



Cultivating  
change in our  
communities





We know that every citizen, business, institution and community plays a crucial role in the sustainability of our state's economic vitality. Cultivating positive change in communities across Georgia drives our charitable giving and volunteerism across:



Health & Human Services



Education



Environmental Stewardship




Arts & Culture



Civic & Community





# At Georgia Power, we believe in cultivating change for our communities to be **successful**

That's why we continue to invest in programs that benefit Georgians and break the continuing cycle of poverty. We're committed to making economic prosperity and health and wellness accessible to all citizens in the communities we serve. We do this daily through our giving, in health and human services, education initiatives, arts and culture programming, environmental stewardship, and civic and community grants.

Through our commitment to educational initiatives and health and human services, Georgia Power and the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. invested more than \$11 million in programs that enhanced the well-being and success of Georgians in 2018. We believe that empowering Georgians is a life-cycle and having access to a quality education, medical care, affordable housing and utilities, a prosperous environment, nourishing food and job support is critical to the success of our citizens and the state.

We invite you to take a look at some of the many ways Georgia Power is committed to cultivating change in our communities. We are proud to call this state home and to be "Citizens Wherever We Serve."

# Service before self in our communities

Paul Bowers

Chairman, President and CEO of Georgia Power



*Paul Bowers volunteered with the Citizens of Georgia Power - Plant Bowen chapter on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and helped landscape the Black Pioneer Cemetery in Euaharlee.*

At Georgia Power, we believe in being "A Citizen Wherever We Serve." In 2018, our employees and retirees remained dedicated to creating positive change in our communities and ensuring the well-being of all Georgians by giving their skills, time and resources to touch thousands of lives across the state.

By putting service before self, our Georgia Power family packed and delivered more than 2,550 backpacks to students, collected and sorted canned goods for local food shelters, provided hot meals to cancer patients and their

families, tutored and mentored students and helped provide job training to young women and mothers.

In 2018, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. and Georgia Power contributed more than \$17 million and supported nearly 1,400 non-profit organizations across Georgia. Additionally, our employees and retirees volunteered more than 143,000 hours, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to making a difference in each of our communities. More than \$11 million were dedicated to educational and health & human services organizations, resources and initiatives.





*Mike Anderson volunteered with the Westside Future Fund at Agnes Jones Elementary School in Atlanta on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.*

At Georgia Power, we believe that it is not only our responsibility, but critical to the success of our state, to empower Georgians from childhood through adulthood. For more than 130 years, our dedicated employees and retirees have continuously looked to invest in and improve the lives of others.

As you review our Citizenship Report, we hope that you will be inspired to do your part in cultivating positive change and empowering Georgians, too.

*Paul Mike*

# Commitment to Citizenship

**We help because every community in Georgia matters.**

Georgia Power's commitment to citizenship dates back to the beginning of our company's existence, and for more than a century our employees have devoted themselves to not only providing the best electric service but also enriching the lives of their neighbors and communities. We have many ways through which we give back across the state, including:

## **Citizens of Georgia Power (Citizens)**

With 42 chapters statewide and more than 3,400 members, consisting of employees and their spouses, our Citizens chapters work with community organizations throughout Georgia.

## **Ambassadors**

Our statewide volunteer service organization for retired employees and their spouses, Ambassadors, is made up of more than 2,000 members active in 19 chapters across the state of Georgia.

## **Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.**

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is the platform which allows Georgia Power to sustain its strategic giving initiatives. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, we have invested more than \$185 million in Georgia.

## **Corporate Giving**

Our company makes charitable donations to hundreds of organizations and initiatives throughout our service territory. Our community investments are designed to focus resources on issues critical to the success of our company, customers and communities.

**We believe that it is our responsibility to empower the next generation of Georgians for our families, friends and neighbors.**

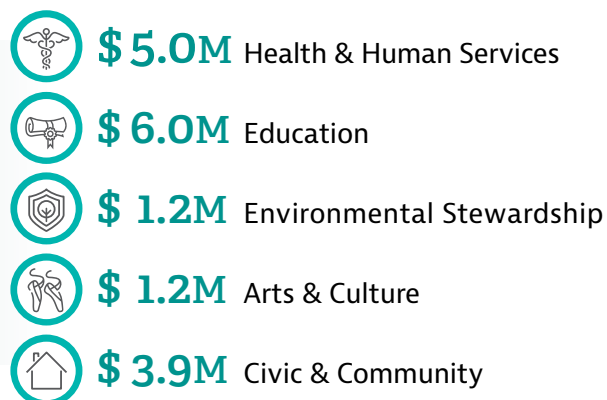
2018

# Charitable Giving

Georgia Power has called the state home for more than 130 years. Every year, our company, our employees and our retirees renew their commitment to empower our communities and their residents to be successful. To support this, we have invested millions of dollars, our skills, and our time to communities across Georgia. We're proud that our emphasis on education and health and human services initiatives has provided more than \$11 million to help families and children reach economic prosperity and wellness. Since inception, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. has invested more than \$185 million in Georgia.



## Focus areas of giving:



**\$1.3M**

In educational grants to 89 schools in 2018



**2,550**

Backpacks donated to students through our corporate sponsorship with Purposity in 2018



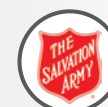
**143,000**

Hours volunteered by Citizens of Georgia Power and Ambassadors



**1,704**

Pints of blood donated by employees to the American Red Cross



**\$1.9M**

**\$72M** donated to Project SHARE by the company & customers since inception (1985)



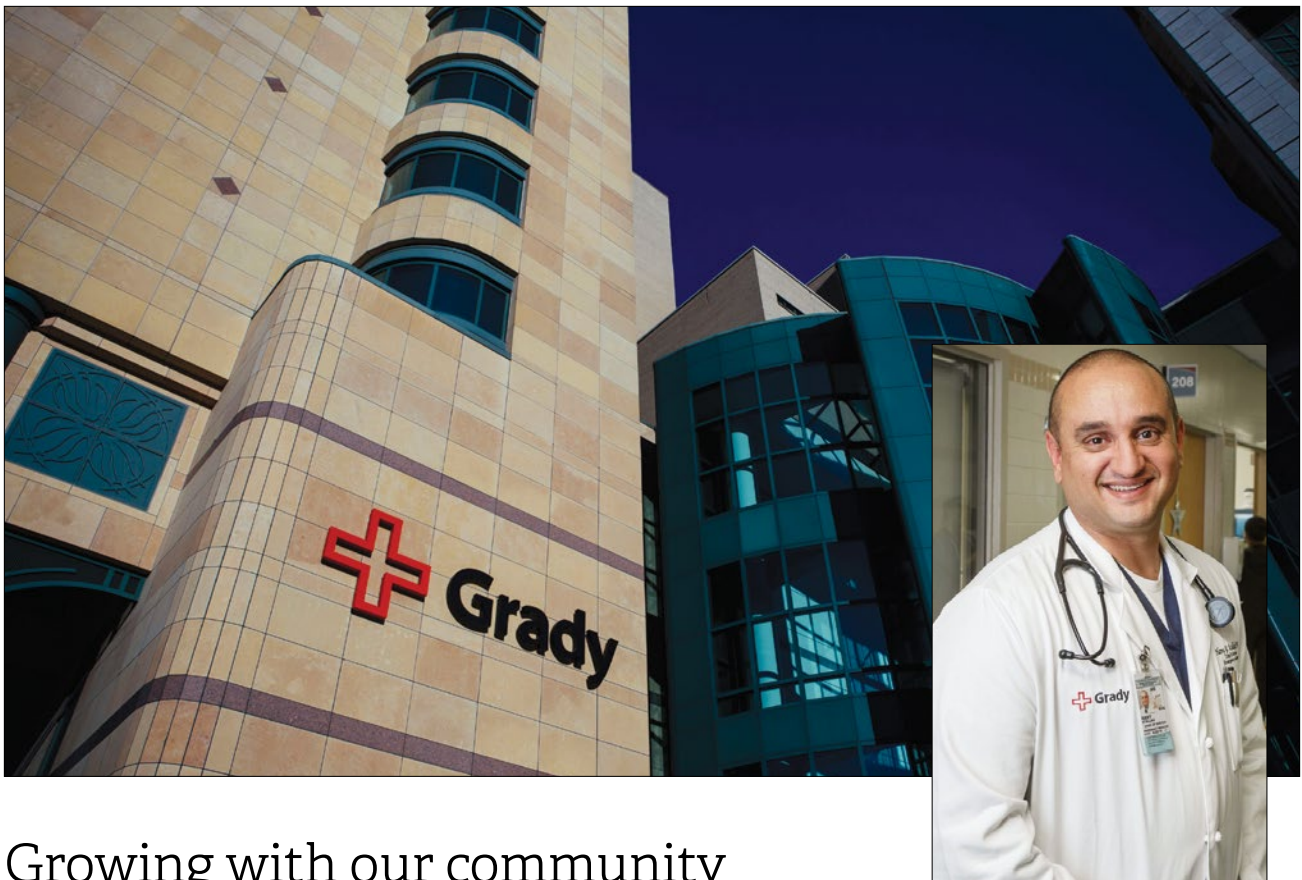


HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# Promoting positive change and touching thousands of lives







Photos courtesy of the Grady Health Foundation

# Growing with our community

Ask anyone across Georgia, and you will find someone who knows an individual who has received care at Grady Hospital.

Located in downtown Atlanta, Grady is the state’s largest public health system, providing unparalleled regional care in trauma, burn, stroke, cardiology, neonatal intensive care and other critical services to more than 620,000 patients a year – many of whom are the community’s most vulnerable citizens.

In its 126-year history, the institution has grown to be one of the most prominent teaching hospitals – training one in every four doctors in the state of Georgia – with its nationally acclaimed emergency medical services, nationally verified Level I trauma center and serving as the 911 ambulance provider for the city of Atlanta and 14 Georgia counties.

“Grady has grown to serve the state’s population, helping citizens when they cannot get help anywhere else,” said **Greg Roberts**, vice president of pricing and

planning at Georgia Power and a member of the Grady Health Foundation board since 2015. “With such a renowned health system in our city, Atlanta is able to attract everything from presidents to the Super Bowl.”

As Grady handles more patient visits than any other hospital in the city, the institution is now looking to grow to continue to meet the community’s needs.

“Our mission has always been to make sure everyone has access to high quality healthcare, and our success in pursuing that mission – along with a growing city population – has led to greater demand,” said Alisa Smallwood, vice president for development of the Grady Health Foundation.

Currently, Grady has prioritized two critical projects to shape the future of the institution including a new Center

for Advanced Surgical Services and an expansion of the Ponce Center for infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Training  
1 in 4  
doctors in Georgia



*Jason Stott, transmission maintenance center supervisor in Augusta, presents a donation to the University Hospital Health System.*

## A legacy of care for the community

In an emergency situation, you have mere seconds to make a potentially life-altering choice. For 200 years, the University Hospital Health System has been the emergency department of choice for residents of Augusta and the region.

In 2016, the non-profit hospital began a major expansion of their emergency department in order to streamline care processes and increase capacity for the estimated 85,000 patients each year who rely on them. Prior to the expansion that was supported by the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.,

physicians and staff saved lives every day in a facility designed to accommodate fewer than 50,000 patients a year.

"We treat everything from chicken pox to tuberculosis. The health system gave away more than \$42 million in healthcare to our patients last year," said Kathy Walker, development officer for the University Health Care Foundation.

With this expansion, the ER will see a complete re-design that is more patient bedside-focused including additional treatment spaces, beds, pediatric rooms and a sexual assault nurse exam room.

## Doing more for families by working together

In South Georgia, one in three children face food insecurity – meaning they do not always know where their next meal will come from. Second Harvest of South Georgia – the largest rural food bank in the state – is helping to alleviate this problem by serving families in 30 counties.

"Georgia Power has long been an exceptional partner to us by giving of their time, skills and financial resources," said Eliza McCall, chief marketing officer for Second Harvest of South Georgia. "For every dollar they have donated, we have been able to serve 8.77 meals to those in need."

As a member of the Feeding America network, the food bank along with its network of partner agencies, distributed more than 20 million pounds of food last year.



Photo courtesy of Second Harvest of South Georgia

## Earning a degree at any age

How far can an education take you? For the men and women who have studied for the General Educational Development (GED) test at the Nancy Hart Literacy Council, it has been a ticket to success.

Since the 1980s, the council – located in Hartwell, Georgia and an extension of Athens Technical College – provides technology literacy services, GED, computer skills, Spanish, English as a Second Language (ESL) and job preparedness courses for individuals in Hart, Elbert and Franklin counties.

"We offer a free program of study for anyone interested in earning their GED and have students that range in ages 18 to as old as 65 years old," said Betty Hulsey, director of the council.

In 2018, more than 130 students studied for the GED.

"Without the generous support of the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc., this wouldn't be possible. The grant money keeps the council operating and helps students receive financial aid for earning their GED," she said.



## Neighbors helping neighbors

Emergencies and challenging economic times often make it difficult for people to acquire food, shelter, clothing and medical supplies or even pay their utility bills. That's why since 1985, Georgia Power and its customers have partnered to donate over \$72 million to The Salvation Army Georgia's Project SHARE in support of neighbors in need.

"Through Project SHARE, our customers can make a positive impact to a program that benefits thousands of fellow Georgians experiencing financial hardship," said **Kevin Kastner**, vice president of customer service.

By donating as little as a dollar per month through their Georgia Power bill payment, customers provide meaningful, localized assistance for a neighbor in need with funds staying in the same community. More than one million Georgians have received assistance from the program over the past 30 years. The Georgia Power Company matches all donations dollar for dollar up to \$1 million per year.



Photo courtesy of The Salvation Army

## Georgia Power and its customers have donated \$72M to Project SHARE

### Restoring strength on the westside

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. and Georgia Power Company, along with several companies in the Atlanta area have come together to "restore strength" to the westside of the city through the Westside Future Fund.

Created in 2013, the fund acts as the central change agent for all revitalization efforts in the neighborhood surrounding Mercedes-Benz Stadium, including English Avenue and Vine City.

With 52 percent of the population falling below the poverty line and 40 percent of housing units vacant, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is partnering with the fund to ensure the westside's long-term success.

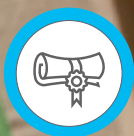
"Current residents are very fearful of being displaced – both physically and emotionally," said Cheryl Strickland, executive vice president of real estate of the Westside Future Fund. "We are pushing hard around multi-family options to obtain more housing quickly to meet the population's needs."

Investments from the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. and Georgia Power Company will assist existing westside residents to remain in their neighborhood.



*Georgia Power employees volunteered with Westside Future Fund as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day.*





EDUCATION



Strengthening  
educational initiatives  
to ensure a skilled and trained  
workforce for Georgia



# Making dreams a reality for college students

For the past two years, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. has supported University of Georgia (UGA) students with need-based scholarships through the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program.

The scholarship program is designed to grow the number of need-based scholarships awarded to UGA students. Further, the UGA Foundation matches individual donations of \$50,000 or more to double the impact of endowed need-based scholarships.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. funded scholarships for five students, helping them reach their dream of attending a top university. Mesk Nafea is one of those students.

Nafea, a sophomore at UGA, is a biology major with aspirations of attending medical school and becoming a radiologist.

"Receiving the Georgia Commitment Scholarship was a surprise for me," she said. "It was a pleasant surprise because I wasn't sure I would be able to attend UGA without the assistance of this scholarship."

Many students receive the scholarship on a financial-need basis and are first-generation college students.



*Tony Ferguson, regional director, Mesk Nafea and the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. staff.*



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## Giving students the gift of a college education



Photo courtesy of Columbus State University

If you have been to Columbus lately, you already know that the once small town along the Chattahoochee River has grown tremendously in the last decade. Georgia Power has long been a leader in economic development in the area, including a financial supporter of Columbus State University for more than 30-years.

In 2018, the Foundation supported the creation of an endowment fund to give students the gift of receiving a college education.

Scholarship recipients of the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.

Scholars Program must be enrolled full-time and majoring in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) field or a program within the Turner College of Business.

"It means hardworking, high-achieving students now have the opportunity to pursue higher education and receive help with their financial needs" said Cameron Bean, executive director of development at Columbus State. "It means the difference between students going to college and not going."



Photo courtesy of Profound Gentleman

## Retaining educators for the long-term

Why is it so important to retain and develop black, male teachers? Since 2015, Jason Terrell and the team at Profound Gentleman have been working on teacher retention of black and Latino men to ultimately benefit their students' success long-term.

"Profound Gentleman is a membership-based program where teachers join and get personal coaching on character and content development, as well as leadership," said Terrell, the founder of the program and a former language arts teacher.

The program based in Charlotte, North Carolina, recently expanded to Atlanta with the financial support of the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.

"We have seen research-based evidence that male teachers of color positively influence educational and life outcomes for boys of color by being a trusted role model," said **Rita Breen**, executive director of the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. "Our plan is to increase the partnership with non-profits that help accelerate the male educator pipeline so boys in underserved communities can reach their full potential."

In three years, the program has helped keep 90 percent of

their members in the classroom with numbers expected to grow.

"Our goal is to keep male instructors in the classroom in Atlanta, and we could not do this without the support of the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.," said Terrell.

At Georgia College in Milledgeville, a similar program to recruit diverse, male educators is starting at the high school and higher education level.

The Call Me MISTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program builds educational leadership by recruiting and training diverse males to become transformational K-12 teachers in Georgia.

"A lot of young men haven't thought about teaching, so we have to introduce the possibility to them as early as their freshman or sophomore year in high school," said Emmanuel Little, director of the program.

In addition to Georgia Power's financial support, two members of Georgia Power's Learning Power team, **Wayne Grimes** and **Cedric Sheffield**, have mentored, advised and served as role models for the Call Me MISTER participants.





## Coding skills that translate to the real world

For more than seven years, Georgia Power's Education and Workforce Development team has been a proud supporter of FIRST Robotics, a program founded in 1989 to inspire interest and participation in science and technology.

For Georgia Power, the partnership with the program – that focuses on STEM-related activities including coding, robotics, team building and presentation skills – was a natural fit. Due to the demand for employees with science and technology backgrounds in the energy industry, Georgia Power remains committed to increasing the number of students interested in pursuing these careers.

Some of these participants now work for the company including **Lauren**

**Schmidt**, a FIRST Robotics alumna that now works as an application developer.

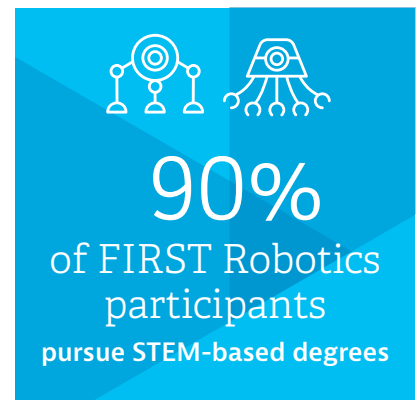
While Schmidt did not know much about computer programming at first, she learned quickly through participation in robotics competitions.

"I had the opportunity to make code changes to match other teams' strategies during competitions. To see code translated into something the robot did before my eyes made me want to continue in software development," she said.

This new passion led Schmidt to Georgia Tech where she earned a degree in computer science with a specialization in software development and user interface.

These skills translated into an

internship position with Georgia Power and finally, a full-time position as an application developer.



## Renewing hope for Waynesboro students



2018 scholarship recipients. (L-R): Abigail Scott, Robert Gilchrist and James Philpott.

Every year, four deserving incoming college students from the Burke County-area near Plant Vogtle are awarded The Neighborhood Renewal College Scholarship. Each student is awarded \$750 per semester or \$1,500 for an academic year.

Founded in 2014, The Neighborhood Renewal Program is an ongoing, coordinated initiative to support the community surrounding the plant. Georgia Power employees collaborate with Vogtle-area community leaders to make substantial improvements in the lives of those who reside in the area.

As part of the Vogtle Community Alliance Project, The Neighborhood Renewal Program focuses on three main objectives: home renewal for local residents in need, college scholarships for high school students planning to major in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, and a new Family Y community center.





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Being good  
environmental stewards  
through conservation and  
restoration  
across our state





*The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. staff was on-site at the park's ribbon cutting with Mayor of Atlanta, Keisha Lance-Bottoms.*

## Providing a place to learn at first Hispanic-named park in Georgia

On a rainy October morning, leaders and neighbors from the westside of Atlanta gathered at Sara J. González Park to dedicate the first recreational area and green space in Georgia to be named after a Hispanic individual.

González, who passed away in 2008, was an Atlanta civic leader who advocated for immigrant communities across the state and the Southeast. Behind the charge of renaming the park was her youngest daughter, Isabel González Whitaker.

Following her mother's death, Whitaker wanted to memorialize her in some way, and when the park, located between Coronet Way and Bolton Road, became available for renaming in 2009, she saw an opportunity.

"My mother was very active in the Georgia political community and made sure those in government had access to their Latino constituents," she said. "I felt naming this park after her was right by her legacy and is truly a testament to Atlanta's diversity."



Aside from honoring her mother's legacy in the community and her love for children, Whitaker knew that dedicating the park with community resources was critical. According to the Hispanic Federation, only 19 percent of Hispanic children in the United States have access to recreational space in their own neighborhoods.

At first, González Whitaker had limited funds to completely re-vamp the park and relied on residents in the community to help with park clean ups. In time, she was granted donations from corporate and philanthropic partners in the city.

Last fall, the park re-opened with a renovated playground, an ADA-compliant active space, an open soccer field area, a legacy plaza and a "learning nook" area that offers educational programming and brings children into nature, thanks to the Georgia Power Foundation.

Prior to the creation of the outdoor classroom, Jose Osorio, a former ESOL teacher at Bolton Academy and current assistant principal at Dresden Elementary in DeKalb County, would set up his own card table and folding chairs to tutor students for free at the park.

"There was a need for after-school tutoring for students in all grade levels but not enough funds to set them up," said Osorio. "I bought my own card table on Amazon and started meeting with students at the park after school."

Osorio, who would tutor as many as 15 students in one afternoon, often dealt with the natural elements including extreme cold, heat and rain.

When open, the newly-dedicated tutoring space will provide a safe, educational structure that provides shade, shelter and electricity for computer usage for 15 – 20 students. The space will also be used to host courses in English and financial literacy, as well as workshops in environmental programming and stewardship.





*Mike Anderson, senior vice president of charitable giving and Mark Berry, vice president of environmental and natural resources for Georgia Power.*

## Bee-ing a good environmental steward

For Georgia Power, a large part of serving our communities is about environmental stewardship and our commitment to protecting Georgia's endangered species.

That commitment was reflected last year by the company's newest partnership with Bee Downtown, a start-up dedicated to rebuilding a healthy honey bee population by partnering

with companies throughout Atlanta to connect vital pollinator pathways. This partnership is a direct result of Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.'s investment in ENGAGE, a venture fund. Bee Downtown was one of the first cohorts in the program.

As of last summer, three new honey bee hives, housing 150,000 honey bees now call the courtyard at Georgia Power's



corporate headquarters home.

Georgia Power's hives join other Atlanta-area companies, including Invesco, Delta Airlines, AT&T, Chick-fil-A, Intercontinental Exchange, Cox Enterprises, The Home Depot, UPS and Georgia Pacific, to help bring awareness to the plight of honey bees and other pollinator species.

Over the last few decades, the world has seen a decline in honey bee health and population. To help offset those declines, Georgia Power prioritizes responsible habitat management to promote pollinator-friendly plant species.



## A collaborative network to support Georgia's environment

The Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (IGEL) is an experiential program dedicated to building and sustaining a diverse network of environmentally educated leaders in the state.

Established in 2001, leaders from agriculture, business, civic and conservation groups, elected office, forestry, non-profits and education work together to resolve the state's environmental challenges. The program was developed to build a collaborative network of leaders to create solutions, instead of just engaging in divisive debates and lawsuits.

The cohorts – who are selected through a yearly application process – bring their knowledge, skills and network that are necessary to help resolve Georgia's environmental challenges now and in the future.

Georgia Power and the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. have long been supporters of the program with an employee from the company's Environmental & Natural Resources team participating every year.

"The focus is on environmental issues and bringing together professionals of very differing opinions to bring value to our state and our citizens," said **Aaron Mitchell**, environmental affairs general manager and 2018 IGEL participant. "It's all about listening to individuals with other perspectives and backgrounds, knowing their value, and considering how we can all work together for our communities."

With sessions and peer groups taking place multiple times throughout the year in cities all over Georgia, IGEL participants have the opportunity to develop deeper relationships in communities from the coast to the mountains and the urban metropolis to rural areas.





Dedicated to causes  
that support Georgia's  
rich heritage and  
creative thinking





# Instilling confidence through the grace of ballet

"I will not use the word 'can't' to define my possibilities" was a daily affirmation stated by over 1,000 students across the country who attended an AileyCamp last summer.

The camp, founded in 1988, by New York choreographer Alvin Ailey was created to provide direction and hope to underserved children as they overcome challenges and work to achieve their dreams. In its 30 years, the camp has since spread to 10 cities across the United States – including Atlanta.

In its fifth year with the Atlanta Ballet, the camp draws close to 200 applicants per year, with around 100 students attending. In 2018, 103 students attended the program, many that were recruited from metro-area charter schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Atlanta.

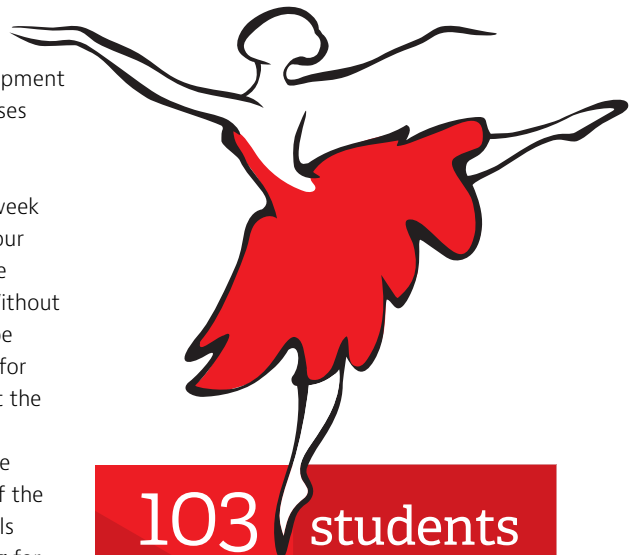
The intensive six-week program meets five days a week and expects full commitment from its students.

During seven-hour instructional days,

students take classes in ballet, modern, jazz and West African dance, as well as personal development and creative communication classes that teach students to express themselves in positive ways.

"We could not provide a six-week program without the support of our community partners, including the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. Without their contribution, this wouldn't be possible," said Sharon Story, dean for the Centre for Dance Education at the Atlanta Ballet.

The 97 girls and six boys in the 2018 program spent four weeks of the camp learning dance fundamentals and the final two weeks preparing for their recital attended by family, friends, supporters and community leaders.



**103 students**  
attended AileyCamp in Atlanta  
in 2018

## Bringing Georgia history to life for students

Since 1839, the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) has been teaching state history to students, while housing the oldest and most distinguished collection of materials related exclusively to Georgia's history in the nation.

As an educational and research institution, GHS teaches state history through a variety of educational programs and publications. Their signature K-12 education program – the Georgia History Festival – brings history to life through exhibits, in-school events and resources for exploring the richness and diversity of the state's past.

The annual festival started at the founding of the state and includes the Georgia Day Parade every February in Savannah.

"Students get a glimpse of colonial life in Georgia. You can read about what it was like, but when you stand on that ground at our museum and historic sites, you really feel like you're transported to



Photo courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society

that time," said Patricia Meagher, director of communications for GHS.

With the ongoing support of Georgia Power, the Georgia Historical Society can create the educational materials needed to have an impact on students across the state.

In 2018, Georgia Power Chairman, President and CEO **Paul Bowers** was recognized as a 2018 Georgia Trustee – the highest honor the State of Georgia can bestow on an individual – by the Office of the Governor and the Georgia Historical Society.



Photo courtesy of the Steffen Thomas Museum



## Providing arts for all

Steffen Thomas was a Bavarian sculptor who was infatuated with the American Dream. At the age of 22, he paid his own way to the United States – eventually settling in Georgia – and created some of the greatest public sculptures of the 20th century. He was also known for his environmental stewardship and for using materials including scrap metal, broken pottery, discarded lumber and plastic.

In 1997, Thomas' wife spent most of her life savings and the last 12 years of her life creating a museum that showcased her husband's work. Since 2002, the museum in Morgan County has provided art outreach to students in rural and middle Georgia.

The museum's flagship program is the Morgan County Crossroads School Art Program. Since 2003, the Steffen Thomas Museum has provided art programming

for the alternative school's middle and high school students.

"We go into the classroom every week and incorporate a yearly art project to an entity in the area," said Elizabeth Collins, arts outreach program coordinator and instructor. "We are giving students a positive outlet to express creativity while earning school credit."

To carry on Thomas' legacy of recycling arts materials and being a good steward to the environment, students have completed public art projects in the past for each of the three parks on Lake Oconee, which is owned and maintained by Georgia Power.

"Through all of our programs, we have always emphasized the importance of protecting the environment," said Lisa Conner, the youngest daughter of Steffen Thomas.







Photos courtesy of the Telfair Museum of Art

Georgia Power's commitment to the arts reflects the important role that cultural events play in a community's development.

## Establishing a creative dialogue on the coast

The coastal city of Savannah is rich with history and home to one of the oldest museums in the country and the first to be founded by a woman.

Home to more than 7,000 works of art and two National Historic Landmark buildings, the Telfair Museum of Art is the only visual arts organization in Savannah that provides free outreach to all city districts and age groups, with a focus on strengthening communities through active and rehabilitative art workshops.

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.'s support of Telfair's Free Family Days program brings thousands of Georgia students and their families into the museum space for free professional art workshops and world-class

exhibitions each year.

"The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. has been a longtime partner of the Telfair Museum's community outreach program and has been instrumental in bringing the life-changing power of art and culture to thousands of Georgians each year," said Molly Taylor, deputy director of the museum.



Free Family Days eliminate the financial barriers often associated with museum experiences to bring thousands of annual participants together in collaboration toward a common goal: establishing a brighter, more creative, and more tolerant cultural dialogue.

This free program is marketed to Savannah's students, churches, neighborhood associations and community centers, more than two-thirds of which are located in economically underserved areas. Telfair's professional artists and educators unite individuals regardless of background, neighborhood, and need in a common museum experience.





CIVIC AND COMMUNITY

Building and improving  
the areas where we  
live, work and serve





## A beacon of light, hope and transformation

In 1997, Bruce Deel, now a pastor, was asked to travel to Atlanta to assist with the closing of a local church. After a few weeks into the process, Deel realized that the congregation wasn't dwindling but was actually growing with people in crisis and in desperate need of help to transform their lives. Out of this realization and a willingness to assist those in need, Deel founded City of Refuge of which he is now CEO.

By 2003, City of Refuge had moved into a donated warehouse on the westside of Atlanta. Today, that state-of-the-art hub serves as the center of "Where Good Works." Serving as an avenue for women, children and families in need, the organization offers a full-service kitchen; on-site mental, dental and medical care; free housing; workforce vocational training and youth development programs.

Most recently, the non-profit launched a campaign to build infrastructure and capacity in the years to come, including building out an innovation hub and additional training programs in culinary services, auto mechanics, security services, pest control, customer service and hospitality.

Supported by the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc., the new Workforce Innovation Hub will provide a comprehensive approach to employment, including recruiting, mentoring, training and staffing.

"We want to ensure that any training class we offer is supported through job placement, specifically for our residents living in the 30314-zip code of Atlanta," said Britt Gray, director of marketing and communications for City of Refuge.

Two of the greatest barriers that low-income Americans face regarding finding and retaining employment are limited access to quality job training and a lack of networks that can connect them to potential employers. City of Refuge will assist in removing those barriers.





Photo courtesy of AVL

## Standing with our neighbors

If you live below the poverty line in a metropolitan area and have a problem that requires legal action, what do you do? Usually, the answer is nothing, as the legal system is complex and often expensive.

In the city of Atlanta, demand for skilled civil attorneys is high but resources are too few. This is where attorneys from private firms come in to help.

Since 1979, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer Foundation (AVLF) has been dedicated to promoting access to justice by inspiring and recruiting 14,000 private attorneys in the area to provide high-quality education, advocacy and representation at no charge to low-income families with basic civil legal needs. Their programs include services for domestic violence survivors, landlord/tenant disputes, evictions, unpaid wages and probate issues.

Recently, AVLF has been most passionate about their "Standing with Our Neighbors" program – a program supported by Atlanta's leading law firms to stand with neighborhoods in the city that demand stability and better conditions.

"We know that families cannot thrive without affordable housing that is safe, stable and allows for a healthy

environment," said Marty Ellin, executive director of the Foundation. "We know that children are suffering because they are living in unstable housing and deplorable conditions, making it impossible to be successful in school."

To remediate the problem, AVLF identified zones that were facing elevated levels of poverty, public health issues and below-average test scores to begin stabilizing housing.

"You can't fix our schools until you fix our community," said Ellin. "Our team is proving that you can make a difference in outcome of a child's education and health by addressing housing instability."

With the support of donors including the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. and the board support of **Meredith Lackey**, senior vice president and general counsel at Georgia Power, AVLF has provided more than \$2.25 million of free legal work to low-income clients in the community.

"Georgia Power has shown dramatic generosity to AVLF and their support for safe and stable families," said Ellin. "They are the leading corporate sponsor in the community and we are incredibly grateful."



## Connecting the dots in the community



Photo courtesy of Cherokee Focus

In order for our youth to one day be successful adults, they need the right skills and resources available in their own schools, homes and communities.

Cherokee FOCUS meets these needs by strengthening the economic development of Cherokee County. With their extensive programming through the Georgia Family Connection Partnership, the non-profit provides suicide prevention, drug and alcohol counseling, as well as a high emphasis on workforce housing through Cherokee Youth Works – a program dedicated to improving high school graduation rates.

Many of the students involved in the program have dropped out of school due to bullying, as well as personal and family illness and are looking to earn their GEDs.

Sonia Carruthers, executive director & CEO of Cherokee FOCUS, believes it is their role to connect the dots in their community.

"We get local leaders together as a group and assess the gaps in our county and work to fill those gaps so that we can have a strong, stable community with access to education, job training and job opportunities," she said.

Not only does the non-profit provide counseling and youth programming, they also lead "Drug Free Cherokee" – an initiative that brings together law enforcement, health providers and parents to discuss the elimination of drug misuse by minors in the county.



## 24 affordable rental units

built for veterans with the help of Georgia Power

## Providing strength, stability and self-reliance

Since 1988, Athens Area Habitat for Humanity has been creating affordable housing for low-income residents of Clarke, Oglethorpe and Oconee counties. In addition, the organization also offers small home repairs for low-income homeowners and builds ramps for disabled homeowners so that they can continue to live in their homes.

Between 2000 to 2014, the poverty rate in Athens-Clarke County more than doubled, with nearly two in five residents living below the poverty line – one of the highest in the nation.

To help combat this problem, Georgia Power has been a proud partner of the Athens Area Habitat for Humanity for more than 20 years. Recently, the company partnered with Habitat for Humanity to construct 24 affordable rental units for veterans. The housing includes duplexes that are close to bus systems, with rent used to repurpose the community.

"Georgia Power has always been extremely helpful with



Photo courtesy of Athens Area Habitat for Humanity

anything we needed from construction to donating annually to our funds that have been utilized to create more low-cost housing in the region," said Spencer Frye, executive director of the area organization.

Through the continued support of the company, the Athens Area Habitat for Humanity has been able to provide strength, stability and self-reliance to neighbors-in-need.







# We are Citizens Wherever We Serve

## Jefferson Street Citizens chapter leaves legacy for at-risk-students

On a cool Saturday morning in October, members of the Citizens of Georgia Power – Jefferson Street chapter in Atlanta rolled up their sleeves to beautify Bright Futures' campus on the westside of the city.

Founded in 2009, Bright Futures Atlanta is home to a fully-accredited academy, after school program and summer camp for inner-city, at-risk students looking to receive spiritual, education and family support.



More than a dozen Georgia Power volunteers and their families gathered to plant trees and shrubs, install benches and complete other landscaping projects for the school.

"Bright Futures is a place that creates future leaders by positively impacting the lives of our youth for years to come," said **Kimberly Allen**, Citizens chapter president. "The Jefferson Street chapter considered it an honor to help create a positive impact and leave a legacy in our community."



**\$121K**  
contributed by the  
**Georgia Power Foundation**  
for legacy projects

These volunteer projects are completed by the 42 Citizens of Georgia Power chapters and are intended to leave a lasting impact and legacy on the communities where their members live, work and serve. The funds provided for the projects are contributed by the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.

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## Augusta, Plant Vogtle Citizens build connection with their neighbors

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Georgia Power employees and their families spend the day giving back to the communities where they live and work.

In the small town of Waynesboro near Augusta, 50 members of the Citizens of Georgia Power – Plant Vogtle and Augusta chapters partnered together to serve their neighbors that live within a 10-mile radius of the company's nuclear power plant.

"We wanted to help our elderly neighbors do things that they could not do on their own anymore," said **Suzanne Sharkey**, area manager in Waynesboro. "This service day, our team helped build a roof on a pump house, small deck and front steps for a widow in her late 80s."

In addition, Georgia Power employees' children joined in and helped do yard work and paint projects.

"By helping others, we truly have the opportunity to get to know our neighbors surrounding Plant Vogtle. It's the connection in the community – that's what makes it so special."





# McBEAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





# The digital evolution of being 'a citizen wherever we serve'

In 2018, Georgia Power announced its partnership with Purposity, a revolutionary social charitable giving platform that makes it easy for anyone to find and help a neighbor in need in their own community by making a purchase instantly via their mobile device.

For Georgia Power, the partnership represents the social evolution of the company's longstanding commitment to being 'a citizen wherever we serve.' Helping our neighbors in need and being a change agent in our communities has been a commitment at the company since our founding.

Employees across the state helped students start the year off on the right foot with the donation of 2,550 backpacks. The backpacks, purchased through Purposity, benefited students in Atlanta Public Schools, Bibb County Schools, Richmond County Schools, Brantley County School, Lowndes County School and the Valdosta City School District.

"We had hundreds of employees across the state purchasing backpacks for students in their communities through the new platform," said **Chris D'Andrea**, volunteer services manager. "Our employees and Citizen chapters truly embody being a 'citizen wherever we serve' and are always willing to step up and provide their skills, time and resources when needed."

These backpacks were then assembled by the General Office, Valdosta, Heart of Georgia/Macon, Brunswick, Augusta, Thomson and Waynesboro Citizen chapters with school supplies purchased by the company.

Employees continue to serve in their communities via a weekly text message from Purposity with an open, local need they can meet. These needs are usually for children and families and may include a student needing new shoes, diapers for a baby or laundry detergent for a single mother.

Additionally, with Georgia Power's assistance, school systems across the state are now able to register their students with Purposity.

With the addition of Purposity, Georgia Power employees now have three options to contribute to their friends and neighbors in need, including volunteer opportunities with their local Citizens chapter and Club of Hearts, a charitable organization that meets health and human services needs across the state.



2,550 backpacks  
donated through Purposity

# Denise Hamrick

honored with the 2018  
Arkwright Award  
for service

In honor of the great legacy started by our first president, Georgia Power introduced the Preston Arkwright Award in 2016 to recognize a top volunteer that lives out the company's standard of being, "A Citizen Wherever We Serve." This annual award is presented to a Georgia Power employee who goes above and beyond to embody the true meaning of citizenship.

**Denise Hamrick**, Northeast Region energy services team lead, was honored as the recipient of the third annual award in 2018 for her impact in the community.

Hamrick has worked for Georgia Power for more than 13 years and has served her community for more than 21 years. As president of the Citizens of Georgia Power – Thomson chapter, Hamrick has coordinated and led the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project at Boy Scout Camp Knox and has also led the chapter's Earth Day project at the McDuffie Environmental Education Center.

"It is such an honor to represent our Citizens group and all the volunteers in the room," said Hamrick.

Finalists for the award were selected by a panel, and the winner was chosen by employee voting. As part of the honor, Hamrick received a \$5,000 donation to a non-profit of her choice and selected Teen Challenge, an organization that helps teenagers, adults and families facing substance abuse, as the recipient of the funds.



“It is such an honor  
to represent our  
Citizens group and  
all the volunteers  
in the room.”

— Denise Hamrick,  
*Northeast Region energy services team lead*





# 2018 Citizens of Georgia Power

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## 2018 Citizens of Georgia Power Chapter Presidents

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Albany

**Josh Likins**  
Athens

**Jeff Grantham**  
Augusta

**Zach Taylor**  
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**Jason Bennett**  
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**Seth Benefield**  
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**Ryan Poole**  
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**Jay Studstill**  
Dublin

**Cynthia Wheeler**  
Forest Park

**Charles Henley**  
Gainesville

**Kristi Dow**  
General Office

**Jill Pennamon**  
Gwinnett

**Jackie Brown**  
Heart of GA/Macon

**Ann Marie Herrera**  
Lefferson Street

**Brittani Harris**  
Metro East

**Reggie Roby**  
Metro South

**Lisa Santos**  
Metro West

**Tim Nipper**  
Milledgeville/Plant Branch

**Nina Kosakoski North**  
Fulton Area

**Joey Barrett**  
Piedmont

**Ellen Floyd**  
Plant Bowen

**Rebecca Theakston**  
Plant Hammond

**Tim Van Hagen**  
Plant McDonough

**Krystal Reeves**  
Plant Scherer

**Stephen King**  
Plant Vogtle

**Sabrina Grimsley**  
Plant Wansley

**Bobby Harper**  
Plant Yates

**Carlos Del Rio**  
Rome

**Jarred Rankin**  
Savannah

**Lonnie Shaw**  
Savannah Generation

**Gloribel Perez**  
Statesboro

Tallulah Falls  
**Rhonda Brookshire**

Thomson  
**Denise Hamrick**

**Sabrina Rouse**  
Tifton

**Indira Stephens**  
Valdosta

**Cliff Wall**  
Vidalia

**Crystal Godfrey**  
Waycross

**Paul Vaught**  
Waynesboro



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# Georgia Power

A Citizen Wherever We Serve

[GeorgiaPower.com/citizenship](http://GeorgiaPower.com/citizenship)

#WeHelpBecauseItsHome

#GAPowerfulService