



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Enhancing ● Strengthening ● Changing Lives

770-535-1050

● centerpointga.org

● 2023 Annual Report ●

Center Point enhances, strengthens, and changes lives by promoting the success of students and families through teaching and personal development.

Year End Program Data

Prevention
Education

9th Grade Classroom Education
868 Students Served - 431 Classroom Sessions
Baby Think It Over - 92 Students Served

Release Time
Classes

Religious Education
43 Students Served in Ethics 101,
Business Ethics, Bible & Pop Culture

Mentor
Program

157 Students Served - 148 Mentors Trained
3,768 Mentor - Mentee Sessions

Small Group
Support

Smart Girls/Wise Guys
42 Students Served - 44 Small Group Sessions
Pregnant & Parenting Education & Support
42 Students Served - 196 Sessions

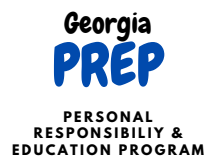
Counseling
Wilheit Services

28 Clients Served - 415 Sessions
55 Clients Served - 444 Sessions

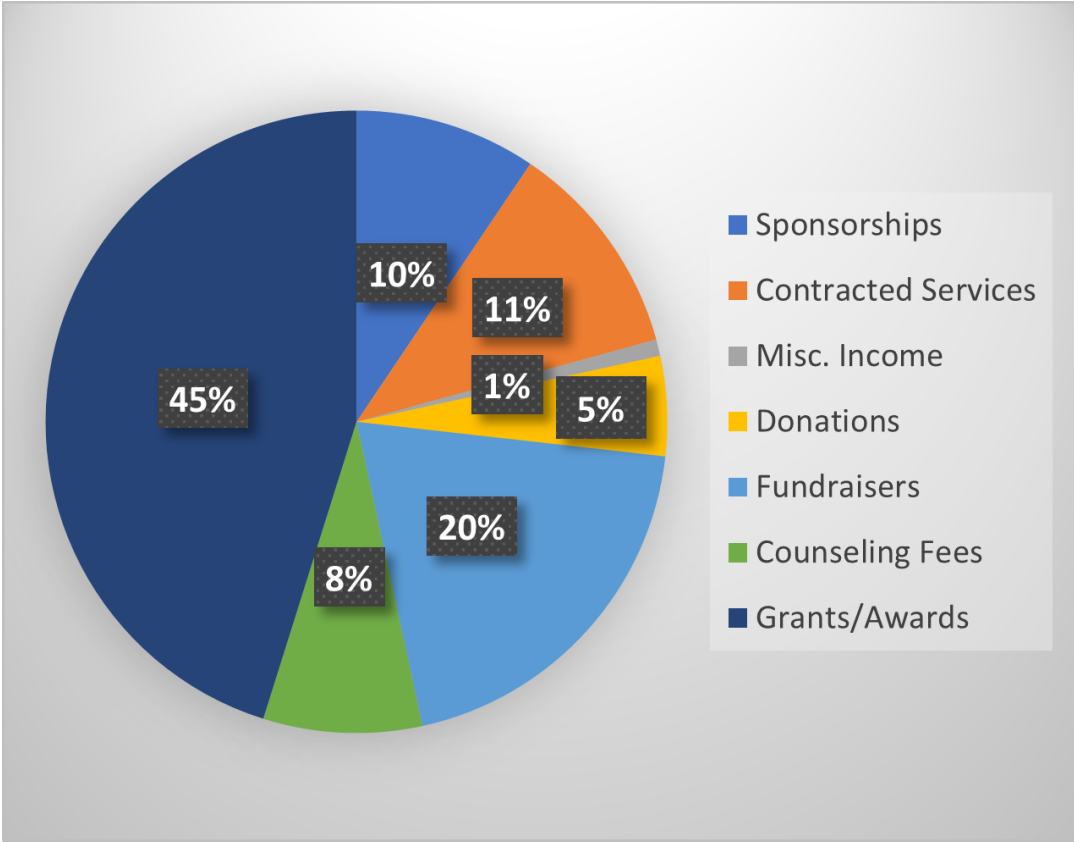
Programs at the Center are funded in part by the following:



Georgia Department
of Human Services
Division of Family & Children Services



2023 Revenue



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Lee Rogers, Vice Chairman
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2023 Highlights of the Center

Scholarships

Center Point awards scholarships to high school students who embody academic excellence and conscientious character. In 2023, two scholarships were awarded.

THE CURTIS SEVERSON SCHOLARSHIP - The Curtis Severson Scholarship was awarded to **Gabriel Sanchez-Gonzales, Gainesville High School student**. This scholarship was established in 1998 by Gainesville native, Curt Severson. To qualify for this scholarship, a student 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 post-secondary education. Gabriel is an amazing young man who is a peer mentor and is clearly becoming a leader. He has experienced much adversity and yet has overcome his life experiences and remains a positive role model for his fellow students.

THE DAVID L. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP - The David L. Smith Scholarship was awarded to **Paloma Ortiz, a Chestatee High School student**. Paloma has persevered through several obstacles to obtain her diploma, taking several AP courses and maintaining a GPA of 3.8 and is graduating a year earlier due to her diligence. She is a single mom and is determined to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The named scholarship was established in 2019 and is given to a student whose character, integrity, values, and work ethic exemplify the legacy of David Smith, who served as a staff member and then Executive Director of Center Point for over 30 years, retiring in 2019.

2023 Awards & Recognitions

Mentor of the Year Award

Olivia Gooden was named Mentor of the Year for 2023. Olivia has been a mentor with Center Point for six years. She was selected due to her above and beyond efforts as a mentor to not just one mentee, but nine young girls by the end of 2023 school year.

Elaine Hortman, Mentor Coordinator for Center Point, states "Just talking with Olivia, you know her heart is with the children."



Olivia is a retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ten years ago, she felt God was prompting her to resign. Olivia considers her full-time job is providing consistency, guidance, support, and camaraderie to her mentees, who she says are as good as her "own flesh and blood". Congratulations, Olivia.

2023 Staff Additions

Operations Manager Position Added to Center Point Staff - In fulfillment of Center Point's Strategic Plan, the new position of Operations Manager was created and filled by Elain Ellerbe. Elain has over 30 years' experience in non-profit management and brings a wealth of administrative experience to the position.

Director of Clinical Services - Hannah Croft has joined Center Point to re-establish individual counseling services to children and families from the Gainesville and Hall County area. Hannah has several years' experience in working in the mental health field in state and local agencies.

2023 Dancing for a Cause

Dancing for a Cause, a very popular fund-raising event, was held on Saturday, August 26th at the Ramsey Conference Center, located on the Lanier Tech College campus. This was the event's 8th year and raised \$345,000. It is hosted by three nonprofits serving children and families in the Gainesville/Hall County area: Center Point, Alliance for Literacy and Rape Response.

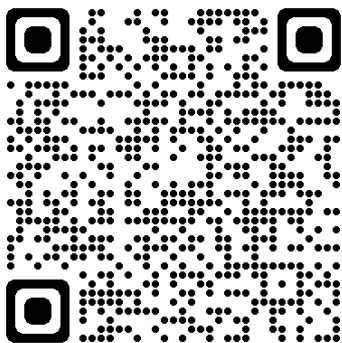
This year's **Community Star Trophy winner**, awarded to the pair of dancers receiving the highest score from the judges, went to local artist, **Fox Gradin and her dance partner, Derrick Smith**. The pair performed a Paso Doble-style dance and earned 29 points out of a possible 30. "It was a humbling and challenging experience," said Gradin, who added that she enjoyed showing "another side of "of herself. "I'm so glad to have been able to both raise money and awareness for important charities in my hometown."

The Mirror Ball Trophy, which goes to the performer whose total score is a combination of the amount of money raised and the



judges' scores, went to **Dr. Betsy Grunch and her dance partner, Aaron James**. They performed a hip-hop routine. "It feels surreal to be the winner of Dancing for a Cause," said Grunch. "This whole process has been a whirlwind, and I am so proud to serve our community by helping these three very worthy nonprofits. This mirror ball is for them." Local contestants Bradee Aderholt, Betty Mansfield, Patrick Cisco, Jack Griffeth, David Sauls, Roland Stanley, Carla Walker and Jeff Williams also participated.

--Excerpted from *The Times/Gainesville Article of 8/28/2023*



Scan QR Code
to Give Today

Supporting Center Point's Mission

Center Point is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides its services through generous donations of individuals, corporations, small businesses, civic organizations, and churches as well as community grant funding. If you are interested in being a part of our mission to enhance, strengthen, and change lives for Gainesville and Hall County students and their families, scan the QR code to go to our donation page.

In Their Own Words - Center Point Students

To Me, Center Point is filled with nice, welcoming people. It is also a place where I can be comfortable.

Centerpoint is a place I can call home

What does Center Point mean to me?
Center point means a safe space where everyone is heard. It means a building where everyone matters and is cared for. Center point can and will help many, many people with their struggles. Center point will forever be remembered by any who step foot there, as a wonderful, safe, caring, and amazing building filled with amazing people.

YOU ARE
SAFE HERE

Center point to me feels like a safe place. I feel understood and cared for. anytime I speak my mind I feel secure and never judged. I always get good vibes from everyone and the environment is calming.

Center Point means a lot to me. It's my favorite class of the day. It's like a big breath of fresh air walking in the building. The subjects we learn have helped me in real life outside of school.

