



# THE OVERLOOK

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Expanding Access, Deepening Impact

A Legacy of Care, A Future of Hope





# Welcome to our 2024/25 Annual Report

As we mark our 35th anniversary, we celebrate not only the milestones we've reached but the incredible community that made them possible. Your support throughout 2024/25 has fueled innovation, expanded access to care, and transformed lives. Every statistic and story in this report reflects the power of your partnership and the legacy we're building together. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us shape a healthier, more hopeful future for the next 35 years and beyond.

## Looking for ways to deepen your support?

Turn to page 38 for ways to support Summit's mission and help us continue building a healthier, more connected community.





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# A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends of Summit Counseling Center,

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I am honored to reflect on a year of profound growth, resilience, and impact at Summit Counseling Center. In a time when mental health needs continue to rise across our communities, Summit has remained steadfast in its mission to provide hope, healing, and restoration to individuals and families throughout North Metro Atlanta.

This past year, our dedicated team of clinicians, staff, and volunteers expanded access to care through innovative programs, including our Child & Adolescent Services, First Responder Counseling, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. We also deepened our commitment to mental health education, reaching thousands through workshops, presentations, and community partnerships aimed at reducing stigma and promoting wellness.

Behind these achievements is a passionate and visionary leadership team, supported by a Board that believes deeply in the transformative power of mental health care. Together, we have worked to ensure that Summit remains financially strong, operationally agile, and mission-driven, earning continued recognition for transparency and excellence.

To our donors, partners, and supporters: thank you. Your generosity fuels our ability to serve those who need us most, regardless of their ability to pay. Every gift, every hour volunteered, and every word of encouragement helps us build a more compassionate and resilient community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach, strengthening our services, and advocating for mental health as a vital part of overall well-being. With your continued support, Summit will keep climbing toward greater impact, deeper healing, and lasting change.

With gratitude,

J. David Smith  
Board Chair



## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Mr. J. David Smith, Chair  
Mrs. Lisa Amundsen  
Mr. Lester Archambeau  
Mrs. Ana Franco  
Mr. Andrew Gibson  
Mr. Keith Griffin  
Mrs. DeAnn B. Golden  
Mr. Justin Y. Hester  
Mrs. Bobbi Johnson

Mr. Quentin Jones  
Mr. Steve Korb  
Dr. Chris Leggett  
Mrs. Nikeisha Whatley-Léon  
Sen. Fran Millar  
Mrs. Minutha Parker  
Mrs. Jane Schilling  
Ms. Cherylann Sherwood  
Rev. David Smith

Mrs. Tracy Triplett  
Mr. Marshall Turner  
Mr. Scott Vasant  
Mrs. Barbara Williams

**Ex-Officio Members**  
Mrs. Helen Caudill  
Rev. Matt Stone



Since 1990, The Summit has been a trusted community partner; bringing hope, healing, and restoration to children, teens, adults, couples, and families.

### Our Mission

The Summit provides professional counseling, psychological services, school-based mental health and community education services utilizing an integrated approach to care for individuals and families – Body, Mind, Spirit, and Relationships.

### Our Vision

The Summit envisions a community where everyone, without exception, will have full access to professional, integrative behavioral healthcare services.

### Our Values

**Competence:** Development of a skilled workforce that delivers and supports the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based clinical services.

**Culture:** A shared vision of values, beliefs, and attitudes that drives engagement, impacts satisfaction, and improves both well-being and performance at work.

**Connectivity:** Intentional efforts to communicate, collaborate, and provide meaningful feedback, both internally and externally, to accomplish our shared mission.

**Care:** Demonstration of thoughtful consideration for The Summit staff, both at the team and individual level, so that each employee feels seen and heard.

**Community:** Engaging with our stakeholders (clients, partners, and neighbors) in a way that allows them to feel cared for, valued, and respected.



# A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Summit Community,

As we consider the milestones of the past 35 years, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible strides we've made together at Summit Counseling Center. Our mission to provide professional counseling, consultation, and education to support emotional and mental well-being has never been more vital, and thanks to your unwavering support, we've been able to meet the growing needs of our community with compassion, innovation, and excellence.

This year, we expanded our reach through strategic partnerships with schools, faith communities, and local organizations, ensuring that mental health care is accessible where people live, learn, and work. We've strengthened our clinical programs, invested in staff development, and embraced new technologies to enhance the quality and efficiency of our services.

Behind every statistic is a story: a child learning to manage anxiety, a parent finding hope, a first responder receiving support, a teen discovering resilience. These stories are the heartbeat of Summit, and they remind us daily why our work matters.

I am deeply thankful to our dedicated team of therapists, staff, board members, and volunteers who bring our mission to life. Your passion and professionalism inspire me every day. To our donors and community partners: your belief in our work empowers us to serve more people, break down barriers to care, and build a healthier, more connected community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to growth with purpose: expanding services, deepening impact, and advocating for mental health as a cornerstone of overall well-being. Together, we are creating a future where everyone has access to the support they need to thrive.

With heartfelt appreciation,

**David M. Smith, M.Div., M.A.**  
Executive Director  
Summit Counseling Center



## Leadership



### Executive Director

Rev. David M. Smith, LPC, CPCS

### Director of Development

Rachel Newcomer

### Director of Administrative Operations

Cathy Murphy

### Director of Clinical Services & Operations

Will Atkins, LPC, CPCS

## Clinical Site Leads



### Milton Office

Jason Howard, LPC

### Johns Creek

(Medlock Bridge Rd.) Office

Jenn Acker, LPC, CMAC, ACS

### Johns Creek

(Old Alabama Rd.) Office

Brittany Glaser, LPC, CPCS

### Dunwoody Office

Line Fleming, LPC

### Sugar Hill Office

Stephen Walters, M.Div., LPC

## Clinical Program Leads



### School-Based Counseling Program

Madeline Redetzky, LPC

### Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Program

Brittany Glaser, LPC, CPCS

## Administrative Managers



### Marketing Manager

Nicole Marin, MBA-PM

### Human Resources Manager

Cheryl Jones

### Operations Manager

Leatrice Scott



# A Legacy in Motion:

## Summit's Milestones



### 1990

Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church (MPUMC), located at 9820 Nesbit Ferry Rd., Alpharetta, GA, began offering counseling services to both church members and the broader community.

### 2000

A strategic planning initiative identified counseling as the second highest ministry priority for the MPUMC congregation.



### 2004

MPUMC launched a capital campaign, which included a \$1 million commitment to fund a new facility shared by Summit and A Beacon of Hope Pregnancy Care Center.



The counseling center was officially incorporated in the State of Georgia under the name United Methodist Psychological and Counseling Services, Inc.

### 1998



The organization's name was officially changed to *The Summit Counseling Center, Inc.* through the Georgia Secretary of State's Office.

### 2002



For 35 years, Summit Counseling Center has been a trusted source of hope, healing, and transformation in North Metro Atlanta. From our humble beginnings to becoming a multi-faceted mental health organization, Summit's journey is marked by innovation, compassion, and a deep commitment to serving our community. This timeline highlights the key milestones that have shaped our growth—from expanding school-based services and launching specialized programs to building lasting partnerships. Each moment reflects our unwavering dedication to making mental health care accessible, impactful, and rooted in connection.

# 2006

Groundbreaking and construction began on the new facility at 2750 Old Alabama Rd., Johns Creek, GA.



# 2010

Granted full accreditation by Solihten Institute. Formerly DBA The Samaritan Institute, the largest network of faith-integrated counseling centers in the United States



Officially moved into the newly completed facility. Offering mental and behavioral health services to individuals, couples, and families in North Fulton County.

# 2007



Established a partnership with CURE Childhood Cancer to provide counseling for children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

# 2013



# 2014

Began offering Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) counseling and a DBT Skills Group program.

Opened first satellite counseling location at 11180 Medlock Bridge Rd., Johns Creek, GA in partnership with Johns Creek United Methodist Church (JCUMC).

Established a "Business Partnership" agreement with Fulton County Schools, allowing Summit to join school counselors in crisis response and to collaborate on programming in the best interest of students.

Began offering psychological testing and assessments.



# 2016

Founded the North Fulton Mental Health Collaborative at an afternoon meeting featuring the Honorable Patrick Kennedy, former U.S. Representative from Rhode Island. The Collaborative was designed to bring together all community mental health stakeholders including hospitals and healthcare providers, mental health advocacy organizations (NAMI Northside), governmental partners (city, county and state), area school system representatives, faith community leaders, funding partners (United Way and FDHA), and consumers and their families.

A team of five therapists completed a six month "Intensive Training Program" in DBT and presented their final project at a meeting led by The Linehan Institute's Behavior Tech in San Diego, CA.

Established a partnership with Dunwoody United Methodist Church (DUMC) to provide counseling services at the Dunwoody Professional Building, 5054 Nandina Lane, Dunwoody, GA.



# 2018

Established a new community-based satellite located at Bethany Bend, 13680 Highway 9, Unit G-500, Milton, Georgia.

Eight new schools were added to the Fulton County Schools school-based program, bringing the total number to 17 schools.



Expanded partnership with CURE Childhood Cancer to create and administer a network of counselors in the state of Georgia to serve children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

Established a school-based pilot project with Fulton County Schools to place therapists in 6 high schools in North Fulton County.

# 2015



Registered as a Charitable Organization with the Office of the Secretary of State, Georgia.

Through the generosity of Sunshine On A Rainy Day (SOARD), a Roswell-based nonprofit, two new Play Therapy rooms were constructed to support the growing demand for children's services.

Three new schools were added to the Fulton County Schools school-based program, bringing the total number served to 9 schools.

# 2017

# 2020

Fulton County Commissioners voted to approve and fund a school-based mental health services program. As a sub-contractor of this program, The Summit received funding to help subsidize our program in 28 Fulton County Schools.

Summit's clinical staff made a pivot from in person counseling services to video therapy services due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Entered the 2020-21 school year serving 28 Fulton County Schools and 2 DeKalb County Schools.

Started our first school-based program at a private school in partnership with Greater Atlanta Christian School.

Partnered with Sugar Hill United Methodist Church aka "Church on the Hill" to establish a new satellite counseling location. The center is located at 4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Sugar Hill, GA.



# 2022

Partnered with Milton First Responders Foundation to provide counseling services to first responders (and their families) serving the Milton community.

Partnered with North Fulton Community Charities to add a Spanish speaking therapist onsite in their education building.



Awarded a Fulton County Community Services Program (CSP) Grant in support of a partnership with the North Fulton Mental Health Collaborative to begin the Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Program to provide training to equip adults who interact with children and youth with the necessary skills and information to support these vulnerable students.

The First Responders pilot counseling program began with the City of Johns Creek to provide counseling services to first responders (and their families) serving the Johns Creek community.

A major flood impacted the Old Alabama Rd. office. Business interruption insurance enabled Summit to secure nearby office space for both clinical and administrative staff.

Seven new schools were added to the Fulton County Schools school-based program, bringing the total number to 24 schools.

Joined the video-therapy pilot program initiated by our accrediting organization, Solihten Institute.

Established a school-based program partnership with DeKalb County Schools.



Celebrated the reopening of the Old Alabama Rd. location after nearly two years of closure caused by two floods and the global pandemic.

Closed the office on Nandina Ln. and relocated to newly renovated offices on the campus of Dunwoody UMC at 1548 Mt. Vernon Rd., Dunwoody, GA

Opened a new office located at 3800 Mansell Rd., Alpharetta, Ga. In addition to clinical services and psychological testing, this space also houses Summit's administrative and operational staff.

Partnered with Fulton County Schools to provide school-based services for The LEAP program, bringing the total number of schools being served to 32.

# 2023

# 2021

# 2019



**Expanding Access, Deepening Impact:**

# Serving North Metro Atlanta Through Seven Community Locations



At Summit Counseling Center, accessibility is at the heart of our mission. With seven strategically located community offices across North Metro Atlanta, we're able to meet individuals and families where they are, providing compassionate, professional mental health care close to home. Each location serves as a hub of healing, offering a full range of services including individual, couples, family, and group therapy. By embedding ourselves in the communities we serve, Summit ensures that support is never far away, and that every person has the opportunity to thrive emotionally, mentally, and relationally.

## The Summit Locations

- 1. Alpharetta Office**  
3800 Mansell Rd, Ste 100, Alpharetta, GA 30009
- 2. Dunwoody Office**  
1548 Mt Vernon Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338
- 3. Johns Creek Office**  
11180 Medlock Bridge Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30098
- 4. Johns Creek Office**  
2750 Old Alabama Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30022
- 5. Milton Office**  
13680 Hwy 9 North, Bldg G, Ste 500, Milton, GA 30004
- 6. North Fulton Community Charities**  
11275 Elkins Rd, Roswell, GA 30076
- 7. Sugar Hill Office**  
4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd, Sugar Hill, GA 30518



# Investing in Stronger Families: The Impact of Couples Counseling

At Summit Counseling Center, we understand that healthy relationships are the foundation of strong families and resilient communities. Our couples counseling services are a vital part of our mission to promote emotional wellness across all stages of life. We help couples build stronger connections, navigate challenges, and foster environments where individuals and families can thrive.

## Why Couples Counseling Matters

Relationships are central to mental health. When couples struggle, the ripple effects can impact children, extended families, workplaces, and communities. Summit's licensed therapists provide compassionate, evidence-based care that helps couples:

- Improve communication and resolve conflict
- Rebuild trust after betrayal or trauma
- Navigate life transitions such as parenting, career changes, or retirement
- Strengthen emotional intimacy and mutual understanding

Whether couples are in crisis or simply seeking to deepen their bond, Summit offers a safe and supportive space to grow together.

## Your Support Makes This Possible

Thanks to generous donors and community partners, Summit is able to:

- Offer affordable counseling services to couples regardless of income
- Provide specialized training for therapists in modalities like Emotionally Focused Therapy and the Gottman Method
- Serve diverse couples, including those from underserved communities and marginalized backgrounds
- Expand access to care through telehealth and in-person sessions

Every dollar invested in couples counseling helps prevent family breakdown, reduce emotional distress, and promote long-term stability.

**Provided 1,158 Sessions  
to 148 Couples in 2024/25**



## Real Outcomes, Real Impact

Couples who engage in therapy at Summit report:

- Greater emotional connection and relationship satisfaction
- Improved parenting and co-parenting dynamics
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Renewed commitment and clarity about their future together

These outcomes not only benefit the couple, they strengthen the entire family unit and contribute to healthier communities.

## Looking Ahead: Expanding Our Reach

With continued support, Summit aims to:

- Increase the number of therapists trained in relationship-focused care
- Launch community workshops on relationship wellness and communication
- Expand outreach to faith communities and local organizations
- Provide subsidies and sliding-scale fees to ensure no couple is turned away due to financial hardship

Together, we can ensure that every couple has access to the tools and support they need to build lasting, loving relationships.



## Client Impact Story:

# Building a Strong Foundation

"When we first came to Summit Counseling, our marriage felt broken. Trust had been shattered, and every conversation felt forced and icy. We were barely connecting; emotionally, physically, or even as partners trying to navigate life and parenting together. We didn't know if healing was possible, but we knew we couldn't keep going the way things were.

Our therapist helped us slow down and really see what was underneath the surface, what each of us was scared of, what we were holding back, and what we needed to feel safe again. Week by week, we learned how to validate each other's experiences, how to listen with compassion, and how to express what we needed without fear or blame.

It wasn't easy. Some weeks felt like progress; others felt like setbacks. But over time, something shifted. We started communicating more openly, showing up for each other in ways we hadn't before, and rebuilding trust, not just with words, but with actions.

Eventually, we moved from weekly sessions to occasional check-ins. And now, we can honestly say we're in the best place we've ever been in our marriage. Summit didn't just help us repair what was broken, they helped us build something stronger than we had before."



## Healing Trauma, Restoring Lives: Trauma Recovery Services



Trauma doesn't discriminate. It affects children, teens, adults, and families—often silently and profoundly. Whether caused by abuse, violence, loss, accidents, or chronic stress, trauma can leave lasting emotional scars that disrupt relationships, work, and overall well-being. At Summit Counseling Center, we believe that healing is possible, and we are committed to walking alongside individuals on their journey to recovery.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, Summit's Trauma Recovery services provide specialized, evidence-based care to those impacted by trauma. Our licensed therapists are trained in trauma-informed approaches that prioritize safety, trust, and empowerment, helping clients regain control of their lives and reconnect with their sense of self.

### Why Your Support Matters

Trauma is more widespread than many realize:

- 50% of U.S. adults will experience at least one traumatic event in their lifetime
- 6.8% of Americans will develop PTSD at some point in their lives
- 3.6% of adults experience trauma in any given year, with 36.6% of cases involving serious functional impairment
- Women are nearly three times more likely than men to develop PTSD (5.2% vs. 1.8%)
- Among adolescents, 5% experience trauma, with rates rising to 8% in girls and 7% in older teens (ages 17–18)

These numbers reflect a growing need for trauma-informed care, and your support helps ensure that Summit is ready to meet it.

## How Summit Is Making a Difference

Summit's Trauma Recovery services address a wide range of experiences, including:

- Childhood abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence and sexual assault
- Grief and complicated loss
- Medical trauma and accidents
- First responder and frontline trauma
- Community and school-based violence

Our therapists use evidence-based modalities such as:

- EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Mindfulness and somatic-based therapies
- Narrative and expressive therapies

These approaches help clients process painful memories, reduce symptoms of PTSD, and build resilience.

## Your Impact in Action

With your support, Summit has been able to:

- Provide affordable trauma counseling to individuals and families
- Offer school-based trauma support for children and teens
- Deliver training and consultation to educators, first responders, and community leaders
- Expand services to underserved and high-risk populations

Your investment helps individuals not only survive trauma, but truly heal and thrive.

## Looking Ahead

As the need for trauma-informed care continues to grow, Summit is committed to:

- Expanding our team of trauma-trained clinicians
- Increasing access to bilingual and culturally responsive services
- Enhancing community education and prevention efforts

Together, we can ensure that no one has to face trauma alone—and that healing is always within reach.



# Client Impact Story: A Lifeline to Healing

**"Before coming to Summit Counseling, I was drowning in depression and PTSD. Most days felt impossible, and I didn't know how to keep going, for myself or for my family. When I learned about the DBT program, I wanted to believe change was possible, but our financial situation made it feel out of reach.**

Thanks to the generous funding Summit provided, I was able to complete the full DBT program, individual sessions, group work, and even maintenance support. Each part helped me learn how to respond instead of reacting to the intense stressors in my life. I've gained tools to face overwhelming emotions without shutting down or lashing out, and I've started to move forward with more clarity and purpose.

Things are still hard some days, but I now have something I didn't before: hope. I feel stronger, more grounded, and more capable of showing up for myself and the people I love. Summit didn't just offer me therapy, they gave me a lifeline. I'm deeply grateful."

Provided **3,473 Sessions** to **432 Individuals** experiencing grief/trauma/loss





# Supporting Those Who Serve:

## First Responder Counseling Program

Every day, first responders (firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and dispatchers) put their lives on the line to protect and serve our communities. They face trauma, stress, and high-pressure situations that can take a serious toll on their mental health. At Summit Counseling Center, we believe that those who care for us deserve care themselves.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, Summit's first responder counseling program provides specialized, confidential mental health support tailored to the unique needs of these frontline heroes.



### Why Your Support Is Critical

National statistics reveal the urgent need for mental health care among first responders:

- 30% of first responders develop behavioral health conditions such as depression and PTSD
- Among Firefighters:
  - 22% meet criteria for PTSD during their careers
  - 28% are at risk for suicide or suicidal thoughts
  - 30% meet criteria for alcohol dependence due to occupational stress
- First responders made up 1% of all suicides from 2015–2017, with law enforcement officers accounting for 58% of those cases

These numbers are more than statistics—they represent real people in our communities who need our help.

**Provided 211 Sessions  
to 32 First Responders**

Many first responders hesitate to seek help due to stigma, lack of time, or fear of professional consequences. Summit's program breaks down these barriers by offering:

- Culturally competent therapists trained in trauma and first responder culture
- Flexible scheduling to accommodate shift work
- Confidential care that protects privacy and builds trust
- Family counseling to support spouses and children

Your support ensures that these services remain accessible, affordable, and stigma-free.

### Real Impact, Real Lives

**With your help, Summit has:**

- Provided hundreds of counseling sessions to first responders in Milton and Johns Creek
- Delivered training and education on stress management, suicide prevention, and peer support
- Offered no-cost care to those in need

These efforts have helped first responders heal from trauma, strengthen relationships, and continue serving with resilience and purpose.

### Looking Ahead: Expanding the Mission

With continued investment from donors and stakeholders, Summit aims to:

- Reach more departments across North Metro Atlanta
- Train additional clinicians in first responder-specific care
- Develop preventive wellness initiatives to reduce burnout

Together, we can ensure that those who protect us never have to face their struggles alone.



### Client Impact Story:

## From Burnout to Balance

"Working with my therapist at the Summit has been a game-changer for both my career and my home life. As a firefighter and EMS professional, the stress and unpredictability of the job used to wear me down, especially when departmental changes piled on. Through counseling, I learned how to reframe negative thoughts, challenge assumptions I made about others, and actively count the positives in my day. I've become noticeably more patient and responsive on the job, and my wife has told me she sees a real difference—less anger, less frustration, and more presence with her and the kids. I feel clearer, more grounded, and more engaged than I can ever remember feeling."



## Creating Safe Spaces for Students:

# The Power of School-Based Counseling

At a time when youth mental health is at a crisis point nationwide, Summit's school-based counseling program stands as a model of innovation, compassion, and community collaboration. Since launching in 2015, this initiative has become a vital part of Summit's mission to ensure that every student has access to professional mental health care, right where they need it most: at school.

Thanks to strategic partnerships with Fulton and Dekalb County Schools, Fulton and Dekalb County Governments, Greater Atlanta Christian School, and generous support from donors and community organizations, Summit now places licensed therapists in 32 public and private schools across North Metro Atlanta. These therapists provide on-site, confidential counseling that removes the most common barriers to care: stigma, transportation, and cost.



### Why Your Support Matters

Mental health challenges among youth are escalating at an alarming rate:

- 1 in 5 children in the U.S. has a diagnosed mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder
- 40% of high school students report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness
- 20% have seriously considered suicide
- Diagnosed anxiety and depression among adolescents have surged by 61% and 45%, respectively, since 2016

These statistics are more than numbers—they represent real students in our schools, our neighborhoods, and our families. With your support, Summit is able to intervene early, provide life-saving care, and help students build resilience and hope.

### A Holistic Approach to Student Wellness

Summit's school-based therapists address a wide range of concerns, including:

- Anxiety and depression
- Trauma and grief
- Behavioral and emotional regulation
- Family stress and peer relationships

In addition to individual counseling, Summit provides mental health awareness and suicide prevention programming for school staff and parents, creating a culture of care that extends beyond the counseling office.

### The Ripple Effect of Your Investment

When students receive mental health support:

- They are more likely to succeed academically
- They build stronger relationships with peers and adults
- They are less likely to engage in risky behavior
- They develop lifelong coping skills that benefit families and communities

Your investment in Summit's School-Based Counseling Program is an investment in the future of our youth—and in the health of our entire community.

### Looking Ahead: Expanding Our Reach

With continued support from donors, school districts, and local governments, Summit is committed to:

- Expanding into more schools across North Metro Atlanta
- Increasing access to care through telehealth and bilingual services
- Training more therapists in trauma-informed and culturally responsive care
- Enhancing outreach to underserved communities

Together, we are building a future where every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to thrive—emotionally, academically, and socially.

Provided **8,104 School-Based Sessions** to **811 Students**



## Schools We Serve:

Abbotts Hill Elementary School  
Alpharetta Elementary School  
Alpharetta High School  
Autrey Mill Middle School  
Barnwell Elementary School

Birmingham Falls Elementary School

Cambridge High School  
Chattahoochee High School

Children's Development Academy

Crabapple Crossing Elementary School

Crabapple Middle School

Creek View Elementary School

Dolvin Elementary School

Dunwoody High School

Esther Jackson Elementary School

Findley Oaks Elementary School

Greater Atlanta Christian School

Hopewell Middle School

Innovation Academy

Johns Creek High School

Lake Windward Elementary School

LEAP Program

Milton High School

Mountain Park Elementary School

Northview High School

Northwestern Middle School

Ocee Elementary School

Peachtree Middle School

River Trail Middle School

Summit Hill Elementary School

Sweet Apple Elementary School

Taylor Road Middle School

Webb Bridge Middle School

## Client Impact Story:

# Finding Confidence Through Play

When a young elementary school student began counseling at their school, they were struggling deeply with peer relationships. Teased by classmates and burdened by low self-esteem, the child began to withdraw, becoming increasingly isolated and resistant to attending school. Each morning became a battle, as the student dreaded entering an environment that felt unsafe and unwelcoming.

Thanks to Summit's school-based counseling program, this student was able to receive play therapy onsite, in the comfort and familiarity of their school. Through creative, therapeutic play, the child began to explore their feelings, build confidence, and reshape how they saw themselves. Over time, they started to speak more positively, engage with peers, and discover friendships that were supportive and joyful.

By the end of therapy, the transformation was successful, the student no longer resisted going to school. Instead, they looked forward to it. They had developed a sense of positive self-worth, found a group of friends who accepted them, and began to view school as a safe and enjoyable place.





## Compassion in Action:

# Meet Our Team

At Summit Counseling Center, our team is more than a group of professionals—they are the heart of our mission. Each staff member brings a deep sense of empathy, creativity, and dedication to the work of healing. In this section, we invite you to get to know the people behind the care. From surprising talents to shared passions, these fun and inspiring facts offer a glimpse into the personalities that make Summit such a special place to grow, connect, and thrive.

## Damicia Shane

### Front Office Support

#### **What is the most rewarding part of your job and why?**

Knowing that I had a hand in helping a client in their healing process is the most rewarding part of my job.

#### **Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?**

Having my own mental health challenges as well as supporting my grandmother through her bipolar disorder keeps me influenced. So, because I have a personal connection to mental health, I believe having the opportunity to help someone else helps me in return.

#### **What does Summit's mission mean to you?**

It means creating a safe and supportive space where people of all backgrounds can find hope, healing, and the tools they need to grow.

#### **What aspect of Summit makes you proud to work here?**

Community and Diversity! Knowing that we are a company that sees all and helps ALL makes me so proud.

#### **What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?**

You can't take your knowledge to the grave — so share it while you can.

#### **What is something that inspires you?**

Tomorrow inspires me. Knowing that there is a chance to be a better person tomorrow than I was today keeps me going and keeps me inspired to never give up.



# Maddie McGarrah, M.Ed.

Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist™,  
School-Based Program Lead



## What is the most rewarding part of your job and why?

One of the most fulfilling parts of my work is getting to see the clients I support begin to apply the skills they've learned and truly start to thrive. Watching them gain confidence, make progress, and overcome challenges is incredibly rewarding. It's a powerful reminder of why this work matters from seeing the direct impact it has on someone's growth and well-being.

## Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

One of the most significant influences on my career has been my aunt, who is a psychologist. Over the years, I got to see her devotion to helping children and their families navigate incredibly challenging situations with compassion, patience, and professionalism. Her unwavering dedication to her clients and her ability to make a meaningful difference in their lives left a lasting impression on me and what led me to go into this field.

## What does Summit's mission mean to you?

Being able to provide therapy and psychological services to individuals of all ages and all walks of life to help them get the care and support that they need to be able to thrive.



## What aspect of Summit Counseling Center makes you proud to work here?

We are able to provide services to multiple different communities, all ages, and provide client assistance funds if finances are a barrier.

## What do you enjoy most about working with your colleagues?

I love getting to be part of a team where everyone is so dedicated to their clients and passionate about what they do. Additionally, many of my colleagues have different areas in the field that they specialize in, which allows for collaboration and consultation between one another to help make sure we are providing the best care for our clients. Being part of a team that prioritizes both professional excellence and shared growth is incredibly motivating, and it continually enhances the quality of the work we do.

## How do you achieve a balance between work and your personal life?

I do my best to set boundaries in my professional life by trying to stay organized and prioritize my time during the workday so I can leave work at work as much as possible. Outside of work, I make sure to carve out time for things I enjoy, time with friends, and with family. Maintaining that balance helps me stay grounded and avoid burnout, which ultimately allows me to provide better care.

## What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?

In graduate school when feeling nervous about starting my internship, one of my professors said in response, "you are never going to feel 100% prepared, at some point you just trust you've done the work and have to get started". That advice has helped me many times when I've felt hesitant or unsure of myself. It reminds me that I don't have to feel fully confident all the time and that I just need to take the first step and go from there.

## What is something that inspires you?

Many of my family and friends inspire me daily. They are great examples of people who care for others, are dedicated, and are hardworking. They motivate me to show up with the same level of compassion, perseverance, and integrity in both personal and professional life.



# Jennifer Acker, M.A.

Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Master Addiction Counselor,  
Approved Clinical Supervisor, Johns Creek-Medlock Bridge Rd. Site Lead

## What is the most rewarding part of your job and why?

The most rewarding part of my job is witnessing someone, whether a client or supervisee, overcome something difficult and develop a new perspective on their ability to persevere through challenges.

## Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

When I was at a crossroads in my career, an old boss of mine supported me in my decision-making process. She allowed me a non-judgmental space to weigh my options and share my fears and doubts about my abilities. She encouraged me to move into leadership and helped me grow in my confidence as a leader. She saw my potential as a leader when I didn't see it, and I needed that push to continue to grow.

## What does Summit's mission mean to you?

Being able to provide therapy and psychological services to individuals of all ages and all walks of life to help them get the care and support that they need to be able to thrive.

## What aspect of Summit Counseling Center makes you proud to work here?

I am proud to work at the Summit because of our consistent work and reputation for high-quality mental health care. I am proud to work at an institution that prioritizes client care over profits and supports its therapists.

## What do you enjoy most about working with your colleagues?

I most enjoy the depth of knowledge and experiences of my colleagues. I enjoy learning from them and being of service to my colleagues.

## How do you achieve a balance between work and your personal life?

I lean into my spirituality to achieve work/life balance. When I am in a consistent relationship with God through prayer and spiritual practices, I can have peace and humility, which allows me to surrender my stresses and fears so that I can be present in my personal life. I enjoy being outside, whether it's at the pool with my husband and kids, in my garden pulling weeds and harvesting veggies, or having a bonfire and roasting marshmallows.

## What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?

Prioritize myself so that I have enough to give others.

## What is something that inspires you?

I am inspired by God's creation, from the grandeur of mountains to the intricacies of the human brain. I am inspired by people and myself as we pursue goals and overcome challenges. I am inspired by the interconnectedness of the universe.



# Allison Bates, M.S.

Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist™

## **What is the most rewarding part of your job and why?**

I love showing up for others that may not have anywhere to feel seen, otherwise. I also love advocating for and giving children in difficult family dynamics a place to process changes.

## **Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?**

Trudy Post Sprunk was my Play Therapy Supervisor who has always encouraged me to put compassion and emotional presence first, in my sessions with clients.

## **What does Summit's mission mean to you?**

I am grateful for Summit's mission to support the community with understanding and compassion! I love that Summit offers client assistance for those who could benefit from counseling, regardless of their circumstance.

## **What aspect of Summit makes you proud to work here?**

I feel proud to work at Summit with the incredible team we have! The clinicians are warm and kind, the office staff are incredibly helpful in supporting clients with the non-clinical side, and leadership facilitates counselors to do the work with clients and build a setting based on grace and acceptance.

## **What do you enjoy most about working with your colleagues?**

I enjoy being around my coworkers and love that they have positive, warm attitudes!

## **How do you achieve a balance between work and your personal life?**

With the heaviness of our jobs, it is important for us to compartmentalize between work and personal life. I use 'do not disturb' settings on my devices to help me stay fully present in whatever location I am in, by not allowing distractions to derail my concentration.

## **What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?**

What you focus on will grow.

## **What is something that inspires you?**

I am inspired by kindness of others. I love seeing people go out of their way for strangers or show kindness with no benefit of their own!





# The Power of Giving: A Message from the Director of Development

*Thank  
you!*

At Summit Counseling Center, we often say that healing happens in relationship—and that includes the relationship we have with you, our donors and community partners. Your generosity is not just a financial contribution; it's a lifeline. It's the reason a child receives play therapy at school, a first responder finds support after trauma, a couple rebuilds their connection, or a teen discovers their self-worth.

As Director of Development, I have the privilege of witnessing the impact of your giving every day. I see it in the stories of transformation, in the gratitude of families, and in the quiet strength of those who walk through our doors seeking hope. Your support allows us to meet people where they are, whether in one of our seven community offices, in over 30 schools, or virtually through video therapy.

Mental health care is not a luxury, it's a necessity. And thanks to you, Summit is able to provide it with compassion, professionalism, and accessibility. Every gift you make helps us remove barriers, expand services, and ensure that no one has to face life's challenges alone.

As we celebrate 35 years of service, I invite you to continue walking alongside us. Whether you're a longtime supporter or new to our mission, your partnership is vital. Together, we are building a healthier, more resilient North Metro Atlanta; one life, one family, one community at a time.

Thank you for believing in the power of healing. Thank you for giving.

Warmly,

**Rachel Newcomer**  
Director of Development  
Summit Counseling Center





# Driving Support, One Swing at a Time: 2024 Golf Classic



On September 28, 2024, Summit Counseling Center hosted its annual Golf Classic, bringing together community leaders, business sponsors, and supporters for a day of camaraderie, competition, and purpose. Held at Country Club of the South, one of North Metro Atlanta's premier courses, the event was more than just a round of golf, it was a powerful demonstration of community commitment to mental health.

## Summit's Inaugural Fundraising Event

Launched in 2005, the Golf Classic has grown into a beloved tradition that fuels our mission year after year. Now in its 19th year, the tournament continues to raise critical funds that support Summit's programs, including school-based counseling, trauma recovery, and services for children, adolescents, and families.

Participants enjoyed a beautiful day on the course, complete with contests, prizes, and opportunities to learn more about Summit's impact. Most importantly, the event helped raise awareness and resources to ensure that mental health care remains accessible to those who need it most.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, volunteers, and players who made the 2024 Golf Classic a success, raising over \$133k. Their support helps us drive forward, expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and ensuring that no one in our community has to face life's challenges alone.

## Thank You to our Sponsors:

### \$15,000

- J. David & Cindy Smith on behalf of CURE Childhood Cancer

### \$10,000

- Fran & Mary Millar

### \$5,000

- Dunwoody UMC
- Griffin Insurance
- Johns Creek UMC
- Merit Construction
- The Schilling Family
- Will To Live
- William B Orkin Foundation

### \$3,000

- Renasant Bank

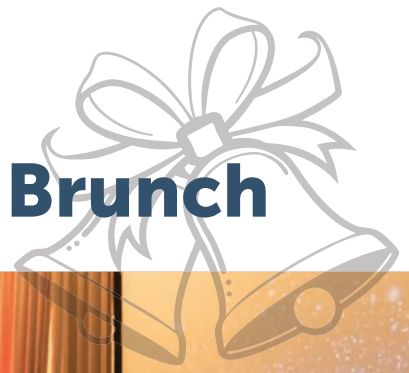
### \$2,500

- Berkshire Hathaway
- Biggby Coffee
- Hene4Milton
- Steve & Sue Korb
- Parrish Construction
- Powers Family Foundation
- X-Medica





# Spreading Cheer and Support: 2024 Jingle Jog & Nutcracker Brunch



On December 15, 2024, Summit Counseling Center hosted its 4th Annual Jingle Jog & Nutcracker Brunch, a festive and family-friendly event that brought holiday joy and community spirit to the heart of Avalon in Alpharetta.

This beloved tradition combined the magic of the season with a meaningful cause—raising awareness and funds to support accessible mental health services across North Metro Atlanta. With twinkling lights, cheerful music, and the spirit of giving in the air, the event was a joyful celebration of hope and healing.

## A Festive Fun Run with Santa

The morning kicked off with the Jingle Jog, a kid-focused fun run led by none other than Santa Claus himself. Children and families jogged, strolled, and danced their way down Avalon Boulevard, decked out in holiday attire and jingling bells. The run was designed to be inclusive and lighthearted, encouraging movement, laughter, and connection.

## Nutcracker Brunch & Holiday Magic

Following the jog, guests gathered at The Hotel at Avalon for the Nutcracker Brunch, featuring delicious seasonal fare and a charming mini Nutcracker ballet performance. Families enjoyed photo opportunities with Santa, holiday crafts, and festive décor that transformed the venue into a winter wonderland.

## Supporting Mental Health Through Community

Proceeds from the event directly benefited Summit's mission to provide professional counseling, consultation, and education services to individuals and families, regardless of their ability to pay. The funds raised helped subsidize care, expand outreach programs, and support initiatives like school-based counseling and trauma-informed therapy.

## Gratitude to Our Sponsors and Volunteers

Summit extends heartfelt thanks to The Hotel at Avalon, Atlanta Dance Theater, local businesses, volunteers, and attendees who made the 2024 Jingle Jog & Nutcracker Brunch a success, raising over \$21k. Your support helps ensure that mental health care remains accessible, compassionate, and community-centered.

**Join us on Sunday, December 14th for the 2025 Jingle Jog. Tickets are on sale now!**



# Celebrating Hope and Healing: 2025 Summit Gala

On the evening of Saturday, March 22nd, 2025, Summit Counseling Center hosted its 10th Annual Summit Gala at The Hotel at Avalon, bringing together community leaders, mental health advocates, and generous supporters for a night of celebration, purpose, and impact.

This year's gala theme, inspired by Maya Angelou's quote, "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty", reflected the transformative journey of healing and growth that Summit fosters in the lives of those it serves.

## A Night to Remember

Guests were welcomed with a VIP reception, followed by an elegant evening featuring a plated dinner, silent and live auctions, a wine pull, raffles, and an after-party celebration with entertainment by Atlanta's premier party band, Band X. The event was emceed by Russ Spencer, longtime anchor at FOX 5 Atlanta, whose presence added warmth and familiarity to the evening.

## A Powerful Message

The keynote address was delivered by Erin Harlow-Parker, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, recognized mental health advocate and suicide prevention leader. Erin shared her deeply personal journey and professional insights, inspiring attendees to continue breaking the stigma around mental health and encouraging help-seeking behavior.



## Impact and Purpose

Thanks to the support of our sponsors and generosity of our attendees, the event raised over \$751k to directly support Summit's mission to provide accessible, integrative mental health care across North Metro Atlanta. Contributions help:

- Offer sliding-scale fees and subsidized services for those in financial need
- Train therapists in specialized modalities such as trauma-informed care, DBT, and play therapy
- Expand community partnerships and develop new programs to meet evolving mental health needs

**Join us on Saturday, March 21st for the 2026 Summit Gala. Table and sponsorship opportunities are available now!**



## Gratitude to Our Sponsors

Summit extends heartfelt thanks to its generous sponsors, including:

### VIP Sponsors (\$30,000)

- For the Love of Ryan
- J. David & Cindy Smith on behalf of CURE Childhood Cancer
- Scott & Stacey Vasant

### Silent Auction Sponsor (\$15,000)

- Northside Hospital

### Capture the Moment Sponsors (\$10,000)

- Griffin Insurance
- Johns Creek UMC
- Fran & Mary Millar
- Will To Live Foundation

### Premier Table Sponsors (\$5,000)

- Atlanta Peach Movers
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Dunwoody UMC
- Emory Johns Creek Hospital
- Ernest & Young
- Andy & Margaret Gibson
- The Indigo Road
- Steve & Sue Korb
- Morgan Stanley
- Mount Pisgah Church
- Siemens
- St. James Community Church
- Michael & Elizabeth Thompson
- Marshall & Terri Turner
- Wellstar Health System
- Williams Business Law, LLC

Their support ensures that Summit can continue to advocate for mental wellness, reduce stigma, and provide life-changing care to individuals and families.





# Philanthropy at Work:

## A Story of Hope and Healing

### What inspired you to begin your philanthropic journey?

From an early age, I was raised with the understanding that we are here not only to succeed but to serve. My mother modeled this beautifully through her leadership in real estate and her commitment to our community. That foundation instilled in me the belief that giving back isn't optional, it's essential.

### Are there specific life experiences or values that have shaped your approach to giving?

Yes. My philanthropic journey deepened when my late husband passed away from a stroke and heart attack after a three-year battle with health complications. At the time, our children were only 6 and 9. Walking through that season of loss, while still leading and parenting, impressed on me the importance of resilience, faith, and the power of community support. It also reminded me how critical organizations like The Summit are for families navigating the most difficult chapters of life.

At the heart of my values is the teaching of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31). But over time, I've also come to embrace what is referred to as the Platinum Rule: to treat others as they would want to be treated. Philanthropy, to me, is not about giving what I think people need, but about listening, understanding, and responding in ways that meet them where they are and respecting what they need. That is where dignity, compassion, and true impact are found.

### What impact do you hope to achieve through your philanthropic efforts?

My hope is to help strengthen families and communities by providing access to resources that uplift, heal, and restore. I hope my efforts can create ripples of possibility that extend far beyond a single gift or moment. I have learned that by supporting charities, I can help make immediate impact in the moment whether for a crisis or hardship and that is rewarding. Additionally, dedicating time, skills, and financial resources to philanthropies can help us address larger, more systemic and societal issues and have far reaching impact long term. I believe that when we invest in people, we create healthier, stronger communities for generations to come.

### What inspired you to become a board member and donor to The Summit?


The Summit's mission spoke directly to my own experiences. I know personally how crucial it is to have access to counseling and a community of care during times of grief, transition, and uncertainty. Joining the board felt less like a choice and more like a calling. It gave me the opportunity to give back in a way that honors my late husband, supports my children's journey, and helps others find strength in their darkest moments.

## DeAnn Golden

President & CEO  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
Georgia Properties

DeAnn Golden is President & CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Georgia Properties, where she leads more than 1,300 real estate professionals. Beyond her professional role, she is a devoted philanthropist, servant leader, and board member of The Summit Counseling Center, where she champions the mission of strengthening individuals and families through counseling, training, and education. In addition to the Summit, DeAnn actively supports the Sunshine Kids, American Heart Association, and many other worthy causes. DeAnn spearheaded an initiative this past year after the impact of Hurricane Helene that provided over 20,000 meals, supplies and also helped rebuild Black Mountain Children's Home that was devastated during the storm.





### Was there a specific moment or story that moved you to give?

At one of The Summit's galas, I listened to a testimony from a family who had faced the unimaginable loss of a child. Their grief was deep, but what struck me most was their determination to ensure that tragedy did not define their loved one. Instead, they chose to honor their child's legacy through faith, counseling, and a passion for helping others. Their story, while different from mine, resonated deeply. That evening, I was moved to give.

Like them, I know what it is to walk through loss and hardship. I have experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating grief, financial strain, and the pressures that life unexpectedly brings. Some of these difficulties in life can be proactively helped with proper awareness and intervention, while other difficulties such as loss can only be endured with the help of skilled and compassionate support. For me, Summit provided that support, and I knew I wanted others to have access to the same lifeline I had once been the beneficiary of for my children through a play therapy program.

The financial impact of losing my husband was significant and paying out of pocket for counseling while raising my children on one income was overwhelming. I will never forget the relief and gratitude I felt when I learned that someone's generosity had made counseling possible for us. That gift carried us through some of our darkest days. Now, it is my turn to pay it forward.

While we all wish that no one else would ever face such pain or loss or addiction or mental health challenges, many will. That is why I give—to ensure that when those moments come, families and individuals will have the same access to hope and healing that mine did. My involvement with Summit is not just meaningful; it feels necessary. That night at the Gala confirmed for me that giving was not only an act of gratitude, but also a responsibility to help others find the light in their own times of darkness.

### How does our mission align with your personal values or experiences?

Summit's mission aligns with my belief in servant leadership and in strengthening communities from the inside out. Both personally and professionally, I have seen that people flourish when they feel supported, seen, and encouraged. Summit makes that possible every day for countless families, and it is a privilege to stand alongside this mission.





## Fueling Impact:

# The Power of Grant Funding

Grant funding is essential to Summit Counseling Center's ability to provide accessible, high-quality mental health care across North Metro Atlanta. In 2025 alone, **we raised \$342,779 in grant funding**—an investment that directly fuels our mission. These funds allow us to expand our reach, subsidize services for individuals and families in need, and launch innovative programs that address urgent community challenges. Grants also empower us to train clinicians, enhance service delivery, and remove barriers to care such as transportation, stigma, and cost. Simply put, grant funding is a catalyst for impact—helping us meet people where they are and ensuring that no one faces life's challenges alone.



## Fulton County Community Services Program



## Grant Funding Spotlight:

# The Kirby Smart Family Foundation

We are grateful to the Kirby Smart Family Foundation for their generous support of Summit's child and adolescent services. Founded by University of Georgia Head Football Coach Kirby Smart and his wife Mary Beth Smart, the Foundation is dedicated to supporting children and families across Georgia. Their investment in Summit helps us expand and strengthen our therapeutic services for youth, ensuring that children and teens have access to the care they need to navigate emotional challenges, build resilience, and thrive. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to building stronger, healthier communities—and we are honored to have the Kirby Smart Family Foundation as a champion of youth mental health.







## A Pillar of Support: Northside Hospital

**Summit Counseling Center is proud to partner with Northside Hospital in our shared mission to support the mental health and well-being of the North Fulton community.**

"Northside Hospital is pleased to have a strong partnership with the Summit Counseling Center," said Nikeisha Whatley-León, System Director for Behavioral Health Services. "We love to be able to see the impact that the Summit is making and continues to make in the North Fulton community as well as in the school system."

This collaboration has grown over the years, rooted in a mutual commitment to accessible, high-quality behavioral health care. Together, we've worked to expand services, reduce barriers to care, and respond to the evolving needs of individuals and families across the region.

"Northside Hospital is proud to have had this collaboration and partnership with the Summit Counseling Center over the years," Whatley-León added. "We look forward to continuing to have a strong partnership with the Summit Counseling Center to serve the community."

We are deeply grateful for Northside Hospital's continued support and shared vision. Their partnership helps us extend our reach and deepen our impact; ensuring that no one in our community faces life's challenges alone.

The Northside Hospital health care system is one of Georgia's leading health care providers with five acute-care hospitals in Atlanta, Canton, Cumming, Duluth and Lawrenceville and more than 300 outpatient locations across the state. Northside Hospital leads the U.S. in newborn deliveries and is among the state's top providers of cancer care, sports medicine, cardiovascular and surgical services. For more information, visit [northside.com](http://northside.com).

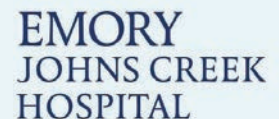




# Together, We Can Make A Difference:

## Our Business Sponsors

Summit Counseling Center is deeply grateful for the generous support of our business sponsors, whose commitment to mental health makes a lasting impact in our community. These organizations go beyond financial contributions- they invest in hope, healing, and access to care for individuals and families across North Metro Atlanta. Their partnership helps us expand our reach, enhance our programs, and ensure that no one faces life's challenges alone. We proudly recognize the businesses that stand with Summit in building a healthier, more resilient community.





Morgan Stanley

†mount pisgah



NORTHSIDE  
HOSPITAL



ORKIN & ASSOCIATES  
INVESTMENTS

PARRISH  
CONSTRUCTION GROUP



Rump & Associates



SIEMENS

SON†SEEKER



Nikki McCauley, Agent  
770-552-2295  
www.agentnikki.com





## The Power of Partnership:

# Summit Counseling Center & CURE Childhood Cancer

In the face of life-altering diagnoses, families affected by childhood cancer often find themselves navigating not only medical challenges but emotional and psychological ones as well. Recognizing this need, Summit Counseling Center and CURE Childhood Cancer have joined forces to provide compassionate, professional mental health support to pediatric cancer patients and their families throughout the state of Georgia. This partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration—where two mission-driven organizations come together to offer holistic care that addresses both the body and the mind.

### Meeting Families Where They Are

Through this partnership, Summit offers both in person and virtual mental health counseling to families served by CURE, ensuring that emotional support is accessible regardless of location or mobility. These virtual sessions are HIPAA-compliant and designed to meet families from home or in the hospital, reducing barriers to care during an already overwhelming time.

### Supporting the Whole Family

Childhood cancer affects more than just the patient—it impacts siblings, parents, and caregivers. The Summit's therapists are trained to support the entire family system, offering tools to manage anxiety, grief, trauma, and the emotional toll of long-term treatment. Whether through individual therapy, parent-child interaction therapy, or family counseling, Summit provides a safe space for healing.

### A Shared Vision for Hope and Healing

Both Summit and CURE believe that mental health care is essential, not optional, in the journey through childhood cancer. Their partnership is rooted in empathy, expertise, and a shared vision: to ensure that no family walks this path alone. Together, they are transforming lives, not just through treatment, but through connection, understanding, and emotional resilience.

We are grateful for CURE's partnership and their financial support to subsidize these sessions, alleviating financial stress and allowing families to focus on healing. This generous investment reflects a shared commitment to removing obstacles and prioritizing mental wellness alongside physical recovery.



**"At CURE Childhood Cancer, we have seen time and again that the trauma of childhood cancer lingers far beyond the hospital walls. Our partnership with Summit Counseling Center ensures that children and families don't face this pain alone. Access to counseling is vital to helping them process the fear, grief, and disruption that cancer brings, and it gives them the tools to begin healing. We are humbled to stand together with Summit in this critical work."**

Kristin Connor, CEO  
Cure Childhood Cancer



# Mental Health Matters: A Community-Driven Approach

At Summit Counseling Center, we believe that mental health is not just an individual concern, it's a community responsibility. That's why our commitment to community engagement goes beyond clinical care across North Metro Atlanta; equipping individuals, families, educators, and organizations with the knowledge and tools they need to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and empower individuals and organizations to prioritize emotional well-being.

Throughout the year, Summit partners with schools, faith communities, businesses, and civic organizations to host mental health awareness events, workshops, and trainings. These gatherings provide safe spaces for open conversations about topics like anxiety, depression, trauma, suicide prevention, and stress management. By equipping community members with knowledge and tools, we help foster environments where mental health is understood, supported, and normalized.

By fostering open conversations and reducing stigma, Summit's workshops help participants recognize signs of mental health challenges, respond with empathy, and connect others to professional support. Our outreach efforts are designed to meet people where they are; whether it's a parent night at a local school, a wellness workshop at a workplace, or a training for youth leaders. **In the blue section - In 2024/25, Summit facilitated 121 workshops across schools, community centers, and workplaces — reaching over 3,000 individuals and sparking meaningful change.**

Mental health education is not just an add-on to our services, it's a core part of our mission. It empowers communities to care for one another, strengthens protective factors for youth, and creates environments where people feel safe to seek help.

**Thanks to the support of our donors and partners, Summit continues to expand its mental health awareness and suicide prevention outreach, ensuring that mental health awareness is not just a message, but a movement.**





# Together in Service:

## Celebrating Our Community Partners

At Summit Counseling Center, we know that meaningful changes happen through collaboration. Our work is made possible by a network of dedicated community partners who share our commitment to mental health, wellness, and equity. From school districts and local governments to nonprofit organizations and faith communities, these partnerships allow us to expand access to care, respond to urgent needs, and build a stronger, healthier North Metro Atlanta. We are proud to recognize and celebrate the organizations that walk alongside us in service to others.



Atlanta Foundation



The Frances Wood  
Wilson Foundation



Ida Alice Ryan  
Charitable Trust

John and Mary  
Franklin Foundation





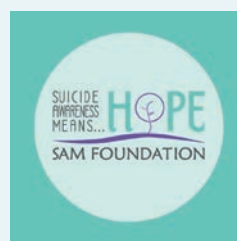
Mary Allen Lindsey  
Branan Foundation



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 MOUNT VERNON  
a school of inquiry, innovation, and impact

 Perimeter  
CHURCH



The Scott Hudgens  
Foundation



STONECREEK  
CHURCH



Walter G. Canipe  
Foundation

 WALTON  
COMMUNITIES



THE  
WILLIAM B. ORKIN  
FOUNDATION



# Measuring What Matters: Clinical Impact

## Reason for Referral



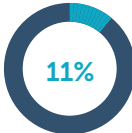
Anxiety



Grief/Trauma/  
Loss



Depression



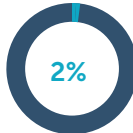
Behavioral  
Issues



Family Therapy



Couples



Addiction/  
Recovery



Other

## Age



Under 18



18-23



24-55



Over 55

## Ethnicity



Non-Hispanic



Hispanic

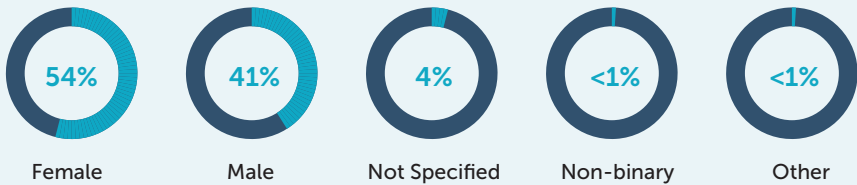


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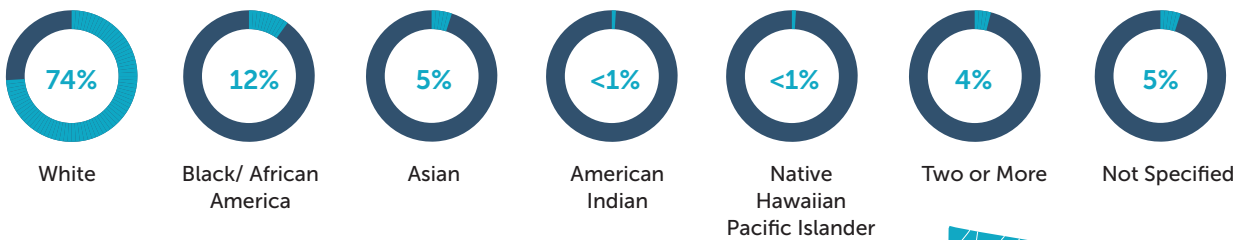


In 2024/25, your support helped us deliver meaningful, measurable impact across our clinical programs. The data in this section reflects more than numbers, it tells the story of lives improved, care expanded, and communities strengthened. With your partnership, we've advanced access to high-quality care, enhanced patient outcomes, and deepened our commitment to equity and innovation. These clinical statistics underscore the tangible results of your investment and the shared mission we carry forward together.

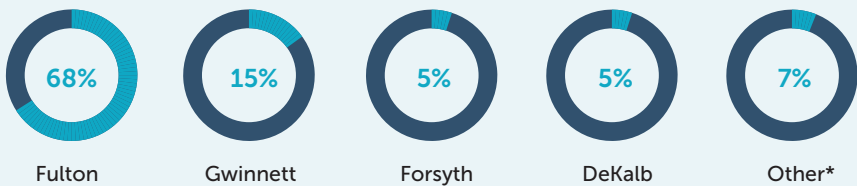
Gender



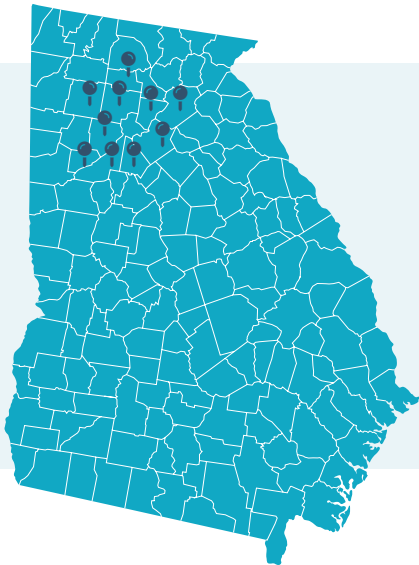
Race



Counties Served



\*Bartow, Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Hall, and Pickens counties



Total Therapy Hours  
**23,156**



Total Clients Served  
**2,881**



# Building Healthier Communities: Ways to Give

Your generosity fuels our mission to provide compassionate, accessible mental health care to those who need it most. There are several meaningful ways you can support Summit Counseling Center:

## Check

Make your check payable to:  
Summit Counseling Center  
Mailing address: c/o Director of Development  
2750 Old Alabama Rd,  
Suite 200, Johns Creek, GA 30022

## Online



Visit [summitcounseling.org/give](https://summitcounseling.org/give)

## Online Giving & Recurring Donations

1. Visit [summitcounseling.org/give](https://summitcounseling.org/give) or scan the QR code provided.
2. Enter your donation amount.
3. Select "Make this a recurring gift."
4. Choose your preferred frequency (e.g., monthly on the 1st).

## Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

Support Summit through your donor-advised fund. Contributions of cash, securities, or other assets may be eligible for an immediate tax deduction and can be directed to any IRS-qualified public charity, including Summit Counseling Center.

## Stock Transfers

We gratefully accept gifts of stock through our brokerage account:

**Investment Firm:** Charles Schwab

**Account No.:** 9234-4533

**DTC No.:** 0164

## Tax Information & Recognition

All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Summit Counseling Center is a trusted 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

- EIN/Tax ID: 58-2424268
- Recognized as a Platinum-level charity by Candid's Guidestar
- Rated a Four-Star Charity by Charity Navigator



Need Help or Have Questions? Contact Rachel Newcomer, Director of Development at [rnewcomer@summitcounseling.org](mailto:rnewcomer@summitcounseling.org) or 678-893-5329.

**Thank you for your continued support.  
Together, we're making a lasting impact.**











Summit Counseling Center  
2750 Old Alabama Rd.  
Johns Creek, GA 30026

# Together, We Make a Difference

As we reflect on the impact of 2024/25, one truth stands out: none of this would be possible without you. Your generosity, trust, and belief in our mission continue to drive meaningful change in the lives of those we serve. Every number, every story, every milestone in this report is a testament to the power of partnership.

**Thank you for standing with us and for helping us build a healthier, more hopeful future for all.**

To explore ways you can support Summit, please visit the inside back cover.

## Let's Stay Connected!

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