



**dis****ABILITY**  
*LINK*  
*the center for rights & resources*

**Annual Report**  
**FY 2017**



## Board Members

### Front Row

Kevin

Bill

Vernitia



### Back Row

Kim

Rosemary

Bridgette

Tracey

Dave

Katherine

Robbie

### **Who We Are**

We are the Center for Independent Living that serves the Metro Atlanta Area. We provide services to people in the following counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dekalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Rockdale.

### **Our Mission**

disABILITY LINK is an organization led by and for people with disabilities and promotes choice and full participation in community life.

### **Board Of Directors**

**Board Chair – Dave Zilles**

**Vice Chair – Bill Nabors**

**Treasurer – Kevin Stringfellow**

**Secretary – Rosemary Graham**

### **General Members**

**Bridgette Suttle**

**Robbie Huff**

**Tracey Stokes**

**Vernitia Shannon**

**Katherine Seelman**

Supported 7 youth to attend national conferences

## Fast Facts

Provided Information and Referral Services to over 4,400 people

Worked with 54 individuals to relocate from a institution

We provided 5,429 services to people with disabilities

Provided Vocational and Employment Services to over 80 individuals

Provided peer support certification and refresher training to over 60 people throughout Georgia

## Fast Facts

Participated in "Get out the Vote" project assisting over 100 individuals to register

## **Staff**

Executive Director – Kim Gibson

Finance Director – Larry Brown

Assistant Director – Ken Mitchell

Disability Rights & Program Director – Linda Pogue

Employment & Training Program Manager – Fran Durbin

Nursing Home Transition Program Manager – Renee Shakir

Lead ILS & Housing Manager – Margo Waters

Finance & Administration Manager- Kristal Southern

Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Case Manager – Katie Johnson

Community Living & ICWP Case Manager- Indira Paul

## **Staff (cont)**

Executive Secretary/Independent Living Specialist – Juanita Anderson

ICWP Case Manager/Employment Specialist – Katrina Parsons

Health & Wellness/Resource Specialist – Travis Evans

Volunteer & Administrative Specialist – James Turner

Administrative Support & Resource Intern – Carl Teem

Employment & Training Specialist – Michelle Watkins

Social Media Intern- William Daniels

Youth Independent Living Specialist – Meg Scalise

Office and I&R Lead Intern – Darnell Johnson

Assistive Technology/Deaf-Blind Independent Living Specialist- Emily Shaw



The year was full of advocacy, from motivating consumers to vote, to combating negative portrayals of people with disabilities





We were proud to host many classes, activities and trainings in our office and to have the support of our elected officials



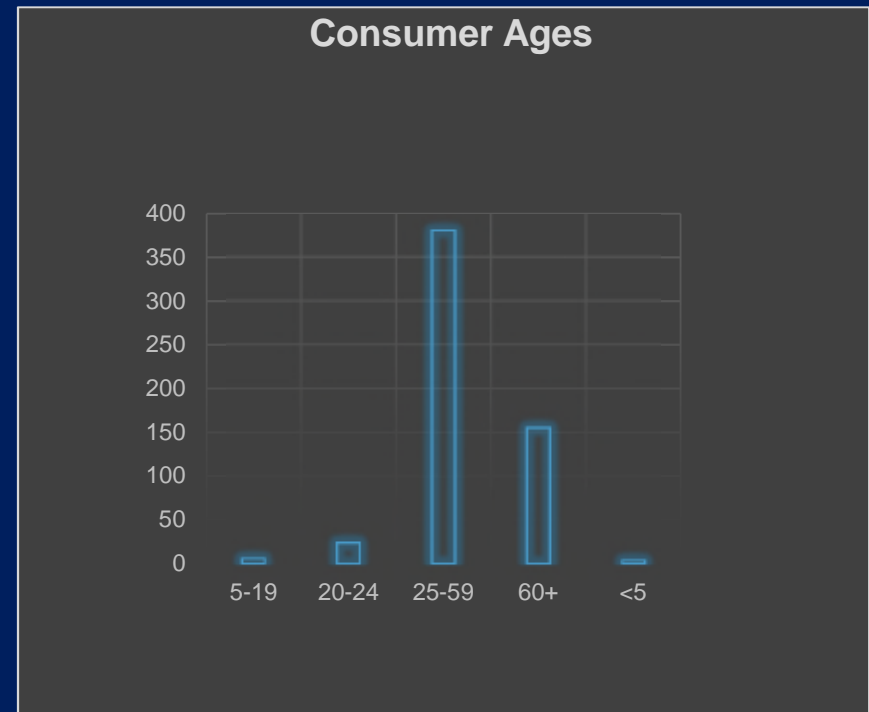
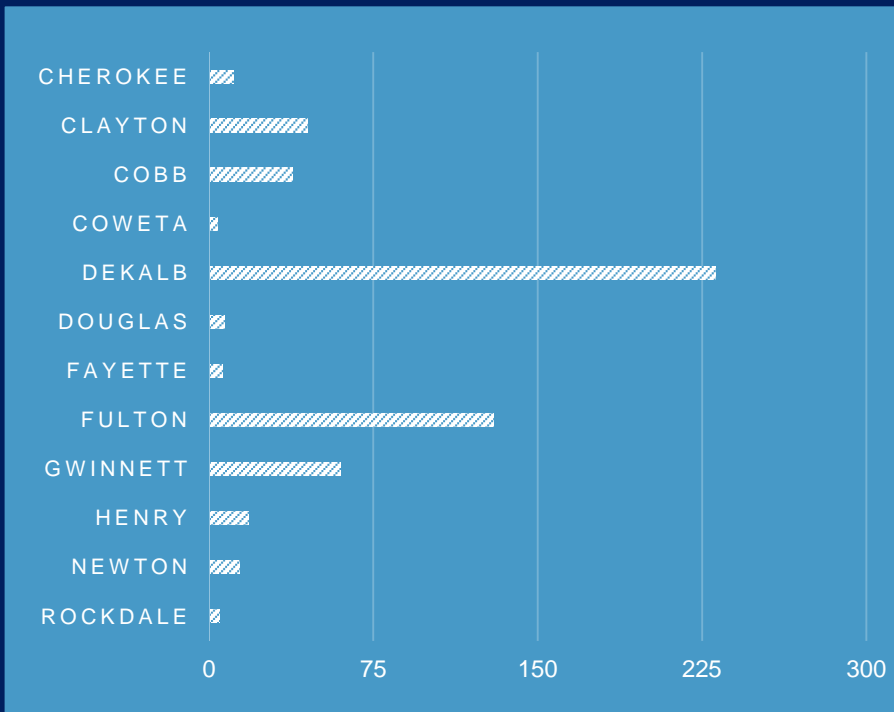


## FY 2017 Accomplishments

Provided support for people with disabilities during the hurricane	Increased by 50% the amount of classes, events and activities hosted	We partner with APRIL and University of Montana in the Healthy Community Living Project (HCL)
We use the Access Video Interpreting app & zoom conferences to add to our equal accessibility options	Successfully trained 8 Interns/apprentices into permanent jobs	Participated in disability diversity & intersectionality research study with ILRU

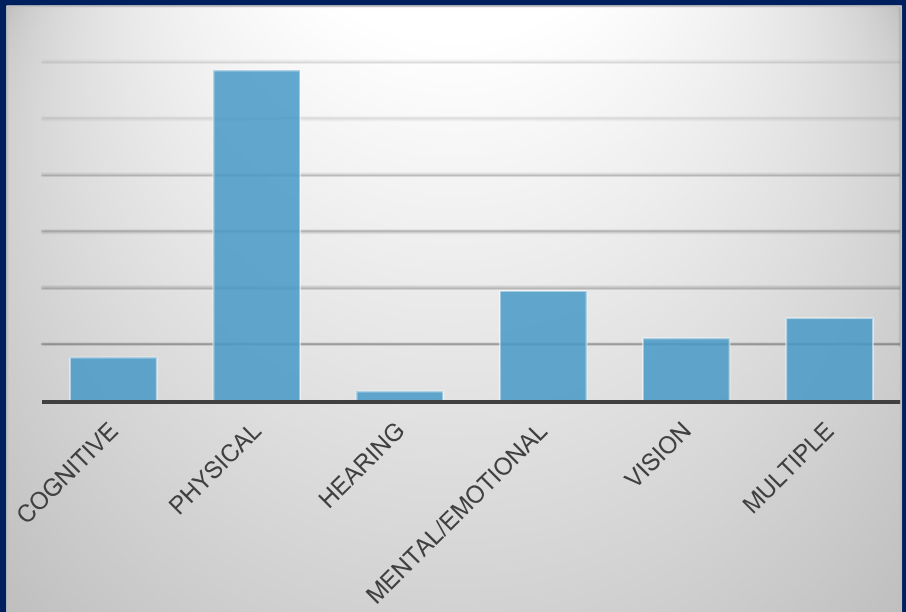
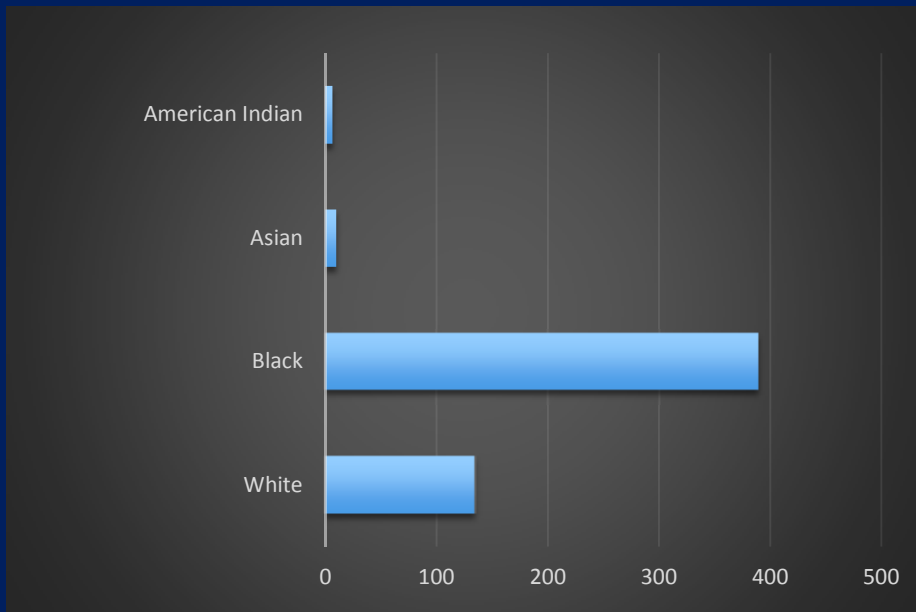
# Consumers Served

disABILITY LINK serves twelve counties in the Metro Atlanta Area. We serve populations that range from young adults to senior citizens. We work to ensure that people with disabilities are in charge of their lives regardless of age or location in the region.



# Consumers Served

Consumers are from a variety of cultural and disability backgrounds. We are always expanding our consumer base and increasing the diversity to ensure that all people in our area can receive services in the most accessible environment possible.



**Disability Type**

## Success Story #1

A consumer reported he was feeling on top of the world in 2007 because he had graduated from college, he knew he wanted to make a difference and had job offers in law enforcement and subsequently joined the Atlanta Police Department. Not long afterwards the consumer became extremely sick that resulted in the amputation of both his legs above the knees. The consumer's home was not fully accessible, as it sits on a hill he was not able to access his own backyard. The consumer researched organizations who could help people "get back their lives" and he came across disABILITY LINK. Through disABILITY LINK he was able to successfully apply for a grant to build a wheelchair vertical lift. In 2017, he was finally able to access his own backyard without assistance and play with his children, and not just watch his kids from a distance. He and his family are enjoying the backyard together and, most importantly, he says he can play with his children. He says he loves to see them happy; to the kids he is their daddy, not a person with a disability.

## Success Story #2

A consumer wanted to move out of the nursing home and back into the community. The consumer had been homeless prior to living in the nursing home and a major barrier for him was having a felony from when he was much younger. The Independent Living Specialist assisted him with different issues, such as, gaining a payee, obtaining a social security card and looking for accessible housing. During the process, he also received peer support from a volunteer peer supporter who had similar experiences. Both the Independent Living Specialist and the peer supporter provided support and training on advocacy. After advocating to the Property Manager he was provided an apartment with guidelines on conduct. He is currently living independently in the apartment and says he is loving every minute of his new life, cannot believe how things worked out for him and considers the assistance he received a true blessing. He is planning to go back to school and starting his own business.



# Our Community Partners

- AARP
- Abilities, Inc.
- ADA Legacy project
- AMS vans
- Aging And Disability Resource Center
- AT&T
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- National ADAPT
- Blue Heron Preserve
- Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association
- Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund
- The CDC
- Center For Financial Independence And Innovation
- Center For Leadership In Disability
- Center For The Visually Impaired
- Decatur Business Association
- DeKalb Chamber Of Commerce
- DeKalb Rape Crisis Center
- Disability Law & Policy Network
- Disability Resource Group
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- FEMA
- Frazer Center
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Council For The Blind
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department Of Labor
- Georgia Pacific

# Our Community Partners

- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities
- GA Department of Community Affairs
- GA Department Of Rehabilitation Services
- GLASS Library
- GA Mental Health Consumer Network
- Georgia Transplant Foundation
- GVRA
- Institute On Human Development And Disability at UGA
- Kroger
- Metro Fair Georgia
- MARTA
- Metropolitan Employment Network Of Atlanta
- National Association Of Blind Veterans
- National Federation of the Blind of GA
- Pedestrians Educating Drivers
- People First Of Georgia
- RESPECT Institute
- Shepherd Center
- Social Security Administration
- St. Jude's Recovery Center
- The Georgia Department Of Community Health
- The Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council
- Toastmasters International
- Tools For Life
- United Way Of Greater Atlanta
- University of Kansas
- University of Montana
- View Point
- Workforce Development

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Social Media



@disABILITY LINK

We are excited to announce that all of our classes held by  
disABILITY LINK are available through zoom.

Join by going to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and click on join meeting.

Meeting ID is 404-687-8890

