

CULTIVATE CARING COMMUNITY

Matches, Support, Community
Engagement and Education, Fundraising.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY OF
ATLANTA AND DEKALB
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About Citizen Advocacy

Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb envisions our local community providing the care for and access to the good things in life for its citizens through relationships built on dignity, respect, and care.

It is our mission to promote and facilitate a growing number of citizen advocacy relationships that provide protection and advocacy for people impacted by disability discrimination.

Goals

1. **Advocacy:** Help ensure that persons with disabilities have the same opportunities and life conditions which are available to everyone else.
2. **Protection:** Help safeguard disabled persons from abuse and neglect and uphold their civil and human rights.
3. **Community Acceptance and Inclusion (Disability Justice):** People with disabilities are afforded to live in a community that not only accepts them, but is benefited by the diversity of everyone's gifts and talents.
4. **Strengthening Communities:** Increasing peoples' opportunities to develop their gifts and talents, and to understand, appreciate, and care for each other.

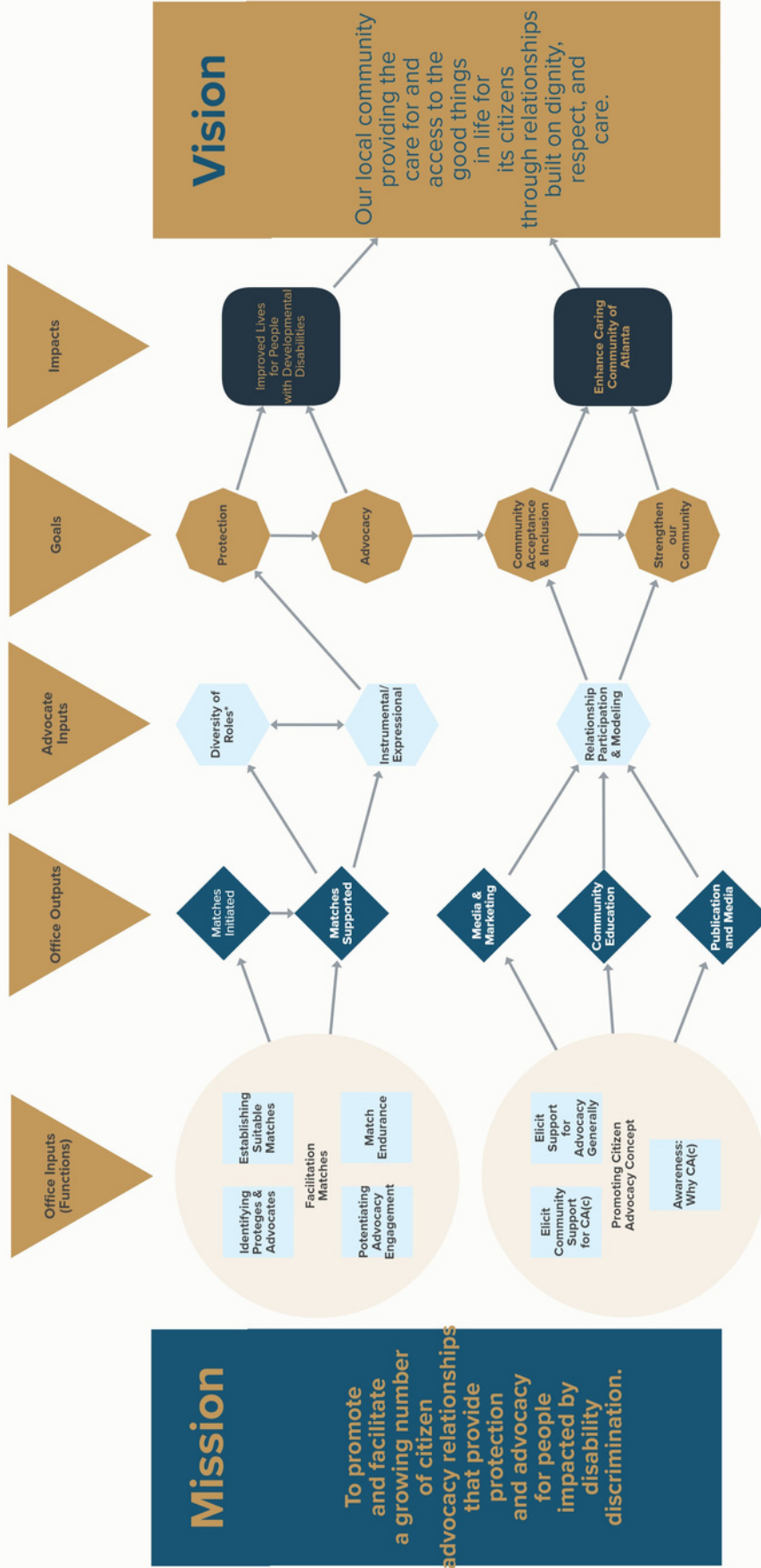
The Citizen Advocacy program model was conceptualized by [Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger](#) and John O'Brien in the late 1960's consistent with Social Role Valorization theory (SRV). SRV examines how social devaluation leads to people being profoundly rejected, separated and distanced from valued community life, and denied opportunities and access. The process of Social Devaluation leads to people having a heightened risk of social and physical abuse, discrimination, violence, and death-making.

In developing the Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO) established in 1977, across the state people were asked what worried them the most. The response was the same: What will happen to my adult child when I am gone? In response Citizen Advocacy became an integral part of the mission of the GAO. Currently there are three CA offices in Georgia including: Atlanta & DeKalb, Chatham-Savannah, and Macon.

Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & Dekalb works at the local community level to foster freely-given one-to-one relationships between ordinary citizens—called citizen advocates—and individuals—called protégés—who have needs that can be effectively addressed by advocacy.

Logic Model

Citizen Advocacy OF ATLANTA & DEKALB, INC.



Caring Community

“Only by multiplying our circles of care – in the first instance, by expanding our notion of kinship will we achieve the psychic infrastructures necessary to build a caring society that has universal care as its ideal.” (The Care Manifesto, 33)

A caring community is one where all members have a respected place, in which diversity is expected and celebrated, and individuals assist each other with work and/or activities when appropriate. Citizen Advocacy works to cultivate a caring community in Atlanta through the strategic action of initiating and supporting one-to-one relationship matches centered around people with developmental disabilities. The Citizen Advocacy Office brings together an intentionally diverse group of core members and supporters to locate people vulnerable from disability discrimination, get to know their life story and circumstances, and find a suitable advocate from the local community.

Citizen Advocacy primarily focuses on cultivating a caring community through individual action and mutual support, but we also recognize our work benefits the community at large. Through modeling a diversity of mutual support relationships centered on disability, Citizen Advocacy cultivates a stronger and inclusive community in Atlanta. Relationships initiated by the Citizen Advocacy Office work to not just model interdependent relationships, but also introduce family, friends, and associates to the lives of people who have been typically excluded from the common good of community. This directly impacts the community of Metro Atlanta, by introducing the concept of cultivating caring community by fostering mutual support relationships. Citizen Advocacy is just one way of cultivating a caring community and we look to build a network of solidarity partners that believe in a community based on taking care of our fellow citizens.



Coordinating Citizens Cultivating Caring Community

In FY 2024 Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb (CAAD) intends to continue the work of activating the local citizens in the Metro Atlanta area to support and take care of each other. The primary focus of CAAD is to initiate 13 new citizen advocacy matches throughout the fiscal year, while continuing to support the 50+ matches initiated over the last 5 decades.

CAAD also recognize our work benefits the community at large by its direct effect of modeling how a community based on caregiving and caretaking works to build a stronger and inclusive caring community.

The following work plan for FY24 includes our strategic effort to initiate 13 new matches, support existing matches, and continue to grow the roots, sustainability, and growth of CAAD through the theme of cultivating caring community.

FY24 Priorities

1. Match Making

Initiating 13 new matches through activities of protégé recruitment, advocate recruitment, advocate orientation, matching, follow along & support, and advocate associates.

2. Endurance & Potentiation

Keeping up to date of relationship matches and offering individual support to citizen advocates.

3. Promoting CA Concept

Cultivating and growing the community support of the citizen advocacy concept, while celebrating advocacy accomplishments along with the gifts and talents found within our community.

4. Fundraising

Increasing the sustainability and growing the impact of the Citizen Advocacy Office through generating financial support through grants and individual giving.

Match Making

Initiating 13 new matches through activities of protégé recruitment, advocate recruitment, advocate orientation, matching, follow along & support, and advocate associates.

Protégé Diversity

Potential protégés have a wide variety of needs for representation and relationships which can be met by citizen advocates. One of the greatest potential strengths of citizen advocacy, is the flexibility to define and support those relationships which can, if the participants choose, fit the changing individual circumstances of a protégé.

The range of citizen advocacy roles which an advocacy office staff conceptualize and plan for as they recruit, match, and support advocates is perhaps the single most powerful determinant of an office's long term success.

1. Gender

- Male: 6
- Female: 6
- Non-Binary 1

2. Age

- Infant: 1
- 22 & Under: 5
- 23-59: 5
- Over 60: 2

3. Ethnicity

- White 5
- African American 5
- Hispanic 1
- Asian 1
- African 1

4. Living Situation

- Restrictive 4
- Family 8
- Homeless 1

5. Roles

- Informal 11
- Formal 1
- Crisis 1
- Instrumental 5
- Expressive/
Instrumental 7

6. Degree of Demand

- High 1
- Medium 5
- Low 5

7. Rescreen/ Co-Advocates

- Kristopher
- Donna
- Kim
- Pau

Match Endurance and Potentiation

Follow Along & Support

Follow Along includes regular, systematic, low-profile checks on the status of the relationship; provides the Citizen Advocacy Office with a measure of its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the proteges, and identifies an advocate's needs for support.

Support activities provide practical and when necessary emotional support to advocates.

Advocate Orientation

- Pre-Match Orientation to each new advocate
- Post-Match Orientation to each new advocate

Follow Along & Support

- 10 advocates per month
- Biweekly Follow Along to new relationships

Priority Follow Along

- Andrew
- Jan
- Daniel
- Olivia
- Lettie
- Michael & Julie
- Zanaida
- Jerusha

Ongoing Training

The advocacy office systematically identifies and provides training based on support requests, advocate-protégé surveys and the availability of relevant new knowledge.

On-Going Training

- Identify 2 areas for group training
- Referrals of advocates to Trainings

Advocate Associates

Advocate associates are volunteers to the advocacy office who possess skills and knowledge useful to advocates and protégés.

Advocate Associates

- Identify areas of interest for Advocate Associates through Advocate Follow Along and Support
- Identify, recruit and orientate 2 new Advocate Associates

Promoting Citizen Advocacy Concept

Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb works to change the way our community perceives and treats its citizens with developmental disabilities by locally promoting the citizen advocacy concept, while supporting advocacy for people with disabilities through education and awareness.

Community Education & Celebrations

- a. Individual Training and Orientation: The Citizen Advocacy Office invests time and resources to provide individualized training and orientation to a diverse range of community members, who can be called upon to respond to the social devaluation of people with disabilities (which might be as advocates, might be as community connectors/eyeballs, etc.)
- b. Group Presentations focused specifically on citizen advocacy values and practice.
- c. Witness to Beauty- 2 Exhibitions
- d. Other-
 - i. Compassion Con
 - ii. Gillian Book Event
 - iii. MLK Event

Goals:

Fulton-	150 People
Dekalb-	300 People

Publications

- a. Annual Report- 1 produced by August
- b. Newsletters - 1 Winter and 1 Spring

Media and Marketing

- a. Social Media- 1 post per week
- b. Revamped promotional material
 - i. General Public
 - ii. Corporate
 - iii. Foundation
- c.

Fundraising

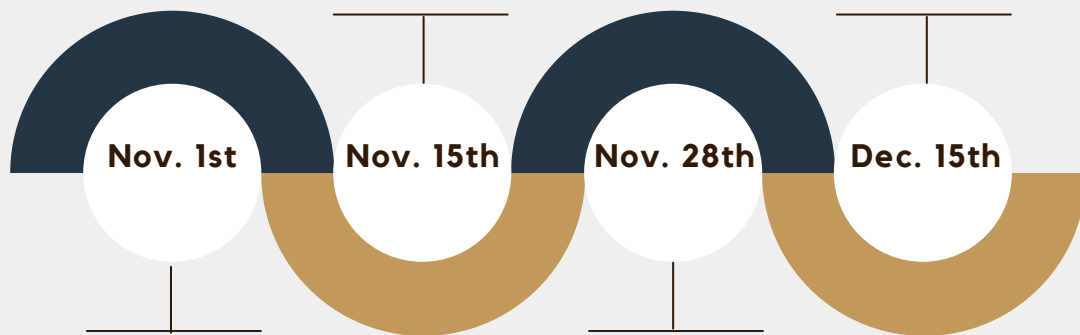
GA GIVES DAY/ END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN

Giving Opens

- Email Newsletter
- Social Media Increase
- P2P Pages

Thank you/ Renewals

- All Donation Thank you notes sent- 12/14
- Previous Donor Renewals- Sent 12/16
- Multi-Year Donors- 12/21



Letter Campaign

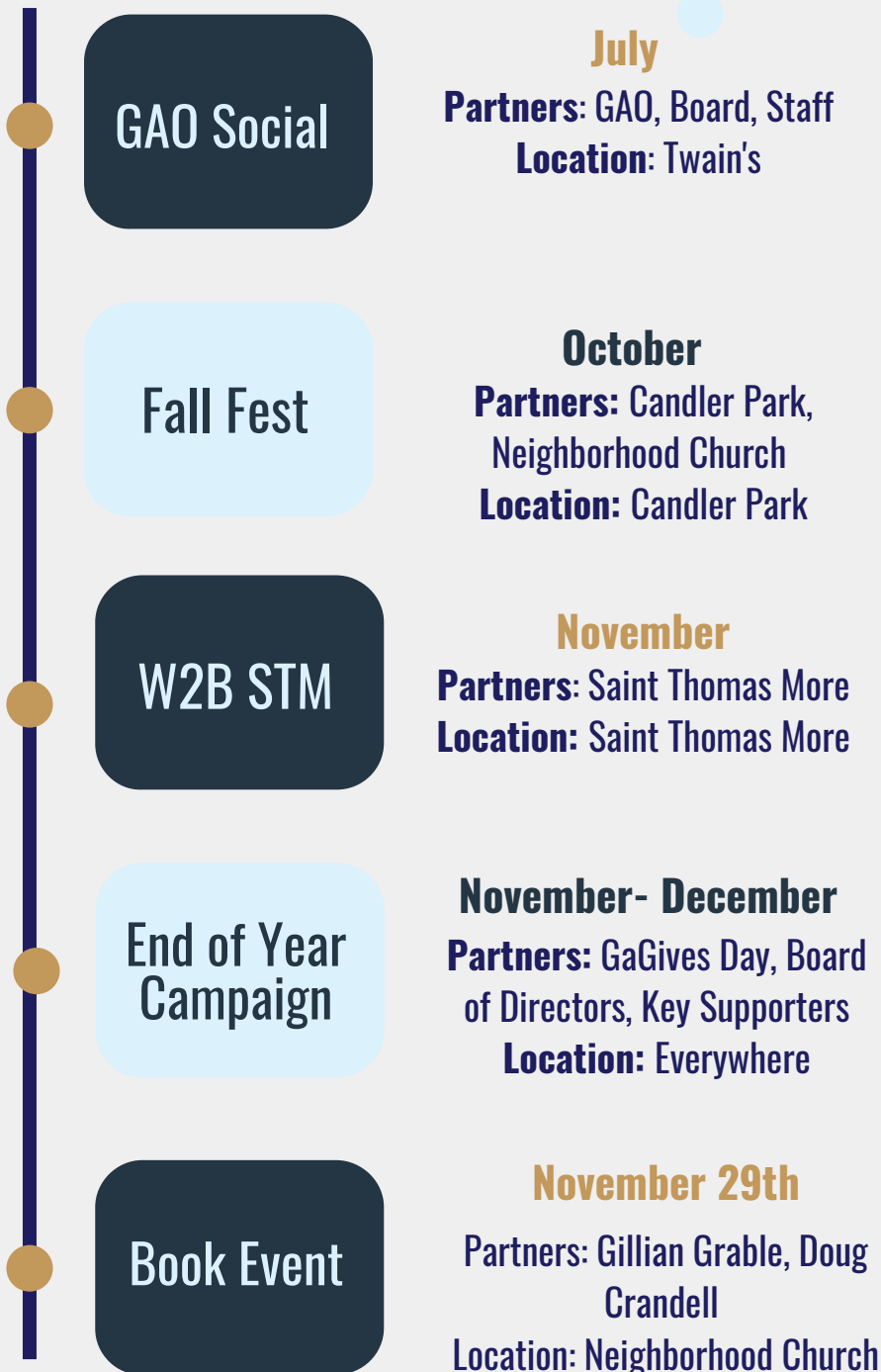
- Letter & Lists Complete 10/17
- Letters Printed & Delivered- 10/24

Gillian Book Event

Caring Community FAM Festival

- a. Film
 - i. Art of LC
 - ii. Other
- b. Art
 - i. W2B Exhibits
 - ii. Art Partners
- c. Music
 - i. Bo Connections
 - ii. Etc.
- d. Money Makers
 - i. Tickets
 - ii. Auction
 - iii. Sponsors

Timeline July- December



Timeline January-July



**MLK: Caring
Community**



**Witness to
Beauty**



FAM FEST

January

**Partners: TBD
Location: TBD**

March

**Partners: TBD
Location: TBD**

May

**Partners: TBD
Location: TBD**