



Citizen Advocacy

OF ATLANTA & DEKALB, INC.

2022 Annual Report

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

1561 McClendon Ave NE | Atlanta, GA 30307

Stewarding the Work

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garrick Scott
Board Chair

Donald Jumper
Vice Chair

Russel Spornberger
Treasurer & Acting Secretary

Craig Blythe

Josh Cusick

Bo Gaiason

Woodrow (Woody) Hall

Leslie Lipson

Paula Rafferty

STAFF

Aaron Lichkay
Executive Director/
Coordinator

Ginia Taylor
Administrative Coordinator



Greetings,

My name is Garrick Scott and I have the pleasure of serving as the new Chair of the Board of Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb. I am excited to lead the board of such an amazing organization having spent the majority of my life as a person with a disability.

I personally know what it is like to be a young person needing someone to advocate with you as well as on your behalf. The work of Citizen Advocacy is so important to me as I have seen how personal, one-to-one relationships can impact people's lives. Beyond serving on the board I have also had the pleasure of serving in the role of Citizen Advocate for my friend Nazir for the past 5 years.

On behalf of the board and staff I want to thank you for your contribution last year and in the future at whatever level, whether it be with time, energy, or financial support. We greatly appreciate your support!

We look forward to the amazing things we have planned for the future and definitely hope that you will join us in allowing people with developmental disabilities, especially young people, the opportunity to live the life they want.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garrick Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Celebrating Matches

8 New Matches Made

5 DeKalb County

Dorothy and Terry
Jane and Ash
Jon and Royce
Jhoandi and Lisa
Lauren and Derona

3 Fulton County

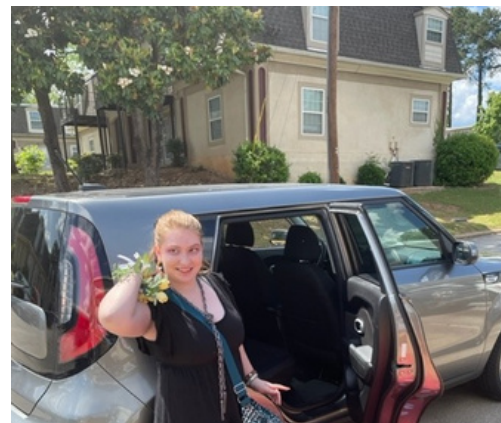
Ayah and Leigh
Quentin and Johnny
Janie and Leigh



Jane and Ash began their relationship journey bonding outside Jane's apartment complex over their southern roots and family. When Jane got in an accident, Ash expressed that when Jane needed him the most it was not a burden, but just natural for him to help. He made sure her wheelchair was replaced, helped to make sure her family knew what was going on, and when she needed someone at the hospital he dropped everything and showed up.

Kathi has been in Eric's life since he was a little boy, making sure he had everything he needed to live his best life. From elementary school to middle and now high school Kathi continues to fight using every resource she can for Eric to feel safe at school, and be included with all his peers outside of a segregated classroom. Beyond school, Kathi has witnessed Eric develop into a "gorgeous young man." She envisions Eric having someone closer to his age to explore life as an aspiring adult.





Surviving to Thriving

Leigh and Janie were first introduced by Citizen Advocacy over lunch at Taco Mac. The two instantly bonded over coffee, although Janie prefers a massive amount of sugar in hers while Leigh prefers just a little oat milk.

On the drive home Leigh proclaimed, “She is now my child and I will love her no matter what.” A week later Leigh became Janie’s Citizen Advocate.

They continued to get to know each other through lunches and girl time. Leigh added Janie to her phone plan so they could keep in contact regularly even when she travels. The fun times did not last long and Leigh had to learn quickly how to navigate the relationship as Janie was forced into survival mode. Her emergency housing situation became hostile and on Christmas Eve she was suddenly moved to a host home.

If it had not been for the phone Leigh got her, nobody but the service provider would have known where Janie ended up. Janie could have been lost in the system without Leigh being able to find her. The phone proved vital not just to Janie’s independence and agency, but as a form of protection.

One day in March Leigh received a message that there was going to be a meeting with Janie to deal with a “crisis.”

The service providers had deemed Janie’s access to a phone a threat to her health and safety. Leigh agreed that Janie needed more experience and help with figuring out the responsibilities of having a phone, but the phone was her property and the providers did not have the right to take it from her. Janie, with Leigh alongside, fought to keep her phone and she DID!

On April 11th, Leigh got notified about another “crisis” meeting to take place the next day. Janie’s support coordinator wanted Janie to sign away her waiver that provided her the funds to live and eat. Leigh quickly borrowed a car and contacted allies at Atlanta Legal Aid and The Georgia Advocacy Office. She had to cancel all her work meetings, but Leigh showed up and along with allies was able to make sure Janie left the meeting with her waiver benefits intact.

With the “crises” averted for now, Leigh’s focus became getting Janie some “Wins.” Five days later they celebrated her 19th birthday. In May Janie was asked to prom. She and Leigh went dress and shoe shopping. Even when a case of Covid stopped her from being there in person, Leigh helped find others who could do Janie’s hair, makeup, and nails. Janie got the prom experience she deserved and she looked beautiful.

Check out the Full Story and Updates on our blog
www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org/blog

Supporting Advocates

TOTAL NUMBER OF MATCHES SUPPORTED:

56

DEKALB MATCHES:

43

FULTON MATCHES:

13



1

After years of effort by multiple people, Lex got Donna's SSDI benefits started. From his home in Savannah, he is brainstorming how to connect Donna with local neighbors to help with grocery shopping and transportation in Atlanta.

2

As Toni and Fred settle farther into married life, Elizabeth and Jon are there to make sure that each of them has someone looking out for them.

3

Tommy and Brad have dinner with each other often as they continue to build their relationship. Dinner most often is just the two guys, but each of their families is part of the larger story.

4

Kristopher and Sam live farther away from each other now, but that doesn't stop Sam from setting dates on the calendar when they can get together, catch each other up on each other's lives, and keep @friendswithacamera going.

5

Over the course of the last two years Tait has been the rock in Ray's life as he continues to experience being independent for the first time in his forties. Like all relationships there have been ups and downs, but Ray knows if he needs someone to talk to that Tait will always be there.

6

Royce keeps up with Ryan, while continuing to support him as he works on creating the characters for his own comic book world.

Engaging Community

Our community began to open back up over the last year although Covid-19 still limited the times we could all come together. Still, Citizen Advocacy (CA) hosted and participate in events virtually and in person.

The schema of Citizen Advocacy is based on one-to-one personal relationships, but also actively works to build the BeLoved community. With partners including Neighborhood Church, Virginia Highlands Church, Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA), and other allies, we were able to provide education and present our vision of an Inclusive Atlanta to people across Fulton and DeKalb counties.

- Citizen Advocacy has long been connected with UUCA. In October that relationship transcended into CA hosting 3 sessions for their Adult Religious Education Program. CA director Aaron, along with Katie Chandler and Marnie Crowley, facilitated virtual sessions on SRV and Citizen Advocacy's approach to implementing SRV principles in the Atlanta Area.

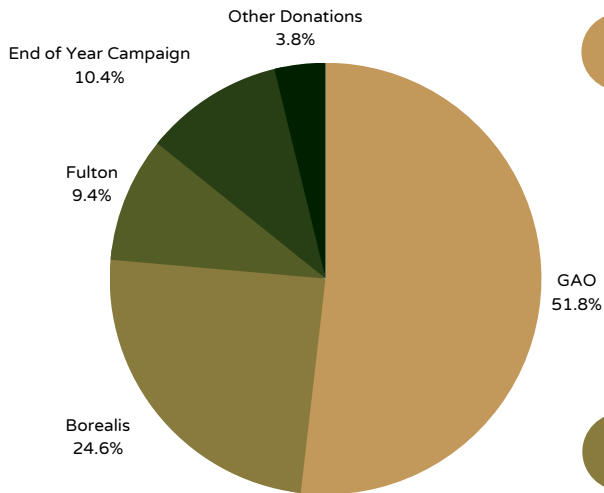
- In December Citizen Advocacy celebrated the 25+ year career of Derona King as she welcomed retirement. Friends spanning the state and decades gathered for a Tea Party to celebrate, reminisce, and wish Derona well with her future endeavors.
- February brought another opportunity to provide education, this time on the subjects of Wolf Wolfensberger, SRV, and Medical Safeguarding. Partnering with Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, CA hosted Jo Masserelli to facilitate and present her experience and knowledge for board members, advocates, and interested community members.
- Neighborhood Church is a key partner in our work, and also houses our office. As a community partner, Citizen Advocacy participated in their NeighborFests, connecting with neighbors in Candler Park.

We look forward to partnering with more community members and organizations looking to build a more inclusive Atlanta Area in FY23. If you are interested in partnering, volunteering, or sponsoring an event give us a call or email!



Sustaining Our Work

Total Income: \$183,262.26



Citizen Advocacy in Atlanta started in 1977 under the Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO) and continues to support CA here and around the state of Georgia. GAO is CA's largest funder, and offers educational experiences, trainings, and organizational support.

www.thegao.org

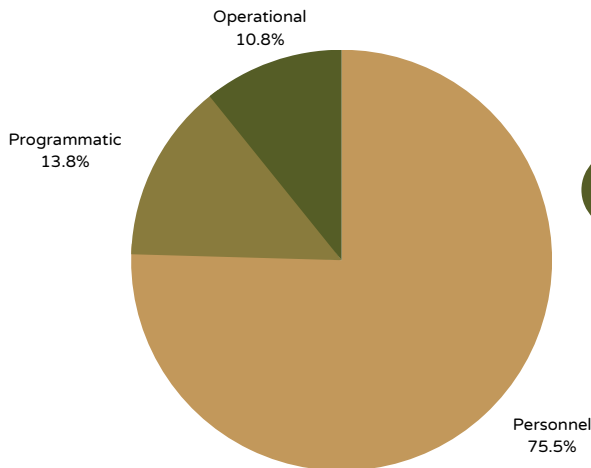
Borealis Philanthropy's Disability Inclusion Fund has been a key partner for the last two years. They support organizational development and capacity building, while creating a community of Disability Justice organizations across the country.

www.borealisphilanthropy.org

The Fulton County's Community Service Program grants funds to CA to support matchmaking and community education to Fulton County residents. CA has received grants from Fulton County for the last two years.

<https://fultoncountyga.gov/>

Total Expenses: \$175,035.18



Citizen Advocacy strives to be part of the community as a whole. Individual donors and families represent the heart of CA. Without the support of individuals in our community CA would not be able to succeed in making matches and building the BeLoved Community.

RENEW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY AT

www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org

THANK YOU FUNDERS

Community Partners



GEORGIA
ADVOCACY
OFFICE



Change Makers

Suzanne Arpin	Joe Kolshak
Alice Franklin	Miriam Mathura
Anonymous	Tom Munger
Julia Houston	Jack Schmeltz
David Klemperer	Doug & Gigi Taylor
Leslie Klemperer	UUCA
Knights of Columbus	

Connectors

Bill & Carol Adams	Andy Gonczi
Jeff Alperin	Rita Haggerty
Tait Anberg	Robert Harkey
Atlanta Shakespeare Company	Robert Lichkay
Halley Blythe	Sylvie Motz
Jeanne & Deane Blythe	Pilkenton Family
Cannon Family	Paula Rafferty
Mike Garner	Julie Young

Allies & Supporters

Doug Abramson	Lynn Farmer	Andrew Klemperer	David Ross
Julie Allen	Jan & JJ Ferrara	Tom Kohler	Dave Saporosky
Veronica Apecena	Laurie Findlay	Pat Lamar	Susan Hamilton Selman
Jason Archambeau	Barbara Fischer	Kathryn Lawler	Connie Schultz
Alan Arnold	Forgay Family	Aaron Lichkay	Jeff Smith
Ron Barab	Froman Family	Jane Lichkay	Sue Smith
Rebecca Bays	Carole Galanty	Todd Mack	Mary Steele
Don Bender	Barbara Gifford	Roberta Malavenda	Stephens Family
John Boatright	Maureen Gonzales	Ichiro Matsumura	Wendy Strassner
Bolling Family	Judy Griffiths	McManaman Family	Darshunn Strozier
Senovia Bradley	Carroll & Nancy Hall	Ashley O'Brien	Ginia Taylor
Zac Bradley	Woody Hall	Oppenheim Family	Betty Thompson Trust
Walter Brill	Kung Lin Hsieh	Becky Perkins	Torin Togut
Debbie Brown	Babs Johnston	Sandy Phillips	Anne Tucker
George Bush Family	Kaufman Family	Powell Family	Larry Wexler
Mary Helen Bush	Mike Keen	Amy Price	Emily Winship
Ellane Chandler	Jo-Ann Kelvin	Marie Prime	Elise Witt
Stanley Coker	Peter Kenney	Kim Queen	Jean Woodall
Dee Ann Dozier	Forrest Ketchin	Mary Raines	Bill & Donna Woolf
Richard Ealey	Melissa Kimball	Riley Family	Anqi Zou
Anne Emanuel	Carole Kirschner	Rogers Family	

Looking to the Future

Activating our Community

In FY 2023 Citizen Advocacy plans to activate our community through the arts, storytelling, and educational experiences. Over the course of the year we will be hosting community events with partners, allies, advocates and community members to offer storytelling and education around how Citizen Advocacy uses the power of personal relationships to respond to the social devaluation of people with developmental disabilities. By activating our community we will enhance our ability to identify proteges and advocates while offering more opportunities of support for current and future advocates.

Get Involved

- Participate in Community Events
- Become a Monthly Donor
- Become an Advocate
- Join the Board
- Join an Event Planning Team
- Volunteer your Gifts and Talents

To learn more about how you can get involved simply reach out to our Director to schedule a call, meet up for a cup of coffee or tea, or grab breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Aaron Lichkay
Executive Director/ Coordinator
aaron.citizenadvocacy@gmail.com
770-713-8624

<https://calendly.com/aaron-citizenadvocacy>



 @citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb

 Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb

 @citizenadvocacy

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