

Standing Together



Equipping,
Connecting &
Advocating
for Our Most
Vulnerable Youth
2022 Annual Report



Because One Matters believes every child is important and deserves a voice. When they can't speak for themselves, we're committed to being their vocal advocate.



Letter from Andrea

While 2022 saw us return to more normal interactions, we were still faced with the challenge of double-digit inflation, coupled with the end of COVID emergency benefits. Many families of all forms found themselves in need, which is why we extended our reach beyond children in foster care or those aging out of the system. Thanks to the unprecedented generosity of our private and corporate communities, a bright ray of help and hope continues to shine at Because One Matters - allowing us to help more children and families than ever before.

This past year we launched our Wrapped in Love closet. Clothing insecurity is a hidden crisis for children nationwide. More than 20 million American children are at risk of being clothing insecure. Not having appropriate clothing harms a child's health, safety, and self-esteem, factors known to impact their academic performance and long-term success.

We believe all children should have what they need at home, school, and play. Our Wrapped in Love closet provides foster, adoptive, kinship, and families in need the opportunity to shop for new or like-new clothing items, toys, and books, all free of charge.

2023 marks eight years of serving the community. As we evolve, our 'Why' remains unchanged - equipping, connecting, and advocating for our most vulnerable - our children and young adults.

We will continue to identify ways to support & equip our children.
We want to ensure that our services are beneficial.

As we work to achieve our strategic objectives and continue to provide value to the children and families we serve, we will work to identify ways to collaborate with various stakeholders. This includes regular engagement with other non-profits, local businesses, volunteers, families, and business leaders; periodic meetings with local leaders; participation and influence in community meetings & events, and the like. By maintaining these interactions, we ensure that we provide the resources our community needs rather than what we think they need.

Thank you for your continued support,

Andrea

Andrea Barclay
Founder & CEO
Because One Matters

Children often enter foster care **with only the clothes on their backs.**

Because One Matters doesn't just provide clothing, we provide dignity.

Equipping Families. Wrapped In Love

“

Hi, my name is Jolene Barrett, and I am a foster parent. I've been fostering for the last five years and I would like to encourage you to support Because One Matters and their Wrapped In Love clothing closet.

So many times, children come into foster care, and they come with just the clothes on their backs. We had one little boy who was two years old, who was found wandering the street during the night, and he was wearing just a t-shirt and a diaper. We also received another little girl once, who was four years old, who came wearing men's underwear being held up with a rubber band and an adult-sized t-shirt.

This closet helps to meet the physical needs of these children but also restores their dignity by giving them clothes that are appropriate and that they can be proud to wear. So go out and support Wrapped In Love today.

To view Jolene's testimonial video, visit: https://youtu.be/E_99VTIFfEw



Comfort when it's need most.

B.O.M. & Our Partners provided

45

DUFFEL BAGS

A humble stuffed bear can mean the world to a child whose life has been disrupted and is feeling traumatized.



Connecting – MEETING YOUTH IN THEIR NEED Duffel Bags of Hope

“

Hi, I'm Sheila. We recently reached out to Because One Matters to request three of their duffel bags because we had received a call from DFACS that three children were being placed in our home.

We called Because One Matters at around 5:30 PM in the evening – the kids had not yet arrived. They asked specific questions about each of the kids – their sizes, the ages, gender, their favorite colors – because they wanted to pack a duffel bag specific for each child. Well the kids hadn't arrived yet, so we didn't have the sizes but I told them that I would call them back and let them know as soon as they arrived.

When the kids arrived, we were unable to get the sizes right away because they were so traumatized and devastated at that point. But long story short, a little while later, we were able to get the sizes and call Because One Matters. They showed up the same night at our doorstep with three duffel bags filled with outfits, toiletries, books and a bear for each child.

I have to say the most impactful part of the process was while we were waiting for Because One Matters to arrive, one of the kids – the oldest girl – woke up crying because she missed her bear that her mom had given her and she hadn't been able to bring it with her. In her duffel bag was a beautiful, colorful bear that I was able to give to her. Just to see the smile on her face, to be able to smile through the tears, it just meant a lot. It really meant a lot.

All the kids also received a sleeping bag – so the next night they were able to use the sleeping bags for a movie, so it was a fun time.

I just want to say thank you, thank you. Thank you, Because One Matters for easing the transition for these three kids and all that you've done for all the kids over the last seven years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To view Sheila's testimonial video, visit: https://youtu.be/ECKd_NB2KBY

Advocating — EDUCATION MATTERS

Education
opens doors
no one can close.



“

Because One Matters' Clarion Club and College Mentorship Programs exist to help students and young adults find their destiny in life. There are five key goals to the mentorship program.

The first is to assist students with the process of self-discovery. To answer questions like:

What am I naturally good at?
What would I enjoy doing in life?
Which career field would I like to explore?

We want to go on the journey with them to help them answer those questions.

The second goal is to help them to draw the connection between education and financial success. And while we do not say college is for everyone, we do believe that having a solid foundation of education is critical to success, whichever pathway you choose.

The third is we help them to attain the requirements for college or workforce readiness, whichever pathway they choose to go down.

The fourth is that we help them to overcome any kind of financial barriers for entering college or going on the pathway they choose.

And the fifth, which is also important, is that we want the students that we serve to become change agents in their community. We want them to be able to give back to their community and help uplift and edify and grow the community from which they are coming.

Your Donations Provided

2

SCHOLARSHIP

Education changes lives.
A good education provides life-long skills and
access to successful careers.

Your Donations Provided

10

LAPTOPS

In today's world, laptops are
foundational to a successful education for
our young people.

Thanks to you, we are able to provide this
essential tool to those in need.

You showed up. We're grateful.

You helped provide
school supplies to over
250
CHILDREN

When you donate useful supplies, you alleviate financial pressure from teachers. You enable them to educate their students with the essential materials.

The next generation is our future. Set young students up for success by supplying their education. A school supplies donation invests in the future by improving the resources available to students.

Not every family has the financial stability to supply their child with the proper school equipment to succeed. Donations ensure that everyone in the classroom is equipped with the fundamental tools to thrive in school. When you donate necessary school supplies, you relieve many families of a financial stressor that influences how prepared their children are for curriculum.

Check out our video at
youtu.be/UKFjsJSF4jU

Making a Difference — IN THE NEWS 2022 Back to School Extravaganza

Studies show that children having school supplies of their own can improve grades, creativity, attitudes towards learning, behavior, peer relationships and self-image. Education is the first step to overcoming poverty. A single pack of pencils and paper could be the gateway to a bright promising year.

Thank you for creating beautiful back-to-school memories for our young people during an uncertain time for them and our nation. You stepped up and showed out by donating backpacks, crayons, pens, laptops, pencils, glue, paper, and most importantly, your time and presence. We are grateful for your continued support.

A big thank you to the employees of
Georgia System Operations,
Georgia Transmission,
Georgia EMC
Oglethorpe Power
Kares 4 Kids,
Waverly,
Recession Proof,
Zion Hill Baptist Church,
all the wonderful volunteers.

Mrs. Cindy Crowder for being an advocate.

A special thank you to the staff at the
Gwinnett Department of Family and
Children Services
for their continued partnerships

You helped raise funds to support our Home for the Holidays Program.

You helped make a difference for

171
MEALS

“ Thank you so much for the wonderful meal prepared for me. I am no blessed to be with family but the food gave me a warm hug feel. Again, thank you very much.

– Deidre ”

Making a Difference — at home Home for the Holidays Program

2022 marks the sixth year for our Home for the Holidays (H4H) program. The H4H program was created for foster youth participating in the Independent Living program through Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) to experience Thanksgiving and Christmas in their home by providing full-course meals, Christmas trees with decorations, and gifts.

Many of these young adults do not have families to share the holidays. Our H4H mission is to ensure each young adult in our program experiences a memorable holiday in their own home.

In the early years, we had volunteers gather in a commercial kitchen the nights before Thanksgiving and Christmas, to prepare the meals. In 2019, the youth wanted to be a part of making their own Thanksgiving meal. So, the men from Lawrenceville-Duluth Alumni Chapter (LDAC) of the Kappa Alpha PSI Fraternity, Inc., along with Chef Melissa from Morsels by Melissa, came together and helped these young adults prepare a fabulous Thanksgiving meal. The LDAC men also mentored some of the young men during the meal preparation. This was such a success that we decided to do it again in 2020, but COVID happened.

With the pandemic still going on during the Thanksgiving and Christmas of 2020, we had to think of a safe way to serve these young adults, and that is when Chef Michelle from 2 Girls 'n a Grill stepped up and offered to prepare all the meals. Chef Michelle is still preparing the meals.

As the program continues to grow and evolve, we're thrilled to have provided 171 meals with your help. Last year, in addition to delivering full-course meals for both holidays, and Christmas gifts, to the youth in the ILP Program, we also provided Christmas gifts to the youth in YESS' Rapid Rehousing Program. We are thankful to Ebony, the Founder & CEO of YESS, for this partnership. We are extra thankful to our Program Director, Ms. Daniels, for her continued dedication and leadership of Home for the Holidays.



Thank You.

About Because One Matters We are here to...

Offer more than just compassion. We are here to offer hope and real support and encourage both children and families.

We are
275
volunteers

Working in
30+
industries

Serving over
5,800
foster children and
young adults

Working together to ensure our youth from economically disadvantaged communities are cared for, loved, and guided toward a brighter future.



"Thank you!" Our Community Partners



- Publix
- Kares4Kids
- Jambos Donates
- Adventure Bags
- LDAC Foundation
- 3G Chemical Solutions
- Chick-fil-A
- Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter
- Georgia System Operations Corporation
- Georgia Transmission Corporation
- Ogelthorpe Power
- Georgia EMC
- TAGS Boutique
- Target
- MacDermid Graphics Solutions
- Lexi N Fifth
- Special Kneads and Treats, Inc.
- Sam's Club
- Primerica
- Little Harmony
- Kennesaw State University
- Hermes Realty Group
- The Home Depot
- Central Gwinnett High School
- Digital Chores
- Wells Fargo
- 29 And Under Boutique
- Cachet Corporate Gift Services
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Because One Matters Financials

Years ending December 31, 2018—2021

Full financial statements are available upon request
Form 990s publicly available



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue:					
Contributions					
Individual	\$6,893	\$13,307	\$5,716	\$8,964	11,609
Corporate	\$2,000	\$5,500	\$6,400	\$6,800	14,804
In-Kind	\$6,201	\$8,101	\$12,900	\$22,500	24,000
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	2,000
Other	\$39	\$755	\$0	\$000	1,601
Rev. Total	\$16,133	\$28,663	\$25,616	\$42,764	52,413
Expenses:					
Program	\$1,952	\$11,644	\$8,274	\$14,200	16,876
Administration	\$1,412	\$1,248	\$4,423	\$10,543	19,077
Fund Raising	\$0	\$0	\$217	\$0	4,042
Exp. Total	\$9,364	\$12,891	\$12,914	\$24,743	41,897

Your Donations at Work

Donations of any size can make a significant impact in the lives of those that we serve.

Here is how you have helped since 2015.



Education

- 23,100 Pens & Pencils
- 15,150 Additional Miscellaneous School Supplies
- 6,500 Book bags
- 4,900 College Bound Paper Tablets
- 5,500 Binders
- 4,100 Boxes of Crayons
- 1,425 Reams of Printer Paper
- 195 Laptops & Tablets
- 79 College Care Packages Distributed
- 14 Internships Offered
- 8 Scholarships

Entertainment

- 350 Foster Parents Appreciation
- 50 Children & 10 Parents—Gwinnett Stripers
- 65 Students & 20 Parents—Georgia Aquarium
- 40 Children & 15 Parents—Disney on Ice
- 40 Children & 10 Parents—Movies
- 10 Case Managers Appreciation
- 2 Students Full Prom Experience

Holidays & Celebrations

- 26,100 Meals Served
- 2,490 Birthday & Christmas Gifts
- 1,660 Birthday Celebrations
- 1,100 Visits to Santa, Easter Bunny & Petting Zoos
- 102 Graduations Celebrated
- 168 Youth Served
- 106 Children Meals & Gifts
- 50 Wreaths
- 50 Stockings
- 25 Christmas Trees
- 15 Children & 10 Parents—Aurora Theater Christmas Event

Foster Care

- 5,100 Foster Children Served
- 546 Duffle Bags with Essentials, Clothing, Toys

Vision

Provide hope, dignity, empowerment, mentorship, and economic opportunity to foster children and young adults from economically disadvantaged communities.



Why?

In a world filled with economic instability, global uncertainty and lack of community, children need us more than ever. We are here to offer more than just compassion. We are here to offer hope and real support and encouraging both children and families.


Equipping, connecting, and advocating for our most vulnerable - our children and young adults.




We believe in restoring dignity and making a difference —
one heart at a time.

Because One Matters is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of children in foster care, children adopted out of foster care, kinship families, families in need, and young adults from economically disadvantaged communities – helping them achieve their goals and dreams.



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