Wow! What a year! 2019 was a year of dynamic growth and expansion for the Collaborative. We expanded our training and networking opportunities in order to bring high quality capacity-building programming to our members and stakeholders. A dramatic shift in our funding sources caused us to take an intense look at where we were investing our resources and allowed us to identify and refine our three primary initiatives:

- 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency
- Mental Health & Well-being
- Civic Engagement

In partnership with Marietta City Schools, we hosted our first Get Georgia Reading Summit that saw 100 community leaders gather for a day-long deep dive into the many factors that influence a child’s ability to become a proficient reader. We prepared for the launch of our “Mind Your Mind” mental health initiative that serves to raise awareness, promote resiliency and reduce stigma associated with mental health conditions. Additionally, we began educating ourselves and our fellow Cobb County residents of the importance of participating in the 2020 Census and overall civic engagement. Our board members provided critical guidance, encouragement and direction and along with our staff, are facing the new decade of service with a ton of enthusiasm and energy. 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.

LITERACY INITIATIVE

As the local point of contact for the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, the Collaborative coordinated a number of programs and activities to support our literacy initiative to have all children reading proficiently by 3rd grade. Our Reading Summit in March led to the formation of the Marietta Partnership for Literacy, a cross-sector collaborative group working together to collectively impact 3rd grade reading proficiency.

In order to expand our reach across the county, we launched our “Building Blocks for Families” project over the summer. A new webpage serves as a repository of information about literacy programs in Cobb and our complementary social media content engages the public in understanding the importance of language nutrition and reading with young children. We created bookmarks in English, Spanish and Portuguese, co-hosted workshops for caregivers and created a video for families.

We collected and distributed books to low-income children and were recognized as a Pacesetter Community by the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading. We also facilitated the introduction between two Girl Scouts earning their Silver award and the Cobb Juvenile Court which resulted in the dedication of two filled bookshelves installed in the waiting rooms at the court.

Girl Scout Cadettes Kaelyn Bannon and Libby Dabrowa with Carlene Redmond, Cobb Juvenile Court Program Administrator and their custom built bookshelves. The project completed one of the final stages of their Silver Award. The scouts held book drives and received donations from other Girl Scouts, friends and family and monetary donations from as far away as North Carolina.
2019 IMPACT

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<th>Over 130 members, including 44 new members</th>
<th>309 individuals attended strategy team meetings throughout the year</th>
<th>384 individuals received capacity-building training in workshops, Lunch &amp; Learns and special-topic seminars</th>
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<td>72 persons participated in quarterly Coffees with the Collaborative</td>
<td>Distributed over 600 gently-loved books to children in the community</td>
<td>Nearly 200 community stakeholders gained information around specific topics at general meetings</td>
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THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

Irene and the Marietta City Schools Leadership team planned and hosted a Reading Summit on March 7, 2019. Attendees heard from thought leaders like Comer Yates, Executive Director of the Atlanta Speech School and Cobb Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Amber Patterson.

EVENTS & NEWS

FOR THE COLLABORATIVE AND OUR MEMBERS

Co-hosted (along with NanaGrants, Inc.) our first Critical Issues Forum to take a deeper dive into childcare as a barrier to economic mobility. We welcomed leaders from GEEARS, Quality Rated, DECAL and the Technical College System of Georgia.

Hired Madeline Mercer as Director of Communications and the impact was felt immediately! Madeline expanded the reach of our communications to include additional social media platforms, more frequent content, branded collateral materials, twice-monthly newsletters, and regular blog posts. Madeline oversaw the creation of our Building Blocks webpage, bookmarks and video.

The Collaborative received the Catalyst Award from the GA Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential for our work in helping GCAPP form partnerships and introduce programming in 2019.

ED Irene Barton participated in several programs to strengthen ties in the community including Honorary Commanders, Cobb 101 and graduated from The LEAD Institute’s Nonprofit Executive Leadership program in October.

Accepting the Pacesetter Award from the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading for impactful community level work at the Get Georgia Reading: Beyond 2020 Summit in September.

Cobb County Public Library Community Engagement Manager Mary Wood and Marietta City Schools Executive Director of Academic Programs Jeffery Mosley attending the Get Georgia Reading: Beyond 2020 Summit.

Hosted the 26th Annual Human Services Award Luncheon where we welcomed Stacey Evans, Partner with Wargo French and former member of the Georgia House of Representatives as our keynote speaker.

In July, the Collaborative was awarded a grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta to increase awareness of and participation in the 2020 Census, particularly among the “Hard to Count” population. Staff and volunteers participated in table top events, spoke at gatherings, distributed materials, joined the Cobb and Latino Complete Count Committees, and began collaborating with Census personnel to get ready for Census Day 2020!

Partnered with Kennesaw State University CARE Services to host the annual Homeless Memorial and Vigil. University President Pamela Whitten welcomed attendees, called attention to the plight of the homeless and challenged us to seek solutions.

Professional of the Year Alysha Sturgeon, Volunteer of the Year Amanda Persons, and William E. Hanson Collaboration Award recipient Ana Murphy (on behalf of the Cobb County School Social Workers) at the annual luncheon.
"Glenda (of Glenda Hicks “Highly Effective Board” Training) is extremely helpful in identifying and helping to solve a variety of problems that occur on a non-profit board. I took away many new ideas to help our Board be more efficient. I highly recommend this course!"

Monica Gwinn,
Board Vice-Chair, Atlanta Lyric Theater

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Marietta, GA 30060

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Civic Engagement
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Literacy | Mental Health
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Wellcare Health Plans, Inc. | Cobb & Douglas Public Health
Believe in Reading Foundation | Cobb EMC Foundation

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