Our Mission: Engaging, Educating and Empowering the community to improve the well-being of children and families.

Our Vision: Cobb County partners working together to create opportunities for all people to thrive.
A Letter from Our Executive Director

What an incredible year! New partners. Stronger collaboration. More people reached. Additional staff. Strengthened relationships. Increased membership. And none of this happens without our amazing stakeholders — board members, volunteers, nonprofit leaders, community leaders, donors, funders, strategy team members and more — who come together to improve outcomes for children and families in Cobb County.

While many of our programs, services and activities returned to more traditional delivery channels in 2022, we recognized that there are advantages to keeping virtual convenings as a part of our engagement model. And our podcast series expands the reach of our work beyond our county borders.

We often hear the phrase “behind every statistic is a story” to remind us that community members with mental health conditions, children not reading on grade-level, families facing eviction, and other markers are actual people. As you read this Impact Report and see our numbers, keep in mind that our work is also ultimately about people. Our neighbors. Our children. Our friends. Our community. Which is why we have even bigger plans for 2023 and beyond.

Thank you for your support and let’s get to work — together!

Irene M. Barton,  
Executive Director
The goals of our Mind Your Mind mental health initiative:

- Raise Awareness
- Promote Resiliency
- Reduce Stigma

**Fact:** Mental health affects all of us regardless of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

**Fact:** 20% of American adults and youth ages 13-18 experience mental illness.

**Fact:** Stress, anxiety and depression have increased since 2020 across all demographics.

We are proud to lead the local coalition for Resilient Georgia working to prevent and heal childhood adversity and bring trauma-informed awareness, resources and care to Cobb County.
I am honored to be a Cobb Collaborative partner. The Collaborative’s commitment to bringing free training and extensive resources to Cobb nonprofits, educators, the business community, and the community at large has significantly moved the needle to support and empower individuals and organizations to thrive. The Collaborative is a valuable asset to Cobb.

Ellen McCarty, President, McCarty & Co, LLC
Why we do this work:

Equipping all residents to be involved with local institutions builds trust and connection. A strong sense of community is a building block to positive civic health. Improving our civic connections at state, regional, and local levels can help us achieve improved outcomes for children, families, and communities.

In 2022, our efforts to align Veteran-serving agencies was formally branded as Connecting Cobb Veterans with an ultimate goal to help veterans find the help they need and deserve. Convened quarterly and communicated via monthly newsletter.

Irene Barton and community volunteer Marla Arnold gave away over 400 books at Green Acres Elementary School in the fall.
As a Vote Your Voice partner, we work on a range of activities throughout the year to secure full voter participation.

Rafael Aragón
Community Organizer
GALEO

Our friends at the Cobb Collaborative are the practical embodiment of the knowledge that we can do more when we work together. Thanks to their direct support, which at times saw even their Executive Director, Irene Barton, out knocking on doors with us, we were able to provide resources to more than ten thousand Latino and POC homes in Cobb county and have nearly three thousand conversations where we had the chance to educate and encourage our community members on being more civically engaged.

As a Vote Your Voice partner, we work on a range of activities throughout the year to secure full voter participation.
Literacy

**Why we do this work:**

Students who have not mastered reading by 3rd grade are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school, leading to diminished employment opportunities, poorer physical and behavioral health outcomes and lower levels of civic engagement.

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**The Basics™ COBB COUNTY**

13 Number of Basics Parent Workshops

327 Number of Attendees at Basics Workshops

161 Basics Bundles Distributed

Marietta City Schools shares in a community-wide commitment to early learning and literacy. And one of our strongest partners in that work is the Cobb Collaborative. Through their promotion of The Basics and their managing of the Literacy Ambassadors program, they play an integral role in ensuring our students start school, kindergarten ready. Together, we are helping Marietta’s children learn to read to their fullest potential.

**Kim Blass,**
**Chief Impact Officer,**
**Marietta City Schools**
Year 2 of Literacy and Justice for All means we are going deeper into the Science of Reading with our partners from Marietta City Schools. We bring the important work going on inside the classrooms into the community and invite all stakeholders to join.

Little Free Libraries

- Installed 5,123 Books Distributed 22

Little Free Libraries throughout our community - Kennesaw, Smyrna, Austell, Powder Springs, Marietta, Mableton.

In partnership with Cobb County Public Library and Uplift Georgia, we sponsored summer reading challenges at two apartment communities in Marietta. The children read a combined...

13,740 individual reading minutes
229 hours of community reading!

14,160 individual reading minutes
236 hours of community reading!

GRAND TOTAL: 27,900 minutes of reading (465 hours of community reading!)
The Cobb Collaborative provides a variety of networking and capacity-building events throughout the year.

Quarterly General Membership Meetings

Lunch & Learns
For our coffees, we started partnering with Rise Coffee & Tea in 2022. We not only enjoy delicious coffee but also support an organization who helps persons with different abilities find purpose and joy.