

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., Nov. 18, 2025**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

****Shannon Cole**, Dean, Lanier Technical College – Adult Education, scole@laniertech.edu
****Shelby Ward**, Dean, North Georgia Technical College – Adult Education, shelby.ward@northgatech.edu
Ginger Little, Sr. Youth Case Manager, WorkSource GA Mtns., glittle@gmrc.ga.gov
Chris Highland, Outreach Coordinator, WorkSource GA Mtns. chighland@gmrc.ga.gov
Sheryl Meskin, IET Manager, Adult Ed., Athens Technical College, smeskin@athenstech.edu
***Simisola Johnson**, Workforce Devel. /Rapid Response, Tech. College Sys. of GA, SJohnson@tcsge.edu
Erica McCabe, Shelter Manager, My Sister’s Place, emccabe@my-sisters-place.org
Lydia Johnson, Agency Services Coordinator, Georgia Mountain Food Bank, Lydia@gmfb.org
Elaine Hortman, Mentor Coordinator, Center Point elaine@centerpoint.ga.org
Ally De La Cruz, Community Resource Coordinator, Ninth District Opp., ally.delacruz@ndocshg.org
Morgan Southers, Community Resource Coordinator, Ninth District Opp., morgan.southers@ndocsbg.org
***Alondra Hernandez**, Family Advocate, Family Promise of Hall County, alondra@familypromisehall.org
Jasmin Cruz, Case Manager, United Way of Hall County, jcruz@unitedwayhallcounty.com
***Liliana Robles**, Case Mgr., Compass Center, United Way of Hall County, lrobles@unitedwayhallcounty.com
***Aspen Haddix**, Advocate, Bridging Hope, aspen@bridginghopega.org
***Hannah Faye Monroe**, Program Director, Graceworks, hannah.fayemonroe@MinistriesofGrace.com
Angela Middleton, North GA Black Business Alliance, atmiddleton32@gmail.com
Kelly Williams, DFCS/Youth Employment Services., State Office, Prog. Mgr., Kelly.Williams@dhs.ga.gov
Dr. Davis Palmour, The Palmour Group, LLC davispalmour@yahoo.com
Jacob Buffington, Regional Mgr., Workforce Services, Goodwill Industries, jbuffington@ging.org
*****Jazz-Min Roberson**, Office of Workforce Development (TCSG) jroberson@tcsge.edu
*****Deanna Barrett**, Office o Workforce Development (TCSG) dbarrett@tcsge.edu
*****Gerald Sydnor**, Office of Workforce Development (TCSG), gsnydnor@tcsge.edu
*****James Thomas**, TCSG OWD Compliance & Programs Director, jthomas@tcsge.edu
Benjie Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com
Dr. Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com
*New participant attending One-Stop Partnership or person representing a different agency
**Guest speaker
***Guests from Technical College System of Georgia

Welcome and Introductions:

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone, recognized first-time attendees, and had everyone introduce themselves.

Minutes for all Partner meetings: posted at website: <https://onestopworkgamtns.org/> under ‘Our Partners’

Focus: Our focus topic was Lanier Technical College and North Georgia Technical College. Dean Shannon Cole offered information about the variety of adult education services and programs provided through Lanier Technical College. Here is a link for Shannon Cole’s slideshow presentation:

[Lanier Technical College Adult Education](#)



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Lunch and Conversations: Opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among Partners

Partner Updates:

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Chris Highland, Ginger Little, <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Call 770 538-2727 for eligibility and information. Use www.worksourcegeorgia.com for access to employment. Currently waiting for confirmation of funding. Will begin working through existing applications soon. GED classes are continuing onsite.

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward <https://northgatech.edu/> The Adult Education department is designed for adults who have different needs, backgrounds, and skill levels. We provide a full range of services for adults who need to acquire or improve basic reading, math, and/or written communication skills in order to prepare them to enter and succeed in the workplace or post-secondary educational programs. Adult Education classes taught at NGTC are free of charge to adults 16 years and older.

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole, <https://www.laniertech.edu/> 770 538-2657. Over 100 GEDs have been completed since July 1st. Over 2/3 of enrollment target met. Family Literacy training with several community partners at TCSG. Working on new bridge at Hall campus during renovations at Forsyth.

Athens Technical College: Sheryl Meskin <https://www.athenstech.edu/> For High School Equivalency (HSE), two computer-based testing (CBT) pathways are available through testing centers or proctored at home: the GED® test or the HiSET® exam. Athens Tech also offers a workforce-based solution to a high school diploma through joint enrollment called Career Plus.

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG): Levi Koebel <https://www.tcsg.edu/> Resource for jobs information: <https://www.worksourcegeorgia.com/>. Staff available at One-Stop to assist with job searches Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 404 982-7985. **Tammy Rauch** www.worksourcegeorgia.com and www.worksourcegeorgia.com (All resources) Technical Colleges, Economic Development, Customized Trainings, Diploma Degree – High Demand Jobs. Contact Tammy Rauch trauch@worksourcega.org

Workforce Development/Rapid Response, Technical College System of Georgia: Simisola Johnson. I have recently accepted a new role with the **State of Georgia's Office of Workforce Development**, powered by the **Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)**. As **Business Retention & Rapid Response Coordinator** serving Regions 2 and 9, I will be supporting local businesses and communities during times of workforce transition. As part of our **Rapid Response Program**, we work to promote economic recovery and stability by proactively identifying, planning for, and responding to business layoffs or closures—particularly those occurring through no fault of employees. Our goal is to minimize the impact of these events on workers, businesses, and the communities we serve. The Rapid Response Team partners work closely with employers and employee representatives to quickly mobilize public and private resources that help reduce disruption from job losses. Rapid Response services are administered by the **Technical College System of Georgia's Office of Workforce Development**, and all **WARN filings** by Georgia employers must be submitted via the [Georgia WARN Filing Portal](#). Visit the **TCSG / Technical College System of Georgia Rapid** site here: (<https://www.tcsg.edu/worksource/rapid-response/>) We can assist with: Job fairs, Transition offices or centers, and with Workshops (general and specialized).

DFCS/GACREW: Kelly Williams, Kelly.Williams@dhs.ga.gov **Youth Employment Services Program.** Need Career Partners in Community to host foster children 14-21 yrs. for volunteer, job shadowing, and internship opportunities.

Georgia Mountain Food Bank: Lydia Johnson, Benefits Coordinator is available to the community and for community events. To contact, email at benefits@gmfb.org. Schedule with Cynthia Hernandez, Benefits Outreach Coordinator.

Bridging Hope: Aspen Haddix, We are looking for volunteers. If interested, please email Jenni Mathers, Volunteer Coordinator jenni@bridginghopega.org for more information.

The Palmour Group, LLC thepalmourgroupp.com 706 455-8421 <https://wellroot.org/> Triple P (Parenting) Classes – Winter 2026. Teen 13-18, Jan. 13th – March 3rd 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Children 0 – 12: Jan. 29- Mar 19th.

North Georgia Black Business Alliance: Angela Middleton. Atmiddleton32@gmail.com Working with others to provide hundreds of home-cooked meals to community members on Thanksgiving Day.

Family Promise of Hall: Alondra Hernandez <https://www.familypromisehall.org/> Sponsoring Lunch and Learn, Life Skill Classes with lunch provided – 3606 McEver Rd. Oakwood, GA 30566. After Dec. 9th, Good Samaritan will take over our diaper bank.

My Sister's Place: Erica McCabe. <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> Shelter for women and children located in Hall County. 770 532-5111.

Center Point: Elaine Hortman, <https://centerpointga.org/> Center Point partners with schools and community organizations to inspire growth, support well-being, and empower brighter futures.

Goodwill Industries: Jacob Buffington <https://goodwillng.org/> Dollars generated through our stores and monetary donations to operate 14 career centers that provide free job training and placement programs. Our donors, shoppers, and partners make this all possible. Join us in helping support local job seekers improve their lives.

Graceworks: Hannah Faye Monroe <https://ministriesofgrace.com/> Ministries of Grace is a training and resource center providing customized care plans to help families reach their full potential.

Ninth District Opportunity: Ally De La Cruz, and Morgan Southers <https://www.ndo.org/> and <https://streetexit.org/> At StreetExit, we believe in the transformative power of compassion, community, and collaboration. Our mission is clear: to empower lives and bring an end to homelessness. As an advocate for change and a beacon of hope, StreetExit is dedicated to creating a world where everyone has a place to call home. We invite you to join us on this journey. Together, we can build bridges to a brighter tomorrow. Explore our services, discover volunteer opportunities, and learn how you can be a part of our collective effort to uplift lives and create lasting change.

United Way of Hall County, Compass Center: Jasmin Cruz and Liliana Robles <https://www.unitedwayhallcountv.org/> We are still giving away diapers. Clients can come in Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Liliana Robles is our new Case Manager – lrobles@unitedwayhallcountv.org Melissa Rulis is our new interim director for the Compass Center mrulis@unitedwayhallcountv.org

One-Stop Career Center: Benjie and Marsha Hopkins, <http://onestopworkgeamtms.org/> 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Mon-Fri, call: 770 538-2727 Connections/referrals for Partner services including: WorkSource Ga Mtns., Lanier Tech. College, North Georgia Tech. College, Athens Tech. College, Technical College System of Georgia, Ga. Voc. Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus other organizations in the region. Benjie or Marsha Hopkins, 470 577-0823 or hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Announcements:

Our next meeting will be Tues., January 27th at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room.

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