

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



 **COBB**  
COLLABORATIVE  
> *Uniting Non-Profits for Success*

## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2018 was a year of transition and growth for the Cobb Collaborative. We bid a fond farewell to former Executive Director Karen Carter as she relocated with her family to the Pacific Northwest. We offered a robust schedule of training and networking opportunities, partnering with knowledgeable CPAs, attorneys, and industry experts to bring quality programming to our members and stakeholders. Our membership grew to over 100, including 28 new members.

Our Board of Directors continued to advocate for the role of nonprofits and the work of the Collaborative in our community and to provide personal financial support towards our fundraising efforts. We obtained sponsorships for our quarterly coffee series and our training workshops which will continue into 2019. Our website was redesigned to allow for enhanced communication for our members while our social media footprint grew.

Our Board and staff dive into 2019 with much enthusiasm and energy as we plan even more capacity-building programs and look to collaborate with community partners to launch new initiatives and expand existing ones. Thank you for your support as we look to build a strong foundation for a sustainable community here in Cobb County.

*Irene M. Barton*  
Executive Director

### OUR MISSION

To convene community stakeholders to facilitate the sharing of ideas, expertise and resources to strengthen the non-profit community.

### OUR VISION

The collective impact of our non-profit organizations will build a strong foundation for creating a sustainable community.

## HISTORY OF THE COBB COLLABORATIVE

The Cobb Community Collaborative began meeting informally in 1993, incorporated in 1997 and soon received its nonprofit status as a 501(c)3. A comprehensive rebranding effort in 2015 brought an update to the logo, tagline, mission and vision for the organization. We finished 2018 with over 100 members, expanded our staff, added a full menu of trainings, networking opportunities, council and committee activity and launched new initiatives in our policy councils. We engaged stakeholders to address and seek solutions to community issues like school readiness and success, mental health, affordable housing and elder issues.

We are proud to serve as the local partner for the state-wide network known as the Georgia Family Connection Partnership. This unique network brings together more than 3,000 local- and state-level partners in all 159 counties across Georgia who work toward measurably better outcomes for our state's children, families, and communities.

Georgia Family Connection is the only statewide network in the country dedicated to the health and well-being of families and communities. The work of the Cobb Collaborative mirrors the work being performed across Georgia in support of 5 state-wide result areas:

- Healthy Children
- Children Primed for School
- Children Succeeding in School
- Stable, Self-Sufficient, Productive Families
- Thriving Communities



# 2018 IMPACT

Over  
**100**  
members

**176**  
individuals representing  
over 80 organizations  
received capacity-building  
training in workshops  
and seminars

**54**  
persons  
participated  
in quarterly  
networking coffees

**13**  
individuals nominated  
for the Jack Vaughan, Jr.  
Human Services Awards  
and celebrated at our  
annual luncheon

Nearly **200**  
(196) community  
stakeholders  
gained information  
around specific topics  
at general meetings

**17,746**  
individuals experienced  
lasting behavioral change  
in 2018 through the  
Cobb County Nonprofit  
Contract process

## THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



## EVENTS & NEWS

FOR THE COLLABORATIVE AND OUR MEMBERS

The Collaborative recorded its 21st year as the facilitator of the Cobb County Nonprofit Contracts. In FY 2018, this \$850,000 investment was leveraged into over \$2.5 million additional funds to improve outcomes for children and families.

Convened mental health community conversations and joined the Cobb/Douglas Behavioral Health Workgroup. The goal of the Workgroup is to improve access to appropriate and quality behavioral health services.

Partnered with Kennesaw State University CARE Services to host the annual Homeless Memorial and Vigil.

Coordinated Entry System is launched in Cobb to better assist individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis. 1,628 people in 841 households came through the system.

Hosted the 25th Annual Human Services Award Luncheon where we welcomed Milton Little, Jr. from the United Way of Greater Atlanta as our keynote speaker. ①

Advocated for children and families at the State Capitol with Georgia Family Connection. ②

Collaborative member Communities in Schools distributed books at the Marietta Reads Kick-off on the Square in October 2018. ③

Hosted an Impact Summit along with Cobb Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Atlanta. The purpose of the Summit was to bring together leaders of organizations in the health and human services realm to increase awareness of other organizations, identify service gaps, share success stories and challenges and plan for future conversations. ④

Members volunteered with Thanks for Giving 2018. ⑤

Hickory Hills Elementary School, Cobb County Public Library, Communities in Schools and the Collaborative were recognized at the national Grade Level Reading Campaign conference for the Dragon FIRE (Families Igniting Reading Excitement) program. This program increases school readiness by promoting literacy access in several ways. ⑥

In June, 2018, Chairman Mike Boyce was joined by Marietta City Schools Superintendent Grant Rivera and Cobb Schools Superintendent Chris Ragsdale to sign an MOU extending the Library PASS program for two more school years. This initiative allows the county's more than 120,000 students to access the library's digital and print resources by using their student ID. ⑦

**2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Sabrina S. Watson,**  
Chair – Georgia Division of Family & Children Services

**Rev. Chris Boyd,**  
Chair-Elect – Word of Faith Family Cathedral

**Lee Freeman-Smith,**  
Secretary – The Center for Family Resources

**Chris Fields,**  
Treasurer - Mauldin & Jenkins

**Emily Carter,**  
Grant Process Committee Chair - Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta

**Rev. Roger Vest,**  
Membership Committee Chair - Powder Springs First United Methodist Church

**Doris Dawkins,**  
City of Powder Springs

**Darion Dunn,**  
Atlantica Properties

**Shari Martin,**  
Cobb Community Foundation

**Dayna Parker,**  
Cobb County School District

**John Skelton,**  
Skelton & Blackstone Attorneys, LLC

**Dan Zachman,**  
United States Air Force, Ret.

COBBCOLLABORATIVE.ORG  
p 678-778-5496  
995 Roswell Street, NE, Suite 100  
Marietta, GA 30060

*A lot of non profit work is networking, and not just for funds but collaboration. Quarterly coffees provided an opportunity for PBTF to connect with other nonprofit organizations that might be able to benefit our families in a future need or that we might be able to help fill one of their needs. Beyond that, these coffees provided valuable education needed to continue our daily work; whether by sharing insurance info, tax implications, or other business related information. We look forward to a great 2019 and more partnerships with our friends at Cobb Collaborative!*

Heather Held  
Family and Community Outreach Manager  
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, Georgia Chapter

*The Cobb Collaborative's management of the Cobb County Nonprofit grant has made a critical difference for us as a small non-profit by giving us the capacity to sustain our work, grow investments from state and federal funders requiring a match, and invest dollars where they are truly needed within our community. Through this support both our organization and the youth and families we serve are stronger, and the impact is amplified as Cobb County residents once in need are now empowered to serve and fill the needs of others.*

Laura Keefe,  
YELLS Executive Director  
Youth Empowerment through Learning, Leading, and Serving, Inc.

*The Lunch and Learn with Jared Simmons from Outlast Consulting provided me with the tools to tell the story of Cobb Christmas.*

Mark Riggins, Cobb Christmas Board of Directors

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SERIES SPONSORS**

**Agencies Building Capacity Workshops**



**COBB COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
YOUR LEGACY STARTS NOW

**Coffee with the Collaborative**



*insurance for nonprofits*