



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

10 | YEARS

 ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



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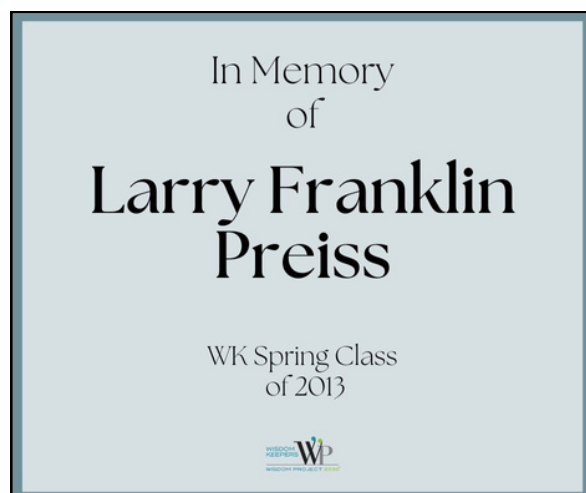
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Duane Hinshaw

After reviewing 2023 and beginning a new year, we are so proud of all that our Wisdom Keeper members accomplished and are very excited about our plans for the future. Wisdom Project 2030 is a unique organization that motivates, educates, and engages members, ages 55 and over, to draw from their life skills, experience, and wisdom to provide a meaningful impact for our Hall County community and region.

Throughout the past year, Wisdom Project 2030 celebrated ten years of service. Over a decade ago, as a part of the Greater Hall Chamber Vision 2030 Initiative, our organization was just a concept of what might be possible.

With the support of the Chamber in our beginning, Brenau University during our transition, and now the University of North Georgia, the Wisdom Project has established itself as an independent non-profit organization that is a true force and important part of the fabric of Hall County.

In this Annual Report you will see just how dynamic the work of this organization is. It is truly amazing that it all is accomplished with volunteers and no paid employees. Over my career I have worked closely with hundreds of non-profits across the country, and none have accomplished so much with so little revenue.

Another record setter was the biennial community symposium. The 2023 theme was "Dance From the Inside Out, Celebrating Life After 55." More details follow, but I must mention that those who attended gave very high praise for an extremely professional 2-day symposium.

Rather than try and summarize all that has happened this past year in this introduction, I encourage you to review the remainder of this Annual Report to get a glimpse of the amazing work of many. Our core component, the Wisdom Project Program, graduated a record 25 exceptional people who I know will go on to have tremendous impact on our community. In fact, they have already started. As you will see in the following pages, our projects continue to grow and do great things for other organizations and people in need. Our Wisdom Keepers are also volunteering throughout the community in so many ways that it is difficult to track it all.



As we continue to grow and have a greater impact, we must give a big thank you to those who are supporting Wisdom Project 2030 in so many ways. And most importantly, thank you to all our Wisdom Keepers that give of themselves and make such a dynamic impact. You define what it means to "live a life of purpose." As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Duane Hinshaw

WISDOM PROJECT 2030 RECEIVES HALL COUNTY PROCLAMATION FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY



Wisdom Project 2030 is proud to be the recipient of a Proclamation from the Hall County City Government in recognition of our ten-year anniversary of service to Hall County.

Several Wisdom Keepers attended the meeting on April 13, 2023 where the Board of Commissioners cited our organization's efforts in service projects and activities, leadership, membership, and symposiums designed to contribute to Hall County and its citizens.

Thank you to the Hall County Board of Commissioners for honoring Wisdom Project 2030. We're looking forward to the next ten years!



L-R: Tracy Lees-Grant, Carol Hanlon, Sue Davis-Westmoreland, Marsha Lehr, Linda Stacy, Julie Ferguson, Commissioner Richard Higgins, Susan Lahey, Duane Hinshaw, Commissioner Billy Powell, Phyllis Solgere, Commissioner Greg Poole, Susan Moss, Ron Stowe, Kathy Amos, Gary Vogel, Bill Wittel, Commissioner Jeff Stowe

FINANCIAL REPORT

General: The financial statements are prepared under cash basis accounting. Revenues and expenses are recognized at the time cash is received or paid out. Wisdom Project 2030 is a 501(c)(3) with a fiscal year-end of December 31.

Descriptions:

Wisdom Project 2030, Inc: Wisdom Project 2030 captures the wisdom of Hall County residents, age 55 and older, for the good of our community. Our members are graduates of the Wisdom Project Program and are known as Wisdom Keepers.

Operations: Management activities such as insurance, IT and marketing. Member dues are \$55 per year (95 members in 2023 and 91 members in 2022). Marketing is directed to the community and potential Wisdom Keepers. Restricted donations are made for a specific purpose by the donor.

Wisdom Project Program: Over eight sessions, the Wisdom Project Program builds a multi-faceted and dynamic view of Gainesville and Hall County. Sessions are designed to help participants identify ways to apply their skills and follow their interests while contributing to our community. Wisdom Project 2030 hosted a Fall program in 2023.

Member Meetings: Monthly meetings offer education and fellowship among Wisdom Keepers. During 2023, we held lunch meetings at various locations in Gainesville.

Symposium: Wisdom Project 2030, Inc. and the UNG Center for Healthy Aging hosted a Community Symposium, "Dance from the Inside Out, Celebrating Life After 55," on May 19-20, 2023. A symposium type event is planned for every other year.

Revenue:		
Donations	Received in 2022	\$ 13,500
	Received in 2023	3,000
Registratrion		
	Fees collected by UNG	6,540
	Fee	425
Total Revenue		\$ 23,465
Expenses:		
	Professional Fees	\$ 4,963
	Catering	7,822
	Marketing/Transaction Fee	4,242
	Misc expenses for banquet (linens	966
	Certification/Misc	541
Total Expenses		\$ 18,534
Net results		\$ 4,931



Platinum Seal of Transparency

This year, our organization earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency offered by GuideStar, the world's leading source of nonprofit information. The Platinum Seal indicates that Wisdom Project 2030 shares clear and important information with the public on our non-profit profile about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and achievements.

Wisdom Project 2030, Inc.
Income Statement

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenues		
Contributions/Grants		
Unrestricted	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Restricted		980
Membership Dues/Income	6,887	5,044
Symposium		
Registration Fees (UNG collected)	6,540	
Registration Fees	425	
Donations Restricted (Symposium 2023)	3,000	13,500
Program Fees	5,098	4,121
Wisdom Keeper Meetings	3,251	2,391
Total Revenues	\$ 27,701	\$ 28,535
Expenses		
Operations Expenses		
Admin/Other	\$ 3,011	\$ 2,295
IT (Web Hosting, Drop./Cognito/IP regist.)	1,759	1,339
Profession Fees	-	-
Marketing and Membership	2,825	3,805
Green House Study	-	-
Dementia Project	-	947
Program	5,170	4,057
Symposium (See Note for details)	18,534	-
Wisdom Keepers Meetings	2,886	2,018
Total Expenses	\$ 34,185	\$ 14,461
Net Income	\$ (6,484)	\$ 14,074

FINANCIAL REPORT, CONTINUED

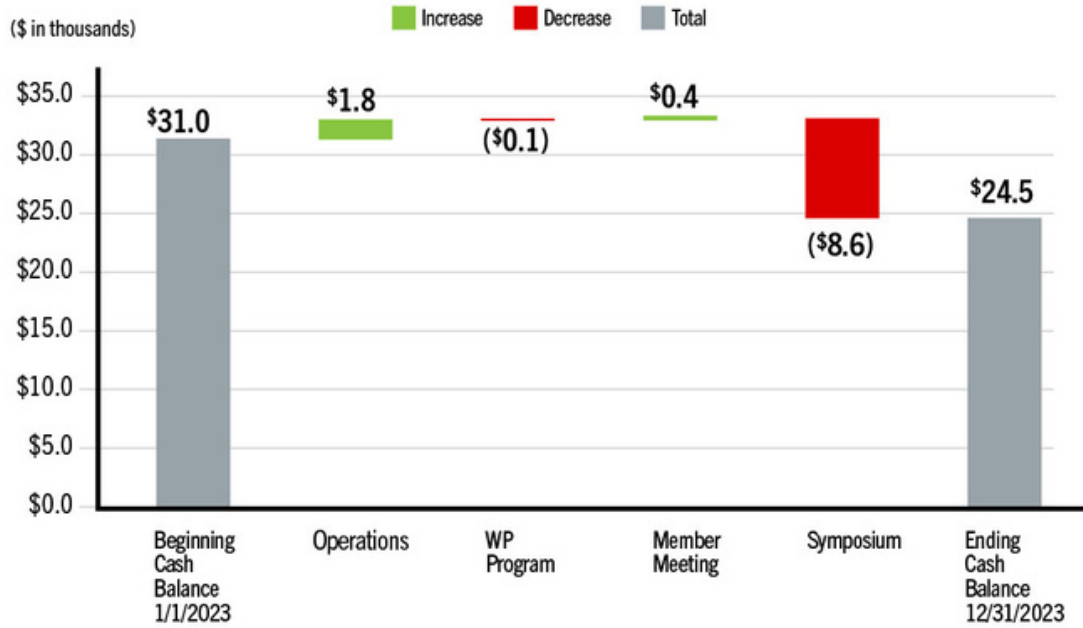
Wisdom Project 2030, Inc. Cash Flow Statement

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Opening Cash Balance	\$ 30,978	\$ 16,904
Cash received		
Operations		
Member Dues & Assessments	\$ 6,887	\$ 5,044
Donations: Unrestricted	2,500	2,500
Restricted		980
WP Program		
Fees & Donations	5,098	4,121
Symposium		
Registration Fees- UNG Collected	6,540	
Registration Fees	425	
Donations - Restricted	3,000	13,500
Member Meetings:		
Fees & Donations	3,251	2,391
Total Cash Available	\$ 58,680	\$ 45,439
Cash Paid		
Operations		
Admin/Other	\$ 3,011	\$ 2,295
IT	1,759	1,339
Professional Fees	-	-
Marketing and Membership	2,825	3,805
Green House Study	-	-
Dementia Project		947
Member Meetings	2,886	2,018
WP Program	5,170	4,057
Symposium (see Note for details)	18,534	-
Total Cash paid	\$ 34,185	\$ 14,461
Ending Cash available 12/31/	24,494	30,978
Change in Cash Position	\$ (6,484)	\$ 14,074

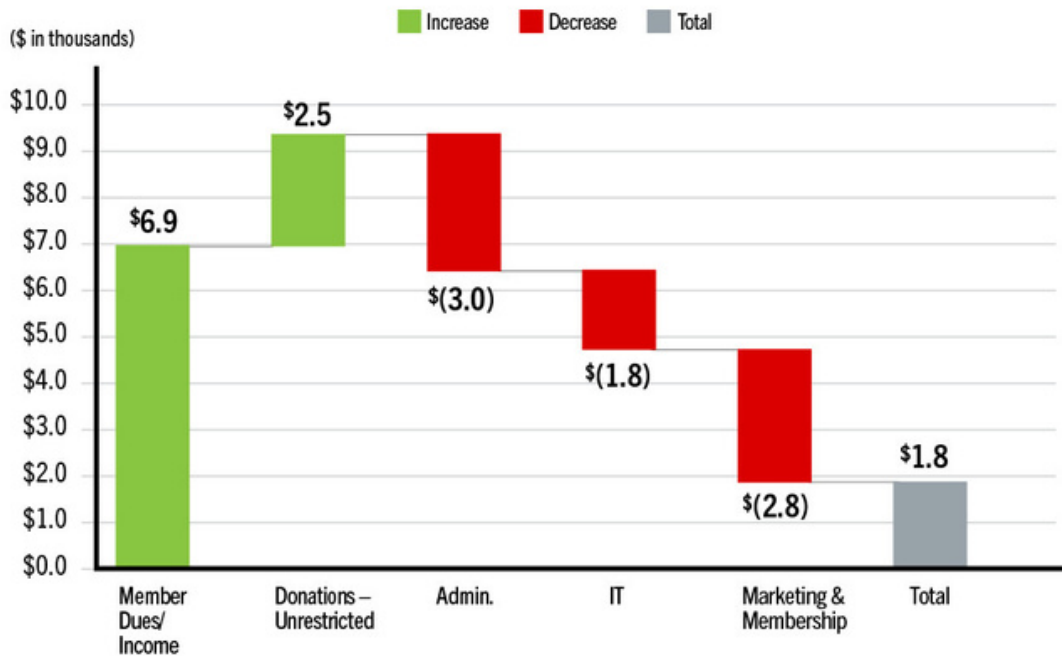
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Summary
 December 31, 2023



Operations Cash Flow Activity
 December 31, 2023



ABOUT US

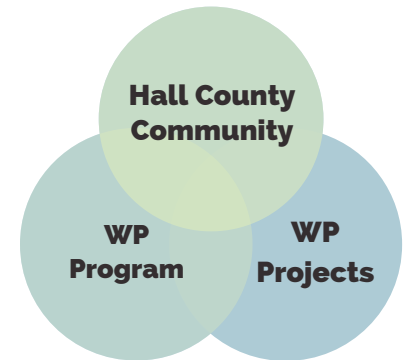
Our Beginning

Wisdom Project 2030 is a non-profit, educational and senior leadership organization in Hall County. We began in 2012 under the **Vision 2030 Initiative** of the **Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce**. In 2019, we formally incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Our Mission:

The Wisdom Project 2030 Model leverages the skills, expertise and initiative of seniors ages 55+ for meaningful, personal involvement, and impactful community improvement for Hall County. To date, our non-profit has delivered approximately 25 projects to a variety of community organizations..




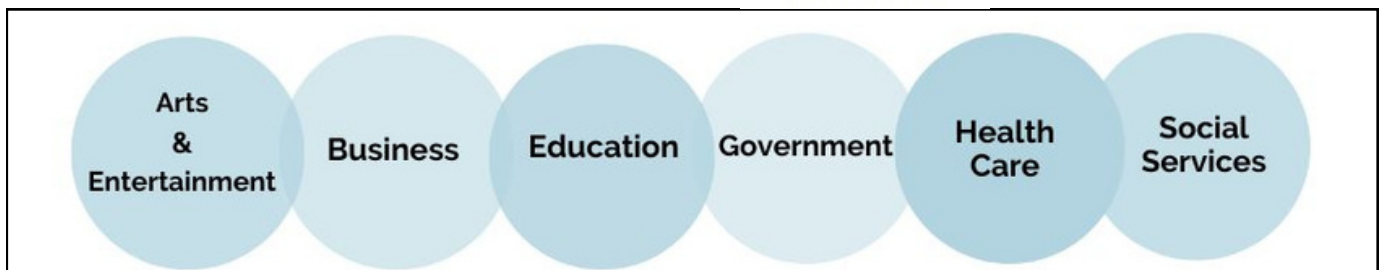
Our Vision:

Wisdom Project 2030 will be a nationally recognized model for senior leadership and community improvement.

Our Program:

The Wisdom Project 2030 Program was developed to connect our members to the needs of our community and to improve Hall County through action and advocacy. The program is composed of eight full-day sessions, including an Orientation Day and Class Graduation. These are normally held between August and November and are designed to provide dynamic, informational interactions with individuals and leaders throughout the Hall County area. Six sessions educate and inform potential new members about the concerns of community leaders and encourage participants to think about ways to improve our community.

In partnership with 



Continued...

Program Graduates Become "Wisdom Keepers"

Wisdom Keepers may engage in specific projects, advocate on specific issues, volunteer with, or offer leadership to community organizations. After graduation, monthly meetings and lunches enable members to continue learning about opportunities and to join life experiences with community needs. Participation encourages fellowship and networking among Wisdom Keepers and often leads to stronger project outcomes, social opportunities, and lasting friendships.



**WISDOM PROJECT
2023 PROGRAM GRADUATES**

Our 2023 Wisdom Project Program began in August and 25 graduates became new **Wisdom Keepers** after completing the program in November. Our largest class since our organization's 2012 inception, many members of this dynamic group have already begun to use what they learned in the program to volunteer or start community project plans and activities.



WP
WISDOM PROJECT 2023
*Sharing Life Experiences to
Engage and Impact Community*

Graduation Class of 2023



UNG
UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA

Joy Bolt	Pat Hammond	Tommy Randolph
Lisa Brown	Linda Harrell	Rick Reed
Nedra Byers	Mike Hill	Dorothy Shinafelt
Ron Crews	Ann Horne	Brenda Smith
Belinda Dickey	Bruce Leyton	Missy Wickline
Lois Dillard	Michael Lipsitt	Kathie Wilson
Yvonne Blake Ervin	Susan Longley	Wayne Wilson
Lisa Giblin	Jean Mason	Janice Young
	Shelley Matus	



2023 PROGRAM

Thank you to Wisdom Keeper **Tracy Lees-Grant** for spearheading a successful 2023 Program and to the **Session Leaders** for their creativity, organization, and countless behind-the-scenes hours given to the eight full-day sessions.

Session Leaders designed each day to give participants an opportunity to maximize learning about each topic and about Hall County. The many responsibilities included: designing session themes and agendas, finding and scheduling speakers, arranging venues, and coordinating a myriad of details.



Opening Session & Orientation: **Tracy Lees-Grant**

Arts and Entertainment Session: **Tracy Troutman**

Social Services Session: **Mary & Duane Hinshaw, Sandee & Jeff Gorham**

Government Session: **Phillippa Lewis Moss**

Education Session: **Beverly Nordholtz**

Business, Industry, and Agriculture Session: **Cathey Sexton** and **Gary Vogel**

Healthcare Session: **Jolinda Martin** and **Cindy Staszak**

Closing Session/Round Up: **Julie Ferguson**

Graduation : **Phyllis Solgere**

We also appreciate all the Wisdom Keeper Member Volunteers who attended and supported each class session to keep the day running smoothly: **Duane Hinshaw, Marsha Lehr, Candace Lovell, Bonnie Van Overbeke, and Kathy Stossel.**



2023 SYMPOSIUM

“DANCE FROM THE INSIDE OUT: CELEBRATING LIFE AFTER 55”

In May, Wisdom Project 2030 was proud to co-sponsor the 2023 Healthy Aging Symposium, “Dance from the Inside Out...Celebrating Life After 55” with the University of North Georgia. We are so appreciative to all of the sponsors, speakers, participants, organizations, committees, and countless volunteers for creating a very informative and inspiring Symposium.

DANCE
from the
Inside Out
celebrating life after 55

Friday, May 19, 2023
Dinner/Reception/Gala
Keynote Speaker,
Westina Matthews, PhD
5 - 8:30 pm
\$45.00/person

Saturday, May 20, 2023
Workshops & Luncheon
8:15 am - 3:45 pm
UNG Gainesville Campus
\$50.00/person
Both Days \$90.00/person

Register at Eventbrite:
<https://communityhealthyagingsymposium2023.eventbrite.ca>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Westina Matthews, PhD
*author, public speaker,
retreat leader, and theologian*

Saturday Community Speakers:

- Tommy Aaron
- Rev. Mary R. H. Demmler
- Sung Lee, MD, MBA
- Martha Nesbitt, PhD
- Rev. Cynthia Park, PhD, LPC
- Dave Westfall, MD

PRESENTING SPONSOR:
Wisdom Project 2030
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHY AGING
wisdomproject2030.org

GOLD SPONSORS:
CRESSWIND JACKSON
LONGSTREET CLINIC
Legacy Link

SILVER SPONSORS:
Community Council on Aging
NORTON

Northeast Georgia Health System

Continued...

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

Wisdom Project 2030 extends our sincere gratitude to these individuals who comprised the line-up of exceptional and inspirational speakers with motivating and enriching presentations.



Westina Matthews, Ph.D
Keynote Speaker

Author, Public Speaker, Retreat Leader
and Theologian

*Dancing from the Inside Out: Grace-Filled
Reflections on Growing Older*



Tommy Aaron
Saturday Opening Speaker

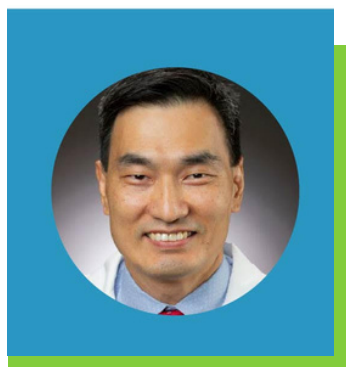
Winner of the 1973 Master's Tournament
and three decade PGA Tour Member

*Are You a Spectator or Do You Want to Be
a Player?*



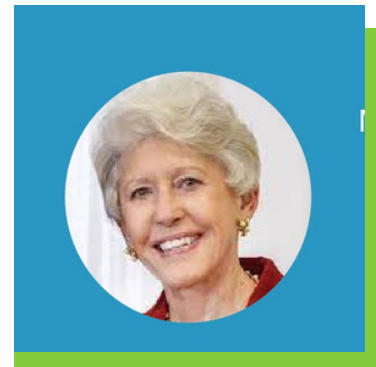
Reverend Mary Demmler

*Unlocking the Fear of Death -
Finding Freedom to Dance
through Grief*



Sung Lee, MD

*Preserving the Brain
Leading Edge Stroke Care*



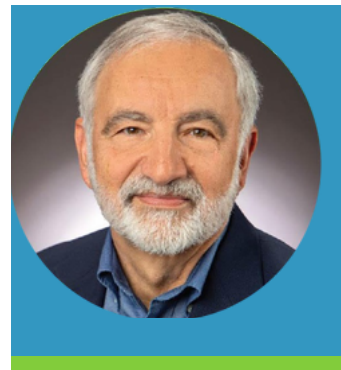
Martha Nesbitt, Ph.D

*Life after 55: Preface
or Epilogue?*



Reverend Cynthia Park, Ph.D., LPC

*What's the Story Behind the Story
We Tell Ourselves and the World?*

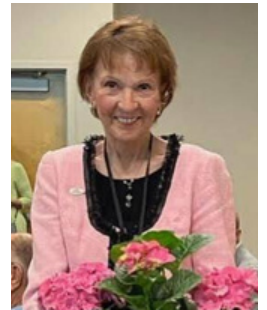


Dave Westfall, MD

*Mining the Gold from Your
Golden Years*

Continued...

CANDIDS FROM "DANCE FROM THE INSIDE OUT" EVENTS



WISDOM PROJECT 2030 RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY LEADERS

Wisdom Project 2030 launched our first Community Leadership Awards to age 55+ residents of the Hall County area in recognition of their formal or informal roles as leaders and volunteers in programs that promote and contribute to the improvement of Hall County. The awards are intended to expand our connections between organizations operating in different communities across Hall County and to build our membership diversity.



L-R: Janice Young, Rev. Tommy Randolph, Belinda Dickey

The 2023 Awardees **Janice C. Young**, **Reverend Tommy Randolph**, and **Belinda Dickey** were recognized for their leadership roles in Hall County organizations.

All three awardees, born and raised in Gainesville, bring a passion for community service that has been passed to and from them, generation to generation. **Janice Young** volunteers with the Grady Young Foundation, the CASA's Women Working Wonders, and also works with children in the CASA program. **Reverend Tommy Randolph** is a chaplain at Gainesville High School, and the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Lavonia, GA. **Belinda Dickie** is the current President of Sunshine Seniors.

The recipients were presented with an Award Certificate and an invitation for complimentary participation in the new Wisdom Project Program Class. They all became Wisdom Project graduates of the 2023 Class.

The 2023 Leadership Award is named for and honors Wisdom Keeper and past President, **Peter G. Claymore**, for his contributions to Wisdom Project and the community.



OUR 2023 VOLUNTEER STARS!

We have always been proud of all our Wisdom Keepers and their contributions to our community. During the year, the Board recognizes individuals for their work and volunteer hours. Through our "Star Program," we highlight these Wisdom Keepers on our website, newsletters, and social media.



Bill Wittel, project chair, co-leaders **Susan Lahey** and **Nan Carvell**:

- Organized a team and enlisted community sponsorship
- Coordinated, prepared and distributed over 300 Emergency Comfort Kits (ECKs) for persons with dementia.



Jerry Butler:

- Has served on the WP2030 Board for three years in the role of Secretary
- Provides IT support
- Oversees WP by-laws and policies
- Updates our computer systems to enhance WP 2030 communication.



Bonnie Van Overbeke:

- Organized Wisdom Project 2030's participation in the Georgia Mountain Food Bank's Empty Bowl Fundraiser with a "Paint & Sip" event.
- Enlisted a Wisdom Keeper team to coordinate, set up, and host., which enabled a big group of our members to spend a fun evening to raise funds, and learn more about the needs of our community.



Tracy Lees-Grant:

- Served as Chair of the Wisdom Project Program 2023 recruiting Session Leaders for the six community education days
- Led the 2023 Kick-Off session.

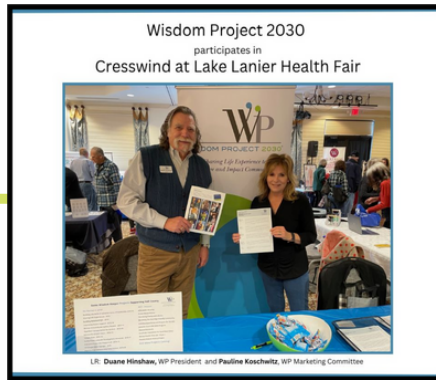
TIMELINE

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN 2023

JANUARY

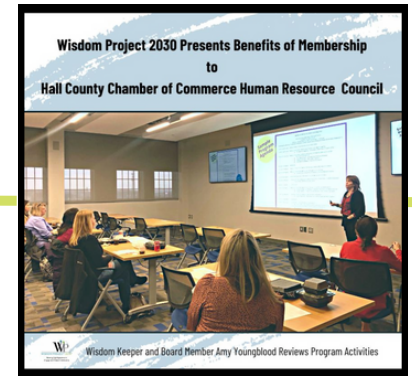


Class of 2022 WK Graduates introduce their proposed projects

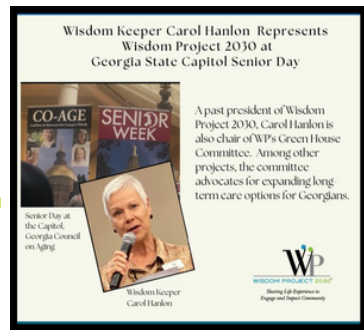


Wisdom Keepers participate in the Crosswind Lake Lanier Health Fair

FEBRUARY



Wisdom Project presents to the Hall County Chamber of Commerce HR Council



WK Carol Hanlon represents WP2030 at the Georgia State Capitol Senior Day



Carol Hanlon testifies on expanding long-term care options in Georgia



WP 2030 is featured on W/DUN's News Talk Radio Show

MARCH



WK Carol Hanlon is featured in the Co-Age Newsletter



WP presents at the Gainesville Newcomers' Club Meeting

APRIL



WP receives Hall County Proclamation



WP attends the Gainesville Volunteer Bazaar



WP2030 hosts "Thank You Luncheon" for our Community Sponsors

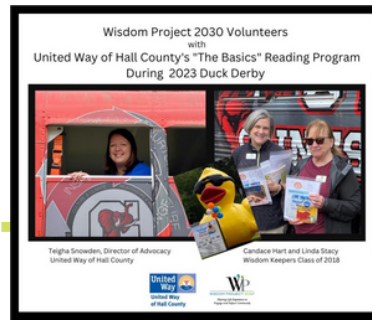


WP presents at Gainesville Phoenix Women's Group, **and** Lakewood Baptist Church's "Golden Seniors"

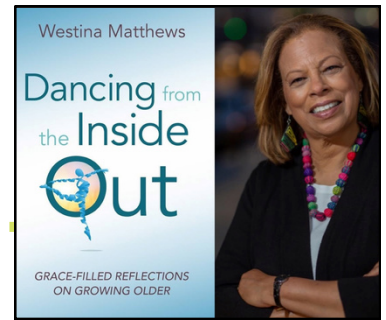
MAY



Wisdom Project Hosts Paint & Sip Party for Georgia Mountain Food Bank Empty Bowl Event



WP2030 Volunteers with United Way at the 2023 Duck Derby.



Interview on WDUN with Symposium Keynote Speaker Westina Matthews



2023 Symposium

JUNE



WP attends the Lanier Village Estates Volunteer Fair

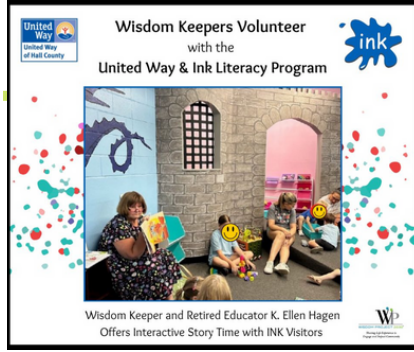


Wisdom Project 2030 receives Platinum Seal of Transparency

JULY - AUGUST



WK Bill Wittle featured in "Gainesville Times."



Wisdom Keepers begin volunteering at INK: Interactive Neighborhood for Kids



WP2030 establishes & presents Leadership Awards Program

SEPTEMBER



New Wisdom Project 2030 Class Begins



Wisdom Project 2030 attends the Crosswind Volunteer Fair

OCTOBER



WP2030 attends Sterling on the Lake Fair



WP2030 attends the Fair at Deaton Creek



Wisdom Keepers volunteer with Street Exit of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.



NOVEMBER



Graduation for Wisdom Keeper **Class of 2023**

AND ON TO 2024!

2023 PROJECTS

Projects are how Wisdom Keepers work to improve our community. Our members initiate projects after learning about problems or opportunities from community leaders. Working together with community organizations ensures sustainable results.

Wisdom Project's TOTAL HOURS spent volunteering in active community projects in 2023 was over 2,000 hours, our largest total hours recorded to date! In addition, this total does **not** include an individual Wisdom Keeper's work outside of active projects, including volunteer activities, collaborations, chairperson's time, or new class time developing project ideas.

We are proud of the following projects that were completed in 2023 and the projects that are still active. We extend our thanks to all Wisdom Keepers who give their time and efforts to improve our community! More information about each project follows.

COMPLETED PROJECT #1

The HUB Dress and Prepare for Success Boutique" Project

The goal of this project was to support Gainesville High School's HUB, a student success center for Hall County and Gainesville City families.

Results:

- Wisdom Keepers **Mary Hinshaw**, team leader, **Beverly Nordholz**, and **Susan Moss** helped procure and organize dresses, suits, and accessories for students who might otherwise be reluctant to attend their High School Prom because of lack of resources for the specific clothing needs, such as evening wear.
- For students in need of clothing for walking or riding the bus to school, the Team also collected rain ponchos, coats, hats, and gloves.
- The team will continue to support the HUB by volunteering to collect special clothing for teens in need.
- This Wisdom Keeper team developed a relationship with the HUB directors at Gainesville High School which laid the foundation for other volunteer projects between the school and Wisdom Keepers.



COMPLETED PROJECT #2:

First Responder - Beyond Dementia

The Beyond Dementia Coalition mission is to reduce stigma and inspire people through awareness and education to recognize, engage, assist, and ultimately embrace people living with dementia as valued and beloved members of the community. The Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) is designed to train police and fire first responders on how to recognize and interact with those in the community who have dementia. VDT is a simulated experience of what it feels like to have dementia.

Results:

- After completing the 2022 project, "Beyond Dementia Emergency Comfort Kits," Project Chair **Bill Wittel** organized a team to research and bring to the community a simulated experience of living with dementia.
- The team worked with the "Dementia Tour," a state compliant dementia training experience that is part of a multi-modal education platform tailored to each audience of healthcare providers, first responders, organizations, and/or local governments.
- The kick-off event, a Virtual Dementia Tour, was held in Summer 2023. It was specifically tailored for and exclusively offered to first responders in north Georgia, including EMTs, firefighters, and police officers in Gainesville and Hall County.
- The Beyond Dementia Coalition will further its educational intentions by offering quarterly dementia simulation experiences using the Virtual Dementia Tour for the general public.
- The project was featured in the **Gainesville Times**. Wisdom Keeper and Project Chair **Bill Wittel** is shown below with Maggie Volpe, INK Executive Director, as she participates in the virtual tour demonstration. *(Photo by Scott Rogers, Gainesville Times.)*



COMPLETED PROJECT #3

WP Affordable Housing Project Transitioned to United Way One Hall Financial Stability Committee in December 2023



Photo by Linda Stacy

Duane Schlereth

Since 2019, Duane has been working on the Affordable Housing Project He has given over 1,854 Volunteer Hours so far!



Wisdom Project 2030 extends great appreciation to **Duane Schlereth** for his years of work on the Accessible Housing Project in Hall County. Duane became a Wisdom Keeper in 2017 and has worked determinedly on housing issues since 2019.

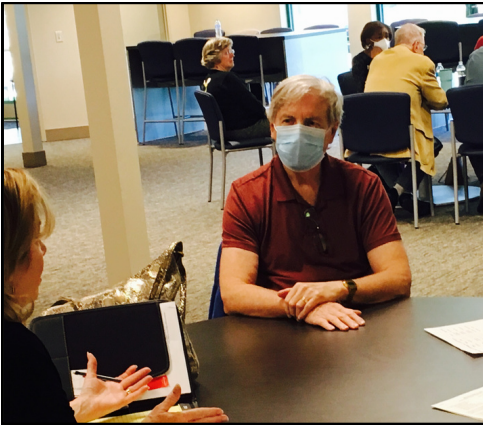
Duane began the WP project for Affordable Housing in 2018-2019 when he developed an extensive state of housing report in Hall County. He published a report: **“Homelessness, Temporary, and Affordable Housing Project,”** which consists of 16 pages detailing the situation in Hall County.

He presented his findings not only to Wisdom Keepers but to many entities in the Hall community. In addition, Duane recruited other Wisdom Keepers to help educate elected officials and business leaders about what affordable housing really means, how important it is for our community to find solutions for the supply of such housing, and what officials and leaders can do.

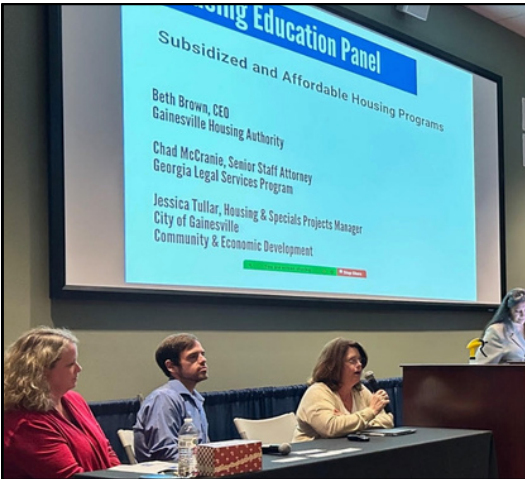
Duane teamed with **United Way’s One Hall Financial Stability Committee** and soon became the co-chair of the Committee because of his passion for housing issues, his leadership and his knowledge. The Committee’s mission was to expand affordable housing and affordable rental housing and help lower-income families, who would not otherwise qualify to buy their first home.

Continued...

Affordable Housing Project, continued



In 2021 the focus was to explore the use of a Community Land Trust Program which shows that 58% of first-time homeowners go on to buy a home at market rates. In 2022 the Committee continued to identify long-term housing needs and supply, define enabling rules and regulations and develop community education on the issues. **Robert Horne** and other Wisdom Keepers worked alongside Duane in his research of other communities and affordable housing options.



In 2023, work continued with research into Accessory Dwelling Units and Manufactured Housing for the Comprehensive Plan. The team also participated in updating the Water Plan. In June, the One Hall Financial Stability Committee hosted a Housing Forum at Brenau University. The Committee continues research on activities in other communities, such as Housing Trust Funds, and submits comments to both City of Gainesville and Hall County for changes in land use and zoning regulations.



As the Wisdom Project 2030 Affordable Housing team transitions to United Way One Hall, Wisdom Keepers will continue to volunteer. We have found transitions of this type ensure long term sustainability. (Similar transitions happened last year with the Mental Health First Aid project transitioning to One Hall Mental Health and the Age-Friendly Project to the City of Gainesville.) We hope to continue to hear from Duane with updates on housing issues and ways Wisdom Keepers can help. The community will continue to benefit from Duane's passion and interest in Accessible Housing.

“Duane has been a strong leader for the One Hall Financial Stability committee for the past 3 years. His leadership has helped grow and advance our committee, providing a vast amount of local and national research pertaining to housing. Duane has put countless hours of his time into One Hall Financial Stability and has truly shown us his passion for creating change in Hall County.”

- Teigha Snowden, Director of Advocacy, United Way of Hall County

ACTIVE PROJECT #1

Informed Trauma Project

The Informed Trauma Project Team's goal is to create a collaborative network in the community to educate and inform on the effects of trauma in our children. The team is developing resources and a framework for toolkits to assist foster parents, teachers, volunteers, churches, etc. who work with children who have experienced trauma.

Updates:

- Representing Wisdom Project 2030, the team began a partnership with the Hall-Dawson County CASA to sponsor an internship with Brenau University doctoral student, Korina Silva, as she was completing her doctoral capstone project.
- Korina, who has since received her Ph.D., worked side-by-side with CASA, took part in panel discussions, and organized a three-part Zoom meeting book club utilizing the book, "What Happened to You."
- The team determined training needs for the project with a vision to create trauma-informed community spaces that can provide the education and support needed for foster children and those who have experienced trauma in their lives.
- They have developed a Digital Resource Book Club on the topic of trauma with Brenau, UNG, and Lanier Tech students enrolled in medical related classes. The material developed was deemed important enough that the Occupational Therapy Program at Brenau will include the material in their curriculum. CASA will continue to use the material for future training purposes.
- The project team is also involved in joining PACE, an international organization that offers information necessary for building resilient communities including research, online classes, blogs, articles, tool kits, etc.



L-R Project Intern Kori Silva, Ph.D, Wisdom Keepers **Carol Reed,**
Janie Wolf Smith, and **Deborah Ames,** Project Chair

ACTIVE PROJECT #2

Green House Homes Project

The goal of the Green House Homes Committee was to find and bring alternatives to nursing home options in Hall County and encourage adoption of innovative models of person-centered care. Over the seven years since the Committee was formed, education and advocacy has confirmed that success can only be achieved through legislative change. The good news is that it can help bring change beyond Hall County to seniors throughout Georgia. The Committee started work in 2022 with the Georgia Coalition on Aging's advocacy group, Co-Age, to educate legislators about the need for greater options in long-term care. This created opportunities to speak with our legislators, as well as work with national organizations that share our goals.



Wisdom Keeper and Green House Committee Chair **Carol Hanlon (L)** presented testimony to the Georgia Legislature

**Updates:**

- This 2022 work resulted in a four-hour hearing on expanding long-term care options in September 2023. A bill proposing a special legislative study committee on the topic remains open with the Georgia House Committee on Human Relations and Aging.
- The work has also opened opportunities to participate in Co-Age's efforts to educate legislators on the need for Certificate of Need (CON) reforms in long-term care. These licenses are required to operate a skilled nursing facility and limit the number of homes that can operate, directly affecting the entry of operators with new models of care.
- Green House Committee members, **Carol Hanlon** and **Nan Carvell**, will continue to work with Co-Age as representatives on the "Moving Forward Coalition," a nationwide workgroup/discussion series on policy strategies for building more small-home nursing models. The workgroup has been formed by The Center for Innovation, a collaboration between two national person-centered care organizations, The Green House Project and the Pioneer Network.



You can support the Green House Committee's efforts by learning more about person-centered care and sharing your thoughts with elected state and local officials.

ACTIVE PROJECT #3

Horizon Academy Youth Development

The mission of the Horizon Academy Youth Development project is to create a program in conjunction with The Gainesville City Schools and local businesses to provide a series of hands-on learning experiences for at-risk youth. Wisdom Keepers will work with students to discover what interests them as career possibilities and then create a program to engage them with employees currently in these roles.



Wisdom Keepers **Caroline Colonna** and **Michael Lipsitt** assist students at the Gainesville High School College and Career Fair

**Updates:**

- After working with the Gainesville High School HUB coordinator and Horizon Academy Coordinator, the team determined that the Youth Development project would be most beneficial for the Seniors at the Horizon Academy.
- The Wisdom Keeper team conducted an assessment to determine students' strengths and areas of career interest. That assessment information will assist the students with resume building and provide background to business spokespeople who are speaking to the students about employment opportunities upon graduation.
- Wisdom Keepers partnered with the students from The Horizon Center and walked alongside them at the Gainesville High School College and Career Fair. The College and Career Fair gave the students an opportunity to practice their speaking skills and gather information.
- This project continues in a pilot phase with each session being evaluated. The Committee also continues to recruit team members for 2024, especially male members.



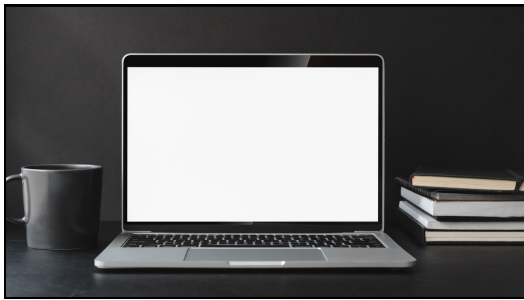
ACTIVE PROJECT #4

Services Data Base

Wisdom Keeper **Gary Vogel** and his WK Project Team initially planned to develop four database initiatives to increase awareness of activities in Hall County with the following goals:

- Assist the United Way of Hall County in launching their volunteer website
- Build a "needs" list where anyone can find a place to help with material or financial contributions
- Develop a listing of all the service providers in Hall County
- Link all of the social activities in Hall County

The team quickly discovered that the **United Way Volunteer Portal** and the **Explore Gainesville Website** would address most of the initiatives above. As a result, the focus evolved to building more awareness of the UW volunteer portal and encouraging social service organizations to enroll and enter their services and needs.



Updates:

- During their research, the team discovered the **Community Resource Guide** developed by the **Hall County School System**. They also found a new project between **Northeast Georgia Health System** and the **United Way** called "**Unite Us**." This is a social care network platform that allows for electronic referrals and communication between nonprofits and service organizations to connect local individuals and families to the social services they need in real-time to navigate life and find pathways out of poverty. They realized "Unite Us" and the Community Resource Guide needed to know about each the other and helped with that introduction.

- For 2024, the short-term attention will be on "**Unite Us**" and calling potential agencies to add them to the platform. The team hopes to have the prospect calls completed in January and the demos of "Unite Us" scheduled for early February.
- Continuing efforts on this project will be to collaborate with the United Way's "Week of Caring" in September to host a Volunteer Expo on a county wide basis similar to what is held annually at Cresswind and other venues.



After his WK Class Graduation, **Gary Vogel (R)** introduced the project idea and enlisted ideas and input from other Wisdom Keepers.



Wisdom Keepers **Phyllis Solgere** and **Gary Vogel** represent Wisdom Project at the Cresswind Community Volunteer Expo.

ACTIVE PROJECT #5

Services For Those Without A Home

This project initially focused on three areas to help individuals in our county:

- Identify laundromats that will allow individuals to come do their laundry, possibility charge their phone, and have a meal
- Provide “Mobile Shower Trailers” or potential other sites for individuals to shower
- Provide creative art classes to help individuals have a short respite from their daily struggles to find food or a place to sleep

Updates:

- After research, the team discovered that similar existing services are offered to some degree in the community.
- **Michael Fisher**, from Ninth District Opportunity and a fellow Wisdom Keeper, connected the team with “Clean Start,” (the shower hosts) who provide a Friday meal and shower located in a truck parking lot at the corner of Dorsey and Davies Streets.
- Mike Mills from Humana Healthcare sets up and offers a painting table for participants every Friday.
- Several Wisdom Keepers, who are very interested in helping this population, volunteer in the bi-weekly events by serving lunch and assisting with the needs of individuals in the area.
- During 2024, the team will continue to research options for their original idea of holding and sponsoring Art Classes in an indoor setting.



Photos by Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity

WISDOM KEEPERS ALSO VOLUNTEER THROUGHOUT HALL COUNTY!

Besides volunteering for WP active Signature Projects, Wisdom Keepers also invest their time throughout the community in many other ways. Examples include participation in local nonprofit activities, participation on other organization's boards of directors, developing new WP projects, and advocating for specific issues in the community. The documented total hours of community service for 2023 is **4,488 hours**. When we add that to over 2,000 WP Project Hours, it culminates in **6,488 Total Hours** of significant community impact. Thank you to all Wisdom Keepers for the time they invest in the community!

Georgia Mountain Food Bank



To support the Georgia Mountain Food Bank's yearly "Empty Bowl Luncheon," several Wisdom Keepers volunteer, host, and participate in a "Paint & Sip" event to paint bowls as favors for the Food Bank's luncheon guests.

INK Reading & Story Time



Wisdom Project, United Way and INK (Interactive Neighborhood for Kids) are working together to promote literacy. Wisdom Keepers volunteer to read to children at designated story times at INK, follow a curriculum to teach basic literacy skills to parents, and distribute free books to the young participants.

"Plan in a Can" Program at Northeast Georgia Hospital



Our original WK 2019 "Plan in a Can" project team completed training to become members of the NEGH Volunteer Auxiliary and they continue to support the hospital's "Plan in a Can" Program. They meet twice a month to assemble the department's "Plan in a Can" kits using the Medical Information Sheet and the Emergency Information Label that they originally developed. They also occasionally assist the Advance Directive Department at Health Expos and Fairs to promote the importance of Advance Planning and emergency preparation.

INVESTING IN MEMBERS' CONTINUING EDUCATION WITH LUNCH AND LEARN MEETINGS

We are very appreciative of the generosity of time and knowledge from individuals and organizations who speak at our Member Meetings and Luncheons. These presentations help Wisdom Keepers learn more about the community, stay current on community needs, and find opportunities to contribute towards those needs.

January: We introduced our graduates from the WP2030 Graduate Class of 22, who presented their ideas for new projects.

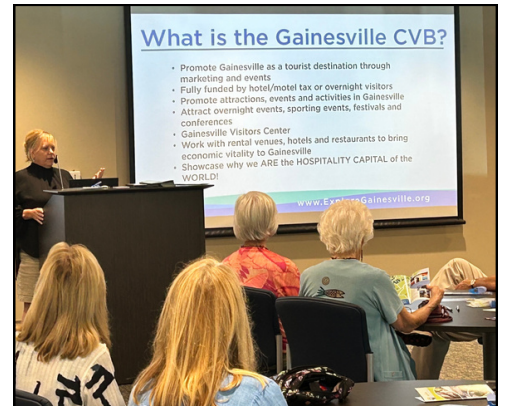


March: Christy Moore, Director, Community Health Improvement, Northeast Georgia Health System, spoke about their health priorities for the community over the next three years.

April: "Wisdom Keepers Day at Hopewell Farm." We combined a meeting with a Member Social and Outdoor lunch where we learned about sustainable farming practices here in Gainesville.

June: Luau-themed Social. Wisdom Keepers gathered to have fun and enjoy each other's company at a relaxed event to celebrate Summer.

July: Regina Dyer, Sales & Marketing Manager, Gainesville Convention & Visitors Bureau, presented the exciting changes coming to the City of Gainesville, particularly the downtown and midtown corridors.



September: Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity, presented information about the challenges, realities, and misconceptions about homelessness in the area.

November: Program Graduation - The 2023 Wisdom Project Development Program's 25 cohorts graduated from the WP program at a ceremony and social gathering at UNG.



December: Annual Member Meeting and Luncheon
In addition to meeting to conduct the business of the organization, Wisdom Keepers celebrated the Holiday Season and donated over 100 pounds of food to the Georgia Mountain Food Bank.

WISDOM KEEPER SOCIALS

The Member Meetings Committee also plans and hosts events for fellowship and networking among Wisdom Keepers.



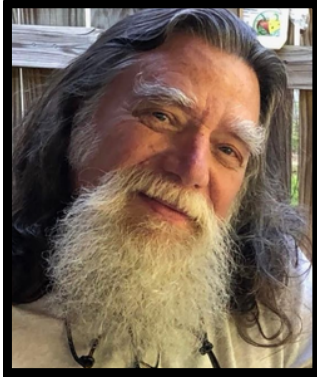
In the Spring, many Wisdom Keepers combined a Member Meeting and an outing to Hopewell Farms in Gainesville and learned about the farm's regenerative agriculture practice. They also socialized with many members of the Hopewell Farms Team over a delicious picnic lunch of grilled burgers and brats!



Wisdom Keepers dressed in Hawaiian shirts and dresses in keeping with our luau-themed Summer Social. It was a wonderful time to catch up with friends to welcome Summer and enjoy appetizers and beverages.



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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our entire Wisdom Project 2030 Organization extends our gratitude to these organizations who play a key role in supporting our growth and development:



- Make a Difference in Someone's Life... and Yours! -



PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND CONTRIBUTORS FOR OUR 2023 PROGRAM

Kick Off Session

UNG – Institute for Healthy Aging
Projects Past, Present, On Going & Pivoting:

- Art Expression for the Homeless:
- Symposium
- Mental Health First Aid
- Beyond Dementia Coalition
- Juvenile Justice Life Skills
- Informed Trauma
- NGHS - Advanced Directive Dept.
- Good News Gratitude
- Green House Homes

Arts and Entertainment Day

Northeast Georgia History Center
Explore Gainesville
NEGA Fiber Guild
Vision 2030 Project
The Arts Council
Quinlan Visual Arts Center
Elachee Nature Center
Jarrad – Burch Foundation
Gainesville Theater Alliance
Gainesville Parks and Recreation Foundation

Health Care in Hall County Day

Northeast Georgia Health System
Longstreet Clinic, especially Cancer Care
NGMC Gainesville
NGMC Braselton
Emergency Medicine, GEDS
Georgia Heart Institute

Social Services Day

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier
Meals on Wheels, Community Service Center
United Way of Hall County
Juvenile Court, Hall County
GA Mountain Food Bank
CASA
North Georgia Works
Gateway Domestic Violence Center
Legacy Link, Inc.
North Georgia Community Foundation
gth District Opportunity Council

Social Services Day, continued

Hispanic Alliance
Family Promise
Gainesville Police Department
Center Point
Rape Response
Humane Society of Northeast Georgia
J's Place
Habitat for Humanity
Good News Clinic
Good News at Noon

Government Session

Gainesville-Hall County Community Services
Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization
Gainesville Planning & Economic Development
City of Gainesville
Hall County Government: Communities of Clermont,
Flowery Branch, Gainesville, Gillsville, Oakwood, and Lula

Business, Industry, and Agriculture Day

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Regions Commercial Banking
Carroll Daniel Construction Co.
Puzzle Piece Pastries
Georgia Poultry Federation and the GA Poultry Lab
Green Box Mushrooms
Jaemor Farms
Liquid Nation Brewing
Tatsumi Intermodal (U.S.A.), Inc.
Kings Hawaiian

Education Day

Gainesville City School System
Gainesville High School
Hall County School System
Lakeview Academy
Brenau University
BULLI: Brenau University
Learning & Leisure Institute
Lanier Technical College
University of North Georgia
Mountain Education Center: Work Based Learning
SISU, Integrated Early Learning

WISDOM PROJECT 2030 PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND CONTRIBUTORS, CONTINUED

Thank you to these organizations and individuals for making our 2023 Wisdom Project Program Class and Graduation possible.

Partners:

- University of North Georgia
- University of North Georgia Institute for Healthy Aging
- Jackson EMC



Snack Sponsor:

- Gainesville-Hall Community Council on Aging

Lunch Sponsors:

- Northeast Georgia Health System
- Gainesville – Hall County Community Services Center

Individual Sponsors:

- Richard Osborne
- David Stewart





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Apply for the Program:

wisdomproject2030.org/leadership/application



*Sharing Life Experience to
Engage and Impact Community*

Wisdom Project 2030, Inc.
P.O. Box 581
Gainesville, GA 30503

www.wisdomproject2030.org
info@wisdomproject2030.org

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