



2024

# IMPACT REPORT

**MENTOR** *me*  
NORTH GEORGIA, INC.



# BOARD CHAIR



**JERRY FRASSO**

Board Chair  
UPS (Retired)

**Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc.** provided our children a safe and welcoming environment in 2024. It has also been a year of continuous learning. Whether that learning came within our team or externally from our partners, it all added value beyond anything I imagined. When you are fortunate to have a One-to-One mentee, or witness the growth of our children in group settings, you quickly realize the value of the service we are providing in Forsyth County.

The Mission of Mentor Me is to connect young people to trusted adults and role models that provide opportunities for children and youth to reach their full potential. But the truth is when we are helping them, they are actually helping us reach our full potential.

We are fortunate to live in a caring and connected community. Even with all this caring effort, there is more work to be done as the number of at-risk and vulnerable children continues to rise. Our number of children served rose 27% over last year. To face this challenge in 2025, we will need to strengthen our current partnerships and forge new ones to grow the revenue to meet the continued growth of children in all three programs.

Our goal of continuing to build positive relationships with our board, staff, volunteers, business and government partners, created trust and kept open lines of communication. Any impact we achieved this year was only possible because of our dedicated staff, loyal donors and partnerships we have developed and strengthened over the years.

This report provides you with a snapshot of how your investments made an **IMPACT** in the ability to offer community-based mentoring programs to the children we serve. Our staff along with our volunteers give their time and talents share mentoring children, 6-17, with professionally-supported relationships. In 2025, we will need to continue to need more volunteers who believe and support our mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our staff, **THANK YOU** for your continued support and encouragement. I look back on 2024 and have seen our success, and look forward to what's lies ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jerry Frasso

[Jerry@MentorMeNorthGa.org](mailto:Jerry@MentorMeNorthGa.org)

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**KERRY CARITHERS**

Executive Director

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

As we reflect on the impact of 2024 and look ahead to the future, one thing remains clear—mentoring changes lives. At Mentor Me North Georgia, we are committed to strengthening our community-based mentoring programs to serve more youth, provide greater opportunities, and build brighter futures.

This year, with the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, stakeholders, and community partners, we have expanded our reach, deepened our impact, and continued to provide the consistent support that so many youth need. Through one-to-one mentoring, after-school programs, and small group mentoring, we are equipping youth with the guidance, skills, and confidence to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

Looking ahead, we know there is still more work to be done. The need for positive role models and supportive mentorship continues to grow, and with your continued support, we will rise to meet that challenge. Together, we can strengthen our programs, expand our reach, and ensure that every child who needs a mentor has access to one.

Thank you for being a vital part of this mission. Your generosity, time, and commitment make a lasting difference. We are excited for what the future holds and look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry". The script is fluid and cursive.

Kerry Carithers  
Kerry@MentorMeNorthGa.org



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

**27%**  
Increase in  
Number of  
Children & Youth  
Served

**11%**  
Growth in  
Direct Public  
Support

**36%**  
Increase in  
Monthly  
Donors

## TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2024

**\$342,507**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED

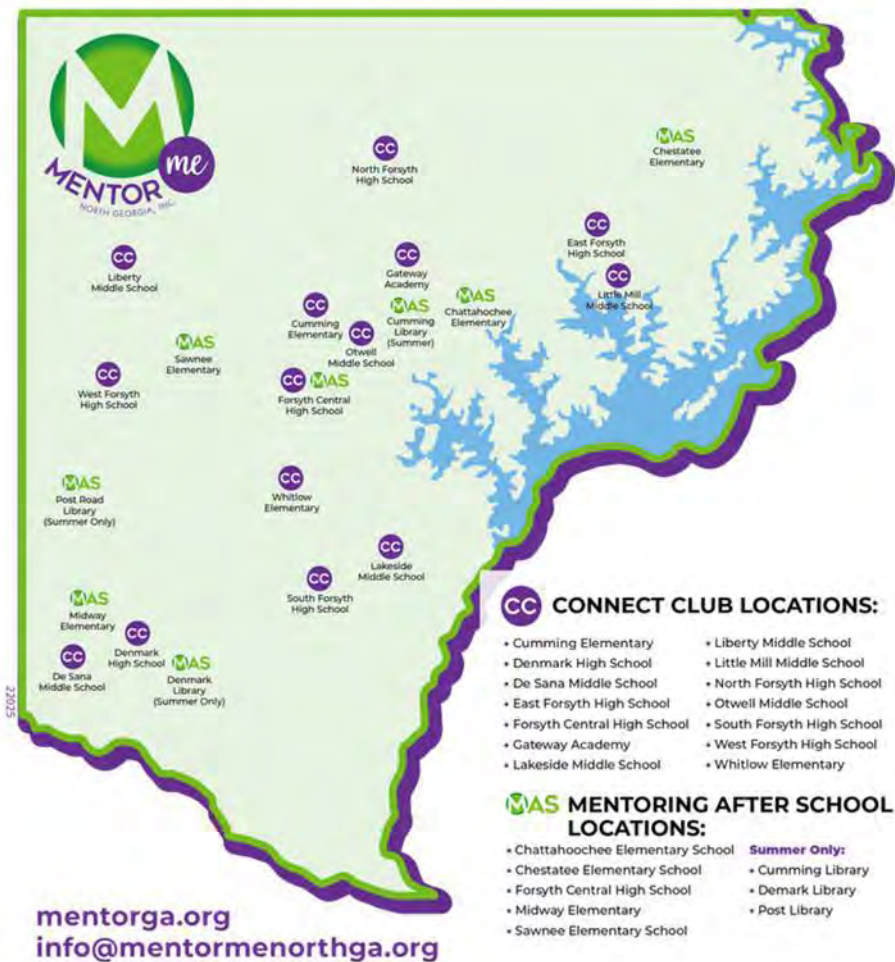
**820**

“

**MITCH YOUNG | Forsyth County School Superintendent:**

“Our partnership with Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc. is making a real difference for students in Forsyth. Having a mentor—someone who listens, encourages, and believes in you—can be life-changing. I’ve seen how this organization helps to build confidence, keep students engaged, and open doors to new opportunities. When our young people thrive, our whole community benefits. We’re grateful for this partnership and the amazing mentors who make it all possible!”

# WHERE WE SERVE



## PARENT | One-to-One Mentoring:

"I'm very grateful for Mentor Me and all that they do for [my child] and the other children that are blessed to be a part of their program. The program meets a need for [my child] that we were not capable of doing. They connected him with the best people to spend one on one time with. I call [my child's mentors] all the time. They are not just Mentors anymore, they are family."

# OUR PROGRAMS

## One-to-One Mentoring

- Served **55** children & youth
- Engaged **58** community volunteers
- Provided **2,860** one-to-one mentoring hours

### OVERVIEW

Our One-to-One mentoring program has matched over **600** mentors and mentees. The program has demonstrated impactful outcomes for youth participants, influencing various aspects of their lives.

### IMPACT

Here are a few examples illustrating the positive effects of one-to-one mentoring, as reported by mentee guardians:

- Confidence/self-esteem improvements: **100%**
- Social skills improvements: **76%**
- Mental Health Improvements: **68%**



**KIM PLUHAR | Forsyth County Schools, McKinney Vento Liaison:**

“Mentorship is a proven pathway to supporting homeless children and youth; it fosters trusted relationships and supports resilience. We are thankful for Mentor Me North Georgia’s expanded footprint to support students in the homeless education program.”





# Mentoring After School (MAS)

- Served **250** elementary students
- Engaged **265** volunteers as mentors
- **84%** of mentors are high school students
- Provided **3,182** mentoring hours and service opportunities from volunteers
- Offered **4** summer MAS programs

## MAS LOCATIONS

Browns Bridge Church (summer), Chattahoochee Elementary School, Chestatee Elementary School, Cumming Library (summer), Forsyth Central High School, Midway Elementary School, Post Road Library (summer), Sawnee Elementary School

## OVERVIEW

The MAS Program exhibits progress in student academic and literacy skills, increased classroom participation, and noticeable improvements in social skills, as reported by both teachers and parents. Our approach by requesting additional homework assignments from teachers and identifying specific skills requiring assistance at program locations, allows the organization to tailor the students' learning experiences.

### Improvements reported by parents:

Confidence/Self-esteem improvements: **89%**

Social skills improvements: **78%**

Better academic performance in school: **90%**

### What motivated our volunteers to become a mentor in this program?

Desire to make a positive impact on a child's life.

Interest in community involvement.

Recommendation from someone else involved in the program.

#### STACY HODGES | Counselor, Midway Elementary School:

"Mentoring After School has significantly enhanced educational experiences for Midway Elementary School students. Mentors provide help with reading, homework, and positive social norms that will encourage our students to be more successful in school."

# Connect Club

- Engaged **515** elementary, middle, and high school students
- **26** community volunteers served as small group leaders
- Provided **728** service hours for program volunteers

## LOCATIONS

Connect Clubs have grown from 4 to **28 clubs** in Forsyth County serving elementary, middle, and high schools:

Elementary Schools: Cumming, Whitlow

Middle Schools: De Sana, Lakeside, Liberty, Little Mill, Otwell

High Schools: Denmark, East Forsyth, Forsyth Central, Gateway Academy, North Forsyth, South Forsyth, West Forsyth

## OVERVIEW

Connect Clubs offer invaluable support and opportunities, fostering team-building activities that promote healthy connections, personal development, and overall improvement in behavior and social skills. School administrative staff report increased classroom participation, improved behaviors, better attendance, and sustained academic progress as key indicators of success.

## IMPACT

- Confidence/Self-esteem improvements: **90%**
- Social and emotional well-being improvements: **75%**
- Better academic performance in school: **79%**



**STUDENT | East Forsyth High School:**

"I thought Connect Club helped with being more social by being made to talk to people. It helped with controlling anger."

**STUDENT | Otwell Middle School:**

"It was a way to learn to cope with things and how to know others better."

**STUDENT | Forsyth Central High School:**

"My experience was very good. It helped me with friends, problems, and I learned more coping skills."





# OUR IMPACT

## Totals

Volunteers: **349**  
Volunteer Service Hours: **5,284**  
Students Served: **820**  
Funds Raised: **\$342,507**  
Grants/Foundation: **\$143,074**  
Corporate Contributions: **\$92,486**  
Individual & Business Contributions: **\$52,786**  
Special Events/Fundraiser: **\$54,162**

## Community Outreach Impact

**84%** are performing better in school  
**85%** are showing improved behavior  
**95%** are more self-confident



## Provided Grant Funding

AutomationDirect  
Beaver Toyota of Cumming  
The Benjamin F Brady Foundation  
Browns Bridge Church  
Bullard's Community Champions Grant  
The Chantal & Tommy Bagwell Foundation  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Forsyth County Accountability Courts  
Forsyth County Social Services Grant  
Heritage Foundation  
LocumTenens.com  
ProLiteracy Foundation  
Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation  
Synchrony Bank Foundation  
United Way of Forsyth County



**MANDY LOVE | Dir. of Marketing, Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation:**

The Sawnee Electric Foundation is proud to support Mentor Me –North Georgia. Their commitment to mentoring programs in our local schools not only connects students with role models but also makes a positive impact on the community as a whole.



# OUR 2024 DONORS

The support & contributions of our donors allow Mentor Me North GA staff and volunteers to fulfill its mission.

Absolute Pool & Spa  
Altrusa International of North Georgia  
American Family Insurance, Corporate Office  
Amy Fischer  
Adean Motor CO  
Anna Lyle  
Anthony Frasso  
Arseneau Advisory Group  
Ashley Bryan  
Automation Direct  
Beaver Toyota of Cumming  
Benjamin F Brady Foundation  
Billy Howell Ford  
Brad and Sara Collins  
Brandywine Printing  
Browns Bridge Church  
Bullard's Community Champions Grant  
Caleb Stokes  
Carolyn Canouse  
Chantal & Tommy Bagwell Foundation  
Charles Burks  
Charles Frasso  
Chris Woodall  
Cips Coffee  
Citizens of Georgia Power North Fulton  
Corner Farms  
Denise & Mike Leeson  
Dollar General Youth Literacy Foundation  
Donna and Jim Wade  
F3 - Cumming  
First Citizens Bank  
Forever EXTERIORS Commercial Division  
Forever EXTERIORS Residential Division  
Forsyth County Accountability Courts  
Forsyth County Chamber  
Forsyth County Rotary Club  
Forsyth County Social Services Grant  
Garage Floor by Enviroidex  
Heritage Foundation  
HOBNOB at Halycon  
Jerry Frasso  
Johns Creek Rotary Club  
Jonathan Hall  
Kerry and RC Carithers  
Kohl's of Cumming  
Lanier Dental Partners  
Lanier Forsyth Rotary Club  
Laura Stewart  
Le Roy, Cole & Stephens CPA, LLC  
LocumTenens.com  
Lynzi Kiser Century 21  
Matt and Rachel McClure  
Meadow Woodfire Grill  
Mr Value Electricians  
MDSi  
MultiFit Solutions  
Neighborhood Mortgage, INC  
North Forsyth Rotary Club  
Nubicorp Consulting  
Owenby Jones Wealth Management, LLC  
Patterson Moore Butler, LLC  
Penny Penn  
Peter Carpenter  
Play Well Sports  
ProLiteracy Foundation  
Publix Supermarket  
REID & REID Construction  
Renasant Bank of Cumming  
Sarah Reynolds  
Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation  
Scott Wicker  
South Forsyth Rotary Club  
Southeast Aquariums  
Southern Elegance Design & Landscape  
Stars and Strikes of Cumming  
Synchrony Bank Foundation  
Technique Concrete Construction  
Terri Willett  
The Brasso Family  
The Citizens Bank  
The Moore Team, Keller Williams Comm. Partners  
The Pugh Agency, American Family Life Insurance  
The Rapp Family  
Tom and Helen Sawyer  
Tricia Welsh  
Troncalli Subaru  
United Way of Forsyth County  
United Way of Greater Atlanta  
Garret and Grant Wicker

*Thank you!*

*We apologize if we have omitted anyone from this list of 2024 donors. The list has been compiled to the best of our knowledge. We are grateful to all who have contributed to our success.*



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AutomationDirect

BMore Learning

Beaver Toyota of Cumming

Browns Bridge Church

Corner Farms

District 6910 Rotary Clubs

Forsyth County College & Career Workforce Council

Forsyth County Community Connection

Forsyth County Homeless Coalition

Forsyth County Local Interagency Planning Team

Forsyth County Nonprofit Roundtable

Forsyth County Public Library

Forsyth County Schools

Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Club

North Georgia Community Foundation

Sawnee-Cumming Optimist Club

Teacher Reuse Exchange

The Place of Forsyth

United Way of Forsyth County

University of North Georgia

3 Oaks Farms

*Thank you!*

“

**BETHE VINCENT | Senior Director, Customer Care, LocumTenens.com:**

“LocumTenens.com is proud to support Mentor Me North Georgia's community-based mentoring programs that aim to provide positive role models to local youth so they can reach their full potential. This partnership reflects LocumTenens.com's commitment to fostering strong, healthy communities.”

**MENTOR | One-to-One Mentoring:**

“The most rewarding thing about the program is being able to make a true connection with your mentee and seeing their face change when they see you in the crowd and being the reason for a smile on the child's face.”



# OUR TEAM

## Executive Board of Directors

### **Board Chair**

Jerry Frasso, UPS (Retired)

### **Treasurer**

Scott Wicker, UPS (Retired)

### **Secretary**

Brittany Amin, VP Financial Sales Manager II, First Citizens Bank

### **Program Committee**

Chris Woodall, Assistant Principal, Forsyth Central High School

### **Marketing Communications Committee**

Peter Carpenter, President/Creative Director, Thoroughbred Design Group

### **Fundraising Development Chair**

Andrew Shannon, Senior VP Commercial Banking, Wells Fargo

### **Revenue Development Committee**

Scott Wicker, UPS (Retired)

### **Community Relations Committee**

Penny Penn, District Attorney, Forsyth County

## Board Members

Kurt Arseneau - Owner, Arseneau Advisory Group

Brandon Blease - Project Manager, Hunter Douglas

Brad Collins - Project Manager, AT&T

Jonathan Hall - Owner, Jonathan M. Hall Consulting

Anna Lyle - Director, Forsyth County Public Library

Sharon Lynch - Paralegal, Primerica Life Insurance

Jeff Mogan - President, Corner Farms Forsyth

Tracy Ann Moore-Grant - Attorney, Patterson, Moore, Butler

Niti Patel - Director of Nursing, Northside Hospital Forsyth

Sarah Reynolds - Branch Manager, Forsyth County Public Library

Laura Stewart - VP Community Development, Forsyth Chamber of Commerce

Terri Willett - Atlanta Communities Real Estate

# OUR TEAM

## Advisory Board

James McCoy - President/CEO, Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce, Past Mentor

Virgilio Pérez-Pascoe - Pepsi (retired), Past Mentor

Cindy Salloum - Associate Superintendent of HR & Legal Svcs, Forsyth Cty Schools (retired)

Tricia Welsh - INPO (retired), Founding Member

Donna Wade - CRE Regional/Senior Credit Officer, SVP Renasant Bank

## Mentor Me Staff

Executive Director - Kerry Carithers

Program Director, One-to-One Mentoring - Jenis Sharp

Program Coordinator, Mentoring After School (MAS) - Karina Trejo

Onsite MAS Coordinator - Ana Quezada

Youth Program Director, Connect Clubs - Rachel Kern

Youth Program Coordinator, Connect Clubs - Brandy Povenz







**SAVE THE DATE**  
10.25.25

Empowering Today's Youth To Reach Their Full Potential

**MENTOR me**  
NORTH GEORGIA, INC.

**ROCK-N-BOWL**  
TOURNAMENT

**OCTOBER 25, 2025**

Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
contact [Kerry@mentornorthga.org](mailto:Kerry@mentornorthga.org)

10AM-12:00PM  
Stars and Strikes  
133 Merchants Square  
Cumming, GA 30040



# MENTOR

NORTH GEORGIA, INC.

me

EVERY



Every dollar supports impactful programs, ensuring our youth have guidance and encouragement they need to thrive.



Your Support  
Makes a Difference!



Join us in shaping a brighter future for our community!

Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the diverse needs of youth in our community.



Mentor Me North Georgia, Inc.  
101 Meadow Drive, Suite J  
Cumming, GA 30040

(678) 341-8028  
[www.mentorga.org](http://www.mentorga.org)