

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING – MARCH 28, 2023

MINUTES

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., March 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

***Joe Amerling**, Overhead Cover, Inc. <https://www.overheadcover.org/>
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College, sward@northgatech.edu
Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College, scole@laniertech.edu
Ebony Tucker, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, etucker@gmrc.ga.gov
Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity, Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org
Cindy Bryant, Gateway, cbryant@gatewaydvcenter.org
Steven Nissley, Good News at Noon, snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org
Tammy Rauch, Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), trauch@tcsge.edu
Tara Hardwick, The Place of Forsyth & Dawson, Tara@theplaceoforsyth.org
Alisha Hontz, Legacy Link, ahontz@legacylink.org
Jessica Williams, Goodwill, jwilliams@ging.org
Keo Copeland, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier, Kcopeland@bgclanier.org
Benjie Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com
Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

*New participant with One-Stop Partnership

Welcome and Introductions

Benjie welcomed everyone and had them identify themselves and their organizations.

Minutes

Minutes from the Jan. 31, 2023 Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at www.onestopworkgamtns.org under - 'Our Partners' -contact hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Focus Topic: **Joe Amerling** – Overhead Cover, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by Joe Amerling, a US Army Ranger veteran. <https://www.overheadcover.org/>

After serving twenty years in the Army, Joe worked with the Gainesville Police Department for another twenty years. In his over 40 years of service to people in our community and around the world, Joe deepened his desires to help people whom society has largely ignored or actively worked against. After his retirement, he wanted to use his time and his resources to serve our unhoused neighbors in Hall County, Georgia.

In early 2022, Joe bought a shower trailer with two full restrooms – lights, heat and air, and hot water, a full-size shower, alongside a toilet, sink, and mirror – and began taking it out to a local church near a tent encampment to offer free hot showers for the people living there. Dr. Jane White, Joe's wife, also brought food to serve for lunch. Over time, more volunteers got involved – longtime friends of Joe and Jane's, alongside other people working to serve the community.

Overhead Cover provides more than showers and meals; They also provide a compassionate community. In recent weeks, they have begun offering recovery meetings and having people from other local nonprofits offer important services to our unhoused friends – help getting health insurance, identification, transportation, and job interviews.

Joe shared photographs of the camps around the Gainesville area. Dirty, wet, discarded clothing is a huge problem. This trash builds up when it is not collected for disposal. Joe also shared a chart he has created that indicates where and when individuals can find places to take a shower, wash clothing, and receive food. His goal is to have better coordination among the many organizations offering assistance in our community. (See attachment to email distributing these minutes for a PowerPoint from this presentation.)

Lunch and Conversations: Opportunities for collaboration and information exchange between Partners.

Partner Updates:

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm>

Check WSGM Facebook site for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/WorkSource.GM>

Ebony Tucker: Youth Program Supervisor:

Funding is available through WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) for workforce development in the Georgia Mountains region. Accepting applications for all programs and services; Recruiting for Electrical Mechanical and Welding Boot Camps starting in June; Supportive Service amounts increase next semester to \$10/day transportation; \$25/day childcare; maximum \$200

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole, Dean of Adult Education <https://www.laniertech.edu/>

Description of programs of study- LTC catalog <https://laniertech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2022-2023/catalog/> Kayla Hill, LTC's candidate was named the stat EAGLE winner! Math Boot Camp was held in Dawsonville with 30 participants and 2 GEDs; Have had 221 GEDs to date – Top of State; 9 in Manufacturing IET/Goodwill collaboration – OSHA10; offering ESL in all 7 counties; Need teachers and aides

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward, Dean of Adult Education <https://northgatech.edu/>
<https://northgatech.edu/about-us/college-catalog/> These programs and other programs of study included in the NGTC catalog <https://northgatech.edu/about-us/college-catalog/> Math Boot Camp – Union County, May 1-4; 71 On the Go Training (IET); 108 GEDs; 95W% met of state enrollment; New training – Automotive and Light Repair

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG): Tammy Rauch, Business Services

<https://www.tcsg.edu> Offering employment services and workforce development services throughout the state. Working with businesses and employers. Encouraging high school students to consider variety of available career paths.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant, Director of Advocacy

<https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Crisis hotline: (770) 536-5860 • Administration: (770) 539-9080
Serving survivors of domestic violence. Not just a shelter – most clients are served through support groups. Also have a children's advocacy program.

Ninth District Opportunity: Michael Fisher, Housing/Program Manager <https://www.ndo.org/web/>

April 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Piedmont University – A Home for Hope – student performed play on homelessness – awareness – conversation – action – proceeds to NDO Street Outreach (flyers available)
Application being developed for Rural Youth Homelessness Grant – ages 18-24 – need other agencies for collaboration.

Good News at Noon: Steven Nissley, Assistant Director <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> Good News is now at 884 Dorsey St. Beginning the first stages of building affordable housing at the Good News at Noon campus. Have purchased property across the street.

The Place of Forsyth and Dawson: Tara Hardwick, Workforce Development and Education

Manager <https://www.theplaceofforsyth.org/> Love and Logic Parenting Classes – Cumming in Spanish in April, Dawsonville in Spanish and English in April; GED & ESL Summer Study Hall at The Place of Forsyth – details TBD. Flyers available.

Goodwill Industries: Jessica Williams, Regional Manager for Workforce Development

<https://goodwillng.org/> Welding training begins 4/03/2023. Career Connector – hybrid workshops; assistance with job search; hiring events continuing; clothing vouchers available for job seekers

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Legacy Link: Alisha Hontz <https://legacylink.org/>

Recruiting non-profit agencies and government entities as sites for low-income, age 55+ trainees to work in the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Seniors are paid while they train at host sites. Also recruiting individuals to participate in training.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier: Keo Copeland <https://www.boysgirlsclubs.com/>

Will soon kick off summer programming; Registration is now open on website; Actively recruiting for employment; Buford location will open for the summer; Also looking for interns to do social/emotional learning groups – communication skills, anger management, etc.; Walters location on Memorial Park Rd. Breaking ground on gym/teen center.

Program video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DceJ2p-7lyI>

Upcoming fundraiser: <https://www.duckrace.com/gainesville/teams/2106/28271>

One-Stop Center <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/> 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville. 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Mon.- Fri. For appointments/ information, call: **770 538-2727**. Connections/referrals for Partner services including: WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Lanier Tech. College, North Georgia Tech. College, Athens Tech. College, Ga. Dept. of Labor, Ga. Voc. Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus many other organizations in the region. GED classes on site. Computers available for use by individuals seeking training and employment opportunities. For information about One-Stop Center, contact Benjie or Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operators. **470 577-0823** or hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Other: Please note: Attachments are included in an email for the distribution of these minutes. These are from: Ninth District Opportunity, The Place of Forsyth and Dawson Counties, and from WorkSource Georgia Mountains. Also attached is a PowerPoint presented by Joe Amerling featuring images of homeless camps in the area.

Announcements:

Date for Next Meeting

Next One-Stop Partners Meeting will be **Tues, May. 30, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.