



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2018





What an incredible year 2018 was for Center Point as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. While celebrating the Center's history and accomplishments, many new projects and initiatives were begun during the year.

A very successful expansion campaign to build out the remaining space in South Hall and upgrade the Gainesville office was launched in June. And now, we have exciting news to share!

In August, it was determined that Center Point would be the agency to oversee the development of the community's new Jeffrey Dallas Gay Jr. Recovery Center.

A grant was received from the State of Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to begin this work. The Recovery Center is designed to be a place where those in recovery can receive support and education services to help maintain sobriety. The new Center will be located on Juanita Ave. and will open in early 2019.

Center Point has been coordinating our community's effort to combat the national addiction crisis through the Partnership for a Drug Free Hall. This year the collaborative produced two community forums, a youth summit, and provided other education and initiatives for change.

The Center began coordination of the community's effort in addressing suicide prevention due to significant increases in suicide rates. More than 56% of all violent deaths in Georgia were due to suicides and the national suicide rates have increased by 24% between 1999 and 2014. This data, along with other statistics on depressive episodes among children and teens, has resulted in trainings on identifying signs of depression for educators and service providers and the implementation of new support systems.

Center Point's commitment from the beginning has been to serve children and families in this community. At first, it was through religious education, then counseling, mentoring, and prevention programs were added through the years because of the need.

What a privilege!!!

Faithfully,  
David L. Smith

**“I’VE LEARNED  
A LOT OF REALLY  
GREAT THINGS  
ABOUT MYSELF. I’M  
PROUD OF ME!”**

- 2018 SMARTGIRLS participant





**THE  
CURTIS  
SEVERSON  
SCHOLARSHIP**



**ALL ABOUT  
CHANGE  
AWARD**

**MARGARET  
K. BRAFF  
SERVICE IN  
ACTION  
AWARD**

Visit us at [www.centerpointga.org/scholarships](http://www.centerpointga.org/scholarships) to download the scholarship forms



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID SMITH RETIRES IN MARCH**

After 30 years of serving children and families, David Smith is retiring on March 25 as Center Point's executive director. A visionary leader who helped define and grow Center Point throughout its history, David leaves a remarkable legacy for our community.

A former associate pastor, David joined the former Christian Education Center, later renamed Center Point as its mission expanded, in August 1989. He led the growth of Center Point as it added numerous services to address relevant issues such as drug and alcohol addiction, teen pregnancy and mental illness. With his guidance, Center Point now provides a full complement of support services in education, counseling, mentoring, and prevention. Most recently, David oversaw the addition of a new campus in South Hall to serve that fast-growing sector of the Hall County population.

We wish David a happy and fulfilling retirement. Our community is a better place for the positive impact he has made on youth and families throughout his career.



# CENTER POINT SCHOLARSHIPS

Center Point seeks to award scholarships to Center Point students who perform well academically and demonstrate character. If you have participated in any Center Point program or class and are a graduating high school senior, you can apply for a scholarship.

This year, Center Point is sponsoring scholarships up to \$1000 to be used toward college, technical school, or other pre-approved post-secondary venture.

Each year we take time to honor the students who have applied and announce the scholarship winners. On March 24, 2019, Center Point will host an Honors Celebration recognizing the scholarship awardees, our community and David Smith.

There are three types of scholarships offered:

## THE CURTIS SEVERSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Curtis Severson Scholarship was established in 1998 by Gainesville native Curt Severson.

To qualify for this scholarship, you must have taken at least one education class at Center Point, and must plan to go into ministry, social service, non-profit, outreach, and/or community building during or after your post-secondary education.

## MARGARET K. BRAFF "SERVICE IN ACTION" AWARD

The Margie Braff Service in Action Award recognizes outstanding community service on the part of an individual.

## "ALL ABOUT CHANGE" AWARD

The "All About Change" Award recognizes dramatic positive change in the life of a person, whether academically or socially.

**“ I ABSOLUTELY  
LOVE IT HERE  
AT CENTER POINT! ”**

- 2018 Religious Education student

**INTERESTED  
IN DONATING TO OUR  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?**

Find out more at:  
[CenterPointGA.org/donate](http://CenterPointGA.org/donate)





# 2018 YEAR END REVIEW

## MENTOR PROGRAM

**109** NEW MENTEEES **126** NEW MENTORS TRAINED  
**92%** IMPROVED academically **91%** INCREASED school attachment **94%** IMPROVED behavior

## JEFFREY DALLAS GAY, JR. RECOVERY CENTER NEW PROGRAM

THIS IS AN ADDICTION RECOVERY SUPPORT CENTER THAT IS PEER-LED AND OFFERS A SET OF NON-CLINICAL ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE AND EDUCATE

## PREGNANCY + PARENTING

**166** small group SESSIONS **97%** GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL - or remained on track - FOR GRADUATION  
**61** SERVED

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**800** ADULTS EDUCATED

## 9TH GRADE HEALTH EDUCATION

**668** SERVED  
**340** classroom SESSIONS

## 2018 SMARTGIRLS

**144** small group SESSIONS **90%** stayed on track for GRADUATION  
**155** SERVED

## WILHEIT SERVICES

**150** STUDENTS + FAMILIES SERVED

## MEDIA LITERACY

**1,408** MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS EDUCATED

## COUNSELING

**541** CLIENTS SERVED  
**3,742** SESSIONS  
**58** PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING SESSIONS

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**91** STUDENTS SERVED

## TOO GOOD FOR DRUGS CURRICULUM

**69** STUDENTS SERVED  
**142** SESSIONS

COUNSELING | EDUCATION | MENTORING | PREVENTION



“**I LEARNED**  
THAT THE DECISIONS  
YOU MAKE AFFECT  
NOT JUST ME BUT  
**EVERYONE**  
AROUND ME.”

- 2018 SMARTGIRLS participant

“**CENTER POINT TAUGHT**  
ME SO MUCH MORE THAN  
SUBJECT MATTER. IT'S  
**TAUGHT ME**  
COMPASSION, LOVE  
AND SO MUCH MORE.  
**I'M SO THANKFUL**  
**FOR THIS PLACE!**”

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION student

“**MENTORSHIP** means that these kids have another adult to help guide them through the middle school years. Our kids come from great families and have lots of support, but they are mostly immigrant families and the mentors **PROVIDE THEM WITH NAVIGATION** through a school system for which they may not be familiar.”

Meredith Pierce, Director,  
Path Project at Baker Glover Trailer Park

“**IT'S IMPORTANT**  
**TO LISTEN**  
TO YOURSELF AND  
NOT LET OTHERS  
CHANGE YOUR MIND.”

- 9TH GRADE HEALTH EDUCATION student

“**I'M IN CONTROL**  
**OF MY OWN**  
**DECISIONS.**”

- 9TH GRADE HEALTH EDUCATION student

“**AS A MENTOR**, I make a positive difference in a child's life by building a relationship in which I **SUPPORT & HELP** guide her into making wise choices. In return, I receive smiles, hugs and watch a child grow emotionally, socially and academically.”

Pam Papciak, retired schoolteacher





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee was both pleased and challenged when David Smith told us last Spring of his decision to step down as Executive Director of Center Point after 25-plus years. We were pleased because he has certainly earned the opportunity to take a fresh look at how he might envision his life after Center Point, but challenged as we move forward in our search for a new director. We realize it will be impossible to replace David, as his name has become synonymous with Center Point, but we are thankful for the time we have had to organize our efforts to begin this search. David has built a strong and enthusiastic staff who are pledged to continuing the work of Center Point. The Board of Directors remains committed to supporting the mission of Center Point and its work with students, families and many collaborative networks and initiatives that impact quality of life for citizens in the Hall County community.

We have been fortunate to secure the services of a long-time friend of Center Point, Cathy Drerup, who successfully led Challenged Child and Friends for many years before retiring, and who will be advising and serving on the Search Committee. With input from David and Center Point Staff, the Committee has taken this opportunity to develop a comprehensive job description for the Executive Director position.

We cannot thank David enough for his constant dedication and devotion to the Center Point organization and the youth of Hall County over the past 25-plus years. We wish him well as he begins this next part of his life's work.

– Kathie Futrell, Board Chair

We are excited to announce that we have met our **EXPANSION CAMPAIGN GOAL!** The good news doesn't stop there, either: a generous donor will be matching that amount. This fund will significantly benefit Center Point's vision going forward for building and program expansion. We would like to **THANK EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED** toward accomplishing this goal!





center point

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