



**disABILITY**  
**LINK**  
*the center for rights & resources*

## Annual Report FY 2023



Picture Description: Shown is the disABILITY LINK staff stood in front of a decorative mirror

### Board Members



Picture Description: From left to right, Ettienne Davis getting a COVID vaccine, Leisa Williams holding a certificate of appreciation, and Danny Housley sitting down in a suit.

## 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

### Executive Officers

**Board Chair: Jennifer Adamson**

**Vice Chairman: Kevin Stringfellow**

**Treasurer: Etienne Davis**

**Secretary: Daniel Farr**

### Members at Large

**Veronica Atkins**

**Brian Gustason**

**Ahmed Jama**

**John Laparco**

**Stacy Ramirez**

**Leisa Williams**

## Fast Facts

Our COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team (CPRT) supporting individuals in receiving weekly COVID-19 tests and hosted 2 monthly vaccination clinics.

We provided 1433 employment and vocational services to support individuals in seeking and gaining employment.

Assisted 20 plus consumers with visual impairments with learning keystrokes and bettering computer knowledge throughout the year.

We continued the Assistive Technology classes and providing 736 services, including classes and activities for individuals with disabilities to learn how to utilize assistive technology devices.

## Fast Facts

Assisted over 700 individuals with disabilities in marginalized communities to register to vote, get to the polls, request absentee ballots, and check their voting status.

We provided 15,290 information and referral services about information & available local, state & federal resources that promote choice, quality of life, and independent living.

We continued to conduct presentations and workshops on JAWS, Dragon, NVDA and other screen readers.

## **Administration**

Executive Director - Kim Gibson

Finance Director - Joseph Bryant

Deputy Director – William Thomas

### **Program Managers/Supervisors**

ICWP & Community Health Supervisor - Katrina Parsons

IL Program Supervisor – Angela Williams

Public Relations and Marketing IL Specialist - Lisa Parks

Youth IL Program Supervisor – Janae Nelson

Volunteer & Administrative Support Supervisor – James Turner

### **Disability Rights & Peer Support Training Advocate**

Linda Pogue, Ken Mitchell, Dustin Gibson

Note: IL=Independent Living

## **Staff**

Administrative, I&R, & Community Health IL Specialist – Diane McKenna

Administrative Support & IL Specialist – Marina Fishman

Assistive Technology, Deaf-Blind/Community Health Connector IL Specialist – Shuronda Dixon

Community IL Specialist Casual - Renee Shakir

Disability Rights, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion IL Specialist – Christina Humphrey

Employment and Career IL Specialist - Nathan Baker

Employment and Career IL Specialist – Helen Lewis

Employment and Training Coordinator – Fran Durbin

Health & Wellness & Resource IL Specialist – Juanita Anderson

ICWP/Community Health IL Specialist – Felix Eziakor

ICWP/Community Health IL Specialist – Shikha Desai

Independent Living Specialist - Bosede Yasin

Janitorial & Maintenance Specialist - Vibert Lawson

Personnel Office and Finance - Felicia Banks

Social Media and Computer Lab IL Specialist

Quality Assurance, Training, and IL Specialist – David Kendrick

Youth & Community Health IL Specialist – Marquita Wise

We participated and held many events in the community. Some highlights include our Consumer Appreciation Event, Doggie Day events & providing our Neighborhood outreach to distribute Face Masks, Personal care supplies, Voting information, and hand sanitizer

Picture Description: A group photo of Juanita Anderson's Getting Fit class all attending the Consumer Appreciation Party in matching "Getting Fit" shirts.



Picture Description: Many participants in our beauty pageant for dogs during our Annual 2023 Doggie Day.



Picture Description: Jake Key and Christina Humphrey posing and holding the disABILITY LINK LGBTQIAP++ banner during the 2023 Pride Parade.

We were proud to host over 800 events at our office including peer support training classes, peer support groups, educational workshops, voting registrations, board trainings, volunteer trainings, and much, much more.



Picture Description: Tarell Freeney, Katrina Parsons, Angela Williams, Nicoal Whitworth, and Cindi Clark at the Capitol building.



Picture Description: Consumers and staff gathered during our weekly LEAPS class.



Picture Descriptions: Consumers and staff posed for a group photo after a vaccination clinic.



Picture Description: The CareSource table at our annual GALA event.

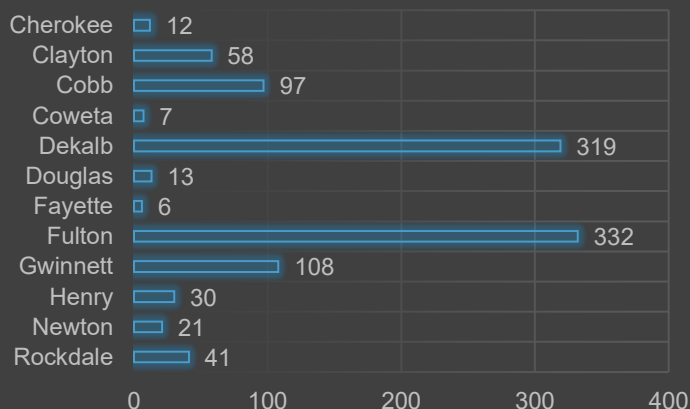
# FY 2023 Accomplishments

|                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| We participated in the Atlanta Pride Festival and Parade; there we connected with, and distributed resources to 400+ attendees                               | We provided 20,817 services to individuals designed to support choice, autonomy, education, employment, social connections, and independence.          | We continued to keep self-advocacy as a focal point for the organization by providing 608 advocacy services to individuals with disabilities. |
| We hosted a total of 7 students for their internship requirements in their different programs (Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation, Education) | We held our third Days of Advocacy-"Our Voices, Our Vote" leadership and advocacy days with topics focused on transportation, housing, and employment. | We provided 226 youth and transition services to promote self-help, advocacy, and self-determination                                          |

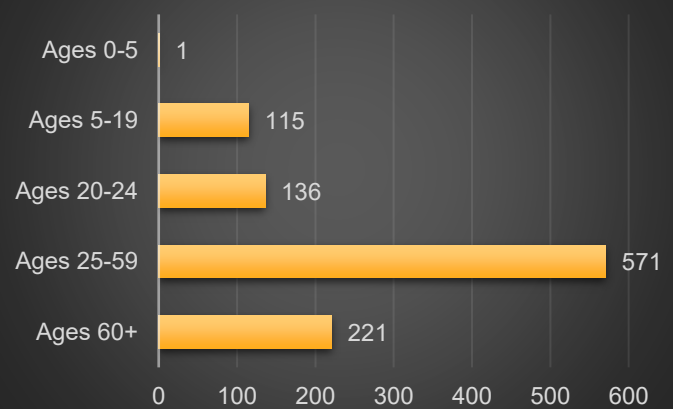
## Consumers Served

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.

Counties Served

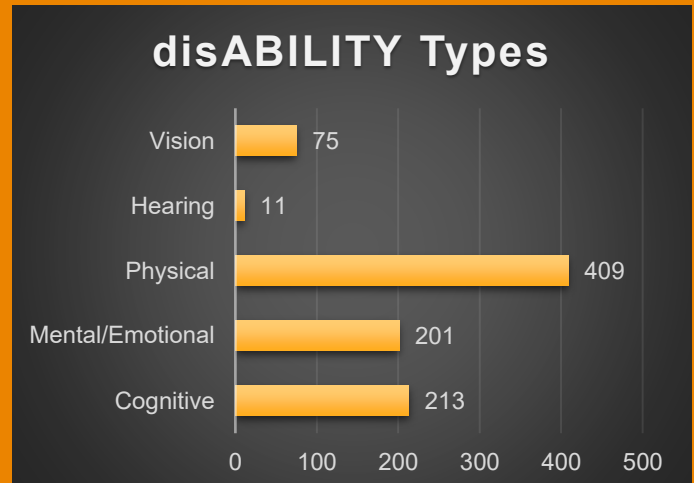
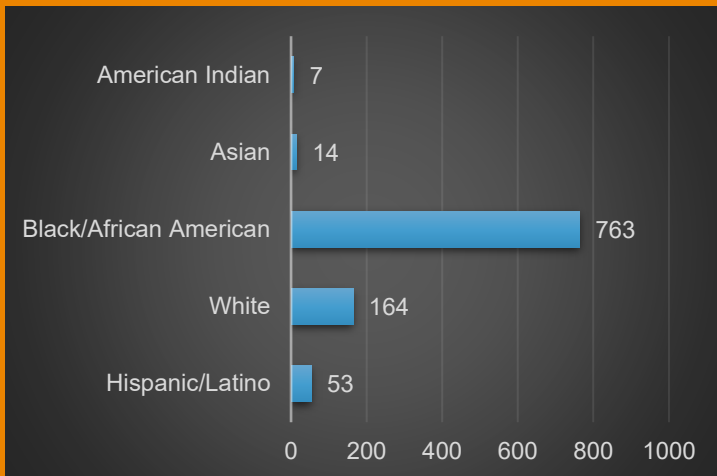


# of Consumers



## 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.



### Success Story #1

A consumer began attending computer classes offered by disABILITY LINK in early April 2024 due to a lack of confidence in her computer skills for remote work job searches. Our Independent Living Specialist (ILS) proactively engaged her in software usage to enhance her skills and provided keyboarding training. Since joining the classes, the consumer reports increased confidence in her computer abilities and expresses enthusiasm about various job opportunities. The ILS continues to support her by assisting with job applications to help her achieve her employment goals.

### Success Story #2

A young adult came into the office because they had difficulty getting to wherever they needed to go due to being dependent on others. With peer support from the ILS, the young adult successfully applied for and was approved for MARTA mobility paratransit. As a result, the young adult took their first solo trip, and they used that trip to participate in the Saturday E.O.Y. Youth Group. They reported how freeing it felt to be so independent and move around like they wanted to.

## Success Story #3

A consumer, who had been struggling with food insecurities for approximately three months, applied for SNAP benefits in February 2024 but received no response from Georgia Gateway, neither by phone nor mail. Seeking help, the consumer turned to disABILITY LINK for assistance. As an Independent Living Specialist (ILS) experienced in SNAP and Medicaid support, the ILS located the individual's information within the system. Initially, the ILS faced challenges in uploading necessary documents for the SNAP application to be completed. Consequently, the ILS contacted a supervisor within the Georgia Gateway System for guidance. With the supervisor's assistance, the required documents were successfully uploaded within a week, resulting in the consumer receiving three months' worth of SNAP benefits, including the current month of April 2024, as backdated benefits. The consumer expressed gratitude for the support received. During the process, the consumer was able to gain experience of advocacy through the peer support the ILS provided.

## Our Community Partners

- AARP
- ABC Law Centers
- Accessibility.com
- AMS vans
- Aging And Disability Resource Center
- Association of Program for Rural Independent Living
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- National ADAPT
- Best For Less
- 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 WorkForce
- Disability Resource Group
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- Enabled Living
- Faith Medical Services
- FEMA
- Frazer Center
- Fulton County
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department Of Labor
- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities

Contact Us  
Physical Address:  
1901 Montreal Road  
Suite 102  
Tucker, GA 30084

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Voice-    | 404-687-8890 |
| Video-    | 404-381-8117 |
| GA Relay- | 711          |
| Fax-      | 404-687-8298 |

Social Media



@disABILITYLINK

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 & Password is 1901

