

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



UNION COUNTY
family connection™

Our Mission

Every Child in Union County will grow up to become a successful, productive and contributing adult.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Again this school year, students were able to receive weekend food through a partnership between the Goodies From the Heart non-profit organization and Family Connection.

Panther Pantries are available at Middle and High Schools for food, hygiene, and school supply needs.

The Family Connection food pantry was a much needed resource for families. The Pantry is kept stocked thanks to grant funding and local donations.



Year #5 of the Backpack 2 School Bash looked a little different. However, the outcome was the same, another need met by a community coming together. This year the event was a drive-thru pick up for parents to receive the list of school supplies needed for their children.



Staff worked with Union County School System as part of the Attendance Support Team (AST). The AST met with 100 families and helped break down barriers to good attendance, such as lack of healthcare or access to internet services.



COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVE

During the unprecedented time of pandemic, new resources emerged. This gave Family Connection the opportunity to live up to our name and "connect" families with services.

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

THREE WAYS TO APPLY

1. Complete your application online at www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit or call 877-876-8422.
2. Go to a participating provider to get help with the application and to get your service activated.
3. Complete a mail-in application and send it with proof of eligibility to: Emergency Broadband Support Center, P.O. Box 2025, Columbia, SC 29202.

LEARN MORE

Call 877-876-8422 or visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program NOW OPEN!

Webinars with instructions for eligible families

Financial assistance with food purchases

Families of students who receive free and/or reduced lunch may qualify

Eligible for purchases made in-store, online or via delivery at approved grocery retailers

Almost 9 Out Of 10 UC Students Do Not Drink Alcohol

The Positive Social Norms Campaign could be seen by the community via a prominent billboard located on Hwy 515. We continue to communicate the message that the majority of students DO NOT drink.

Virtual options materialized for such resources as career fairs and job training. Family Connection used various forms of media to encourage community participation. We were also able to participate in virtual training to sharpen our knowledge about the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and ways to build resiliency for youth impacted by ACEs.

An anonymous donor provided masks for distribution to students to help meet this need during the Covid-19 Pandemic.



ONESOURCE **SPRING INTO ACTION** **DJ**

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR APRIL 17, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Are you a high school senior, looking for full-time work after graduation?

WORK SOURCE GEORGIA

LET US POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

5 DAY FREE EMPLOYMENT BOOTCAMP

BEGINS IN JUNE

WAGNER CAREER CENTER

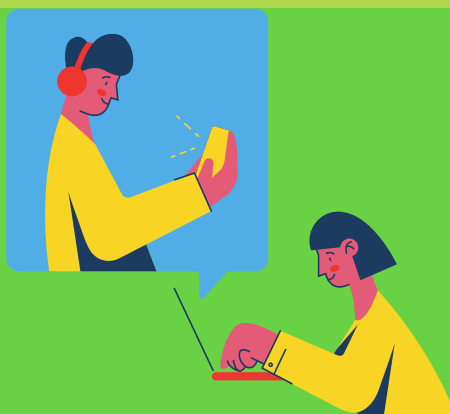
QUESTIONS: INFO@ONESOURCEGA.ORG

CONNECTIONS MATTER™
developing brain - relationships - community

www.ConnectionsMatterGA.org

SCHOOL SUCCESS

The Mentoring Program moved to a different format, with mentors remaining in touch with students via phone, computer, and letters.



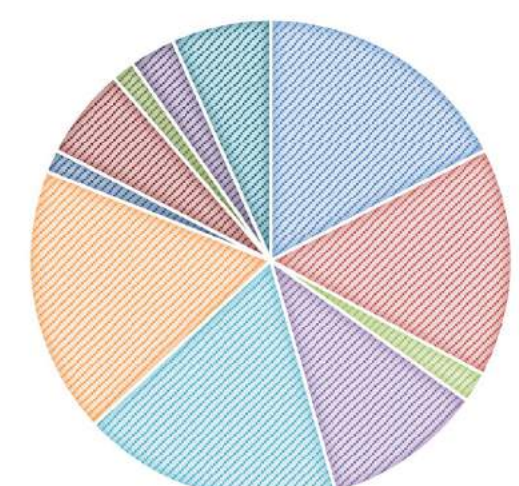
Donors continued to show support throughout the school year by providing school supplies for students and teachers.



FAMILY STABILITY

"It is a beautiful sight to see a child get a new pair of shoes and their eyes light up. All students feel better about themselves when their basic needs are met, and Family Connection rocks at making sure they are ALL taken care of."
Brittany Combs
4th Grade Parapro

- TYPES OF NEEDS MET**
- Power/Internet/Water
 - Shoes/Clothes
 - Household Needs (Cleaning supplies, furniture)
 - Gas/Car Needs
 - Glasses/Medical
 - Food
 - Hygiene
 - School Supplies
 - Pest Control
 - Graduation
 - Other (Propane, Birth Certificate, Lodging, Food Stamps, Insurance)



During a time of added unrest and uncertainty due to Covid-19, Family Connection continued to provide security and stability to families in order to reduce stress over basic needs. Less stress leads to less reports of child abuse and neglect, a benefit we can all agree is worth striving for.

By partnering with a youth-led service organization called Bless Blairsville, food insecurity in our community became less of a concern. Bless Blairsville worked with Union County High School's Construction Class to build two "Tiny Pantries". We then collaborated with county government to choose the best location, and The Beacon Mission Team from First Baptist Church helped install and stock the pantries.

#UNIONUNITED



This year's Christmas Assistance brought together 76 agencies to serve 564 children in our community. This is the largest number served to date. Safety measures were taken to insure families could be safe but still feel the love and support of community during the holidays. Children received toys and gifts, food, or went shopping to pick up gifts for themselves and family or friends.

Reason for Christmas referral: "This is a grandmother raising two of her grandchildren. She currently works and is going back to school to further her education so that she can provide for the girls."

~4th Grade Teacher



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The Butterfly House Child Advocacy Center has been a great resource this year for training. We have been able to refer families and community members to Love and Logic Parenting, as well as Darkness to Light. We were also able to celebrate reaching tipping point with more than 5% of our adult population trained in child sexual abuse prevention.



Staff:

Katy Jones, Coordinator
Becky Tracy, Outreach Leader
Pam Pauley, Mentor Coordinator

Board and Collaborative Members:

Amy Henson, Chairperson, Kelly Sykes, Vice Chair, Amy Rogers, Secretary

Catia De Los Santos, Chad Deyton, Denise Chase, Diana Howell, Donna Dalton, Elida Lopez, Ellen Dillinger, Ginger Carey, Glenda McGill, Hetal Patel, Jacque Devereaux, Janet Chapman, Janice Allen, Jason Norsworthy, Jennifer Los, Kailyn Cornwell, Kaitlin Andrews, Kayla Page, Kim Bridges, Laura Pike, Lydia Johnson, Marty Duncan, Mary Beth Moss, Millie Owenby, Misty Chavers, Molly Cousin, Paula Padgett, Rick Maddox, Sara Restrepo-Moreno, Sarah Pedraza, Tabor McCoy, Tina Teater, and Victoria Caldwell

SUSTAINABILITY

For the second year in a row, we enjoyed a beautiful day at Old Union Golf Course to benefit the Family Connection Emergency Fund. Thanks to Benchmark Physical Therapy and High Mountain Healthcare for sponsoring this event. Chick-Fil-A and North Georgia Barbeque Company provided delicious meals. The many players and sign sponsors completed the fundraising.

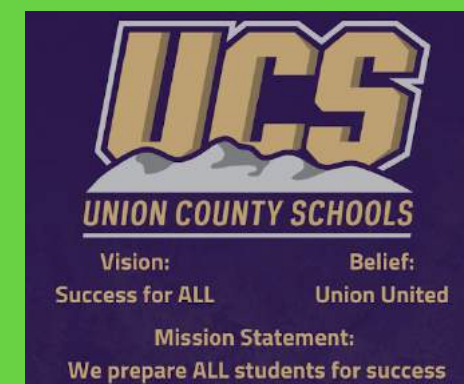


What began as a grant through DFCS State of Hope funding led to a partnership with DFCS to participate in a pilot program. We were one of three agencies from Georgia chosen to support families with a community-based response that engages and empowers without deeper DFCS involvement.

FINANCIAL FACT: Fundraising / donations to the Emergency Fund equaled more than \$39,900.



FINANCIAL FACT: Grants and local support totaled more than \$98,000.



FINANCIAL FACT: Emergency funds paid out for student and family needs were over \$13,100.



HOW TO HELP

- ~Donate to the Union County Family Connection Emergency Fund
- ~Sign up for Purposity
- ~Serve as a board member
- ~Donate to Union County School and indicate the donation is for Family Connection
- ~Donate for special projects such as Backpack 2 School Bash, Christmas Assistance, and the food pantry
- ~Publicize the work of Family Connection
- ~Volunteer as a mentor by calling the number below

Contact us: 706-835-4351 or 706-2322 Ext 1544 or Ext. 1546

kjones@ucschools.org or btracy@ucschools.org

Union County Family Connection, 226 School Street, Blairsville, GA 30512

union.gafcp.org Union County Family Connection

union_county_family_connection