



integrated early learning

Annual Report
2021 - 2022



Dear Friends,

“Be kind.” The Sisu staff members wear this on their t-shirts each day, living and breathing and practicing the core values within the school. It’s not a difficult mantra to remember: children have shown us that it doesn’t take a lot of energy to be kind. This year has challenged us all, and we are, each day, proud of the Sisu staff members who commit to the service of children during this unique time. A 16-year veteran of the Sisu halls said that the children at Sisu taught her, “How to give of myself.”

Sisu was fortunate to remain open from August 2021 through May 2022, serving children through educational, therapeutic, nursing, and family support services in an inclusive environment—and adapting along the way. Our school made the conscious decision to focus on the goodness that comes from serving children. We want to ensure Sisu remains the place of hope it has been for the past 37 years.

Sisu is saddened by the loss of Mr. Chuck Guthrie, who was always kind to our community and Sisu’s greatest advocate. The kindness of others in our community helps Sisu to serve children. The coronavirus pandemic and guidelines surrounding our school forced our administration to look at our space and adapt. During this unique year of learning, Sisu has been fortunate to develop stronger relationships with some of our community partners such as Carroll Daniel Construction Company, Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Fieldale Farms, several United Way agencies, anonymous donors, and unwavering support from the eleven counties we served this year.

Our school is similarly proud of the attention that the dedicated Board of Directors and Advisory Council have given to Sisu. This hard-working group has adapted with us, between Zoom meetings, virtual fundraiser, and new ideas! Together, we have climbed to a new level of togetherness and kindness, all for the service of children.

Sisu is grateful for all the kindness that the community has shown us during this unique year. We are excited for the upcoming year and look forward to sharing the kindness experienced in our hallways, throughout the community.

Sincerely,



Kelly Lee, Board Chair

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Sara Billingsley	Randy Owens
Woody Brown	John Pudenz
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Diana Dunckel	Angela Sheppard
Jenny Floyd	Dan Smith
Jennifer Gottsman	Will White

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Lelsey Cole	
Carole Ann Daniel	
John Geyer	
Jane Hemmer	
Steve Hill	
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Butch Miller	



In Loving Memory of Chuck “Mr. Chuck” Guthrie



“For the Kids”
1935 - 2022

Addie & Phillip Wilheit, Jr. • Alexander, Almand & Bangs • BB&T • Boyd’s Cleaning Services • BP Oil • Bright from the Start • Carroll Daniel Construction • Chattahoochee Grill • City Plumbing & Electric Supply Co. • Clipper Petroleum • Cumming/Forsyth Chamber of Commerce • Dancy & Charles Wynne • Dawson Chamber of Commerce • Denny Drerup • Designs by Bee • DFCS • Duplicating Products • Elizabeth & Tom Higgins • Family Promise • Fieldale Farms • First Presbyterian Church • Forsyth Chamber of Commerce • Frank Norton, Jr. • Freedom Transportation USA • Gail Schneider • Gainesville Fire Department & Rescue • Gainesville First United Methodist Church • Gainesville Jaycees • Gainesville Police Department • Gainesville School Systems • Georgia CAPS • Georgia Healthy Family Alliance • Georgia Mountain Food Bank • Georgia Power Foundation • Georgia Truss • Georgia’s Own • GOAL Scholarship • Goldcreek Foods • Grace Episcopal Church • Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce • Habersham Chamber of Commerce • Habitat for Humanity • Haley Wilson • Hall County Family Connection Network • Hall County Fire Department • Hall County Rotary • Hall County School Systems • Hall County Schools Transportation • Hall County Sheriff’s Dept. • Harris Products Group • Hart & Jeff Payne • Hasty Pope Davies • I.S. Consulting Group • J. Geyer Advertising • Jackson EMC Foundation • Jaemor Farms • Jennifer & Chad Copper • Jennifer & Michael Gottsman • Jenny & Jimbo Floyd • Junior League of Gainesville/Hall County • Kipper Tool • Kristi & Wade Baggarly • Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing • Liquid Nation Brewery • Longstreet Clinic • Mansfield Oil/Mansfield Cares • Mar-Jac Poultry • Mary & Don Grimsley • McKibbon Properties • Memorial Park Funeral Home • MFS Foundation • Milton Martin Honda • Milton Martin Toyota • North Georgia Community Foundation • Rushton & Co. • Sam’s Club • Sarah & Jacob Billingsley • Sonstegard Foods • South Hall Kiwanis • Southern Baked Pie Co. • Strong Gaddy Lee Wealth Management • Style Collectif • Syfan Logistics • United Way of Dawson County • United Way of Forsyth County • United Way of Greater Atlanta • United Way of Habersham County • United Way of Hall County • UPS Foundation • Walters Management • Wells Fargo • Willis Investment Counsel

\$2,137,733

in charity care, contractual discounts, and scholarships

revenue

59%

program & service fees

3%
United Ways

15%
fundraising

23%

Grants, Gifts & Other

expenses

90%

program

5%
fundraising

5%
management

42

grants written

29

grants awarded



13,032

unplanned interventions

+ 3,037

planned interventions

16,069

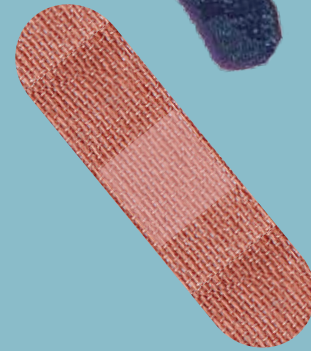
nursing interventions

*average increase of 84 interventions per month compared to 2020-2021



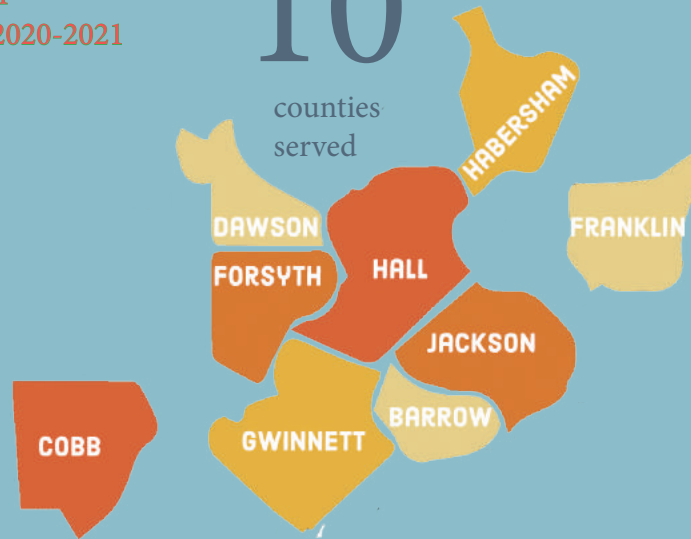
267

children served



10

counties served



6,400

therapy interventions



What We Did This



1

1) Nancy Copper Sisu Spark Award Winner, Wesley Gailey enjoyed posing with memorial of former student, Cole Miller..

2) The North Georgia Community Foundation awards Sisu a \$20,000 grant for scholarships!

3) Children of McKibbin Places employees volunteer alongside their parents to



2

4) Sisu student enjoying some sensory aspects of “Ada’s Playground.”

5) Carroll Daniel Construction donates all proceeds from their Annual Golf Classic, totalling over \$60,000!

6) We are grateful for the support and partnership of our neighbor, Harris Products!

7) Thank you to The Burle family for raising the funds to donate a copy of the book, “Different: A Great Thing to Be!” to every single student!



3



4



5



6



7

\$10,000+

BP Products North America Inc.
Buisson Foundation, Inc.
Edward C. Fogg, III & Lisbeth A. Fogg Charitable Trust
W. Frank Green and Lillie Mae Green Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation
Hall County Government
Harris Products Group
Jackson EMC Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Kern
Milton Martin Honda
Milton Martin Toyota
The Dancy H. & Charles S. Wynne Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation
The Patricia Fincher Pirkle Endowment for Challenged Children at the North Georgia Community Foundation
The Scott Hudgens Family Foundation
The Syfan Logistics Charitable Fund at National Christian Foundation
The Wilheit Family Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation
United Way of Forsyth County
United Way of Hall County
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Vinton

\$5,000-\$9,999

Mr. & Mrs. John Addison
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Carroll Daniel Construction Co.
Chantal & Tommy Bagwell Foundation at the North Georgia Community Foundation
Clipper Petroleum
The Carroll E. Daniel Family Foundation Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Dunlap
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Georgia Truss LLC
Drs. Jennifer & Michael Gottsman
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Longstreet Clinic PC
Primerica
Roy C. Moore Foundation
Sonstegard Foods of GA, Inc.
The Caldwell Stair Charitable Fund

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Miss Katie Zottnick

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Drs. Jennifer & Michael Gotts-
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Accent Cellars
Alli Kimbrell Yoga
Jeff Armour
ASW Distillery
Atlanta Ballet
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Atlanta Highway Seafood Market
Atlanta History Center
Atlanta United FC
Avocado's
Wade Baggarly
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Left Nut Brewing Co.
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Leonard
Leonard
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Mellow Mushroom
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Six Flags Over Georgia
Southern Baked Pie Company
Spa on Green Street
Spa on Green Street
Springhill Suites Marriott
StarsAndStrikes
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Tap It Growlers
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Tennessee Aquarium
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Mr. & Mrs. James Turner
- Scotty Lee Grindle
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- Charles (Mr. Chuck) Guthrie
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Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. John Byrne
Dr. Afton M. Burt
Ms. Lola Cunningham
Mr. John Deegan
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Drerup
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Utili-Comm South
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Ms. Sydney West



Thank you to "Mr. Chuck" for his years of support to Sisu.

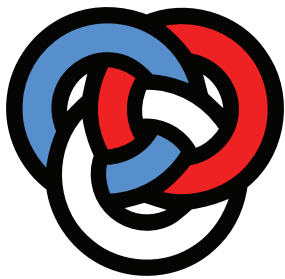
- Shannon Higgins
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CLIPPER
PETROLEUM



PRIMERICA



CARROLL DANIEL
CONSTRUCTION



The Copper Family

2021 Nancy Copper Sisu Spark Winners



Fierce, Strong, and Resilient - A little over a year ago, three-year-old Wesley Gailey was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Burkitt's Leukemia. Naturally, his family was devastated, but nonetheless determined that Little Wes would beat it. Indeed, he did. Wesley underwent aggressive chemotherapy with weeks at a time in the hospital. With his parents by his side, Wesley and his family fought on. He took it all with a smile, fearless and determined all while strolling down a hospital hallway with an IV pole trailing, playing with toys, and giving high fives wherever he could. He has showed more strength in the last year than many adults ever do and beat cancer like a champion. He and his family have inspired many people in his community, from first responders to medical personnel to educators. Plus, he did it all during a worldwide pandemic! Today, Wesley is a happy and healthy 4-year-old whose example of Sisu inspires us all.



Faithful, Loving, and Kind- Will Crain was diagnosed at 6 days old with a urea cycle disorder, a rare genetic disorder of the liver that prohibits the process of protein in the diet. In 2007, Will was the recipient of a liver transplant that saved his life and gave him the ability to do things he could never imagine. In August of 2015, Will went to Los Angeles and participated in the Special Olympics World Games where he won gold and silver medals. In late June 2020 Will and his parents contracted Covid-19 and in late July 2020 Will's dad, Scott Crain lost his battle to this virus. Will Crain's success and his parents' support are a testament to what can be accomplished for Georgians with developmental disabilities by engaged community volunteers. Through continued adversity, Will never stops being an inspiration to his friends, coaches, and family and will no doubt continue to leave an incredible legacy in his dad's honor.

Thanks to our 2021 – 2022 Partners in Education





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