GHSA Mission: To provide education, leadership, and advocacy that support Head Start program’s efforts in delivering high quality comprehensive services to Georgia’s children, families, and communities.

Program Year 2022-2023

Georgia Head Start Association (GHSA)

GHSA Officers

Donnis Pace-President
Tajuannya Tripp - 1st Vice President
Nina Bryant-Hunter-2nd Vice President
Yolanda Daniels- Secretary
Alycia Brown-Asst. Secretary
Kelvin Thomas- Treasurer
Elaine Brown- Asst. Treasurer
Dr. Tanya Thomas- Parliamentarian
Joyce Gardner- Asst. Parliamentarian
Kimberly Rainey- Historian
Penny Bonds- Asst. Historian
Shirley Boyce- Sponsored Friend
Kimberly Rainey- Region IV Friend Rep.
Ramona Codling-Region IV Friend Rep.
Tajuannya Tripp- Region IV Director Rep.
Donnis Pace- Region IV Director Rep.
Sabrina Stephens- Region IV Staff Rep.
Faye Boyd- Region IV Staff Rep.
Komisha Davis- Region IV Parent Rep.
Vacant- Region IV Parent Rep.

GHSA Affiliate Agencies (29)
Action Pact, Inc.
Baldwin County BOE
Burke County BOE
CAFI, Inc.
Central Savannah River EOA, Inc.
Clarke County School District
Clayton County CSA
Coastal Georgia Area CAA
Coastal Plain Area EOA
East Coast Migrant Head Start
Easter Seals North Georgia
Economic Opportunity for Savannah Chatham
Enrichment Services Program
Family Resource Agency of Georgia.
Fort Valley State University
Jasper County BOE
Macon Bibb Economic Opportunity Agency
Middle Georgia Community Action Agency
McIntosh Trail ECDC
Ninth District, Inc.
Putnam Co. BOE
REACH Services, Inc.
Randolph Co. BOE
Sheltering Arms for Kids
Southwest Georgia Community Action Council
Tallatoona CAP, Inc.
Telamon Corporation
GHSA held its September 2022 Board Meeting in Augusta, GA. The meeting was hosted by GHSA affiliate agency CSRA EOA. GHSA received true Southern hospitality while in Augusta and were entertained by children in the Program who sang to us during our visit.

GHSA held its March 2023 Board Meeting in Columbus, GA. The meeting was hosted GHSA affiliate agency Enrichment Services Program. GHSA receive a second helping of Southern hospitality while in Columbus. The group took a tour of the 2 Gen Approach partnership between Head Start and Columbus Tech which features an indoor playground.
Head Start Awareness Celebration

Georgia’s Governor, Brian P. Kemp issued a proclamation recognizing the contribution of Head Start in Georgia—October 2022.

To kick off the month, GHSA launched its first annual Pink Pinwheels Project in observance of Head Start Awareness. Affiliate Program Grantees were asked to have children in their Program’s plant pink pinwheels to commemorate breast cancer awareness as we celebrate Head Start awareness. From North to Middle to South Georgia beautiful pinwheels were planted all around Georgia.
WHEREAS: The Head Start Program began as an eight-week demonstration project designed to help break the cycle of poverty. It provided preschool children from low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and educational needs; and

WHEREAS: Head Start has grown since then to serve every 1 in 11 Americans, helping them build the skills needed to be successful in school and in life, with participants less likely to live in poverty or receive public assistance; and

WHEREAS: Head Start’s reach in Georgia after 57 years of existence provides access for 19,186 eligible families with children ages 3-5, access for 4,820 children under age 3 in Early Head Start programs, and access for 375 eligible children in migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, with priority given to children with disabilities, children with families experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Head Start Association is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to provide education, leadership, and advocacy that supports the Head Start program’s efforts in delivering high quality comprehensive services to Georgia’s children, families and, communities and is represented on the Georgia Children’s Cabinet; and

WHEREAS: During Head Start Awareness Month, the State of Georgia recognizes the local community leaders and their dedicated staff across our state who are helping Georgia’s most vulnerable children and their families thrive through the delivery of vital early childhood education, health, and family support services, and recognizes the many contributions of Susie D. Wilcher, whose efforts were essential to Head Start’s growth and success in Georgia; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.
During the NHSA Winter Leadership Institute in Crystal City, VA January 22-25, 2023, Georgia Head Start Association President, Donnis Pace and Executive Officer, Juanita Yancey along with the Georgia Head Start Association delegation in attendance, presented Georgia’s U.S. Senator, Raphael Warnock with the NHSA Pledge Award.

The Pledge Award honors members of Congress who have shown a steadfast commitment to fulfilling the Head Start pledge and to serving our nation’s most vulnerable children and their families, not only in their districts or states, but across the nation. This year, NHSA honored nine members of Congress for their leadership and for being part of the untiring voice that will not be quiet until every vulnerable child is served by Head Start.
Advocacy
The mission of GHSA is to provide education, leadership, and advocacy that support Head Start Programs’ efforts to provide high-quality comprehensive services to Georgia’s children, families, and communities.

Advocacy Events
**NHSA FLI 2022 Capitol Hill Day: Washington, D.C.**
September 21, 2022 (18 GA Representatives attended)
8 legislative offices participated

**NHSA WLI 2023 Capitol Hill Day: Crystal City, VA**
January 25, 2023 (25 GA Representatives attended)
7 legislative offices participated

**GHSA Day at the State Capitol (Honoring Susie D. Wilcher)**
February 2, 2023
Hosted by Rep. Mack Jackson
Theme: Keep Georgia Head Start on Your Mind.

**Dollar Per Child Campaign**
$6,100.75 raised in the 50/50 CAF with contributions from 7 Georgia Programs-
State Goal: $12,517.00

**Contributing Affiliates**
Action Pact
Coastal GA CAA
CSRA
Family Resource Agency of N. GA
Middle GA CAA
Putnam County
Tallatoona CAP, Inc.

Susie D. Wilcher
Fall Leadership Institute: November 8-10, 2022

GHSA returned this year to Dalton, GA for its annual Fall Leadership Institute held at the Dalton Convention Center. A total of 143 attendees participated in the Conference of which 51 were speakers. A one-day two-part Center Directors Institute was held during the Conference. The Region IV T TA Network hosted Part I. - Federal Regulations and Part II. - State Requirements was hosted by Consuella Carter, Ed S. of CC Educational Training Services, LLC. Seventeen (17) Center Director/Managers participated in the training. Since this Conference an additional 30 Directors received training in March 2023. Mark Davis, MPA of the Non-Profit Connection gave the Keynote address during the Opening Session held November 8, 2023. Dr. Newton Miller of the University of Arizona Global Campus provided the Keynote address during the Closing Session held November 10, 2023. During the Conference 32 workshops were scheduled and 7 learning tracks. The Conference net profit was $3,109.79.
Membership-

This Program Year, GHSA continued to profile new members on the cover of its new Membership Brochure. Members profiled includes.

Kelvin Thomas- Enrichment Services Program
Conchetta Crain- Enrichment Services Program

To date- GHSA has 206 individual paid members of which 7 are corporate members and 29 paid Program (Affiliate-Grantee) members.

Corporate Members
Kaplan
Pure Fun
Fresh Start Speech Therapy
Jemima’s Playhouse
Adobe
The Non-Profit Connection
Learning Genie

*NEW- GHSA has overhauled its website to accept individual membership dues on line through PayPal. Those interest in joining GHSA can visit the website at www.georgiaheadstart.org, click on the orange become a member button to begin the payment process. Members can print off their member cards after the payment processing is complete.
Awards and Scholarship Nominees (31)

**Father of the Year**  
Action Pact  
James Gandy

**LEA**  
Action Pact  
Karen Tharpe

**Parent of the Year**  
Action Pact  
Schalappria Nobles

**Staff of the Year**  
Action Pact  
Carol Clarke

**Superintendent**  
Action Pact  
Dr. Kim Morgan

**Staff of the Year**  
CAFI  
Jessica Hill

**Parent of the Year**  
Clayton County CSA  
Cassandra De-Santos

**Staff of the Year**  
Clayton County CSA  
Luz Barron

**Father of the Year**  
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.  
Deon Bryant
LEA
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Lynn Keith

Margo Sommers Parent Scholarship
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Kalah Bowers

Margo Sommers Student Scholarship
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Niyana Peebles

Margo Sommers Student Scholarship
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Zyonna Milton Memorial

Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Merietta Thomas

Memorial
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Alfonso Futch

Parent of the Year
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Gregory Parker

Staff of the Year
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Barbara Stackhouse

Superintendent
Coastal Georgia Area CAA, Inc.
Dr. Gina Williams

Father of the Year
Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc.
Mark Wilson
Memorial
Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc.
Patricia Smith

Parent of the Year
Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc.
Mary Boatman

Staff of the Year
Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc.
Juanita Gordon

Legacy Award
CSRA Economic Opportunity, Authority, Inc.
James Jones

Parent of the Year
CSRA Economic Opportunity, Authority, Inc.
Allyson Walker

Staff of the Year
CSRA Economic Opportunity, Authority, Inc.
Ammie Hodges

Superintendent
CSRA Economic Opportunity, Authority, Inc.
Charles Wilson

Father of the Year
Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Meozavious Royal

Memorial
Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Mary Coleman Memorial

Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Kendrick Ingram
Parent of the Year
Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Tamila Butler

Staff of the Year
Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Nekeisha Jackson

GHSA Vision
To be a positive voice, a powerful advocate and promoter of quality programs for children, families and communities in Georgia as they prepare for life-long success.
**Affiliate Partners**
National Head Start Association  
Region IV Head Start Association  
Georgia Center for Non-Profits  

**Collaborative Partners**
Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office  
DECAL: Bright from the Start  
Georgia Children’s Cabinet  
BCDI-Atlanta  
ICF International-Region IV Technical Assistance  
Georgia Community Action Association  
Voices for Georgia’s Children  
Georgia Early Education for Ready Students  
The Emergency Roundtable  
WIC  
Prevent Child Abuse  
Strengthening Families Georgia  
Georgia Department of Family and Children Services  
Childcare Advisory Task Force  
Caring Across America  

**Georgia’s Children’s Cabinet**

The Cabinet launch the 2Gen Academy in April of 2022. The first Cohort begin September 2022. The Academy will guide participants through learning, collaboration, and a capstone project focused on 2Gen. As a result, participants will be equipped to bring a 2Gen approach back to their agencies.

**The Selection Criteria:**
Program directors or program managers who work in or supervise programs that directly serve or impact children, caregivers, or families.

Preference is to nominate people that are not actively involved in 2Gen work today, with at least 5 years state work experience.

**Participant Expectations:**
- Attend and actively participate in all sessions (schedule attached)  
- Work collaboratively with team on Capstone Project  
- Take learning back to agency  
- May require some work (1-2 hours per month) outside normal business hours

UGA’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government is helping the Children’s Cabinet by administering and facilitating the academy.

A second cohort is anticipated May 31, 2023.
The purpose of Head Start State Collaboration Office is to build collaborative partnerships between federally funded Head Start programs and state-funded early childhood programs to improve the quality of services to low-income children and their families in Georgia. Allison Setterlind, the Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Director, strives to align all early education and care programs in Georgia with the state's K-12 education standards, which include the Head Start program performance standards. These standards are aligned to ensure that the level of care and education are optimally implemented so that each child will have the best chance for success.

Each year, the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office completes a Georgia Head Start Needs Assessment. This assessment is used to develop a plan to strategically address areas that may need improvement.

The Georgia Head Start Association through Memorandums of Understanding with WIC offices, the Department of Family and Children Services, and Babies Can’t wait provides WIC vouchers, foster care, and children’s disability services referrals for Georgia Head Start Programs.

**2023 GHSA Annual Spring Conference**

GHSA returns to St. Simons Island for its Annual Spring Training Conference held once again at Epworth by the Sea. The Conference Theme is: “Head Start: The Heart and Hands of Communities”. The Conference has 456 registered attendees including: 69 speakers and 16 exhibitors and 9 sponsors. The Conference will feature 51 workshops within nine learning tracks. AETNA\CVS Health plans to sponsor at the Platinum sponsorship level of $5,000.00. Other Platinum sponsors are DECAL and AE Touch Technologies.

1. Administration\Human Resources\Data (12)
2. Education and Disabilities (21)
3. EHS\Infant & Toddlers (10)
4. Family and Community Engagement (25)
5. Health and Nutrition (9)
6. Staff Wellness \Mental Health (10)
7. Transportation (1)

Pediatrician Verena Brown, MD with the Children’s Health Care of Atlanta is the keynote speaker during the Opening Session on Wed. May 3, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Angela Carr, GHSA Board Member with affiliate partner Action Pact, Inc. is the Conference closing session speaker.

**Newsletter Re-Launch**

GHSA has subscribed to the Constant Contact email marketing which allows the Association to produce quarterly newsletters and other marketing opportunities. The technology also allows us to send push notifications directly to social media accounts.

**Delta Sigma Theta Contribution- $500.00**

The Albany Chapter of the Delta sorority has contributed $500.00 to GHSA to support Program disparity efforts in their nine service area counties. Head Start Programs in these service areas will receive an equal distribution of $125.00. The Programs are:

- Southwest Georgia
- Fort Valley State University
- Coastal Plain
- Randolph Co. BOE

**World Reader Grant- $5,000.00**

GHSA is the new recipient of a grant from the World Reader organization. The purpose of the grant is to get more children reading with their parents using the Book smart app. GHSA plans to partner with SWA Connect a supplier of free tablets and internet service provided by the federal government for eligible families. SWA Connect will be on site to promote the tablet and internet program as an Exhibitor while attending 2023 Spring Conference.

**Financial & Audit**

GHSA has complied with requirements and regulations for financial auditing for the period 09.30.22. A preliminary review of the audit shows no findings or material weaknesses.

GEORGIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Summary
For the Year Ended September 30, 2022

Total revenue and support - $223,023
Total expenses - $207,432
NET ASSETS, beginning of year - $367,128
NET ASSETS, end of year - $382,719
GHSA President

Donnis Pace, MPA

Mrs. Donnis J. Pace is a native of Cedartown, Georgia. She has an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Science in Sociology, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration. She has worked for Tallatoona Community Action Partnership (CAP), Inc. for 20 years in the capacity of teacher, center manager, and currently the Head Start and Early Head Start Director. Mrs. Pace oversees the operation of all Head Start and Early Head Start locations within Bartow, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Paulding and Polk Counties. She is the current president of the Georgia Head Start Association and a member of the Region IV Head Start Association board. Her community service and leadership involvement include, Youth Leader and Praise and worship team for Zion a Habitation of God’s Glory and Praise. She is married to Mr. D. Pace, 27 years and have four children and one grandchild. They are Xavier, Nehemiah, Kiersten and Elijah Pace, granddaughter is Nilah Diane.

GHSA Executive Officer
Juanita Yancey, MBA

Juanita Yancey is the Executive Officer of the Georgia Head Start Association. Juanita has been an early childhood administrator since 2004 beginning this journey as a Program Manager for the North Carolina Smart Start early childhood initiative. Juanita's familiarity with Head Start extends to the time she was a child enrolled in the Program. She has worked as a Head Start Director for a regional and migrant seasonal Program and is a 2017 graduate of the UCLA Head Start Management Fellows Program. Juanita is a North Carolina native. She holds a B.S. in Business Education from St. Augustine’s University in Raleigh, N.C. and a Master’s in Business Administration from Brenau University in Gainesville, GA. She achieved certificates in Non-Profit Management from Duke University School of Continuing Education in Durham, N.C., the American Grant Writers Association and certificates in Program evaluation from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. In her spare time, Juanita enjoys spending time with family and close friends, Dallas Cowboys football and Tarheels basketball.