



GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR  
EARLY CARE + LEARNING

# ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021





GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR  
EARLY CARE + LEARNING

## WHO WE ARE

The Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning is an independent 501(c)3 that supports the efforts of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). In 2017, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation enabling the foundation to form. Shortly after Governor Nathan Deal signed the legislation into law, the nonprofit was created and began making strategic investments to improve and expand high-quality education.

## OUR MISSION

To support access to high-quality early childhood education to Georgia's youngest learners and their families, providers, and teachers through established strategic investments, collaborations, and partnerships to equip Georgia's current and future workforce.

## OUR VISION

To provide the best beginnings possible for all of Georgia's children.

## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Research has shown that every dollar invested in high-quality early education saves, on average, \$13 later in reduced crime rates, lower demand for social services, and increased tax revenues. Investing in early childhood education is vital to the success and stability of individuals and our communities.



# A MESSAGE FROM AMY M. JACOBS

---

At the beginning of our last State Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), we were still carefully working our way through a global pandemic. But, as the needs of children, families, early educators, and the child care and early education industry changed, the mission of the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning stood firm.

The Foundation continued to support high-quality early childhood education for Georgia's youngest learners and their families. We continued to provide resources to child care programs and their teachers to equip the current and future workforce of our state. Even though the public health crisis seemed to change every aspect of our daily lives, our commitment to providing the best beginnings possible for all of Georgia's children did not waiver.

This annual report highlights the Foundation's accomplishments, milestones, and financial performance in

State Fiscal Year 2021. Developed in conjunction with Carrie Ashbee, the Foundation's Executive Director, we hope you find this report to be insightful, thorough, and encouraging.

I am proud of the Foundation's accomplishments during an unprecedented year and I attribute our successes to our dedicated child care providers, stakeholders, funders, and members of the Board. If you have any questions or comments about items contained in this report, contact me or Carrie Ashbee at [cashbee@gaeearlyed.org](mailto:cashbee@gaeearlyed.org) | 404-548-5023.

**Amy M. Jacobs**

*Chair, Board of Directors*

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS DURING AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR



## Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts

Over the course of the pandemic, the Foundation has received nearly \$300,000 from the United Way of Greater Atlanta and the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Because of these partnerships, the Foundation awarded 110 child care programs with operational grants up to \$3,000 and provided three months of child care for 34 children of essential workers.

## Supporting Child Care Providers

The Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning knew that many child care programs, who were already working on razor thin margins, were struggling to keep up with the cost of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic.

Thanks to our partners at Wellstar Health System, we were able to assemble PPE packages designed specifically for child care programs using nearly \$15,000 worth of donated supplies.

---

In January 2021, the Foundation teamed up with Wellstar Health System to assemble and distribute PPE packages valued at \$500 each for Georgia's struggling child care providers.

---



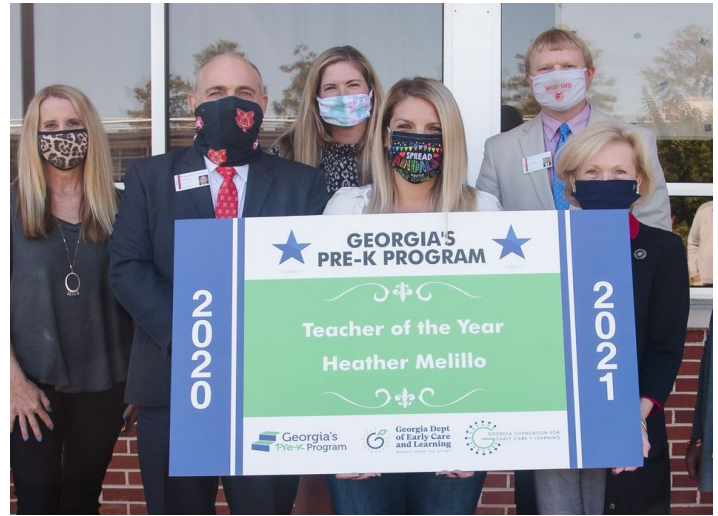
## Highlighting the importance of Georgia's early learning workforce

More than 67,000 Georgians work in the early childhood education industry and retaining qualified instructors in the state's early learning classrooms has been a priority even before the pandemic. That is why the Foundation spearheads the Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year program that celebrates and rewards outstanding Pre-K instructors. In June, a winner from a local public-school system and a winner from a private child care center received \$7,600 each and began serving as ambassadors for the Foundation and as advocates for high-quality early childhood education.



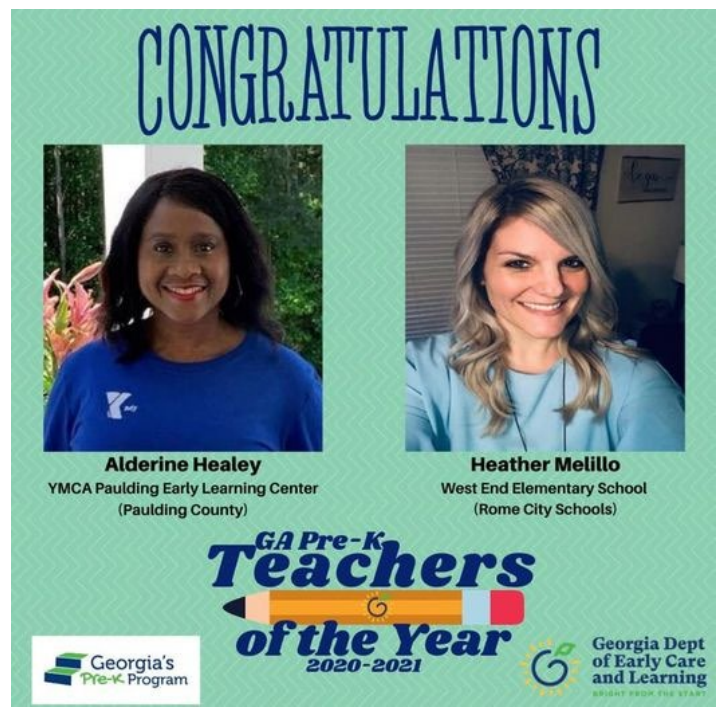
## Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DECAL Scholars Program

DECAL Scholars is a program that supports early care and education professionals in Georgia in advancing their education and earning financial rewards. To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program, the Foundation kicked off the DECAL Scholars of the Year program and recognized and rewarded two scholars who were actively pursuing a degree or credential in Early Childhood Education while also working in a child care program. Each winner received \$1,500, a classroom makeover, and a virtual performance by Coy Bowles, author and member of the Zac Brown Band.



“We hope these awards are a small way of recognizing the amazing commitment and dedication these early education professionals have to their students and families, both now and in the future.”

-Carrie Ashbee, Executive Director



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

---

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The Naserian Foundation | \$40,000

United Way of Greater Atlanta | \$45,000

National Alliance on Mental Health | \$62,000

Miscellaneous Donors | \$9,045

## **IN-KIND DONATION**

Wellstar Health System | \$14,625



# SFY 2021 Financial Summary

---

**GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CARE AND LEARNING  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY  
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

**REVENUES**

Contributions and Grants	156,045.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>156,045.00</b>

**EXPENSES AND GRANTS**

Awards and Grants	226,040.00
Supplies and Maintenance	3,020.19
Per Diem and Other Fees	2,350.00
Other Operating Expenses	4,023.47
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES AND GRANTS</b>	<b>235,433.66</b>

**CHANGES IN NET POSITION** (79,388.66)

**NET POSITION JULY 1, 2020** 276,582.37

**NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2021** 197,193.71

---



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Amy M. Jacobs  
Commissioner, Georgia Department  
of Early Care and Learning

Mrs. Stephanie Blank  
Naserian Foundation

Mr. Coy Bowles  
Zac Brown Band

Mr. Tim Cairl  
Atlanta Metro Chamber

Mrs. Gretchen Corbin  
Georgia Lottery Corporation

Mrs. Ann Cramer  
Coxe Curry & Associates

Mrs. Katie Dempsey  
Representative, Georgia General Assembly

Dr. Noris Price  
Baldwin County Board of Education

Mr. Brandon Reese  
WellStar Health System

Mrs. Sister Ward  
Georgia Power Company

Mrs. Carrie T. Ashbee  
Executive Director