Family Connection Partnership, Inc. (FCP), is a nonprofit, public/private partnership created by the State of Georgia and funders from the private sector. We assist communities in addressing the serious challenges facing Georgia’s children and families. We also serve as a resource to state agencies across Georgia that work to improve the lives of children and families. Working jointly with Family Connection county collaboratives, we are implementing a vision for community-based support systems that will build a better future for our communities.

For information on Family Connection Partnership support and services contact:

Public Affairs & Policy
(404) 527-7394
www.georgiafamilyconnection.org

The communities we assist are called Family Connection county collaboratives, the largest statewide network of communities in the nation that works together to improve results for children and families. Each community develops and implements a strategic plan to improve results in at least one of five result areas: Healthy Children, Children Ready for School, Children Succeeding in School, Strong Families, and Self-Sufficient Families.

According to the 2003 Georgia KIDS COUNT, Georgia is making gains in 16 out of 24 indicators. We still need improvement in eight indicators but the results show that local collaboration and local decision-making improve results for children.
The beginning of 2003 presented us with hope and concern—hope that our state’s economy would trend upward and a true concern of the effect a shortfall of funds might have on our ability to impact the lives of children and families within our great state.

Throughout these difficult times our board focused on streamlining our organization and reducing expenses. We also directed our efforts toward finding new sources of funding in order to sustain the Family Connection network of collaboratives in 154 counties.

I am excited and proud to say that in spite of difficult times for those who provide health and human services, we have emerged as a viable productive entity that is respected statewide. The origin of this respect is directly attributed to the dedication and passion of the wonderful people who make up Family Connection Partnership.

———

Albert L. Wright
Chair

More than a year ago, when I addressed our collaborative partners at our biennial conference, many of you heard me talk about the three ingredients that Family Connection Partnership mixes to realize our vision: purpose, passion, and power.

Our purpose is clear—we continue to support a network of community collaboratives and promote local decision-making and accountability. Our passion runs deep—we remain tenacious in promoting the work of Georgia’s communities and state partners to improve the lives of children and families. Our collective power transforms—we continue to build on our successes, take risks, be innovative and, thus, risk failure knowing that the full potential of a network of local collaboratives has yet to be tapped.

Helen Keller once observed, “Alone we can do so little but together we can do so much.” Thank you to our Board of Directors, community collaboratives, funders, elected officials, and state partners for support of Family Connection this past year. That support demonstrates our belief that communities understand best the needs of their children and how to use resources to respond effectively.

———

Gaye Morris Smith
Executive Director
A STRONG FOUNDATION

“It’s a good thing to start out at the bottom.” When it comes to Family Connection Partnership, Emma Sinkfield gets the big picture. After all, she says she grew up as a “program child” in Georgia, joined a community advocacy group as a young adult, helped build the Warren County Family Connection collaborative, and now serves on the Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors.

Like too many children in Georgia, Emma says she grew up with the odds stacked against her. “I came from a hyper-poor family with 12 siblings and a mom and dad who only had 10 years of education between them,” Emma explained.

Fortunately, Emma’s parents were passionate about their family. When her dad couldn’t find work in Warrenton, Georgia, he went to New York and found work driving a concrete truck to support his family. When her mom discovered that education held the key to breaking their cycle of poverty, she became determined that all of her children would finish high school. All 12 children did.

Emma inherited her passion for community from her parents. In 1989, she turned that passion into purpose when she joined the Quality of Life Association (QUOLA) for Warren County, Inc., whose mission is to help families become self-sufficient.

“We searched out organizations and agencies with a similar mission and started pulling together a team of partners in Warrenton,” Emma said. QUOLA worked with the Chamber of Commerce, Juvenile Justice, Head Start, and the Health Department to submit a grant but the grant wasn’t awarded.

About that time, the QUOLA team started hearing about Family Connection. “We first heard of Family Connection through its newsletter and through its public relations in neighboring counties,” Emma said. The QUOLA team learned that Family Connection wasn’t just another government program—it was an initiative backed by the governor.

The idea was simple—form community-based groups called collaboratives and give them the power to make local decisions.
“QUOLA was interested in learning more, so we started going to Family Connection training sessions,” Emma said. “We learned that Family Connection helps collaboratives develop, implement, and evaluate a strategic plan that improves results for children and families in five targeted areas: Healthy Children, Children Ready for School, Children Succeeding in School, Strong Families, and Self-Sufficient Families.”

QUOLA also received specialized training in setting up a collaborative, creating and submitting a strategic plan, and submitting grants. In 1999, the QUOLA team submitted its plan and became the leading partner for the Warren County Family Connection collaborative. They also submitted a grant, which was funded this time.

Today, QUOLA knows they’re making a difference in Warren County because they can measure their results. According to the 2003 Georgia KIDS COUNT report, which provides data on the status of children in Georgia, Warren County shows improved results in reducing teen pregnancies and absences from school. These are just two of the areas QUOLA focused on in the strategic plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2003 Georgia KIDS COUNT Report – Warren County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancies, ages 15-17 (Numbers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absence from School (Percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Information not available

Emma’s parents would be proud. Not only is Emma helping to break the cycle of poverty in Georgia, she is a shining example for her family and community. In 1997, Emma graduated second in her class at Augusta State University. In 1989, she became Executive Director of QUOLA. And in 2001, she was elected to the Family Connection Partnership Board of Directors.

“It’s been very enlightening to be on the board of directors,” Emma said, “where everyone recognizes that the focus of work and the power of local decision-making is at the community level. With this type of ‘bottom up’ structure, it’s a good thing to start out at the bottom.”
Ten days out of twenty, Paula Semple loads her family-sized van with training materials, kisses her stay-at-home husband, Jim, and sons, Kyle, Brandon, Adam, and Caleb, and then hits the road to deliver community support across Georgia, covering on average 1,500 miles a month.

“There’s never been a point in my life when I didn’t want to teach,” Paula said, “and I love being part of a team that provides such a variety of support to our communities and partners.”

Paula’s passion for family, teaching, and community support makes her especially responsive to assessing, developing, and delivering technical assistance and support. In her director’s words, “Everything she touches is golden.”

responsive
adj. Readily reacting to requests, suggestions, influences, or efforts
The Family Connection Partnership Community Support team builds the capacity of our personnel, collaboratives, and partners to develop the relationships, knowledge and skills necessary to implement community-driven plans.

Therefore committed to providing high-quality technical assistance and training that significantly impact the effectiveness of community practice while supporting state and national policy and initiatives.

The Community Support team’s job is to help collaboratives find the answers to their questions because, while every collaborative is focusing on improving results for children and families, each collaborative is unique.

In 2002, the Community Support team focused on developing a responsive technical assistance delivery system, assessing staff development needs, and identifying additional training and technical assistance resources to broker for collaboratives.

2003 Highlights – Community Support

- **Learning Institutes and Technical Assistance**
  - Provided 196 training and technical assistance site visits in the areas of evaluation, finance, governance, collaborative development, and plan development
  - Developed and delivered 18 one-day workshops, called learning institutes, covering six topics
  - Supported the Family Connection Winter Training Event, which drew more than 250 participants
  - Developed and implemented 12 workshops on the new electronic quarterly report formats and provided ongoing technical support, as needed

- **Community Response**
  - Established a creative design team to function as an innovative leader and to research cutting-edge practices with nationally recognized organizations
  - Responded to community feedback by developing a new forum process to address multi-year community strategic plans

- **Developed training on resourcing community plans and private nonprofit management**
- **Developed orientations for fiscal agents, collaborative chairs, and collaborative coordinators for the Family Connection conference**
- **Provided technical assistance to five pilot counties of the Covering Kids Coalition**
- **Developed 501(c)3 training curriculum for private nonprofit collaboratives**
- **Conducted technical reviews of community annual and three-year plans in six sessions for 77 counties**
- **Brokered training and technical assistance to partners and communities**
- **Developed a response protocol for technical assistance and inquiries**
- **Solicited community input and redesigned community strategic planning process**
- **Held monthly meetings of the Regional Partners Network in select regions to promote available resources to collaboratives**

- **Developed new dialogue process for counties preparing three-year plans**
- **Received and reviewed annual plans from communities**
- **Delivered learning institutes to six regions on collaborative development**
- **Delivered learning institutes to six regions on prevention strategies**
- **Provided customized TA visits to 70 communities**
- **Assisted communities in three-year strategic planning process**
- **Delivered learning institutes to six regions on Resourcing Your Community Plan**
STATE INITIATIVES

PROMOTING FAMILY SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

Ariane Weldon asked a north Georgia county how it successfully implemented a Children at Risk of School Failure Family Advocate Program. They summed it up in five words: “We talked to each other.”

That came as no surprise to Ariane, who is the Medicaid liaison to the program and an expert on building relationships. “My biggest accomplishment is when Family Advocate Program providers collaborate to offer seamless services for children,” she said. “This community collaborative ‘system’ of case management expands resources and builds the capacity to measure and improve results for children.”

Ariane uses her passion for children, education, and building relationships to promote family support principles and build relationships with partner agencies.

intentional
adj. Being done deliberately, with purpose and a course of action to follow

Focus on the Children’s Trust Fund Commission
Susan Phillips, Executive Director, Georgia Children’s Trust Fund

The Children’s Trust Fund Commission understands that there can be no “quick fix” for the family conditions that contribute to child abuse and neglect. Resources must be invested both in programs to support families before abuse occurs and in helping communities learn how to understand, approach, and then remediate the underlying causes of abuse.

The Commission continues to believe that supporting Family Connection prevention priorities in individual communities and providing funds to support the infrastructure of the state-level Family Connection Partnership will yield the best return on the Commission’s investment of its limited prevention resources.

Coordinated first state-level, cross-agency discussion of family support
Established regional partnerships to coordinate planning across state initiatives
Co-sponsored state youth development conference with DTAE
With CYCC and DJJ, awarded three-year grant to eight-county consortium collaborating on juvenile justice
Piloted federal EITC campaign in three rural sites
Presented FC Results Accountability Framework in Windsor, England
The Family Connection Partnership State Initiatives team links community priorities and practices to state and national initiatives.

The State Initiatives team’s job is to establish and strengthen relationships with regional, state, and national partners to achieve shared goals, priorities and principles; develop and implement initiatives that achieve mutual goals; and promote the practice of family support.

In 2003, the State Initiatives team focused on promoting family support principles, supporting collaboratives through Peer-to-Peer Network and the Leadership Council, initiating a series of Parent Engagement Days, providing training for Regional Family Advisors, linking Family Connection Partnership to state and national partners, and implementing key initiatives.

2003 Highlights – State Initiatives

- Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)
  - Served more than 1,500 families in five north Georgia sites covering five ECI component areas
  - Coordinated monthly cross-site meetings and quarterly steering committee meetings; built relationships with representatives of economic development sector
  - Planned, organized and coordinated training for 25 frontline family support workers
  - Coordinated the Georgia ECI initiative with the national Appalachian Regional Commission
  - Assisted counties with integration of ECI into Family Connection strategic plan

- Early Learning Opportunity Act (ELOA)
  - Implemented initiative in four rural counties as South Georgia EXCEL (Excellence in Child Care and Early Learning); 89 families engaged within six-month period
  - Established links with Literacy Volunteers of America and Georgia’s Child Care Resource and Referral Agency
  - Negotiated with national Parents as Teachers (PAT) office to provide training in South Georgia; 19 certified as educators and one as PAT supervisor
  - Developed and coordinated ongoing monthly training for ELOA staff

- Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC)
  - Coordinated quarterly cross-site meetings for peer-to-peer learning and training
  - Delivered training on Family Team Meetings in the nine CPPC counties; began development of regional trainers
  - Developed monthly reporting guidelines, quarterly report format, and technical assistance in strategic planning, finance, and evaluation
  - Visited original CPPC site in Jacksonville, Florida, with representatives of county and state teams
  - Participated in multi-state CPPC conference

- Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign (EITC)
  - Supported three rural counties, which served more than 200 families, bringing $135,000 in total tax refund through the initiative
  - Assembled multi-organizational technical resource group for county support

- Other Initiatives and Support
  - Initiated the series, Parent Engagement Days, “More than Just a Parent,” designed to increase parent involvement in local collaboratives and develop regional parent networks

- Worked with DHR to identify counties for a federally-funded fatherhood initiative
- Submitted supplemental grant to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for family support
- Began steering committee work on First Lady’s Summit on children in foster care
- Conducted workshops at four state partner conferences
- Received Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supplemental grant for promoting family involvement in collaborative efforts
A collaborative coordinator calls Kathy Young in a panic. “I don’t know what happened but I’ve lost the formatting in my annual plan!” Kathy calmly reassures the caller that she’s here to help, then spends the next 60 minutes solving the formatting problem.

Kathy works the Family Connection Partnership helpdesk and has a passion for technology, problem solving, and helping people. People call Kathy with all types of requests, from interpreting online data about their county to locating a critical piece of information.

“When it’s a technical issue,” Kathy says, “I’m determined that the technology is not going to beat me, and I stick with it until I’ve solved the problem. And when a caller needs help finding information, I either show them where to go or link them to the right person.”

Kathy Young
Administrative Assistant and Web Administrator
Family Connection Partnership

crea tive

adj. Having the ability or power to cause to exist or come into being through artistic or imaginative effort

Focus on Family Connection Partnership Web Site

The FCP Web site features information about real community issues and best practices, links to resources, our state initiatives, and a comprehensive evaluation toolkit.

Family Connection of Macon & Bibb County noted, “The user-friendly Web site saves time and effort in gathering information that we need to move forward in our work with families and children.”

www.georgiafamilyconnection.org
The Family Connection Partnership Public Affairs and Policy team was created in 2002 to promote the work of the 154 Family Connection collaboratives and support their communications needs.

The Public Affairs and Policy team is the creative backbone of Family Connection Partnership. They design, develop and implement communications strategies that support Family Connection objectives; promote the work and publicize the success of Family Connection county collaboratives; and enhance positive relationships with current and potential partners and funders.

In 2003, the Public Affairs and Policy team focused on building the Family Connection Partnership Web site, launching an electronic magazine, developing publications that support the Family Connection mission, organizing education and advocacy events, conducting public affairs tours, and developing an information technology plan.

2003 Highlights – Community Support

- **Online Resources**
  - Developed and launched Connected e-magazine – a bimonthly electronic publication addressing the complex challenges facing children, families, and communities in Georgia
  - Re-launched the Family Connection Partnership Web site, utilizing it to provide more information, tools, and resources

- **Community Awareness**
  - Provided education material and information to the General Assembly on legislative and budgetary issues impacting children and families (developed Resource Book, contacted legislators, provided ad-hoc reports)
  - Published Connected to Public Policy news bulletins to provide collaboratives with information on legislative issues and advocacy tips

- **Community Resources**
  - Developed and disseminated policy papers, including briefings and best practice fact sheets (improving Georgia’s KIDS COUNT indicators by 10 percent; policy paper on early learning, and local decision-making)
  - Initiated FCP county and legislative support team

- **Conferences and Events**
  - Promoted the national 2003 KIDS COUNT Data Book in Georgia by creating Georgia Fact Sheet and press releases, and disseminating more than 300 books
  - Organized the 2003 Family Connection Biennial Conference, convened the planning team and committees, identified conference theme, solicited and awarded workshop proposals, set schedule, and opened registration

- **Partnership with other child and family organizations to develop advocacy and public awareness material (Healthy Families Georgia, Child Health Advisory Committee, Women’s Policy Group)**

- **Planned, coordinated, and implemented Family Connection Day at the State Capitol, with elected officials attending from the House, Senate, and Governor’s Office**

- **Conducted Winter Training Event with more than 250 in attendance**
- **Hosted Family Connection Day with nearly 400 in attendance**
- **Published e-magazine with focus on advocacy**
- **Submitted call for proposals for 2003 FC Biennial Conference workshops**
- **Distributed briefing paper on Local Decision-Making**
- **Finalized conference program and began registration**
- **Published e-magazine with focus on family self-sufficiency**
“During contract time, things can get a little crazy around here,” says Etta Reteneller, as she dons her walking shoes for the 15-minute trip to the Department of Human Resources (DHR). That was especially true in 2003, when long budget sessions shortened the FY04 contract preparation time for collaboratives and fiscal agents.

Fortunately, Etta took advantage of the calm before the storm. “I began preparing the contract annexes early in the process, so when the DHR templates were received, I could process them quickly,” she said. Etta and the Fund Development team hand-delivered the contracts to DHR, and within two weeks, all 154 Family Connection contracts were processed and compliant, bringing in more than $8 million for collaboratives.

Etta’s passion for children, families, and finance makes her invaluable to the Fund Development team. And when things get crazy, Etta recalls the sound advice she learned in her hobby as a clown, “Just paint that smile on and keep the balls in the air.”

**diligent**

adj. Marked by persevering, painstaking effort

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**Focus on Linking State and National Funders to Community Priorities**

Family Connection Partnership has successfully linked state and national resources to selected counties in Georgia. The Annie E. Casey Foundation Earned Income Tax Credit initiative is in three rural counties; the federal Early Learning Opportunities Act initiative is in four southwest rural counties; and the Department of Community Health Children-at-Risk Targeted Case Management initiative is in 47 counties.
The Fund Development team was created in 2002 to develop a comprehensive plan to effectively support the Family Connection framework.

The Fund Development team is diligent in its work to research new funding opportunities based on community plans, sustain funding sources for Family Connection Partnership, sustain state support to county collaboratives, and build and sustain relationships with entities that impact programs and services to children.

In 2003, the Fund Development team focused on building its new department, developing and implementing a new system for tracking funding opportunities, and reviewing and processing contracts for 154 collaboratives. It also focused on linking state and national funders to community priorities.

2003 Highlights – Fund Development

- Funding Opportunities
  - Created the Fund Development department in December 2002
  - Reviewed and forwarded 39 funding opportunities to counties in support of community plans
  - Advocated for and received continued state legislative support for all county collaboratives, including new funding for reactivating five counties ($10.1 million)

- System Development
  - Created a new system for identifying, reviewing and tracking funding opportunities for Family Connection Partnership and county collaboratives
  - Developed and managed a proposal process for national foundations and state agencies
  - Conducted quarterly reviews of 154 contractor fiscal reports
  - Completed revisions to Fund Development quarterly evaluation database; trained staff in its use, and piloted electronic submission of Microsoft Access data to evaluation team
  - Provided finance administration support to state agencies and partners involved in the implementation of Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Children-at-Risk Targeted Case Management, and local Earned Income Tax Credit initiative

- Special Programs
  - Developed and implemented process for managing and recognizing donor gifts, memorials, and honorariums
  - Submitted proposal and received a grant from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation to support the two-year operational plan as a match to state support for Family Connection Partnership
  - Managed the development and implementation of the Children-at-Risk Targeted Case Management program and provided ongoing technical assistance to pilot counties
  - Sustained and expanded support from two national foundations: the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation

- Budgeting and Reporting
  - Finalized staff briefing information on governor’s 2004 budget recommendation for Family Connection Partnership and county collaborative grants
  - Revised and disseminated finance publication The Balancing Act
  - Processed quarterly county expenditure and programmatic reports and served as fiscal agent for three grants totaling $1 million on behalf of counties

- Received $90,000 in foundation EITC pilot funds for three rural counties
- Managed Georgia KIDS COUNT funding for Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Applied for six grants for FCP, including a Woodruff Foundation match for state support of FCP
- Assisted in organizing a Georgia Rural Philanthropic Forum with the Sapelo Foundation
- Continued state-appropriated support to local collaboratives, leveraging an additional $19.8 million
- Researched grants and posted 39 on Web site for communities

Self-Sufficient Families
HELPING COMMUNITIES MEASURE RESULTS

Steve Erickson is a translator of sorts. “I connect highfalutin ideas to real life examples,” he said in describing his role on the Evaluation team. His team supports local communities by helping them use findings to improve results. But when findings only trickled in, he asked, “What will it take to get something back?”

The answer, he discovered was “examples.” Steve and team member Chris Wilson started with the basic results question, “How were the children changed?” Then they designed an easy-to-read, 10-page booklet with samples and guidelines to aid communities in writing their results evaluation reports.

Steve’s passion is building communities. “Family Connection is a place that values, builds and celebrates communities,” Steve said. “We use those words, and we actually do it.”

accountable

adj. Being held answerable or liable for providing an explanation or justification for particular actions or expenses

Focus on Roots of Collaborative Successes

Family Connection Partnership is examining the workings of six Family Connection collaboratives to determine the underlying causes of their successes. Glynn, Gwinnett, Jenkins, Mitchell, Troup and Whitfield counties are the focus of case studies to gather data on collaborative “best practices” in Georgia.

The studies will contribute to our attempt to answer the question: “What kinds of collaboratives, in what kinds of settings, creating what kinds of system changes and implementing what kinds of activities, produce what kinds of results for children?”

The Evaluation team will be integrating the results of the Family Connection Partnership Implementation Study and releasing them this fall.
The Family Connection Partnership Evaluation team builds the capacity of Family Connection to evaluate change resulting from strategies, component programs and activities.

This team of experienced and committed consultants provides support and assistance in four areas of evaluations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizational Accountability</th>
<th>Evaluates the Family Connection Partnership as an intermediary organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results Accountability</td>
<td>Supports the KIDS COUNT database used to measure changes in the condition of children, families and communities in Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>Creates and sustains the capacity for evaluation at the state, regional and local levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Reform and Systems Change Initiatives</td>
<td>Provides evaluation support to projects and initiatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2003, the Evaluation team focused on developing an evaluation toolkit and building community capacity.

### 2003 Highlights – Evaluation

- **Data Entry**
  - Developed the annual operational plan database; completed data entry for FY03
  - Entered FY03 data in Self-Assessment database, completed data analyses, and produced database reports (legislative report on leveraged dollars)
  - Developed, piloted, and initiated use of electronic quarterly report database

- **Training**
  - Developed workshops and trainings on use of KIDS COUNT data, showing how to use the data to make planning and policy decisions
  - Merged the Family Connection Benchmark data with the KIDS COUNT data, making it easily accessible on the Web
  - Developed case study approach to examine three high functioning and three high impact Family Connection collaboratives
  - Drafted, shared, and revised a case study concept paper on the Theory of Change

- **Streamlined**
  - Streamlined the coding process by creating uniform codes for required reports such as the Community Strategic Plan, Annual Operational Plan, Quarterly Report and Self-Assessment
  - Redesigned the quarterly narrative report and created an electronic format that could be placed in a database

- **Evaluation**
  - Drafted, revised, and placed county-level fact sheets for each county’s data on the Web site
  - Developed and approved a process for results evaluation

- **Results**
  - Lead participant in the national task force determining relationship between local governance and improvement of results for children
  - Provided statistical data to Public Affairs and Policy team for policy papers on persistent poverty and self-sufficiency

- **Collaborated on**
  - Collaborated on a publication showing the effects of improving Georgia’s KIDS COUNT benchmarks by 10 percent

---

**Merged Benchmark**
Database with national KIDS COUNT database

**Reviewed county annual evaluation plans**

**Placed county fact sheet for each county’s data on Web site**

**Developed and approved a process for results evaluation**

**Reviewed national models for assessing collaborative development**
Every organization has them—the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes to support the staff in their daily work. This dedicated team shares their expertise so that others may accomplish the work of Family Connection Partnership.

**Finance** – Director Don Walraven is charged with sustaining an effective, accountable organization structure to support the mission of Family Connection Partnership. In addition to managing the Finance and Administration team, Don develops and implements Human Resources policies and procedures and oversees the fiscal accountability of the organization. Also on the finance team is Teri Callanan, who processes travel and expenses, Etta Reteneller, who processes contracts, and Linda Long, who is the budget liaison between Family Connection Partnership and the Department of Human Resources state partners.

**Administration** – Carlisa Beal’s primary responsibility is to support our Executive Director, Gaye Morris Smith, but she also is a pillar of support for other departments. Carlisa manages the registration for the Family Connection conference and is the “go-to” person for our board of directors. Majorie Grant is our receptionist and the voice behind Family Connection Partnership. Majorie also assists other departments in researching children and family issues and archiving news articles relevant to our organization. Bob Spiridigliozi keeps all of our departments supplied with everything they need to perform their job. Bob also manages vendor relations for our office equipment and supplies and orders all of the Family Connection Partnership store items.

**Information Technology** – James Hall is the man with the plan—the information technology plan, that is. James keeps our computer systems running smoothly and is working with consultants to develop a technology plan to ensure we have the infrastructure to deliver future support to our staff and streamline work for the community collaboratives.
**Message from the Treasurer**

The Family Connection Partnership ended FY03 in a stable financial position. We continued to diversify our funding sources by seeking additional private sector support, applying for federal grants on behalf of our counties, and working with additional state agencies. We also carefully reviewed all our spending patterns to make sure we were as efficient as we could possibly be.

We were able to address budget cuts from our primary funders without significantly reducing our services to our customers and without reducing the basic level of grants we administer to counties, though we lost eight staff positions in the process. We realize that as the economy continues to recover slowly that additional funding reductions will be recommended but we must prepare to meet these additional challenges ahead and do the very best we can to provide the support services to the counties, partner agencies and administration as in the past.

The graphs below represent our financial position at the year ended June 30, 2003. For the second year in a row, our new state entity has received an unqualified opinion on our audit. We are very proud of that fact, and I would like to personally thank all the staff involved in making that happen.

It has been a privilege to serve as Treasurer and on the Executive Committee of this impressive organization. As the Chair of a local collaborative, I see the value of a state/local partnership every day in achieving outcomes for children.

Yours in a common cause,

*Bob M. Patterson*
*Board Treasurer*
SOWING THE SEEDS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Chanda Ficklin is a young woman who beat the odds. Thanks to her mother, Emma Sinkfield, and the work of Family Connection, she grew up in a better Warren County as a healthy child, ready for school, succeeding in school, with a strong and self-sufficient family.

“My passion is youth,” says Chanda, who joined the Teen Connection Committee and started working at the Quality of Life Association (QUOLA) when she was in the ninth grade. “But my other passion is agriculture” Now that Chanda has two bachelor’s degrees in agriculture, she plans to merge her two passions with her love for community.

Chanda completed an internship at the Seeds of Success Prevention Camp this summer, hosted by QUOLA and sponsored by the division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD). She taught a group of teens how to sow grass and watermelon seeds and was delighted to see the positive influence gardening had on the teens. Chanda hopes to someday teach agriculture and also design a community garden for people with diabetes.

The future for Georgia’s children and families is changing, thanks to the passion and purpose of dedicated individuals, families, communities, and partners, and the unprecedented opportunities to build bridges.

As we look forward to the next year, Family Connection Partnership will continue to support local collaboratives in their work while acting as a resource for state and national partners in linking priorities. By continuing our collaborative efforts, we can look forward to a brighter future for our communities.

For more information on supporting Family Connection collaboratives, visit the Family Connection Partnership Web site to locate your county collaborative.

www.gafcp.org/whoweare/collabs.htm
### IMPROVING RESULTS: Communities Making A Difference

#### Healthy Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>THEN</th>
<th>NOW</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Increase % of infants born:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All three components</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighing 5.5 lbs. or more</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers receiving pre-natal care in 1st trimester</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers not smoking or drinking during pregnancy</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Increase % of child appropriately immunized by age 2</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Reduce pregnancy rate among females, ages 15-17 (per 1,000)</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Reduce the homicide rate among youth, ages 15-19 (per)</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Children Ready for School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>THEN</th>
<th>NOW</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Increase % of low-income student in Head Start of Pre-K pro-</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Increase % of kindergarten students who attended preschool pro-</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Increase % of kindergarten students passing GKAP</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Reduce % of students two or more years average in 3rd grade</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Children Succeeding in School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>THEN</th>
<th>NOW</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. Reduce % of students absent 10 or more days annually</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase % of students scoring above state standards in 11th grade</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Math</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Writing</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Science</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Social Studies</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase % of students scoring above state standards in 8th grade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Reading</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Math</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Increase % of students who graduate from high school</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Strong Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>THEN</th>
<th>NOW</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18. Increase % of families with first birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All three components</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To mother who completed high school</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To mother age 20 or older</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With father’s name on birth certificate</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Reduce % of teen mothers giving birth to another child before</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Reduce incidence of substantiated child abuse or neglect</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Reduce % of youth arrested</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Self-Sufficient Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>THEN</th>
<th>NOW</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22. Reduce % of children living in poverty</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Increase rate of growth in employment</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Reduce % of persons unemployed</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAMILY CONNECTION COLLABORATIVES
A Network of County Collaboratives

Appling County Family Connection
Amy Rediger

Atkinson County Family Connection
Lynne Vickers

Bacon County Family Connection Collaborative
Kim Vickers

Baker County Collaborative
Benita Hines

Family Connection of Baldwin County
Judith Ivy

Banks County Family Connection Commission
Robin Trotter

Barrow County Family Connection
Courtney Davis

Bartow Collaborative, Inc.
Linda Walker

Ben Hill Policy Council for FCAF
Carleen Mahone, Sr.

Berrien County Collaborative
Gary Chapman

Family Connection of Macon & Bibb County
Mattie Haynes-Amusa

Family Connection Community Partnership:
Cochran/Bleckley County
Karen Watts

Brantley County Family Connection
Laura Kelley

Brooks County Family Connection
Glenn Bissett

Bryan County Family Connection
Tara Jennings

Bulloch County Commission on Human Services, Inc.
Catherine Williams

Burke County Family Connection Collaborative, Inc.
Deena Sans

Butts County E.L.T., Inc.
(Life Enrichment Team)
Sandra Haisten

Calhoun County Family Connection
Teresa Mitchell

Camden Children’s Alliance & Resources
Celenda Perry

Candler County Family Connection
Angie Daughtry

Carroll County Family Connection Authority
Vickie Fulbright

Catoosa Family Collaborative
Jane Everett

Chatham County Family Connection
Lynn Crews

Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority
Jacqueline Elmore

Chattahoochee Community Connection
Dave Eversman

Chattanooga Family Connection
Vicky Selman

Cherokee FOCUS
Sonia Carrathers

Athens/Clarke County Family Connection
Tim Johnson

Clay County Family Task Force
Alicia Varnum

Clayton Collaborative Authority
Robert Bolander

Clinch County Family Connection
Deedee Thomas

Cobb Community Collaborative, Inc.
Joan O’Connell

Coffee County Family Connection
Robin Justice

Colquitt County Family Connection Collaborative on Children & Families
Denise Bell

Family Connection of Columbia County
Julie Miller

Cook Commission for Children & Youth
Zola Taylor

Alliance for Children’s Enrichment (Coweta County)
Jan Taylor

Crawford County Family Connection, Inc.
Tawanna Harris

Crisp County Community Council, Inc.
Kathy Garwood

DADE FIRST – Family Connection
Rebecca Page

Dawson County Community Partnership
Elaine Langley

DeKalb Initiative for Children & Families
Jacqueline Williamson

Dodge Connection (A CIS Approach)
Debbie Connell

Dooley Community Enrichment Coalition
Valeria Sales

Dougherty for Children (DCCC&F)
Anne Stokes

Community Organizing Resources for Excellence, Inc.
Amanda Bryant

Echols County Child Advocacy Board
Corney Reynolds

Effingham County Family Connection
Elaine Spencer

Community Partnership of Elbert County
Valerie Roper

Emanuel County Family Connection
Ray Woods

Evans County Family Connection
Lynee Stocznik

Fannin County Family Connection
Linda Mahan

Rome/Floyd Commission on Children & Youth
Barbara Earle

Forsyth County Community Connection, Inc.
Elizabeth Cooke

Franklin County Partnership, Inc.
Russell Davis

The Atlanta/Fulton Family Connection
Lesley Grady

Gilmer County Family Connection Commission
Karen Beary

Glascock Action Partners, Inc.
Wanda Davis

Glynn County Commission on Children & Youth, Inc.
Saundra Hathaway

Family Connection of Gordon County
Peter Psenicka

Grady County Children & Youth Coordinating Council, Inc.
Deborah Loftis

Greene County Family Connection
Targie Parks

Gwinnett Coalition for Health & Human Services
Elen Gerstein

Habersham County Family Connection
Donna Barrett

Hall County Commission for Children & Families
Janet Early

Hancock County Community Collaborative
Tatnall Butts

Haralson Family Connection Authority
John Lebowitz

Harris County Family Connection
Aldophus Highower

Hart Partners, Inc.
Larry Pool

Heard County Community Partnership
Bethany Husford-Davis

For Family Connection collaboratives contact information, visit
www.gafcp.org/whoweare/collabs.htm
Madison County Family Connection
Suzette Reeves
Marion County Family Connection Collaborative
Kevin Brown
McDuffie County Partners for Success, Inc.
Mary Ann Kotras
McIntosh County Family Connection
Genevieve Wynegar
The Meriwether Interagency Council Family Connection
Chris Wilson
Miller County Collaborative Committee
Sheila Freeman
Mitchell County Children & Youth
Sheryl Rehberg
Forsyth-Monticello County Family Connection
Lisa McLendon
Tri County Family Connection (Montgomery, Treutlen, Wheeler)
Harry Stevenson
Morgan County Family Connection
Karen Robertson
Murray County Family Connection
Mark Millican
Columbus Children, Youth and Family Coalition
Junie Christian
Newton County Community Partnership
Stu Taber
Oconee Family Connection
David Perkins
Oglethorpe County Social Issues Collaborative
Shanika Barnes
Paulding Collaborative for Children & Families
Rhonda Heuer
Peach County Family Connection
Shameeka Brooks
Pickens County Family Connection, Inc.
Sheila Frances
Pierce County Family Connection
Matthew Carter
Pike Y.E.S. Team (You Equal Success)
Lois McDaniel
Polk County Council for Children & Families
Pamela Gaston
Hawkinsville/Pulaski County Family Connection
Gwen Brown
Eatonton-Putnam Family Connection
Janie Reid
Quintan County Family Connection
(Not available)
Community Partnership of Rabun County, Inc.
Tammy Whitmire
Randolph County Family Connection, Inc.
Kuanita Murphy
Augusta-Richmond County Community Partnership for Children & Families, Inc.
Robetta McKenzie
Rockdale Coalition for Children & Families, Inc.
Bill Hughey
Screven County Community Collaborative, Inc.
Wendy Warren
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Caroline Chandler
Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children, Inc.
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Stephens County Partners for Success
Becky Bocian
Stewart County Family Connection
Sherry Withersington
Visions for Sumter
Kimberly Comer
Talbot County FC
Dorothy Buss
Taliaferro County Family Connection Collaborative
Jackie Butts
Tattnall County Family Connection
Barbara Puplin
Taylor County Family Matters Collaborative
Nancy Peacock
Telfair County Family Connection
Lucy Comer
Terrell County Family Connection
Bruce Thomas
Thomas County Family Connection
Kathy Magee
Tift County Commission on Children & Youth
Sandra Wright
Family Connection of Toombs County
Shari Adam
Towns County Family Connection
Amy Gibby-Rosser
Tri County Family Connection (Montgomery, Treutlen, Wheeler)
Harry Stevenson
Troup Family Connection Authority
Jack Eatman
Turner County Connection
Sue Mastrasio
Twiggs County Family Connection
Gwen Walker
Union County Family Connection Commission
Timothy Grizzle
Families, Youth and Children’s Alliance (Upson County)
Cherry Wite
The Walker County Connection
Marlo Watson
Walton County Commission on Children & Youth
Melinda Quinn
The Children’s Initiative (Ware County)
Curtis Branley
Family of Families (Ware County)
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Washington County Family Connection
Roy Jackson
Wayne County Family Connection
Claudia Smith
Webster County Family Connection Collaborative
Diane Wills
Tri County Family Connection (Montgomery, Treutlen, Wheeler)
Harry Stevenson
White County Family Connection
Judi Lawson
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Ann Kazniak
Wilcox County Family Connection
Carla Parks
Wilkes County Community Partnership
Carolyn Reynolds
Wilkinson County Family Connection
Dianne Orr
Connect County
Shari Adam
HCCC
“Kid’s” Journey
(Albany County)
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Irwin County Family Connection
Kim Vickers
Jackson County Family Connection Council, Inc.
Amber Casper
Jasper County Family Connection
Tracy Trouilolo
Jeff Davis County Family Connection Council, Inc.
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Johnson County Collaborative
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Jones County Family Connection
Shelia Dobbs
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Dublin/Lake County Commission on Children, Youth & Families
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Lee FOCUS
Ashley Wiley
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Letitia Robinson
Lincoln County Family Connection
Nancy Blount
Long County Family Connection
William Miller
Lowndes/Valdosta Commission for Children & Youth
Ceila Mitchell
 Lumpkin Family Connection
Anita Middleton
Macon County Family Connection Collaborative
Rachel Oliver
FAMILY CONNECTION PARTNERSHIP

Mission

To serve as a catalyst for improving results for Georgia’s children, families and communities

Vision

For Georgia’s children to be healthy, ready to start and perform better in school, and have stable, economically self-sufficient families.

catalyst

n. An agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action

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  Region 4 Joey Mullins
  Region 5 Sayge Medlin
  Region 6 Kenneth Turner
  Region 7 Marcell Johnson
  Region 8 Annetta Berry
  Region 9 Lou Caputo
  Region 10 Jenny Bostick
  Region 11 Marion Jay Curry
  Region 12 Tarry Rogers

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  Laurie Dompkins
  James Emshoff
  Rebekah Hudgins
  Ann Peisher
  Stanley Schneider
  Julie Sharpe