



# 2019 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & RESOURCES FAIR

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

presented by



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*Where Excellence and Creativity Merge*



## ADULTS IN ACTION

Assisting individuals with developmental disabilities in a Christian environment by getting them involved in their community and enjoying enriching program activities like Art, Continuing Knowledge, Life Skills, Recreation, Wellness and Safety and improving Communication Skills based on their individual needs.

This is done in a group setting with a leader that will work with them in developing their skills and providing learning opportunities.

Tues - Thurs 9:00 - 2:00 For Special needs adults no longer connected with the school system.

Contact Rene Chesnut  
770-312-2707  
email: [renechesnut07@comcast.net](mailto:renechesnut07@comcast.net)

## BLESSINGS ASSURANCE

BSA, is a private, non-profit agency that believes individuals with developmental disabilities can live a meaningful life and be productive citizens in the community. We are currently providing direct services to individuals with developmental disabilities in the Fayette County and surrounding areas. BSA is widely recognized for improving the quality of life of persons with developmental disabilities through residential services, prevocational training, on the job training, supportive employment program, living skills training, and community activities to enhance social skills. We provide advocacy and high quality, life-changing supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Contact person: Sheila Taylor, Program Director  
Phone: 678-469-3977 Fax 770-716-0902  
Email: [TayL3978@comcast.net](mailto:TayL3978@comcast.net)



## TOGETHER WE RUN

A group to promote activity with special needs adolescents and adults by pairing them with typical peers to train for 5K races.

Patriot Park in Fayetteville, GA

Volunteers and athletes welcome of all abilities (walk, run, wheel).  
Contact Kristen Wendland at [greengrad2014@gmail.com](mailto:greengrad2014@gmail.com)



### Who We Are:

Young Life Capernaum gives young people (ages 14-22) with intellectual and developmental disabilities the chance to experience fun and adventure, to develop fulfilling friendships and to challenge their limits while building self-esteem through club, camp and other exciting activities. Young Life staff and volunteers model Christ's unconditional love and acceptance as they walk alongside these young adults — filling their lives with love and support.

Most clubs will be at First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City.  
Dates in bold, location is subject to change. Please email Baker Whitten to join the email list and receive notifications and reminders about club.

Contact Info:  
Baker Whitten  
Email: [baker@fayettecounty.younglife.org](mailto:baker@fayettecounty.younglife.org)  
Cell: 678-628-6034

Website: [younglifefayettecounty.org](http://younglifefayettecounty.org)



## THE LIFE CHANGE GROUP

The Life Change Group is a team of licensed professionals, counselors and therapists. Together, our practitioners cover a wide spectrum of specialties. We provide individual, couples, family, and career counseling as well as various forms of testing. Our specialties include ADHD, Autism, addictions, chronic illnesses, cognitive developmental disabilities, depression, disordered eating, grief and loss, LGBTQ+, mood disorders, parenting skills, psychological adjustments, relationship issues, stress and anxiety, testing and reporting, and trauma.

CONTACT US:  
770-486-4887

LOCATION:  
302 Stevens Entry, Peachtree City, GA, 30269



## SANTA MICHAEL & MOTHER NATURE

Santa Michael and Mother Nature are sharing the joy of Christmas with children and adults with special needs. Schedule a low stress, personal visit in our log home in Fayetteville, GA.

10-15 minute visits: \$15.00  
Free visits available for low income families  
Bring your own camera or phone for photos

509-929-6849  
Futuredirections@comcast.net

Santa Michael is a member of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas (IBRBS). Background check and insurance approved.  
A Special Visit for Special People



## AFFINITY AND BEYOND

### COMMUNITY MATTERS!

Affinity and Beyond believes community matters to everyone! Those who face developmental challenges also face barriers which prevent them from fully participating in their neighborhoods. Often, they lack the skills they need or opportunities to connect to their communities.

That's where Affinity can help! Affinity was founded in 2010 by group of concerned families, service providers, and advocates. This group focused on the need to connect families to their communities. Affinity has grown and now serves families in Clayton, Fayette, Coweta, and Spalding Counties.

Affinity social skills groups help train social skills in these general areas: interpersonal skills; independent care, safety skills and living skills; work readiness, job seeking and skills needed for maintaining a job.

In order to help participants practice and maintain their skills, community outing opportunities are offered. These have included: movie, eating out, bowling, tour local television stations, Georgia Aquarium, Coca Cola Museum, tour of Fox Theatre, local film tours and much more.

Affinity offers a variety of training sessions to include: navigating the Medicaid Waiver maize, connecting families to community services, behavior management basics, care giver training, and development of a social skills curriculum. Many of these are free or low cost.

Other services include behavior consultation and person centered planning. These services include initial consultation, assessments of family and environments, written plan, and follow up.

The Affinity and Beyond Program Director has 30 plus years serving this population in the state of Georgia. All staff are Developmental Specialists with years of expertise in this arena.

Fees for Affinity services can be paid for by cash, check, credit, Family Support Programs, or Medicaid Waiver (Participant Direction).

For more information, email us at [AffinityandBeyond.2010@gmail.com](mailto:AffinityandBeyond.2010@gmail.com), or 678-467-8964, Face Book page: Affinity and Beyond, Community Organization, or visit our website, [AffinityandBeyond2010.weebly.com](http://AffinityandBeyond2010.weebly.com)

**BURR FORMAN** LLP  
results matter

**BURR  
FORMAN**



### **Burr's Special Needs Practice**

Lead by local resident, Jim McCarten, the attorneys of Burr Forman work closely with parents and/or siblings concerned about the future of a family member with special needs. The parent of an adult daughter with autism, Jim, along with his wife Diane and their older daughters have worked closely together to ensure that their youngest daughter's future is meaningful and that she can continue to be as independent as possible no matter what the future might bring. From that experience Jim has a very personal understanding that providing for the future of a loved one with special needs means

planning for the person, planning regarding government benefits and planning on finances, all of which require the proper legal support and proper legal documents.

From advice on guardianship and conservatorship at age 18 (and possible alternatives) to using and drafting stand alone special needs trusts, pooled special needs trusts and ABLE accounts, Mr. McCarten and the lawyers at Burr Forman provide the legal advice and representation necessary to protect the future of a family member with special needs.

Locally, Mr. McCarten is the Chair of the Government Affairs Committee of the Fayette Chamber and a member of Fayetteville's First United Methodist Church. Additionally, Jim was appointed to serve as one of Fayette's representatives to the Region 6 Advisory Council for DBHDD. Professionally, Jim has been honored for his work in special needs and estate planning; he is a member of the Special Needs Alliance and a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He has also been included regularly in Best Lawyers in America in the categories of Trusts and Estates and Tax Law, and was named the publication's "Lawyer of the Year" for metro Atlanta for Tax Litigation and Controversy in 2017 and Non-Profit/Charities Law in 2018 and again for 2020. Jim's contact information is:

James M. McCarten  
Burr & Forman LLP  
171 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30363  
404-532-7236  
**Jim.mccarten@burr.com**



**THE JOSEPH SAMS  
SCHOOL, INC.**

The Joseph Sams School, Inc. (JSS) is dedicated to the education and life skills development of children who are intellectually, physically or developmentally challenged helping them reach their full developmental potential.

Founded in 1984 by three families seeking preschool early intervention services for their children with disabilities, JSS began with one preschool class of six students with Down syndrome. Over its 36 year history, the organization has expanded not only in the programs it offers but also in the numbers, ages and diagnoses of the children it serves. Today, the school annually serves from seventy to eighty children with mild to severe intellectual, physical and development disabilities who range in age from birth through age 22. Although there are no geographic restrictions for admission, our students currently represent a nine county area of metro-Atlanta.

While many schools serve children with a particular disability or level of functioning, The JSS is broader in scope and holds the distinction of being the only fully-accredited school in the state of Georgia that provides educational and therapeutic services for children with a broad range in ages and abilities. In addition, The JSS is one of 30 schools nationwide to be a model site for MOVE (Mobility Opportunities via Education)® International and one of only two programs in the state of Georgia utilizing MOVE®. MOVE® is a researched-based curriculum designed to teach students with severe physical disabilities basic functional motor skills. The JSS offers a wide range of programs and services to meet the individual needs of the children it serves. In order to achieve measurable gains with the children, low student to teacher ratios of 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, or 5:1 are maintained in all classes and programs.

Contact name: Amy Murray

Email: **amymurray@josephsamsschool.org**

Web address: **www.josephsamsschool.org**

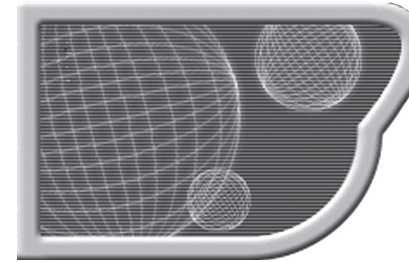
Mailing address: 280 Brandywine Blvd., Fayetteville, GA 30214

Location: 280 Brandywine Blvd., Fayetteville, GA 30214 - Fayette County

General phone/fax: 770-461-5984 (p) 770-461-5223 (f)



## ECKERD CONNECTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



## BENEFITS NAVIGATOR

Eckerd Connects Workforce Development is working hard to keep America's workforce educated and engaged. Through a strong network of community services eligible participants are taught the skills needed to further their education or obtain jobs in today's competitive labor market. Eckerd youth programs serve would-be workers ages 16-24 with a high school diploma or seeking a GED. All Eckerd Connects Workforce Development programs are fully aligned with the 2015 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Youth age 16-24
- Reside in Clayton, Fayette, or Rockdale County
- Have a high school diploma –OR– seeking a GED
- Documentation: Birth Certificate, SSN Card, Ga ID w/ county address

### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

- Job readiness training
- GED assistance
- National Serv Safe & Customer Service Certification
- Paid work experience
- Soft skills training
- Transportation assistance

### EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS:

Eckerd Connects partner with community employers to provide work experience opportunities to youth of the Eckerd Program. Work experience opportunities are paid to youth through the Eckerd program and are at no expense to the employer. Youth are selected for a work experience based on career interest and employer job placement need. Work experience opportunities allow youth to gain hands on experience as well as allow employers to prepare youth for permanent job placement.

For more information on employer partnership or joining the Eckerd program please contact

Le'Stacia Warren, Workforce Career Coach  
**lewarren@eckerd.org**  
 678-283-3452

Dr. Natalie Jackson, Regional Program Manager  
**njackson@eckerd.org**  
 678-387-9224

### SHEPHERD CENTER BENEFITS NAVIGATOR WIPA PROGRAM

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

#### Who Is Eligible

- Individuals with any type of disability between age 14 and Full Retirement Age who
- Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or both and who
- Are interested in pursuing work goals.

#### What Can A Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) Do For You?

The Community Work Incentive Coordinator will provide information to help you understand how work may affect your Social Security benefits.

This could mean simply answering a question by phone or sitting down with you to review your current benefits and explain to you how they will be affected if you go to work. It might mean developing a long-term plan with you with regular checkpoints or meetings along the way to ensure that you have the latest and most accurate information.

If you are a person with a disability and you want to work, but you need more information about how working will change your benefits, we can help. We are Benefits Navigator, a FREE service supported by Shepherd Center in a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration.

#### Charting The Right Course

Community Work Incentive Coordinators provide information on:

- How your Social Security benefits and other State or Federal benefits would change if you were employed,
- Work incentives such as Plan to Achieve Self Support, the Trial Work Period, and Impairment Related Work Expenses, and
- Other programs and services that can help you create a plan for successful employment.

#### Counties Served

Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglass, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lumpkin, Murray, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Putnam, Rockdale, Spalding, Towns, Union, Walker, White, Whitefield

#### Contacts

Project Directors  
 Sally Atwell, MS, CRC, LPC  
 404-350-7589  
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 demetria\_maxey@shepherd.org

Marnise Smith CWIC  
 404-780-0203  
 marnise\_smith@shepherd.org  
 Toll Free 800-283-1848

For General Information about how work may affect your benefits call - Ticket to Work Help Line  
 866-968-7842  
 TTY 866- 833-2967

**www.ssa.gov**  
**www.benefitsnavigator.org**



## BRIGGS & ASSOCIATES

### 30 YEARS IN SERVICE. 900 CURRENTLY IN SERVICE. 8000 CAREERS TO DATE.

Briggs & Associates matches the abilities of people with disabilities to real jobs, then provides the support and training needed to ensure success for both the employee and employer. We provide comprehensive employment services for any individual who may require nontraditional support and/or entry into the workplace.

### STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE THROUGH DIVERSITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

Founded in 1989, Briggs & Associates operates on the philosophy that "anyone who has the desire, has the ability to be successful in the workplace." The company initially provided support to a few individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and later expanded to include services for people with mental health diagnoses. The focus has always been one person at-a-time, even throughout a period of tremendous growth. Over the course of thirty years, Briggs & Associates has developed and supported careers for over 8,000 people throughout Georgia. The true impact of this approach is immeasurable, as "building one successful life strengthens a whole community."

Briggs & Associates is now one of the largest supported employment agencies in the world, with expertise in developing positions in a wide variety of industries. The design is a win for individuals served and business leaders alike, as Briggs & Associates identifies need, helps with teaching tasks, and provides ongoing support to ensure long-term success. Briggs & Associates demonstrates that strengthening the workforce through diversity is "Just Good Business" and truly impacts an employer's bottom-line.

Phone: 770-993-4559

Email: [briggsassociates.org](mailto:briggsassociates.org)



## WEST GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**TECHNICALLY, THE BEST!**

At West Georgia Technical College our team is dedicated to helping you achieve your aspirations for personal and professional success. Whether you are looking to advance in your current job or gain the skills for an entirely new career field, West Georgia Tech offers over 120 associate degree, diploma and technical certificate programs of study that prepare you to excel in today's technically advanced, global economy. If you're in business, maybe you are looking to advance the skills and training for your existing employees. If so, we can use our resources to achieve those goals, as well.

As a College, we are celebrating our successes and building our momentum. Our Adult Education division had more GED grads than any other Georgia technical college in FY17. We started the nation's first German apprenticeship program allowing high schoolers to earn a college degree while learning hands-on skills in an advanced manufacturing setting. They graduate with a high school diploma, an Associate Degree and a career. West Georgia Tech was recognized as a finalist for the 2019 TCSG College of the Year award. We have seen 40 percent increases in the number of high school students who are taking classes through dual enrollment over the past year.

We are excited about our success, but we are more excited about the success of our graduates. Please visit [www.westgatech.edu/50Years](http://www.westgatech.edu/50Years) to see our 50 Years of Changing Lives Alumni Success Stories and understand the impact our graduates have on their families and their jobs and also the community as a whole.

We hope that you will fully engage with West Georgia Tech to experience all we have to offer. We are ready to serve you as a premier College within the Technical College System of Georgia. May you have great success that we can celebrate together!

Erin Layton  
 Enrollment Center Coordinator  
 West Georgia Technical College  
 200 Campus Drive, Newnan, GA 30263  
 O: 770.755.7821  
[www.westgatech.edu](http://www.westgatech.edu)



## SPECTRUM AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

Spectrum Autism Support Group was established in 1998 to provide support, education and resources for individuals and families impacted by autism.

Spectrum currently serves over 1,500 families in Gwinnett County and the surrounding Metro Atlanta area and has become a well-known resource in the Autism community.

Support groups, summer day camps, overnight camps, social skills groups, respite, community training, and family events are offered for all ages and abilities.

### **Our Mission is:**

Provide support, education and resources for individuals and families impacted by autism.

### **Our Vision is:**

Improving the lives of individuals and families impacted by autism.

For more information contact Claire Dees, Executive Director, at [claire@atl-spectrum.com](mailto:claire@atl-spectrum.com)

Visit our website for calendar of events with locations and more detailed information on all programs.

## CLUB 2.0

A Christian Organization

For Differently-abled Adults

## CLUB 2.0

Club 2.0 is a Christian Organization for adults over 21 with special needs who are differently-abled. We meet the first Thursday of each month September – May from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Building of Grace Evangelical Church on 164 Flat Creek Trail in Fayetteville, Georgia. We share a meal, fellowship, worship, prayer, and Christian Bible Study. It is also for volunteers who want to share the love of God and community with this wonderful group and make some new friends. (All volunteers are required to have a background check.)

For More Information Contact:

Faith Smith – [faithrs18@gmail.com](mailto:faithrs18@gmail.com)

Phone: 678.357.3235



Fish Stix Ministry is a ministry that uses contemporary Christian songs to teach choreographed movements using dowel rods as props. This ministry is a beautiful and meaningful way to interpret songs and Biblical teachings. It is also a wonderful worship skill that helps the participants learn about God and to share His love with others.

Fish Stix Team meets at Word of God Lutheran Church, 401 Dividend Drive, Peachtree City, GA, the third Thursday every month at from September - May.

This ministry allows each of us – who are all differently abled - to learn a worship skill and share our love of Jesus with others.

For More Information Contact:

Patti Keeney – [ptcpatti@gmail.com](mailto:ptcpatti@gmail.com)

Phone: 404.202.7096



## CLUB Z! IN-HOME TUTORING SERVICES

Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Service of Fayette County is, one of over 400 franchise locations, tasked with the mission of helping students succeed every single day. Our tutoring programs and curriculum are unmatched in the industry not only due to their years of development, but because of our unbelievable tutors. Our tutors are certified, and professional, which means your student gets the perfect tutor every-time. Our tutors work one-on-one with your student in the comfort of your own home and work with your student's school to ensure that we are supporting their curriculum.

After 20 years in the tutoring industry, we have learned a few things about what it takes to help students succeed. Sure, we may be biased, but we truly believe that no other tutoring company cares as much about its clients, or goes to as much trouble to ensure their satisfaction and success as Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services of Fayette County. Our personal touch is evident in everything from the initial consultation with you and your child to the placement of a perfectly matched tutor. This commitment to quality and academic success truly makes The Club Z! Difference. Our tutors are thoroughly screened and background checked prior to placement with our students. Through our proprietary "Z! Tutor Match" system, we go to great lengths to match them with students based on personality, learning preferences, and academic strengths and weaknesses. And with our "Z! Guarantee" you get the right tutor every time, guaranteed!

Our programs provide results! Whether it's our K-12 academic assistance programs, our proven SAT/ACT prep programs, our exclusive writing program, The Power of Words®, or one of our other proprietary curriculum programs like Learning Built to Last™ study skills and pre-K readiness, our students see growth in a matter of weeks!

Website: <https://clubztutoring.com/peachtree-city/>

For Tutoring Services:  
Phone: 770-200-4419  
Website: <https://clubztutoring.com/peachtree-city/>

To Become a Tutor: contact Michelle Handley  
Phone: 770-200-4419  
Email: [mhandley@clubztutoring.com](mailto:mhandley@clubztutoring.com)



## SPECIAL POPS TENNIS

The Peachtree City site for Special Pops Tennis is part of an Atlanta wide program specifically designed to share the lifetime sport of tennis with high schoolers and adults with intellectual disabilities. Programs offered free of charge to all skill levels, including those who have never played, league play and tournament competition.

An equally important aspect of our program is the opportunity it offers these special athletes to build their self-confidence and life skills through social interaction with each other and the many dedicated volunteers who run our programs.

The Peachtree City site holds a series of weekly training sessions on Fridays and a Monday night league (SPUD) in the fall and spring at the Peachtree City Tennis Center for all Fayette high schools, several private schools and high school graduates. Our volunteers also coach Special Olympians who play tennis at the Georgia Special Olympics Summer Games.

Based in the metropolitan Atlanta area, Special Pops is a registered Community Tennis Association of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and is recognized by USTA Georgia as the primary CTA in Georgia for teaching tennis and training coaches to teach tennis to players with special needs. We are also an accredited agency of Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA).

For more information contact  
Susan McCabe,  
[mccabe5@mac.com](mailto:mccabe5@mac.com)  
or 404-403-0503.





*Small Steps Music, L.L.C*

## SMALL STEPS MUSIC, L.L.C.

Small Steps Music, L.L.C provides high quality, comprehensive music services for individuals and families.

Services include:

- Individual and Group Music Therapy
- Music Lessons (Adapted and Traditional)
- Group Music Classes (Toddlers to Teens)
- School Programming
  - After school Program Activities
  - Teacher Consultations
  - Staff Development Workshops/In-services
  - Summer Camp Music Enrichment Activities
  - Classroom and School Performances
- Birthday Parties
- Workshops & Consultations

The Small Steps staff supports, nurtures, and develops each individual's abilities and areas of need through the use of innovative teaching strategies and enjoyable music interventions in a therapeutic environment.

Contact: Natalie Generally, LPMT, MMed., MT-BC  
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Music Therapist  
Owner/Director  
Small Steps Music, L.L.C.  
404-446-6945  
[natalie@smallstepsmusicllc.com](mailto:natalie@smallstepsmusicllc.com)  
[www.smallstepsmusicllc.com](http://www.smallstepsmusicllc.com)



## DOGWOOD AUTISM SERVICES

Our mission is to create a better world by positively impacting the lives of children and families every day. We believe therapy should be consistent and evidence based, but it should also be a lot of fun. Dogwood specializes in providing Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services to children with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities that respond well to ABA therapy include:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Apraxia
- Learning Disabilities
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Down Syndrome

### CLINIC BASED ABA THERAPY

A benefit of the clinic program is we can focus on group and social skills with peers. Following assessment, we design an individualized program based on your child's language and learning needs. This program gives your child an opportunity to work alongside peers, promotes natural social skills, and provides many opportunities to practice group routines and transitions. Additionally, we work on an individualized skill acquisition program, problem behavior reduction, toileting, and feeding.

### HOME BASED ABA THERAPY

We strive to set up a home environment that works towards your child's independence. Following assessment, we design an individualized program for our therapist and caregivers in the home to implement. We emphasize functional daily living skills, communicating wants and needs, and independent play skills. Additionally, we work on an individualized skill acquisition program, problem behavior reduction, toileting, and feeding.

### SCHOOL BASED ABA THERAPY

Ultimately, we want to serve your child in the least restrictive setting. We believe peer modeling can be a great learning tool for your child, however, the right conditions must be set for inclusion programs to be effective. Following assessment, we design an individualized plan for our therapist to act as a facilitator at your child's private school or daycare setting. We create specific goals and prompting procedures to work toward integration and independence. We can attend other community activities such as music lessons, play groups, or ballet for extra support. If desired, we can also help support you setting up a home school program for your child.



## THE DUHON LAW FIRM

The Duhon Law Firm Elder Law and Special Needs Planning Ginny F. Duhon, ESQ.

Serving children and adults with special needs through our expertise in the following practice areas:

- Medicaid application and eligibility issues-Katie Beckett, ICWP, CCSP, NOW/COMP waivers
- SSI/SSDI benefits
- Special needs trusts/special needs planning
- Trust and estate administration
- Estate planning: wills, powers of attorney and trusts
- Long-term healthcare consultation and planning
- Nursing home issues
- Consulting services for attorneys: disability/government benefits issues

Ginny F. Duhon, ESQ.

214 Creekstone Bend, Peachtree City, GA 30269

Primary Phone: 404-310-1337

Alternate Phone: 770-632-0163

**gindu@comcast.net**



## SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN CARE

Southwest Christian Care is a ministry dedicated to providing the highest-quality care and support for terminally ill patients, children with special needs, seniors and their families in the name of Jesus Christ. We are comprised of four service areas:

**Hospice:** Southwest Christian Hospice is a sanctuary for terminally ill patients and their families who need to find inner peace and dignity, as well as the best in hospice health care. It is a nurturing and accepting environment with high patient care standards – a retreat in which all involved can gather to gain spiritual strength and support for one another. Both home hospice care and center based care are available.

**Children's Respite:** Caring for a child with special needs can severely challenge families. The needs of a child with disabilities often become the central focus of attention, overwhelming and isolating other family members. Respite care can play an important role in maintaining the health and stability for these families by giving them a break. Southwest Christian Care provides two avenues of respite for families of children with special needs:

- Hope House Children's Respite Center — for medically fragile children
- WeCare Respite for children with special needs who are non-medically fragile

**Senior Care:** DayBreak – A Day Program for Seniors is structured to meet cognitive and social needs of senior adults. The program offers an environment to meet the fellowship needs of senior adults with varying degrees of memory loss and others that desire Christian companionship and usefulness. Some participants may be experiencing early stages of Alzheimer's or early dementia. We design our services to meet each participant's unique interest and abilities.

**Spiritual Care:** Our entire ministry is based on the spiritual care of our patients and their families. Hope and encouragement are offered to families by our staff and experienced Chaplains. A variety of bereavement care services are available to assist families as they walk through the grief process. We share God's love, comfort and provision for us through Jesus Christ.

### How We Operate

Because all of our services are provided at no cost to our patients or their families, Southwest Christian Care depends solely upon the generous gifts of individuals, churches, civic groups, corporations, businesses and foundations. If you are not yet a part of this growing ministry, we hope you will prayerfully consider how God may be leading you to join hands with us. Together, we can offer hope and help to many terminally ill patients, children with special needs, seniors and their families.

To receive respite services contact:

Phone: 770-969-8354

Website: [www.swchristiancare.org](http://www.swchristiancare.org)



— Linking special needs families  
to their communities —

**SOUTHSIDE  
SUPPORT**

Southside Support Incorporated is a 501c3 nonprofit that operates in Fayette, Coweta, Henry, South Fulton, and Clayton counties. Our mission is to provide progressive assistance to special needs families so they can experience life-long support, community inclusion, and meaningful transition into adulthood.

Our main programs are education and community inclusion. Education encompasses information, resource and referral through our online, “Southside Support for Special Needs Parents” group on Facebook, in person support groups, and Symposium: Special Need Conference. Community inclusion encompasses our Special Needs Accommodation Zone, “SNAZ”, hospitality tent that we bring to community events and our Special Needs Alliance of Professionals, “SNAP”, groups designed to strengthen providers through networking in the southern crescent of where our families reside.

April S. said “I love this group so much. It’s the one place I know I can turn to when things are too much and be met with understanding instead of judgement. So many people just don’t get it and tell me to discipline him (my special needs child) or all kinds of other useless advice. You all have real, helpful solutions.”

For more information about Southside Support, please visit our website, [Southsidesupport.org](http://southsidesupport.org), or join our Facebook group.

Southside Support Incorporated  
P. O. Box 812, Fayetteville, GA 30214  
**<http://southsidesupport.org>**  
EM: **[info@southsidesupport.org](mailto:info@southsidesupport.org)**  
PH: 678-827-2893 (Google Voicemail)



**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION**  
Georgia

**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION  
OF GEORGIA**

The Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Georgians with epilepsy/seizure disorders. Based in Atlanta, the Foundation focuses on: educating the professional and general community about epilepsy through symposiums and programs held throughout the state; providing outreach through a statewide network of support groups; and assisting in quality of life issues through specialty camps for children/adults and medical referrals and advocacy on behalf of all Georgians living with epilepsy.

Epilepsy treatment is constantly evolving, as research is providing us with new diagnostic tools, surgeries, medications and other treatment options. It is important for you to be an active part in your epilepsy treatment team. The best treatment comes from a partnership between you and your doctor. This includes asking questions, making your concerns known and understanding the answers. In short, patient advocacy starts with you.

A brand new website, [www.NoMoreSeizures.org](http://www.NoMoreSeizures.org), can provide you with the information and tools necessary to become a more active part of your medical team. Included on the site are suggestions of questions you might want to ask, information on the benefits and risks of the various treatment options, various downloadable medication records and seizure diaries, and a library of online epilepsy resources.

The local support group for Fayette County meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at the 1279 building on Highway 54 (next to the hospital). Please join us to learn more about how you can advocate for yourself or your loved one AND receive the support you deserve.

Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia  
6065 Roswell Road #515  
Atlanta, GA 30328-4011  
Phone: (404) 527-7155 / (800) 527-7105



## EXCEPTIONALOPS

ExOPS advocates for specific policies and programs that benefit people with developmental disabilities and their families. We also educate service providers, county officials, families and others on issues that impact people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Our goal is to create an environment and opportunities for people in Fayette County with developmental disabilities and their families to have choices as they live their lives in the community.

Monthly meetings, newsletters and emails serve to help members get to know others with similar problems and find solutions, make new friends, become knowledgeable of their rights & services available, and become an effective catalyst for positive change. We also support the Fayette Special Olympics, Group Home, Fayette County Alternative Transportation Program, as well as provide scholarships for summer camp programs and other activities. We can also assist you in applying for Medicaid waiver funding and Supplemental Security Income. Ask about our socialization program for middle and high school kids.

ExceptionalOps is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization and derives its support from its membership and donations from the public. Special projects may be supported by fundraisers, government or foundation grants.

To volunteer: contact Janet Smola  
Phone: 770-631-1035  
Email: [janetsmola@comcast.net](mailto:janetsmola@comcast.net)

To seek assistance: contact Janet Smola  
Phone 770-631-1035  
Website: [www.exceptionalops.org](http://www.exceptionalops.org)



## ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS OF PEACHTREE CITY

The Rotary Community Corps of Peachtree City, chartered in March 2015, is an organization in Fayette County for young adults with special needs. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City, the group shares Rotary's commitment to community service and development. Rotary Community Corps plans and carries out projects that address concerns such as community safety and help support on –going Rotary commitments. Community Corps is Rotary's partner in service.

During each of the past two years, our group has raised over \$3500 to train a service dog to be donated to a military veteran with PTSD. This worthwhile project was funded by our group's fundraising at the local Dragon Boat races, and through holiday sales of wreaths and other greenery.

We invite interested friends to attend one of our monthly meetings and see what we are about. Rotary Community Corps meets on the second Monday each month, 6:00-7:30 at Mimi's Good Food, Kelley Drive, in Peachtree City. Except for optional dinner during the meetings, there are no dues or obligations for membership.

Questions?  
Joel Norris 770-652-8708  
Mary Ann Crofton 770-634-8622



## SOUTHERN CRESCENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Southern Crescent Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is an institution of higher education that delivers relevant technical education at the associate degree, diploma, and certificate levels and workforce training programs via traditional and distance learning formats that promote lifelong learning and impact economic development in the west central Georgia region that spans south of Atlanta and north of Macon.

Drew Todd  
Director of Recruitment  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Griffin Campus  
501 Varsity Road, Griffin, GA 30223  
p: 770-229-3065  
c: 678-603-5988  
e: [drew.todd@sctech.edu](mailto:drew.todd@sctech.edu)

## ROOSEVELT WARM SPRINGS

*Our Mission... to empower individuals with disabilities  
to achieve personal independence.*

## ROOSEVELT WARM SPRINGS

Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation center located in Warm Springs, Georgia on a beautiful 950 acre campus. Begun by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1927 to treat persons affected by polio, the Institute still remains true to its original mission today “to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve personal independence” as a living legacy to FDR. Each year the Institute provides rehabilitation services to approximately 5,000 individuals with all types of disabilities from all over the United States. In addition to its continuum of rehabilitation services, the Institute also offers the fully-accessible Camp Dream, which is enjoyed by 2,000 disabled campers each year, as well as a year-round Conference Center offering a full array of professional training opportunities. Guided tours of Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation are available weekdays at 11 am and 2 pm.

The Institute has been providing rehabilitation services for more than 40 years. Offering individuals the opportunity to improve their academic work, develop job skills and acquire the capacity for independence regardless of their disability. A team of Rehabilitation Counselors, Vocational Coordinators, Psychologist, Training Instructors, Nurses, Therapists and Teachers are dedicated to a comprehensive approach to ensure maximum employability and independence.

For Assistance: contact 706-655-5057  
Email Address: [rwsirwebmaster@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:rwsirwebmaster@dol.state.ga.us)  
Website: <http://www.rooseveltrehab.org>

Mailing Address: Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation  
P.O. Box 1000, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

Location: 6391 Roosevelt Highway, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

Telephone: (706) 655-5000  
Fax: (706) 655-5011



## FAYETTE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Fayette Senior Services, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, provides a Voucher Transportation Program for older adults age 60 and better and persons with disabilities age 18-59 who cannot drive through no fault of their own. The program provides eligible participants with affordable and flexible personal transportation service. Participants pay a nominal cost-share to purchase vouchers, which offers the flexibility to travel inside and outside of Fayette County. Clients select a driver from an approved list of contract voucher drivers and can arrange to have service at a time that best suits their needs.

Fayette Senior Services, Inc. offers older adults the opportunity to be involved in a variety of social, leisure, educational, wellness and life-enriching activities. Since 1978, the agency has also provided services that improve quality of life and foster independence such as: Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Referral Service, Information and Referral, Transportation Services, In-Home Services, and Case Management.

Location: 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214  
Phone: 770-461-0813



## FAYETTE COUNTY RECREATION DEPT.

The Therapeutic Department at Fayette County Parks & Recreation Department provides a social outlet for participants with physical and intellectual disabilities. We offer various sporting activities, outings, classes, and dances for all to enjoy!! The Fayette County Special Olympics program is also run through our department. This allows people with various types of intellectual disabilities to grow their physical fitness, motor skills, greater self-confidence, and develop a more positive self-image. They ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents, but 'their voices' as well.

Therapeutic Recreation...We put FUN into FUNctional!

To volunteer or participate: contact Brent Thompson  
Phone: 770-716-4325  
E-mail: [bthompson@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:bthompson@fayettecountyga.gov)



## FAYETTE COMMUNITY OPTIONS

A broad array of services and supports are available to assist individuals in identifying and meeting their goals.

Day Habilitation supports individuals needing to maintain or increase their daily living, socialization or leisure activities. There is also a focus on communication and mobility skills.

Day Supports assists individuals needing skill maintenance or development or vocational training. This program offers a variety of activities related to work in and out of a facility based center. Socialization and community experiences are also provided.

Supported Employment assists individuals to obtain a job. There is often an assessment component which helps an individual determine the job most suited to their skills and interests, providing assistance with completing an application, interviewing skills, job training and retraining if needed.

Residential services include the following options: residential training and supports provide 24 hour support, personal supports are provided in an individual's home within less than 24 hours and natural supports offer a family specific service indicated by the individual's need.

Address: 160 Carnegie Place, Fayetteville, GA 30214  
Beatrice Mason-Collins • (678) 544-3546  
[bmasoncollins@mctrail.org](mailto:bmasoncollins@mctrail.org)



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF  
**HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

## REGIONAL BOARD DHR

The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD) provides treatment and support services to people with mental illnesses and addictive diseases, and support to people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. MHDDAD serves people of all ages with the most severe conditions and ones that are often long-term. The division also funds evidence-based prevention services aimed at reducing substance abuse and related problems. In FY 2005, MHDDAD served 202,251 people.

MHDDAD staff in six regional offices identify local needs and coordinate the development and implementation of services to meet those needs. Services are provided across the state through seven regional MHDDAD hospitals and through contracts with 25 community service boards, boards of health and approximately 400 private providers.

Regional Planning Boards are made up of citizens who are appointed by county commissions and who serve on a voluntary basis. They help identify local needs and develop priorities for services. They are the voice for consumers and their families in setting local and statewide priorities, as well as serving as advocates to local officials.

### Region 6

3000 Schatulga Rd /Building 4  
Columbus, GA 31907

Fax: (706) 565-3565

I&E Toll Free: 1-877-565-8040 • BH Toll Free: 1-877-565-8041

Website: <http://www.dhr.state.ga.us>



## REACHING EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER HEIGHTS

The REACH Program is a post high school transition program administered by Fayette County School's Exceptional Children's Services Department. The REACH Program provides employment skills training and independent living skills instruction to students with developmental disabilities between the ages of 18-21. This program assists young adult students with disabilities in their transition from school to adult life. REACH is a collaborative effort between students, parents, the Fayette County School System, and community business partners. Students receive hands-on job training and learn transferable job skills to enable them to gain and maintain employment upon graduation. In addition, they learn independence skills such as self-advocacy skills, time management, social skills, and effective communication skills.

### **Internships at Panasonic Automotive**

As of October 2018 Fayetteville City Hall has provided internship opportunities and as of March 2019 Panasonic Automotive has provided a variety of internship opportunities for REACH interns to develop transferable employment skills. Internships include a coffee cart service to Panasonic employees, as well as clerical services such as data entry, filing, sorting, shredding, and special projects. Skills sets developed consist of soft skills including communication skills, self-advocacy skills, organization skills, problem solving skills, and independence skills. In addition, Panasonic has a designated charity parking spot to help provide funding to support the REACH Program.

For more information about the REACH Program please contact:

Ivory Cloud, REACH Program Teacher  
205 LaFayette Ave, Bldg D  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Phone: 770-460-3990 ext. 1432  
Email: [cloud.ivory@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:cloud.ivory@mail.fcboe.org)

**FIRST OPTION SERVICES**  
*Your Choice...Our Support*

Community & Residential Care Provider

## FIRST OPTION SERVICES

First Option Services provides Community Residential Services, Community Access Group, Community Access Individual Services and Specialized Medical Services. The agency serves individuals 19 years or older who are developmentally disabled and meets the criteria per Regional initial screening process and Regional evaluation process.

Residential services are offered to individuals who require various levels of supports in small group settings of four or less and include a range of interventions with particular focus on training and support in one or more of the following areas: healthcare, nutrition, grooming, interpersonal relationship, mobility, home management and leisure time.

Community Access services are designed to assist the participant in acquiring, retaining, or improving self-help, socialization and adaptive skills required for active community participation and independent functioning outside the participant's home or family home. These services may include training in the areas of money management, communication, mobility, reducing inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and training in the use of community resources.

Our mission is to ensure that each individual is provided the support that is needed whilst living in the most integrated community setting, assisting with meaningful choices and providing quality services in a manner that is consistent with their preferences and priorities.

First Option Services has been accredited with CQL (Council on Quality Leadership) since 2015 and was recently awarded the Person-Centered Excellence Award in 2018.

For further information, please visit our website at [www.firstoptionservicesonline.com](http://www.firstoptionservicesonline.com)

Please feel free to contact us:  
Jacqueline Rainford, RN, Director  
[firstoptionservices@hotmail.com](mailto:firstoptionservices@hotmail.com)  
678-327-6878



*Start Here ... Go Anywhere!*

## GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

### Fayetteville Admissions

Georgia Military College's (GMC) Mission: The mission of Georgia Military College (GMC) is to produce educated citizens and contributing members of society in an environment conducive to the development of the intellect and character of its students.

The number one priority of the Admissions Office at Georgia Military College – Fayetteville Campus is servicing you, our future student. For additional information and questions regarding admission requirements, applications, dual enrollment and placement testing, please contact us at the information listed below. We look forward to working with you on your admission to Georgia Military College where you can "Start Here ... Go Anywhere!"

255 Veterans Parkway  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
Main: 678-379-1381  
Fax: 770-731-2464

Email: [Fayetteville\\_Admissions@gmc.edu](mailto:Fayetteville_Admissions@gmc.edu)

#### Office Hours:

8:00am – 5:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

8:00am – 3:00pm Friday

**Appointments are not necessary. Walk-ins are always welcome!!!**



## PTCLL CHALLENGER BASEBALL

The Challenger Division of Little League Baseball is a program for players ages 4-18 (or 22 if still in school) with physical and developmental disabilities, offering them the ability to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. Our players have a wide range of abilities and supports needed, from physical challenges to genetic syndromes to autism.

We play non-competitive developmental baseball games at the player's ability level. All players bat (pitched or off a tee), round the bases, and cross home. Some players play independently, and other have "buddies" from the community, or are assisted by family members. Part of the fun of Challenger is watching the players mature over the seasons and acquire skills. Challenger players have the opportunity to experience the joys of pulling together as a team, being cheered for, and earning achievement awards.

Challenger uses a hard-surface field in order to remove barriers to participation for players with assistive devices like wheelchairs, walkers, or braces. Our games are 2 to 3 innings long, depending on weather and each week's pace of play, and typically last about an hour. We play at the Field of Hope, part of the Peachtree City Athletic Complex on Hwy 74 south in Peachtree City. Our games are on Saturdays at 10 am, and there are no practices. We typically have a 10 game season from September to November and March to May. The registration cost for each season is \$65.

While Challenger has its local home in Peachtree City's Little League, we currently serve players in south Fulton, Fayette, Clayton, Henry, Coweta, Troup, and Pike counties. It's a very warm family, and since we serve a wide geographic area, families form friendships at baseball games that they might not get in their local schools. Our Challenger families consistently display the best sportsmanship around! Challenger also is a great networking resource for families in the south metro Atlanta area. Parents may discuss doctors, therapists, school issues, and recreational options, and families often form close friendships.

For more information about registering as a player, a volunteer, or becoming a sponsor of the Peachtree City Little League Challenger program, contact:

John Ashcraft  
[tecres2424@aol.com](mailto:tecres2424@aol.com)  
(404) 886-8865

Melanie Harper  
[melanieharper@gmail.com](mailto:melanieharper@gmail.com)  
(678) 490-1048

Find us online: [ptcchallenger.weebly.com](http://ptcchallenger.weebly.com) or [www.facebook.com/PTCChallengerLeague](http://www.facebook.com/PTCChallengerLeague)





Project | SEARCH®

## PROJECT SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a unique high school transition program designed for students with disabilities. It is a one-year program which targets students whose main goal is employment and will benefit from career exploration. Project SEARCH is a collaborative partnership between Fayette County Schools, Piedmont Fayette Hospital, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and Briggs and Associates.

One of the primary benefits for Project SEARCH participants is the experience they gain working in “the real world” during their internships. Project SEARCH is a nine-month internship for 7 to 12 interns with a variety of intellectual and developmental disabilities. A certified instructor and skills trainer works with each class, providing instruction and training. Interns receive continual feedback throughout the school year as they rotate through three unpaid internships.

The internships include: • Five hours daily, on-the-job training at the work site, along with 1.5 hours of classroom instruction time, Monday- Friday • Development of transferable job skills • Instruction on work and social skills • Integrated and focused training on quality and productivity.

**Project SEARCH Selection Process:** Students are referred to the program through their high schools. Interested students apply for Project SEARCH at the beginning of the second semester of their senior year. The selection process is carried out by a team of representatives to include: Project SEARCH instructor and skills trainer, host business liaison, VR counselor, community rehabilitation provider and other appropriate staff. Selection is made based on applications, interviews, and hands-on skills assessments.

For additional information, contact Jenny Bellamy, Project SEARCH Instructor, Fayette County Schools. Email: [bellamy.jenny@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:bellamy.jenny@mail.fcboe.org)



Haven Hills Therapeutic Riding Center

## HAVEN HILLS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

Haven Hills Therapeutic Riding Center, HHTRC, provides therapeutic, recreational, fun horseback riding lessons to the special needs community at NO COST to them or their families. Everything we do benefits the children and their families, up to and including participation in the Special Olympics Georgia State Annual Horseshow each year. Located in Fairburn, we serve families from North and South Fulton, Clayton, Fayette, Coweta, and Douglas Counties and the surrounding areas.

We added a Mental Health and Learning Program in January 2012 and a veteran's program in June 2012. These programs are separate from the therapeutic riding for the special needs children but all are found at Haven Hills.

Contact: Sara Carter  
Founder, Director, Certified PATH, Intl. Instructor, Special Olympic Coach, Certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning

Website at

[www.havenhillstherapeuticridingcenter.community.officelive.com](http://www.havenhillstherapeuticridingcenter.community.officelive.com)  
[www.havenhillsequestriancenter.com](http://www.havenhillsequestriancenter.com)

Phone: 678-296-9693 and I'll be happy to help you.  
Thanks so much!



## JM FINANCIAL PLANNING, LLC

### Ten Steps for Special Needs Families:

- 1) Plan for future medical, educational and housing needs for your dependent. Think about what your dependent's needs will be in the future – and develop your financial strategy based on these projections.
- 2) Review beneficiary designations. To continue to receive federal aid, dependents with special needs cannot have any assets in their name (cash, art, jewelry) that is worth more than \$2,000. Check with close friends and family to see if they have designated your dependent to receive any inheritance or insurance benefits from their estate— if they have, it's important that they make other arrangements. Don't let well-intentioned friends and family unknowingly cause your dependent to lose access to valuable resources.
- 3) Have a family meeting.... Just as caring for a dependent with special needs is a family affair, so is the related planning. Discuss their concerns and options for future care. This is also a good time to broach the beneficiary designation issue discussed above.
- 4) Speak with a special needs financial professional and create a team of professionals to assist you in planning. Pull together a support team that can help guide you. The composition of the team may vary depending on your unique situation.
- 5) Contact local nonprofit organizations for additional resource support.
- 6) Apply for government benefits. Government benefits – such as Medicaid and Social Security ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)). Prepare to have a successful outcome by planning years in advance. IEP's, Doctor Visits, assets in the child's name. Prepare.
- 7) Prepare your Last Will and Testament. It may be especially important to prevent automatic asset distributions directly to a person with special needs in excess of \$2,000. Make arrangements for assets to flow into a special needs trust created at your death.
- 8) Consider setting up a special needs trust. Funds can be contributed gradually over the years, or funded with an inheritance or life insurance policy. The money in the trust must be used to enhance the dependent with special needs quality of life, and can help to supplement standard services and benefits provided by government agencies.
- 9) Apply for guardianship and conservatorship, if applicable. Caregivers must apply for a guardianship or conservatorship to maintain legal control over financial and healthcare decisions once a dependent reaches the age of 18. This can take up to a year in some states, so it's maybe best to start this process early. There are different levels of guardianship and conservatorship available, depending on the dependent's capabilities and needs. For example, a limited guardianship could be solely for financial or healthcare-related decisions.
- 10) Prepare a Letter of Intent. Although not legally binding, this document is important for providing direction for the person or persons who will care for your dependent with special needs and should be stored with other vital documents, such as your Will. Think of it as a "letter to the caregiver" – it can cover day-to-day care routines such as what medical assistance is needed, as well as quality of life guidance such as what entertainment and activities should be provided.



Contact:  
JM Financial Planning &  
Wealth Management Strategies  
Julie A. Matulia, CDFP  
Financial Advisor  
770-375-1660



*Where Excellence and Creativity Merge*

## PALS

PALS stands for Peers are Linking Students.

Our mission:

To include all students in becoming active participants in the student body. We hope the friendships fostered here will carry on outside of school. We seek to instill in each student that chooses to become a part of PALS that the only way to have a friend is to be a friend and little acts of kindness can go along way, remembering that a simple act of kindness can make a difference in someone's life in a very big way.

PALS is a student-run organization that fosters relationships between students with and without disabilities through one-on-one and group activities. PALS desires to allow all students to experience the benefits of friendship, teamwork, and responsibility.

We have also found this club to evolve into a proactive way to promote anti-bullying. It has met the needs of, not only, our special needs students but the entire general education body. I can't tell you how many diverse personality types have joined PALS. We have new students to the high school, students who belong to no other clubs or those that just don't feel they fit in anywhere, along with the cheerleaders, drama and chorus members, and baseball and football players.

To seek assistance contact:

Starrs Mill High School  
Cindy Hartpence

[hartpence.cindy@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:hartpence.cindy@mail.fcboe.org)

Shannon Gagliano

[Gagliano.shannon@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:Gagliano.shannon@mail.fcboe.org)

Jodi Christensen

[Christensen.jodi@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:Christensen.jodi@mail.fcboe.org)

Whitewater High School

James Lindsey

[lindsey.james@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:lindsey.james@mail.fcboe.org)

McIntosh High School  
Carrie Smith

[smith.carried@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:smith.carried@mail.fcboe.org)

Fayette County High School

Marilyn Bullock

[bullock.marilyn@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:bullock.marilyn@mail.fcboe.org)

Sandy Creek High School



## MIRACLE LEAGUE



## KRISTEN M. LEWIS, ESQ. SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

What is The Miracle League? It's Hope, Determination and a display of Human spirit that is unequalled. And of course...there's baseball.

There is something about playing the game that lights up any athletes' eyes. But for children and adults facing serious physical and mental disabilities that opportunity can often be difficult to achieve. The Miracle League of Fayette County is going to change that for Fayette County residents as well as all surrounding counties in collaboration with Home Plate of Peachtree City.

The Miracle League removes the barriers that keep children and adults with mental and physical disabilities off the baseball field and lets them experience the joy of America's favorite pastime regardless of their age and ability.

But it's more than playing a game. The Miracle League is about making new friends, building self-esteem and being treated just like other kids. To help the athletes, the Miracle League uses a "buddy" system – pairing each player with an able-bodied peer when needed. The result is a bond that cannot be described. The Miracle League serves children and adults who suffer from any physical or mental disabilities, which causes them to be excluded, whether intentionally or not, from conventional Baseball leagues. According to the 2000 Census Bureau, there are 12.3 million children in our country, including Puerto Rico and Canada, who have disabilities between the ages of 5 and 19 and with young adults that number increases substantially.

The first Miracle League field opened in Conyers, Georgia in April 2000. Word spread and by 2002, fields opened in South Carolina, Alabama, West Virginia, Illinois, and California. There are presently 240 plus Miracle League Organizations across the country including Puerto Rico and Canada, while serving 200,000 plus children and young adults.

Our newest league is The Miracle League of Fayette County, hosted at Home Plate in Peachtree City, which will serve ambulatory athletes middle school age through adults in a competitive game of softball.

Our players may not be able to run the bases or hit the ball as well as some of their peers, but they have an equal amount of love and determination to play baseball. We want to help them achieve that dream with The Miracle League of Fayette County. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining this league, please pass this information along or have them contact:

Colleen Romano  
**romanos4@comcast.net**  
770-851-0686

Tom LaMonde  
**tjlamonde@bellsouth.net**  
770-460-7487

Everyone Deserves a Chance to Play Baseball!

Kristen M. Lewis has devoted her 32-year legal career to serving families with children challenged by various disabilities. She works with a family to develop a customized Special Needs Estate Plan around a network of Special Needs Trusts that help secure the future of their child by preserving the child's eligibility for government benefit programs. She guides the family to assemble a team of allied professionals that will oversee the management of their child's care long after the parents are gone. In appropriate cases, she can assist a family to secure the appointment of legal Guardian and Conservator for a child who has attained 18 years of age, or to make informal arrangements for the management of the adult child's health care and financial affairs.

Ms. Lewis is a member of the Special Needs Alliance, the Academy of Special Needs Planners, and the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel. She currently serves on the Boards of All About Developmental Disabilities, the Center for the Visually Impaired, and Georgia Community Support and Solutions, all of which serve persons with disabilities and their families. In her free time, Ms. Lewis is a volunteer trainer of certified service dogs for Canine Assistants in Milton, Georgia.

Ms. Lewis presents frequent local workshops for families about the Special Needs Planning process, and educates attorneys and other allied professionals across the nation on this complex area of the law.

Kristen M. Lewis, Esq.  
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP  
1230 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 3100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
(404) 815-3640  
**klewis@sgrlaw.com**



## LAVENDER MEADOWS, INC.

Lavender Meadows offers a planned day program for disabled individuals 18 years and older which includes a variety of health, social, and supportive services in a safe, protective environment during the daytime hours.

We are a licensed, community-based program location in downtown Newnan for individuals needing supportive services, professional supervision and care. Day program hours are Monday thru Friday 8am until 4pm.

We also offer out of home respite on an as needed basis as well as weekend respite.

Lavender Meadows ADH offers:

- Nursing
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Medical supervision for those who have physical and cognitive impairment
- Help with personal care as needed
- English classes
- A nutritious breakfast, snack and lunch
- Opportunities for social interaction with peers
- Recreational and Creative activities
- Round trip transportation

Respite services are available for the elderly and developmental disabled individuals 8 years of age and older.

Lavender Meadows respite check-in beginning every Friday at 6:00 pm until check-out Sunday 6:00 pm.

Our facility is equipped with beds available on a reservation basis, with two reserved for emergency situations.

Tiffany Williams  
Director  
Lavender Meadows Inc.  
(p)470-210-4625  
(c)770-572-9664



## LIFE BEHAVIOR CONSULTING, LLC

LIFE Behavior Consulting, LLC provides a team of behavioral consultants who offer an array of services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The main objective of LIFE is to empower individuals to learn skills that will improve their access to social opportunities, relationships, and independence in home, community, school, and vocational settings. We excel at providing services for individuals of every age, ethnicity, culture and neurodiversity. We design programs based on specific individual values and lifestyles to honor the unique needs of our clients. In addition to individual services, LIFE provides PEERS for Young Adults social skills training, community workshops and training sessions for parents and/or providers (e.g., teachers, school administrators, and speech language pathologists) based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and Positive Behavior Supports.

LIFE Behavior Consulting, LLC  
Meredith Sinclair, MS, CRC  
Courtney Sievers M.ed, BCBA  
**[www.lifebehaviorconsulting.com](http://www.lifebehaviorconsulting.com)**