Greetings,

My name is Garrick Scott and I have the pleasure of serving as the new Chair of the Board of Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb. I am excited to lead the board of such an amazing organization having spent the majority of my life as a person with a disability.

I personally know what it is like to be a young person needing someone to advocate with you as well as on your behalf. The work of Citizen Advocacy is so important to me as I have seen how personal, one-to-one relationships can impact people’s lives. Beyond serving on the board I have also had the pleasure of serving in the role of Citizen Advocate for my friend Nazir for the past 5 years.

On behalf of the board and staff I want to thank you for your contribution last year and in the future at whatever level, whether it be with time, energy, or financial support. We greatly appreciate your support!

We look forward to the amazing things we have planned for the future and definitely hope that you will join us in allowing people with developmental disabilities, especially young people, the opportunity to live the life they want.
Celebrating Matches

8 New Matches Made

5 Dekalb County
Dorothy and Terry
Jane and Ash
Jon and Royce
Jhoandi and Lisa
Lauren and Derona

3 Fulton County
Ayah and Leigh
Quentin and Johnny
Janie and Leigh

Jane and Ash began their relationship journey bonding outside Jane's apartment complex over their southern roots and family. When Jane got in an accident, Ash expressed that when Jane needed him the most it was not a burden, but just natural for him to help. He made sure her wheelchair was replaced, helped to make sure her family knew what was going on, and when she needed someone at the hospital he dropped everything and showed up.

Kathi has been in Eric's life since he was a little boy, making sure he had everything he needed to live his best life. From elementary school to middle and now high school Kathi continues to fight using every resource she can for Eric to feel safe at school, and be included with all his peers outside of a segregated classroom. Beyond school, Kathi has witnessed Eric develop into a "gorgeous young man." She envisions Eric having someone closer to his age to explore life as an aspiring adult.
The service providers had deemed Janie’s access to a phone a threat to her health and safety. Leigh agreed that Janie needed more experience and help with figuring out the responsibilities of having a phone, but the phone was her property and the providers did not have the right to take it from her. Janie, with Leigh alongside, fought to keep her phone and she DID!

On April 11th, Leigh got notified about another “crisis” meeting to take place the next day. Janie’s support coordinator wanted Janie to sign away her waiver that provided her the funds to live and eat. Leigh quickly borrowed a car and contacted allies at Atlanta Legal Aid and The Georgia Advocacy Office. She had to cancel all her work meetings, but Leigh showed up and along with allies was able to make sure Janie left the meeting with her waiver benefits intact.

With the "crises" averted for now, Leigh’s focus became getting Janie some "Wins." Five days later they celebrated her 19th birthday. In May Janie was asked to prom. She and Leigh went dress and shoe shopping. Even when a case of Covid stopped her from being there in person, Leigh helped find others who could do Janie’s hair, makeup, and nails. Janie got the prom experience she deserved and she looked beautiful.

Check out the Full Story and Updates on our blog www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org/blog
After years of effort by multiple people, Lex got Donna’s SSDI benefits started. From his home in Savannah, he is brainstorming how to connect Donna with local neighbors to help with grocery shopping and transportation in Atlanta.

As Toni and Fred settle farther into married life, Elizabeth and Jon are there to make sure that each of them has someone looking out for them.

Tommy and Brad have dinner with each other often as they continue to build their relationship. Dinner most often is just the two guys, but each of their families is part of the larger story.

Kristopher and Sam live farther away from each other now, but that doesn’t stop Sam from setting dates on the calendar when they can get together, catch each other up on each other's lives, and keep @friendswithacamera going.

Over the course of the last two years Tait has been the rock in Ray's life as he continues to experience being independent for the first time in his forties. Like all relationships there have been ups and downs, but Ray knows if he needs someone to talk to that Tait will always be there.

Royce keeps up with Ryan, while continuing to support him as he works on creating the characters for his own comic book world.
Engaging Community

Our community began to open back up over the last year although Covid-19 still limited the times we could all come together. Still, Citizen Advocacy (CA) hosted and participate in events virtually and in person.

The schema of Citizen Advocacy is based on one-to-one personal relationships, but also actively works to build the BeLoved community. With partners including Neighborhood Church, Virginia Highlands Church, Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA), and other allies, we were able to provide education and present our vision of an Inclusive Atlanta to people across Fulton and DeKalb counties.

- Citizen Advocacy has long been connected with UUCA. In October that relationship transcended into CA hosting 3 sessions for their Adult Religious Education Program. CA director Aaron, along with Katie Chandler and Marnie Crowley, facilitated virtual sessions on SRV and Citizen Advocacy’s approach to implementing SRV principles in the Atlanta Area.

- In December Citizen Advocacy celebrated the 25+ year career of Derona King as she welcomed retirement. Friends spanning the state and decades gathered for a Tea Party to celebrate, reminisce, and wish Derona well with her future endeavors.

- February brought another opportunity to provide education, this time on the subjects of Wolf Wolfensberger, SRV, and Medical Safeguarding. Partnering with Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, CA hosted Jo Masserelli to facilitate and present her experience and knowledge for board members, advocates, and interested community members.

- Neighborhood Church is a key partner in our work, and also houses our office. As a community partner, Citizen Advocacy participated in their NeighborFests, connecting with neighbors in Candler Park.

We look forward to partnering with more community members and organizations looking to build a more inclusive Atlanta Area in FY23. If you are interested in partnering, volunteering, or sponsoring an event give us a call or email!
Sustaining Our Work

Total Income: $183,262.26

- GAO 51.8%
- Borealis 24.6%
- Fulton 9.4%
- End of Year Campaign 10.4%
- Other Donations 3.8%

Total Expenses: $175,035.18

- Personnel 75.5%
- Programmatic 13.8%
- Operational 10.8%

Citizen Advocacy in Atlanta started in 1977 under the Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO) and continues to support CA here and around the state of Georgia. GAO is CA’s largest funder, and offers educational experiences, trainings, and organizational support.

www.thegao.org

Borealis Philanthropy's Disability Inclusion Fund has been a key partner for the last two years. They support organizational development and capacity building, while creating a community of Disability Justice organizations across the country.

www.borealisphilanthropy.org

The Fulton County's Community Service Program grants funds to CA to support matchmaking and community education to Fulton County residents. CA has received grants from Fulton County for the last two years.

https://fultoncountyga.gov/

Citizen Advocacy strives to be part of the community as a whole. Individual donors and families represent the heart of CA. Without the support of individuals in our community CA would not be able to succeed in making matches and building the BeLoved Community.

RENEW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY AT

www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org
THANK YOU FUNDERS
Community Partners

Change Makers
Suzanne Arpin
Alice Franklin
Anonymous
Julia Houston
David Klemperer
Leslie Klemperer
Knights of Columbus
Joe Kolshak
Miriam Mathura
Tom Munger
Jack Schmeltz
Doug & Gigi Taylor
UUCA

Connectors
Bill & Carol Adams
Jeff Alperin
Tait Anberg
Atlanta Shakespeare
Company
Halley Blythe
Jeanne & Deane Blythe
Cannon Family
Mike Garner

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Doug Abramson
Julie Allen
Veronica Apecena
Jason Archambeau
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Senovia Bradley
Zac Bradley
Walter Brill
Debbie Brown
George Bush Family
Mary Helen Bush
Ellane Chandler
Stanley Coker
Dee Ann Dozier
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Lynn Farmer
Jan & JJ Ferrara
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Barbara Fischer
Forgay Family
Froman Family
Carole Galanty
Barbara Gifford
Maureen Gonzales
Judy Griffiths
Carroll & Nancy Hall
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Peter Kenney
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Melissa Kimball
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Connie Schultz
Jeff Smith
Sue Smith
Mary Steele
Stephens Family
Wendy Strassner
Darshunn Strozier
Ginia Taylor
Betty Thompson Trust
Torin Togut
Anne Tucker
Larry Wexler
Emily Winship
Elise Witt
Jean Woodall
Bill & Donna Woolf
Anqi Zou
Looking to the Future

Activating our Community

In FY 2023 Citizen Advocacy plans to activate our community through the arts, storytelling, and educational experiences. Over the course of the year we will be hosting community events with partners, allies, advocates and community members to offer storytelling and education around how Citizen Advocacy uses the power of personal relationships to respond to the social devaluation of people with developmental disabilities. By activating our community we will enhance our ability to identify proteges and advocates while offering more opportunities of support for current and future advocates.

Get Involved

- Participate in Community Events
- Become a Monthly Donor
- Become an Advocate
- Join the Board
- Join an Event Planning Team
- Volunteer your Gifts and Talents

To learn more about how you can get involved simply reach out to our Director to schedule a call, meet up for a cup of coffee or tea, or grab breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

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