2023

www.mentorga.org

MENTOR me
NORTH GEORGIA, INC.

IMPACT REPORT

BOARD CHAIR

Enabling Children to Reach Their Full Potential

Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc. provided our children a safe and welcoming environment in 2023. Whether it be in a one-to-one or group setting, our staff, along with the support of our Board and Volunteers, concentrated on building trust and communications at every opportunity.

JERRY FRASSO
Board Chair
UPS (Retired)

As each of us has learned, the value of having someone listen and offer support and guidance made a positive difference when most needed. In return, the mentee enabled the mentor to build interpersonal skills, gain new perspectives, and achieve self-fulfillment.

Enabling our children a chance to reach their full potential would not be possible without the support of our donors, community leaders, civic organizations, teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, caregivers, families, and numerous individuals and supporters who believe and support our mission.

This report provides you with a snapshot of our how your investment made an IMPACT in the work of Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc. for our staff to provide youth, ages 6-17, with professionally supported mentoring relationships. Our volunteers donate their time, talents, and treasures to our youth and share in the commitment of our mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our staff, THANK YOU for your continued support and encouragement. We look forward to strengthening our mission in 2024 and beyond.

Jerry

Jerry Frasso
Jerry@MentorMeNorthGa.org

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connections That Leave a Lasting Impact

KERRY CARITHERS
Executive Director

Mentoring stands out as a powerful strategy to engage and support vulnerable or adversity-facing youth, offering positive role model support. Mentor Me North Georgia is committed to community-based mentoring programs that aim to build meaningful personal connections, leaving a lasting impact on the youth we serve.

In the multifaceted role as advisor, coach, teacher, and advocate, mentors ensure that children and youth have a supportive figure in their lives. This mentorship model not only fosters personal growth but also sets the stage for significant life achievements.

The influence of mentoring programs is pivotal in shaping the trajectory of young lives, promoting resilience, and empowering them to overcome challenges. In the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, Mentor Me North Georgia is dedicated to addressing the mentoring needs within our community and local school system. Our plans include the introduction of four summer Mentoring After School programs and the expansion of our offerings with six additional Connect Club programs. Through these initiatives, we aim to provide steady and positive influences, contributing to the holistic development of the youth we serve in our community.

Yours in Service,

Kerry

Kerry Carithers
Kerry@MentorMeNorthGa.org

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

24%
Increase in Number of Children & Youth Served

25%
Growth in Revenue

16%
Increase in Monthly Donors

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2023

$370,411

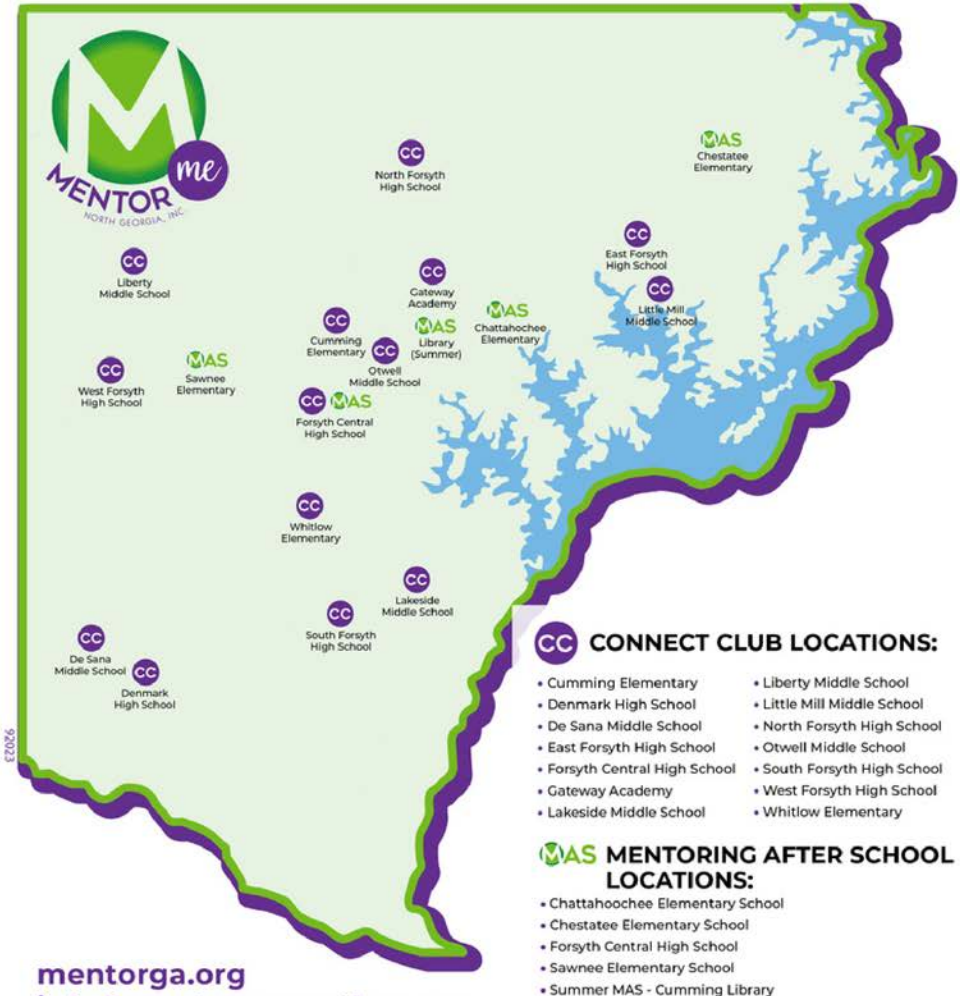
CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED

3,174

"Forsyth County Public Library is honored to be part of the life-changing services that Mentor Me provides in our community. Our mission aligns well with Mentor Me and our collaboration with them is always a win-win. Most recently, we had the opportunity to provide Chromebooks and summer meeting room spaces for their Mentoring After School program. It's a pleasure to work with the amazing Mentor Me staff to support student success in school."

Anna Lyle, Director
Forsyth County Public Library

WHERE WE SERVE



CONNECT CLUB LOCATIONS:

- Cumming Elementary
- Denmark High School
- De Sana Middle School
- East Forsyth High School
- Forsyth Central High School
- Gateway Academy
- Lakeside Middle School
- Liberty Middle School
- Little Mill Middle School
- North Forsyth High School
- Otwell Middle School
- South Forsyth High School
- West Forsyth High School
- Whitlow Elementary

MAS MENTORING AFTER SCHOOL LOCATIONS:

- Chattahoochee Elementary School
- Chestatee Elementary School
- Forsyth Central High School
- Sawnee Elementary School
- Summer MAS - Cumming Library

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info@mentormenorthga.org

OUR PROGRAMS

One-to-One Mentoring

- Served 64 children & youth
- Engaged 68 community volunteers
- Provided 2,301 one-to-one mentoring hours

Overview

One-to-One Mentoring has demonstrated impactful outcomes for youth participants, influencing various aspects of their lives. Here are a few examples illustrating the positive effects of one-to-one mentoring, as reported by mentee guardians: academic achievements, improved social-skills and relationships, increased self-esteem and confidence, and behavioral improvements.

"[My mentee] has had a lot of personal growth since she and I started seeing each other... She's learning to slow down her decision process... She's exploring her identity and what she wants out of life and [has been] very forthcoming with her thoughts."

***One-to-One* Mentor**

"The North Georgia Community Foundation is thankful for Mentor Me's commitment to serving young people in our community who need a positive role model in their lives. Our organization and fundholders, are proud to support their efforts of empowering youth and helping them develop skills and confidence they will apply throughout their lives."

Michelle R. Prater, President & CEO
North Georgia Community Foundation

Mentoring After School (MAS)

- Served 171 elementary students
- Engaged 180 volunteers as mentors
- 78% of mentors are high school students
- Provided 2,182 mentoring hours and service opportunities from volunteers
- Offered 2 Summer MAS Programs

MAS Locations

Forsyth Central High School, Chestatee Elementary School, Sawnee Elementary School, Chattahoochee Elementary School, Cumming Library (Summer)

Overview

The MAS Program exhibits progress in student academic and literacy skills, increased classroom participation, and noticeable improvements in social skills, as reported by both teachers and parents. Our approach by requesting additional homework assignments from teachers and identifying specific skills requiring assistance at program locations, allows the organization to tailor the students' learning experiences.

Our evaluation of literacy skill gains, measured through the College & Career Readiness Performance Index, shows substantial progress. Specifically, MAS supports improved English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment scores, with a remarkable score of 88.9% improvement increase in progress rates for the schools we serve.

"As part of our efforts to align with the district's strategic plan ensuring all students are safe, connected, and thriving, Forsyth Central High School is a proud partner of Mentor Me North Georgia. Through our collaboration, many students at our school and in our community find a place to connect with a trusted adult as part of their path into whatever their future holds.

It's incredible to see so many of our high school students actively involved in programming as volunteers each week and our campus being a placeof safety for so many students. As the old saying goes, it takes a village!"

Dr. Josh Lowe, Principal
Forsyth Central High School

Connect Club

- Engaged 2,939 elementary, middle, and high school students
- 26 community volunteers served as small group leaders
- Provided 251 service hours for program volunteers

Locations

Elementary Schools:	Cumming Whitlow
Middle Schools:	DeSana, Lakeside, Little Mill, and Otwell
High Schools:	Denmark, East Forsyth, Forsyth Central, North Forsyth, South Forsyth, West Forsyth and Gateway Academy

Overview

Connect Clubs offer invaluable support and opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school students, fostering team-building activities that promote healthy connections, personal development, and overall improvement in behavior and social skills. School administrative staff report increased classroom participation, improved behaviors, better attendance, and sustained academic progress as key indicators of success.

"I had a lot of fun and got a lot of helpful information. It has helped me improve on myself."

Connect Club Student
Otwell Middle School

"Mentor Me's Connect Club impact has been invaluable for our students at EFHS. Due to our remote location and student needs, Connect Club has helped broaden the scope and gives hope for the future. The staff develop relationships with our students that encourage them to come back week after week. The lessons and guest speakers are engaging, interactive and inspiring. Mentor Me creates an intentional environment of inclusivity so all students feel welcome."

Katie Newman, Community Engagement & Wellness Coordinator
East Forsyth High School

Champion

TODAY'S YOUTH

OUR IMPACT

Totals

Total Volunteers: 295
Total Volunteer Service Hours: 5,284 + Board Hours
Total Students Served: 3,174
Total Funds Raised: $370,411
Grants/Foundations: $179,750
Corporate Contributions: $104,870
Individual & Business Contributions: $ 26,753
Special Events/Fundraiser: $59,015

Community Outreach Impact

75% are performing better in school
85% are showing improved behavior
92% are more self-confident

Provided Grant Funding

Browns Bridge Church
Corner Farms
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Forsyth County Accountability Courts
Forsyth County Social Services Grant
North Georgia Community Foundation
ProLiteracy Foundation
Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation
The Benjamin F Brady Foundation
The Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Foundation
United Way of Forsyth County
Walmart Foundation
ZYN Cares Foundation

"It is calm, interesting, and helpful. We always have different activities to go with the message about mental health that they are teaching us."

Connect Club Student
East Forsyth High School

OUR 2023 DONORS

The support & contributions of our donors allow Mentor Me North Georgia staff and volunteers to fulfill its mission.

Absolute Pool & Spa
ABW Solutions, INC
Aldi INC
Altrusa International of North Georgia
American Charities
Amy Fischer
Andean Motor CO
Andrew Shannon
Anna Lyle
Arseneau Advisory Group
Ashley Bryan
AutomationDirect
Beaver Toyota of Cumming
Billy Howell Ford
Brad and Sara Collins
Brandywine Printing
Brian Cristie
Brittany Amin
Browns Bridge Church
Carolyn Canouse
CB Smith & Associates , P.C.
Charles Burk
Cips Coffee
Citizens Bank
Corner Farms
Denise & Mike Leeson
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Donna Wade
F3 of Cumming
Forsyth County Accountability Courts
Forsyth County Rotary Club
Forsyth County Social Services
Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Club
IPA Investment Group
Jaclyn Bacon
Janna Brasso
Jayne Iglesias
Jeff Cooney
Jennifer Kumnick
Jerry Frasso
Johns Creek Rotary Club
Julie Brennan
Keller Williams Community Partners of Cumming
Kerry and RC Carithers
Kohl's of Cumming
Knights of Columbus St Brendan Council #12942
Kurt Arseneau
Lacy Eglain & Company
Lanier Forsyth Rotary Club
Laura Stewart
Le Roy, Cole & Stephens CPA, LLC
LJK Real Estate Company
Matt and Rachel McClure
Mr Value Electricians
Multifit Solutions
My Forsyth Magzine
Neighborhood Mortgage, INC
North Forsyth Rotary Club
North Georgia Community Foundation
Owenby Jones Wealth Management, LLC
Paradise City Travels
Patricia Daniels
Patterson Moore Butler, LLC
Paul Hughes
Penny Penn
Peter Carpenter
ProLiteracy Foundation
Renasant Bank
Sawnee Eletric Membership Foundation
Scott Wicker
Sherryl Crochet
Shirley Rourke
South Forsyth Rotary Club
Southern Elegance Design & Landscape
Stars and Strikes of Cumming
Tacos & Tequila of Cumming
Terri Willet - Atlanta Communities Real Estate
The Bagel Hole
The Benjamin F Brady Foundation
The Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Foundation
The Sawyer Family
Thoroughbred Design Group
Tracy Ann Moore-Grant
Tricia Welsh
Troncali Subaru
United Way of Forsyth County
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Valery and Josh Lowe
Vickery Pediatrics
Vickery Tax and Accounting
Walmart Foundation
ZYN Cares Foundation

We apologize if we have omitted anyone from this list of 2023 donors. The list has been compiled to the best of our knowledge. We are grateful to all who have contributed to our success.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AutomationDirect

BMore Learning

Beaver Toyota of Cumming

Browns Bridge Church

Corner Farms

District 6910 Rotary Clubs

Forsyth County College & Career Workforce Council

Forsyth County Community Connection

Forsyth County Homeless Coalition

Forsyth County Local Interagency Planning Team

Forsyth County Nonprofit Roundtable

Forsyth County Public Library

Forsyth County Schools

Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Club

Local Church

North Georgia Community Foundation

St. Brendan's Catholic Church

Teacher Reuse Exchange

The Place of Forsyth

United Way of Forsyth County

University of North Georgia

Youth Leadership Forsyth

3 Oaks Farms

Thank you!

Browns Bridge is proud to partner with an organization that shines brightly in our community. Mentor Me continues to make a lasting impact in our community and enriches the lives of countless people. They lead the way with their programs and monthly mentor outings. This investment will change the trajectory of many students' lives and we are grateful to be a part of that."

Robin Chapman, Intersect Director
Browns Bridge Church

OUR TEAM

Executive Board of Directors

Board Chair
Jerry Frasso, UPS (Retired)

Treasurer
Scott Wicker, UPS (Retired)

Secretary
Brittany Amin, VP - Financial Sales Manager II - First Citizens Bank

Internal Recruitment Committee
Chris Woodall, Assistant Principal, Forsyth Central High School

Marketing Communications Committee
Peter Carpenter, President/Creative Director, Thoroughbred Design Group

Fundraising Development Co-Chairs
Andrew Shannon, Senior V.P. Commercial Banking, Wells Fargo
Chris Stewart, Georgia Restoration, USMC Retired

Revenue Development Committee
Scott Wicker, UPS (Retired)

Community Relations Committee
Penny Penn, District Attorney, Forsyth County

Board Members

Kurt Arseneau - Owner, Arseneau Advisory Group

Brad Collins - Project Manager, AT&T

Anna Lyle - Director, Forsyth County Public Library

Sharon Lynch - Paralegal, Primerica Life Insurance

Jeff Mogan - President, Corner Farms Forsyth

Tracy Ann Moore-Grant - Attorney, Patterson, Moore, Butler

Laura Stewart - VP Community Development, Forsyth Chamber of Commerce

Terri Willet - Atlanta Communities Real Estate

OUR TEAM

Advisory Board

James McCoy - President/CEO, Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce, Past Mentor

Virgilio Pérez-Pascoe - Pepsi (retired), Past Mentor

Cindy Salloum - Associate Superintendent of HR & Legal Svcs, Forsyth Cty Schools (retired)

Tricia Welsh - Owner, Kideapolis, Inc.

Donna Wade - CRE Regional/Senior Credit Officer, SVP Renasant Bank

Mentor Me Staff

Executive Director - Kerry Carithers

Program Director, One-to-One Mentoring - Alison Gaines

Program Director, Mentoring After School (MAS) - Freddie Lopez

Youth Program Director, Connect Clubs - Rachel Kern

Youth Program Coordinator, Connect Clubs - Brandy Povenz

SAVE THE DATE

10.26.24

Empowering Today's Youth To Reach Their Full Potential

MENTOR me

NORTH GEORGIA, INC.

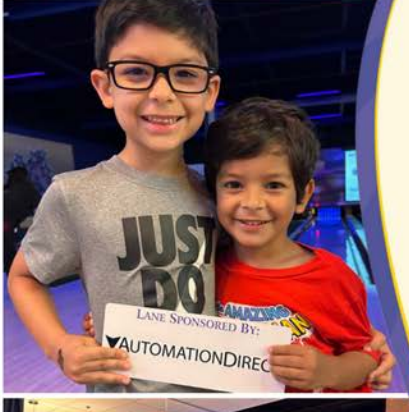
ROCK -N- BOWL

TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 26, 2024

Sponsorship Opportunities Available contact Kerry@mentormenorthga.org.

10AM-12:00PM
Stars and Strikes
133 Merchants Square
Cumming, GA 30040



MENTOR me
NORTH GEORGIA, INC.

Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the diverse needs of youth in our community.

United Way
United Way of Forsyth County

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