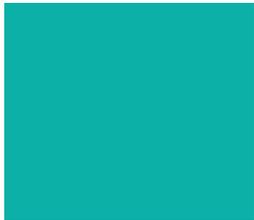




IMPACT REPORT



20 22



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.

Our Team, from left to right:

Kaitlyn Ball,
Vote Your Voice Coordinator,
Kaleigh Raulerson,
Program Director,
Irene Barton,
Executive Director,
Kelly Mellen,
Communications Director,
Leslie Danford,
Literacy Coordinator

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

Mental Health



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.

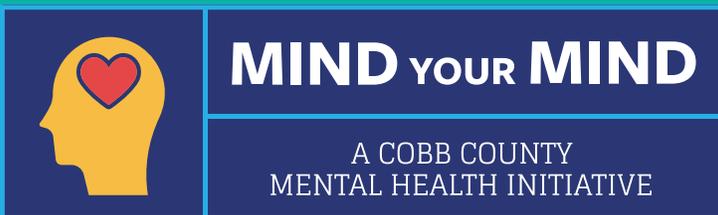
Fact: 20% of American adults and youth ages 13-18 experience mental illness.

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.

**Resilient**GEORGIA



Trainings
 Resiliency
 Print Resources
 Mindful Self Compassion
 Town Halls
 Journaling Projects
 Film Screenings
 Panel Presentations
 Digital Resources
 Podcast
 Workshops
 Toolkits

Suicide Prevention

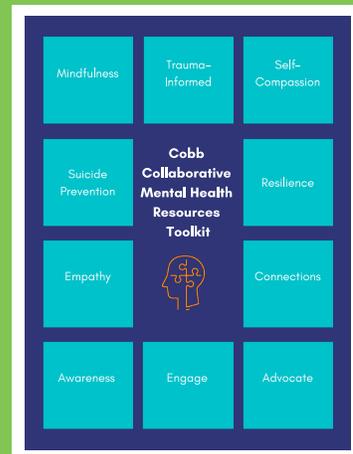


2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Hosted **87**
mental health
events

2,156
attendees

24 recorded podcasts



Launched digital Toolkit in English and Spanish



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*

Civic Engagement

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.

Cobb Sheriff Craig Owens participates in the Cobb Collaborative's November Connecting Cobb Veterans meeting.

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.



CONNECTING THE COBB COUNTY VETERAN COMMUNITY

Thanks to all of you who took the time to gather together earlier this month for our 1Q22 meeting. We heard excellent presentations from our host, American Legion Post 103, and **Warrior Alliance** and began to talk about how we work together to ensure that all veterans are connected to the resources they need and deserve in our community. It was an honor to welcome Cobb Chairwoman Lisa Cupid, Cobb DA Flynn Broady (a veteran himself) and Georgia Department of Veterans Services Commissioner **Daricia Ross** to our meeting.

Mark your calendar for our 2Q22 meeting which will be held on June 15. Program will begin at 9am with networking and coffee at 8:30am. If anyone would like to sponsor the refreshments, please let me know at irene@coobbcollaborative.org. Your organization will be recognized on our social media channels, in our newsletter, and on the agenda. Location: TBA.

Irene Barton
Executive Director, Cobb Collaborative

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

Atlanta Legal Aid's Veterans Law Project is a new initiative aimed at partnering with local SSVF-grant organizations to advise homeless and/or at-risk veterans in the Atlanta metro area. Veterans referred to this project may receive advice and assistance concerning a wide range of legal issues, including VA benefits, landlord/tenant law, consumer law, and family law. Senior Attorney **Jeremy Striegel** is leading up this new project. Veterans in need of legal services should contact their local Atlanta Legal Aid office for more information.

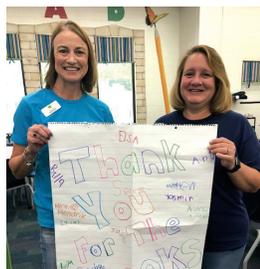
Atlanta Legal Aid has been operating in Atlanta since 1924, offering free civil legal aid for low income people across metro Atlanta. With five neighborhood offices, three offices in Children's Healthcare of Atlanta hospitals, three county courthouse projects, a variety of self-help clinics, and countless community education programs, Legal Aid lawyers and volunteers reach tens of thousands of people annually. More than 20,000 cases are represented by a staff of 80 attorneys and hundreds of volunteers every year. The organization continues to serve thousands while working to create a fair and balanced system for all.



Annual Homeless Memorial & Vigil where we remember those we have lost over the past year who were homeless.



Irene Barton and community volunteer Marla Arnold gave away over 400 books at Green Acres Elementary School in the fall.





124
Voting
Presentations



79 Community
Events

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.

Rafael Aragón
Community Organizer
GALEO

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

YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

<p>STEP #1 REGISTER TO VOTE</p> <p>Registration can be completed online at the GA My Voter Page (QR Code) or by mail through the Secretary of State's office</p> <p>Qualifications to Register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen of U.S. • Legal resident of the county • Be at least 17 1/2 years old • Not be serving a felony • Not been found mentally incompetent 	<p>GA MY VOTER PAGE</p> 
<p>STEP #2 VERIFY & UPDATE</p> <p>Once you are registered, you will receive a precinct card in the mail within 3-4 weeks. You can also verify your status, check your polling location/hours, and find a sample ballot using the QR code.</p> <p>If you have moved, changed your name, or have not voted in a while, you will need to update your status on the GA My Voter Page.</p>	<p>ACCEPTABLE IDs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GA Drivers License (even if expired) • GA ID Card issued by DDS • Valid photo ID from any branch, agency, or entity of the US Government, GA, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of the state of GA • Valid US Passport ID • Valid US Military photo ID • Valid tribal photo ID

FLIP ME OVER TO MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE →

COBB COLLABORATIVE

474
Attendees
at Strategy
Team Meetings



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.



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

22

*Books
Distributed*

5,123

*Little Free Libraries
Installed*

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!
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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



Workshops

Quarterly Networking Coffees



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.



Strategy Teams

