

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Meet our Regional Partners

Since partnering in October 2021, the coordinators of the regional Family Connection collaboratives have been an integral part of the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition. As the lead implementing partners on the ground in each county, their collaboratives are on the forefront of planning and executing trainings and events around the region.

The coordinators and collaboratives also play a key role in guiding the coalition's direction, providing input through formal listening sessions and sharing their insights into community needs back as part of the planning process. Each county has implemented standard language around trauma-informed care into their annual operating plans, providing a regional baseline for the initiative as it plays out in each county.

The partnership with Family Connection in Region 5 has made the outcomes achieved in this grant cycle possible, opening the door to regional collaboration that is inclusive, innovative, and immersive for all partners. Their willingness to partner and openhandedness with sharing information, resources, and access to their communities has transformed the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition immeasurably and for the better over the last two years.

From L to R: Velde Hardy, Tim Johnson, Laura Bertram, Laura Evans, Targie Folds, Meredith Lysaught, Dena Huff, Linda Foster, Sherry Deakin, April Moore, and Sonya Hope.

Not pictured:
Amanda Davis

PARTNERSHIP
BEGAN IN

2021

SINCE THEN:

12

COUNTIES
FULLY
ENGAGED IN
THE WORK

29

UNIQUE
TRAININGS
AND EVENTS
DELIVERED

1,665

NEW
PARTICIPANTS
REACHED BY
GRANT

4,988

CONTACT
HOURS
EARNED AT
EVENTS

INSPIRED ACTION

Strengthening the Scaffolding of the Family Connection Region Five Partnership

THE PARTNERSHIP

Since 2021, Georgia Family Connection Region 5 has been a partner on this grant from the beginning of the second grant cycle, bringing full regional representation and participation in the coalition over the past two years.

BUILDING A PRESENCE

Under the leadership of the regional manager, the Resilient Northeast Georgia initiative was fully integrated into each county's annual operating plan. All counties work together with common language. The program manager is now present within all regional collaboratives

PARTNER INCENTIVES

To offset some of the added workload asked of Family Connection coordinators in being partners on this grant, the coalition began offering undesignated stipends to support the ongoing work of each collaborative actively engaged.

NEW: SEED GRANTS

In year 4, the coalition began offering seed grants to all Family Connection partners as a way to encourage increased leadership and capacity on county-wide initiatives and programming.

YEAR 4 SEED GRANT PROPOSALS

- CRM Training for Neighborhood Leaders
- Youth Mental Health First Aid schools
- Support annual back-to-school program
- Handle with Care implementation
- Creation of youth wellness and suicide prevention programming and trainings
- Mini-conference for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2024
- A teen-led program that combines mental wellbeing with CrossFit classes
- Funding for after-school wellness events
- Creating a Resilience Garden
- Connections Matter teen facilitator training
- Print collateral and website re-design
- Youth Crisis Intervention Training
- Darkness to Light Trainings
- CRM train-the-trainer funding

KEY OUTCOMES

1. Encourage Collaboration

Identify and leverage commonalities in interests, programming, and new initiatives to complete together.

2. Increase Capacity for Action

Provide funding opportunities, connection to resources, train-the-trainer opportunities, and awareness.

3. Set Up Coalition for Sustainability

Empower, encourage, and celebrate partner initiatives, achievements, leadership, and confidence in action.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: COALITION IMPACT REFLECTIONS

"I've noticed that our initiative is building clout in our community. We are part of something bigger than just our Collaborative alone. Having a name as the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition gives definition and substance to the work we have all done alone for so many years. Something about being a part of something bigger than we are individually, gives us purpose and renews our energy!"

Laura Evans

Community Partnership of Elbert County

"Being a part of this work has given me a common language that enables me to communicate with family members, the community, and service providers. I even find myself using CRM with my child."

Sherry Deakin

Madison Area Resource Team

Over the past two years, we have been able to provide new educational information about the impacts of trauma and training opportunities for our partners and communities. Through this partnership we have reached our partners, families and even the youth of our county. We are thankful for our partnership and for Meredith's leadership on the work we are doing with Resilient NE Georgia. We look forward to doing great things in the future and to our continued success because of the support of Resilient Northeast Georgia.

Dena Huff

The Partnership for Families, Children, and Youth

"The funds from Resilient Northeast Georgia have allowed us here in Oconee County to focus on crisis situations where we know children and families have experienced trauma. We are able to care for those in need."

Amanda Davis

Oconee Area Resource Council

The last few years have brought new challenges for families. However, we are blessed to have the hard work of those involved with the Resilient Northeast Georgia trauma project to bring us closer together and offering trauma support and trainings to our partners and collaborative groups.

April Moore

Oglethorpe County Family Connection

"Thanks to Resilient Northeast Georgia's leadership at the Athens Area Community Foundation, regional awareness and collaborative work toward being trauma-informed has increased extensively. Through this strengthened collaboration, we have achieved more awareness, training, and engagement at the regional, community, organizational, and individual level, including with our youth. We look forward to continuing this partnership."

Tim Johnson

Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens

"The leadership potential of young people is typically limited by their resources, and the Resilient Northeast Georgia fund has enabled us to do things we didn't know were possible in such a short time."

Tishia Fenn

Walton Youth Project



RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA

**A Fund at the Athens Area
Community Foundation**

It has been very rewarding to work alongside the Resilient Northeast Georgia coalition. Our community has been able to expand the number of persons who are trauma informed with trainings like Youth Mental Health First Aid and the Community Resiliency Model. This collaboration with Resilient Northeast Georgia is truly exciting. Together, we continue to provide the exposure and resources needed to increase awareness as we move forward with becoming a trauma-informed county.

Velde Hardy

Morgan County Family Connection

"Under the umbrella of Resilient Northeast Georgia, we've been able to move the needle for awareness and action with every training, summit, and resource brought to the region. To me, that's a dynamic legacy, and one we can continue to grow together!"

Meredith Lysaught

Athens Area Community Foundation

"The partnership with Resilient Northeast Georgia has totally changed our trajectory on becoming a trauma-informed and mental health educated community. The resources and support that has been provided to us has helped us become more educated and has encouraged our community leaders to come onboard. We have totally changed our focus moving forward. I think our community has only just begun in this vitally important work and I look forward to a strong partnership for many years to come. THANK YOU for all you do to support our county's work and to help us become trauma informed!"

Linda Foster

Jackson County Family Connection

We have a new appreciation for the resiliency of our students and realize the importance of a non-judgmental relationship. It is critical to practice self-care so that we are in the best position to give to our community what they need. None of this would have been possible without the partnership between Athens Area Community Foundation, Resilient Northeast Georgia and Georgia Family Connection Region 5. Our community has learned that it takes a village to produce change. We have enjoyed every training and looking forward to our continued growth together, one layer at a time. We are headed in the right direction and looking forward to making the community more aware!

Targie Folds

Greene and Jasper County Family Connection

"The successes we are experiencing is due to our leadership team creating an environment conducive to everyone achieving their individual and collective goals without the risk of the dreaded mission drift. This is a TRUE team approach and we are better together! "

Sonya Hope

Georgia Family Connection Region 5 Manager

We now have language about trauma and its effects. It has helped bring trauma to community conversations, and we are honored and excited to continue this partnership. Trauma is now included on meeting agendas and building resilient families is our guiding principle.

Laura Bertram

Newton County Family Connection