Georgia has a long way to go, we are proud that Georgia Appleseed made a significant difference for our state's children this past year.

Mary Benton
Board Chair

Talley Wells
Executive Director

Michael Waller
Director of Projects

"Too many Georgia children experience injustices no child should have to endure."

Supporter Collaborations

**We thank our FY19 supporters (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019)
including Grants/Restricted Funding**

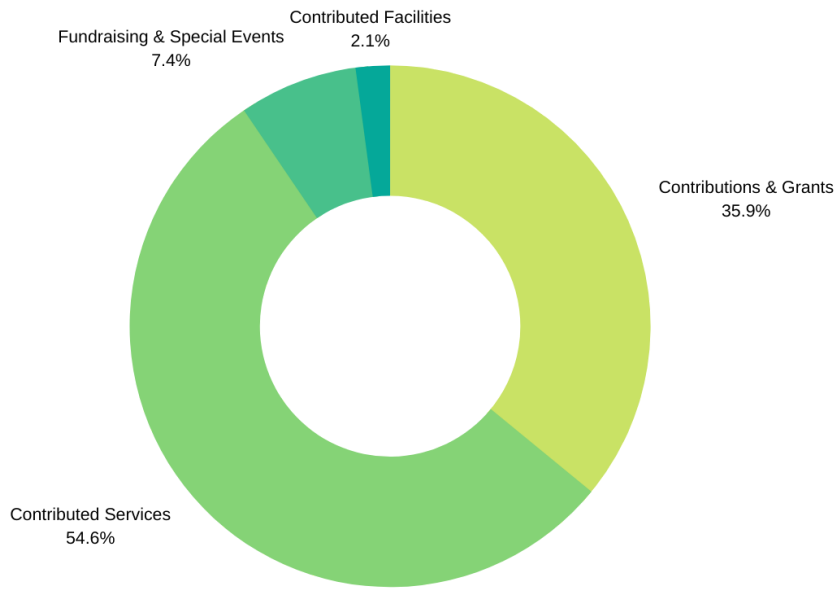
<p>\$50,000+ Bank of America Foundation (Sub-Award from Atlanta Legal Aid Society) The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation, Inc. Fulton County Dept. of Housing & Community Development Community Service Program (CSP)</p>	<p>Wade W. Herring II Sharon & Ben Hill Jones Day Rob & Lora Kight Krevolin & Horst LLC Joe Loveland & Pam Driesell Maharashtra Mandal Atlanta Jessica McKinney Hon. David Nahmias Polsinelli Diane Prucino & Tom Heyse Susan Ruhl Jay Sadd Randi Schnell Neil Shorthouse & Patty Pflum Larry & Linda Smith Amy Steigerwalt & Greg Smith Patricia Verrilli & Joseph Wayland in honor of Sharon Hill</p>	<p>Hon. Victoria Darrisaw George Gaskin Laverne Gaskins Richard Gerakitis The Goddard School Brian Gordon John Gross Dan & Debby Heller Paul Hermann HunterMaclean Holland & Knight Lee & Rebecca Jackson Jackson Lewis Randall Kirsch Littler Mendelson P.C. Clark Magruder Hon. Beverly Martin Erica May Christopher Middleton Margo Mize Paul & Alicia Monnin Morris, Manning & Martin LLP Felipe Nunez Sen. Elena Parent Henry Parkman Matt Patterson Hon. Herbert Phipps Dana Halberg & Larry Pless Katrina Quicker Rob & Marie Rhodes Kirk Rich Stephen Rowland Allison Ryan Vicki Shackley Debbie Slappey Chrid Smith Letta & David Sneed Catherine & John Spillman Stanton Law Trip & Teresa Tomlinson TrustPoint.One TSG Reporting, Inc. Voices for Georgia's Children Vincent Walden Laura & Talley Wells Arthur Wylie</p>	<p>Beth-Anne Flynn Harold Franklin Craig Friedman Christopher Graham Abigail & Andrew Gross Richard & Jane Hansen Greg Hecht Dustin Heslep Ted Hester in honor of Derek Hardesty, Julia Houston, John Kelley, Kara Ong, Phyllis Sumner, Chilton Varner, & Paul Zurawski J. Stanton Hill Wes Hollis IST Management Services Jessica Jolivet Hon. Michael Key Jennifer King Sheri & Steve Labovitz Laurel Lucey Sally & Sandy Matthews Ginger McRae & Chris Cramer Kim McWhorter Micah Moon Thomas Munger Richard Nolen Adam Ozgo Caitlin Pardue Craig & Terri Pendergrast Allison Pryor Stephen Riddell Amelia Rudolph Rick Rufolo Rebekah Runyon Robin Sangston Professor Charity Scott & Evans Harrell Johnny Simpkins Alexis Spade W. Brooks Stillwell Eric Tanenbaum Maria Turner Blaise & Sarah Warren Mary & Joshua Weeks</p>	<p>MiMi Gudenrath Kate Gutmann Sanford Hartman in honor of Laura and Talley Wells Terri Allen Hendley David & Jani Herbster Corey & Ben Hirokawa in honor of John Fleming Craig Holmes Charles Huddleston Jennifer Ide Jason Byars Mark Keuhnert Kay Levine David Lewis Joyce Lewis Aaron Lipson Diana Lobrano & William E. Curtis James Macke Dr. Garry McGiboney Laura Mendelson Stacy Myers Brittney Nash Victoria Nsikak Kevin O'Brien Kevin Pearson Jennifer Rigby Cronk Amanda Kay Seals Kathryn Solley Elizabeth Spivey Kerry & Michele Stumpe J. Eugene & Carmen Talley Caroline Tanner Christine & Rocco Testani Hon. Hugh Thompson Rachel Tobin John Toro Hon. Renata Turner Hon. Ronit Walker & Matt Bronfman in honor of Talley Wells Susan Walker Goico Terry Walsh Jazz Watts Patricia Willis Andrea Young</p>
<p>\$20,000-\$49,999 Annie E. Casey Foundation The Carter Center Mental Health Program (Sub-Award Grant) Eversheds Sutherland Georgia Bar Foundation Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP King & Spalding LLP Taylor English Duma LLP</p>	<p>\$1,000-\$1,999 Kim Anderson Anonymous Donor(s) Balch & Bingham LLP Matthew & Heidi Bozzelli Chuck Cantey & Mary Jane Stewart Tom Cook Bobbi Cleveland & Stanley Jones Jeff Cramer Michael Dailey Arthur Dombay Bertis & Catherine Downs Geoff & Bettina Drake Ken Dyer Equifax Chris & Ashley Frieden Kirk Hancock Dr. Elizabeth Hawk & Tom Hawk Marc & Julie Howard Rep. Elena Kaplan Keith and Monisha Longacre Michael McGlamry Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. Stacy & Sam Pardue Rachel Platt & Ryan Goodman Atty Teddy & Dr. Chasity Reese</p>	<p>\$200-399 Lynn Adam Michelle Anderson Sheila Anderson Landan Ansell Amy Averill Alison Ballard & Ramsey Knowles John Bartholomew Beardsley, P.C. Julian Bene Ilene Berman Patrick Braley David Chaiken James Connelly Richard & Lane Courts Christopher Demko Cameron Ellis</p>	<p>\$100-\$199 Elizabeth Appley Shannen Baisden Hon. Anne Elizabeth Barnes & Dr. Tom Banks Candice Biambly Aileen Bleach Joy Borra Christina Bortz Marifred Cilella Mike Davis John deMoulied Yelena Epova David Esquivel Patrick Fagan Sheila Flemming-Hunter Kathleen Flynn Margo & Larry Gold Bradley Grout</p>	<p>Up to \$99 AmazonSmile Rachel Bartlett Margaret Breen & Charles Crutchfield Morgan Bridgeman William Harrison Brittany Herbert Paul Hildebrand Patrick Lucas Sarah Primrose Tobias Tatum Nicki Vaughan Hannah Wildermuth</p>
<p>\$10,000-\$19,999 Alston & Bird LLP Thalia and Michael C. Carlos Foundation Bradley Currey Jr. Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP Southern Company Troutman Sanders Charley & Linda Wells</p>	<p>\$5,000-\$9,999 Atlanta Bar Foundation Taylor & John Daly DLA Piper John & Lisa Fleming Ron Raider The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law Hon. Wendy Shoob & Walter Jospin Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP Beth Tanis & John Chandler</p>	<p>\$2,000-\$4,999 Virginia Adams & Derek Elmerick Arnall Golden Gregory LLP Michelle Arrington Mary & Chip Benton Bondurant Mixson & Elmore LLP David & Margaret Brackett Brooks, McGinnis & Company, LLC CareSource Elizabeth Chadwick & Mike Pollitt Alexander & Jessica Clay Shelley & Bill Collins Robert Edwards Eric & Jessica Fisher Paula J. Frederick Bob & Susan Gallagher</p>	<p>\$100-\$199 Elizabeth Appley Shannen Baisden Hon. Anne Elizabeth Barnes & Dr. Tom Banks Candice Biambly Aileen Bleach Joy Borra Christina Bortz Marifred Cilella Mike Davis John deMoulied Yelena Epova David Esquivel Patrick Fagan Sheila Flemming-Hunter Kathleen Flynn Margo & Larry Gold Bradley Grout</p>	<p>Up to \$99 AmazonSmile Rachel Bartlett Margaret Breen & Charles Crutchfield Morgan Bridgeman William Harrison Brittany Herbert Paul Hildebrand Patrick Lucas Sarah Primrose Tobias Tatum Nicki Vaughan Hannah Wildermuth</p>

FY19 Financial Overview

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

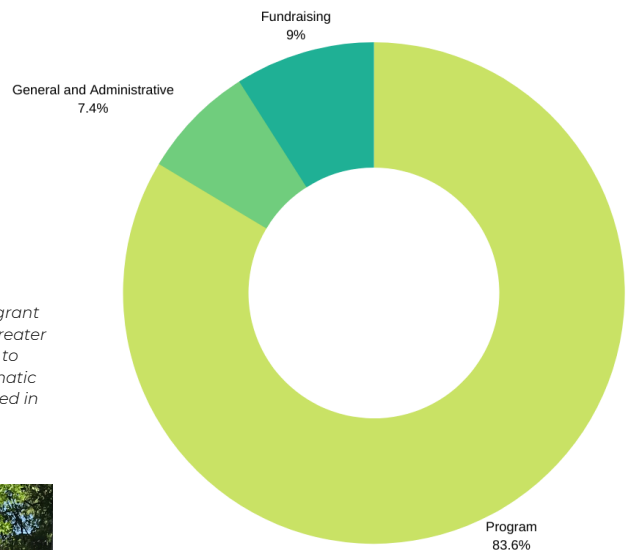
Revenues & Support

Contributions and Grants	\$511,071
Contributed Services	\$776,240
Contributed Facilities	\$30,220
Fundraising and Special Events	\$104,630
Total Revenues and Support	\$1,422,161



Expenses

Program	\$1,210,083
General and Administrative	\$106,753
Fundraising	\$130,615
Total Expenses	\$1,447,451



Total Net Assets (\$25,290)

Notes on FY19 Net Assets

FY19 included completion of several six-digit, multi-year grants including a two-year year grant from Georgia Bar Foundation and two-year grant from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta as well as the second year of a three-year grant from The Dobbs Foundation. Due to Georgia Appleseed accounting on an accrual basis, many of the organization's programmatic expenses occurred in FY19, however the income supporting that work was previously booked in FY17 & FY18.



Left to Right: Director of Projects Michael Waller, Staff Attorney Terrence Wilson, PBIS Coordinator for Bibb County Curlandra Smith, Superintendent of Bibb County Schools Curtis Jones, and Georgia Appleseed Executive Director Talley Wells at the Atlanta School-Based Behavioral Health Forum in April.



1,776 Pro Bono Hours

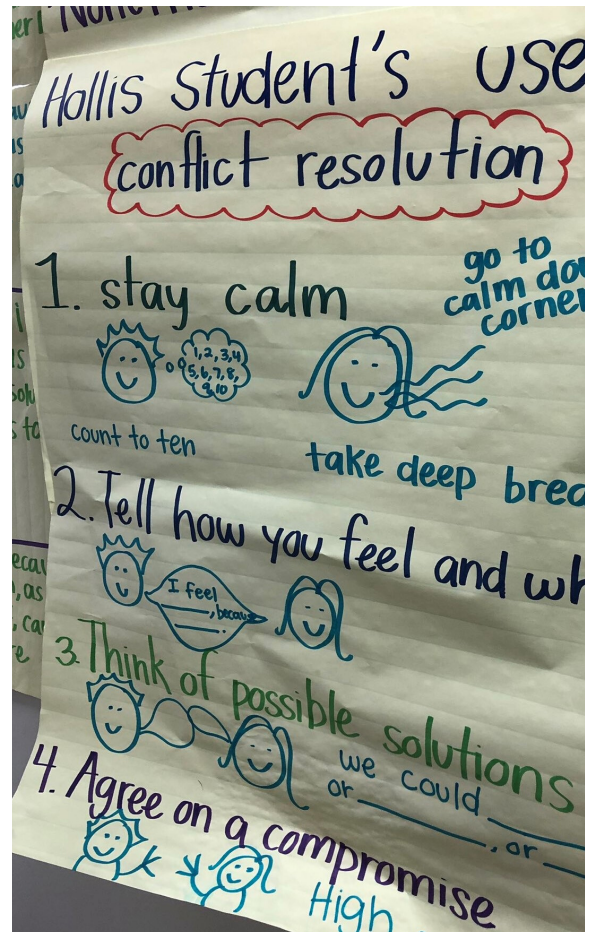
Collaborations

EDUCATION COALITION BUILDING & OUTREACH

The Georgia Education Climate Coalition (GECC) convened with new vigor in FY 2019, coming off the success of the 2018 legislative session that included the addition of school climate to the county-required truancy committees, now known as Student Attendance and School Climate Committees. Georgia Appleseed created a protocol for these local committees, which convene in each county of the state. GECC, a coalition of advocacy groups, educators, schools, and nonprofits who believe in the power of school climate to change educational outcomes, hosted several meetings at the State Bar as well as a field trip to Newton County to see school-based behavioral health “in action.”

In the year following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, school safety was at the top of the agenda for legislative leaders in Georgia with both the House and the Senate convening study committees on the issue. Georgia Appleseed Executive Director Talley Wells and Director of Projects Michael Waller penned an Op Ed that was published in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s “Get Schooled” blog in January to highlight the critical importance of school climate and school-based behavioral health in school safety. Georgia Appleseed and GECC partners worked throughout the spring to continue this advocacy. By the end of the legislative session, the state invested additional funds in school-based behavioral health, and the Georgia Department of Education created the Office of School Safety and Climate.

We dedicated the 2019 Good Apple event to the celebration of school climate, with honorees including Dr. Garry McGiboney, Deputy Superintendent of the Georgia Department of Education, and the PBIS Team of Georgia; EY for its work on our Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit; and the Child Protection and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Georgia and its longtime leader Nicki Vaughan.



SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Appleseed formed a new partnership in FY 2019 with The Carter Center Mental Health Program and Voices for Georgia’s Children to promote school-based behavioral health services across the state as part of our Bridges to Behavioral Wellness Project. We held a Metro Atlanta School-Based Behavioral Health Forum at the Carter Center in April with Georgia Appleseed leading panel discussions on integrating school-based behavioral health into school climate and overcoming barriers. This partnership advocated for and celebrated an additional 8.5 million dollars allocated by the state for school-based behavioral health in FY 2019. With its partner law firms, Georgia

Appleseed launched Bridges to Behavioral Wellness stakeholder interviews and legal research for an upcoming report. Georgia Appleseed and its pro bono partners created new Help Guides for Children with Behavior and Learning Challenges. The Help Guides reflect the information shared as part of Georgia Appleseed's FY 2019-launched community education events on "Advocating for Your Child."

HEALTHY HOUSING COALITION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Georgia Appleseed celebrated its greatest legislative accomplishment since the passage of the new Juvenile Code. Georgia Appleseed and our Georgia Healthy Housing Coalition were elated by the passage of HB 346, which makes it illegal for landlords to evict tenants in retaliation for requesting health and safety repairs. The Coalition included the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the United Way of Greater Atlanta, and many others.

In Savannah, Georgia Appleseed and local attorney Chris Middleton worked in conjunction with the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood on issues arising from the foreclosure crisis. Georgia Appleseed co-hosted community education meetings on financial literacy, property retention, and wills.

KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL: CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

FY 2019 saw tremendous support for our work to obtain legal representation at tribunals for students in foster care facing potential long-term suspension or expulsion. We received grants for this work from both the Georgia Bar Foundation and the Atlanta Bar Foundation. Additionally, the Georgia Bar Foundation supported our work to bring restorative practices to schools through trainings by Staff Attorney Terrence Wilson, who was certified as a trainer by the International Institute for Restorative Practices. The Georgia Appleseed Young Professionals Council (YPC) continued to support tribunal efforts, including

conducting attorney trainings and legal representation. Additionally, YPC hosted its most successful "Spellbound for Justice" SCRABBLE® tournament fundraiser that included a supply drive for local nonprofit Great Heights Foster Care.

NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Georgia Appleseed was invited to join the Legal Impact Network (LIN) as its sole Georgia representative. The Shriver Center for Poverty Law convenes LIN to bring together "strong law and policy advocates from throughout the country who are using innovative, coordinated strategies to address poverty and advance racial justice." Georgia Appleseed also joined the Partnership for Equity & Education Rights (PEER), which is a national coalition of advocacy organizations working to promote equitable funding for public schools. We continue to work closely with the Appleseed Network to keep abreast of policy issues and share best practices. Each of these partnerships provide resources to advance our work in Georgia, as well as share our stories of systemic change that may be applicable to other states.

PRO BONO & IN-KIND

It was another banner year of pro bono and in-kind support for Georgia Appleseed. Taylor English generously housed our office space. Lead firms Nelson Mullins and Alston & Bird took on project work, including the newly published Help Guides. Additionally, Kilpatrick Townsend updated legal research in Georgia Appleseed's report, *Student Tribunals: Assessment of School Discipline in Georgia*; King & Spalding led efforts around Manifestation Hearings; and Polsinelli conducted research on Medicaid, including the creation of a manual that is now being used by legal services attorneys.

As we continue to look toward developing future leaders interested in systemic change, May and June saw a full class of Georgia Appleseed interns and fellows, including two interns from Emory School of Law and an attorney through the Atlanta Urban Leadership Fellowship program.

FY19 Board of Directors

(as of 6/30/19)

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

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Alston & Bird LLP

Brian Gordon
Board Vice Chair
DLA Piper

Harold Franklin
Board Secretary
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Board Treasurer
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Matthew Bozzelli
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State Bar of Georgia

Wade W. Herring II
Hunter Maclean

Jessica McKinney
GE Energy

Justice David E. Nahmias
Supreme Court of Georgia

Diane Prucino
Kilpatrick Townsend Stockton LLP

Randi Schnell
Rooms To Go

Tori Silas
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Neil Shorthouse
Partners in Change

Amy Steigerwalt
Georgia State University Dept. of Political
Science

FY19 Staff

Talley Wells, JD, M.Ed
Executive Director

Abigail Gross
Director of Development

Linda Hall Pitts
Finance Manager

Eloise Holland
Development and Program Coordinator

Michael Waller, MA, MTS, JD
Director of Projects

Patsy White
Program Manager

Terrence Wilson, JD, MPA
Staff Attorney



Staff note: This year, we welcomed Michael Waller as the new Director of Projects and Eloise Holland as Development and Program Coordinator. We also said farewell to longtime program manager, Patsy White.

Left to Right: Michael Waller, Talley Wells, Abigail Gross, Terrence Wilson, Linda Hall Pitts, and Eloise Holland.

FY19 STATS

Here are a few numbers that give a snapshot of FY 2019 successes:

1

NEW LAW ENACTED

Georgia Appleseed led the coalition that helped create HB 346, a law that makes it illegal for landlords to evict tenants who request needed health and safety repairs.

37

KIDS IN FOSTER CARE

Through our Tribunal Project, we arranged or provided representation or advice for 100% of those children referred to us who were in foster care and facing long-term suspension or expulsion from school. We also trained more than 40 attorneys to offer pro bono representation in these cases.

80

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

From the Georgia Education Climate Coalition to Georgia Healthy Housing, we collaborated with organizations across the state to increase justice in Georgia.

296

PEOPLE TRAINED

We've trained teachers on restorative justice, attorneys on tribunal representation for kids in foster care, parents on the educational rights of their children, and case workers and other advocates on addressing the needs of children in foster care.



**GEORGIA
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