

Together While Apart

Summary of Impact Report 2019-2020

RELATIONSHIPS GROW

leaders emerge

COMMUNITIES CHANGE



Project
Transformation
North Georgia



Together While Apart

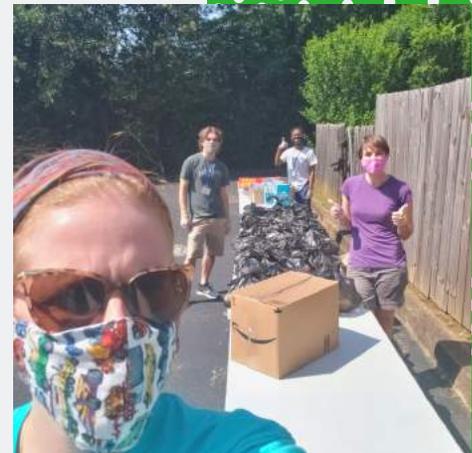
We responded.

When COVID-19 upended our communities and disrupted our world, we pivoted to support each other in new ways to meet critical needs.

Who are we? We are parents and children, young adults and volunteers, churches and neighbors, all with a singular vision: ***a world rooted in love that pursues the equity of all people and amplifies God's call on every life.***

We are Project Transformation.

We are together while apart.



Mission

Our mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college age young adults and churches in purposeful relationships.

Vision

We envision a world rooted in love, pursues the equity of all people, and amplifies God's call on every life.

Strategy

We live out our mission through the three Cs: children, college students, and churches. All three Cs come together in our collaborative program model, through which college-age young adults implement literacy and social-emotional interventions with children, strategically housed in churches. **We believe that transformation happens through relationships.** It is in the holy space between each C that transformation occurs.



The 3 Cs

Churches



Children



College-age young adults

Community Isn't Cancelled

When we realized we would not be able to hold in-person programs this summer, we were deeply disappointed, and yet inspired to explore how we could live into our mission in new ways. We quickly got on the phone with our families and host churches for input. Three needs emerged:

FEEDING • FEELING AND PLAY • READING

Project Transformation's eight-week summer program included:

-  Distribution of weekly family meal boxes, books, summer camps in a bag, and fresh produce
-  Interactive learning opportunities for children to engage in from home
-  Online videos created by young adults focused on social-emotional learning, literacy, and camp-like enrichment activities
-  Virtual vocation discernment cohort for young adults

COVID-19 has disrupted all of our lives in profound ways; however it has also revealed how deeply connected we are to one another. Because of our established network of church and community partners, Project Transformation is in a unique position to respond to this crisis and make a positive impact.



Dear PT Family,

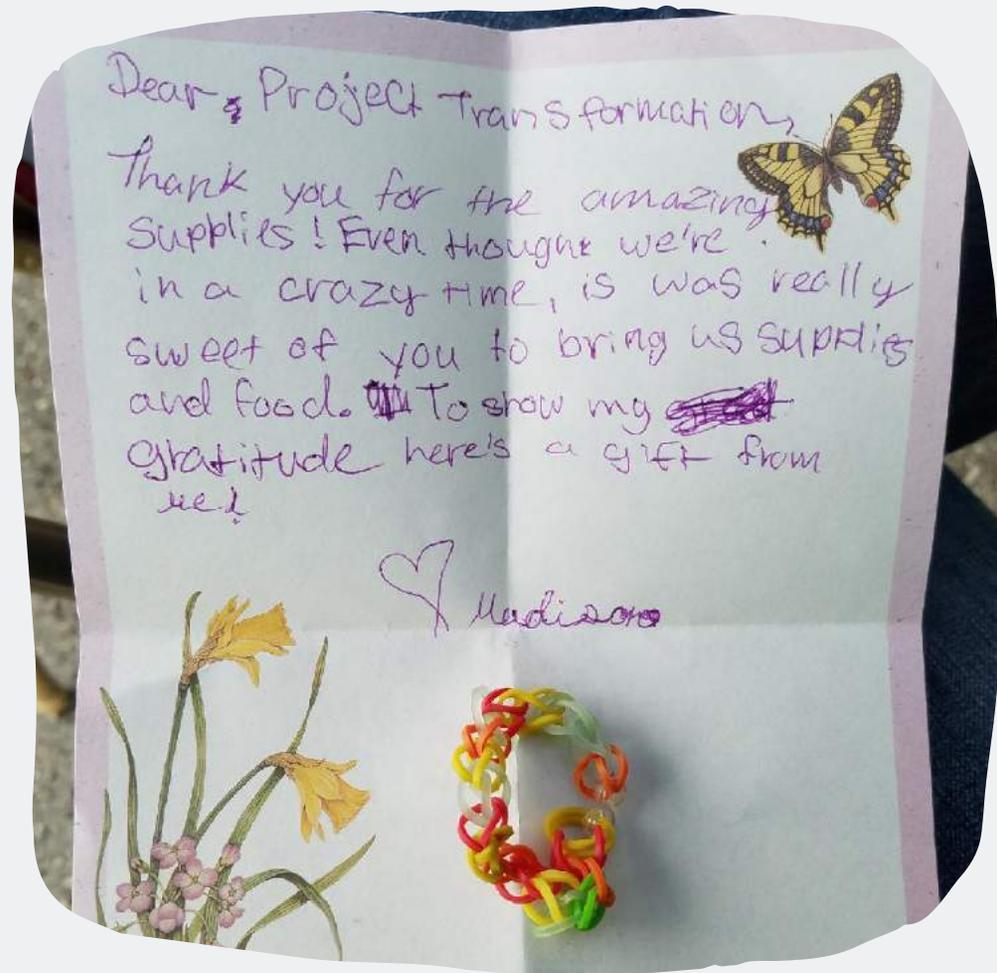
Entering into our modified COVID-19 summer camp, my major anxiety was that our primary value of mutual relationships would be lost. How could we build purposeful and meaningful relationships without being together in person? Despite my doubts, the Holy Spirit showed up anyway and beautiful, holy moments came from this summer.

In this report you will see a lot of "output data" (#s of what we gave away), but the true transformation happened in the relationships that were formed between children, parents, volunteers, interns, community partners and staff. I pray you read the stories in this report and get a glimpse of the beauty that we experienced despite a global pandemic.

Thank you to our families who trusted us with walking alongside you in the literacy and social emotional development of your kids. Thank you to our volunteers who showed up - rain or shine. Thank you to all our community partners who continued to believe in us and support our work. Thank you to all our donors for continuing to give despite the hardships many of us have faced during this time.

Community was not cancelled. We will continue our work of transforming communities by engaging children, young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships - no matter what obstacles come our way.

With God's Grace, Diane Ward



CHILDREN



256+

bags of supplies
and food

1818+

books sent home
with families

7480+

minutes read by
kids and volunteers

Virtual Camp

For **8 weeks**, Project Transformation children took part in **40 minutes of virtual reading everyday**. During this time, the children built positive relationships with the college-aged interns and volunteers.

This summer, **21 children** participated in interactive summer programming online. **81%** of kids felt that Project Transformation helped them enjoy reading.

Additionally, all children had access to virtual summer camp through self-paced videos made by PT interns from all around the nation.



College Age Young Adults



Nathalie Nelso...



🔇 Sonya Curtis...



🔇 spencer har...



Antonio J. Andr...



🔇 Jerry Hudsp...



🔇 Chloe Granb...

33:37



🔇 Omarr Dans...



Sanjeeta

Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

A partnership with the North Georgia United Methodist Women

You had us at "there are children in need!"

North Georgia United Methodist Women (UMW) are honored to be in partnership with Project Transformation North Georgia. We met Diane Ward in early 2019 when she introduced us to PTNG and we learned that their goals align closely with the advocacy work and purpose of United Methodist Women that is, *to be a community of women; to know God; to develop a creative and supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission.*

Our mission is to reach underserved women, children and youth in our communities and around the world. PTNG is right in our backyard doing this work- the partnership was a perfect fit. We joined with PTNG in 2019 by volunteering in their summer day camp. **This is a project that was at its core, serving to disrupt the school to prison pipeline which is a priority issue of the United Methodist Women.**

We have enjoyed building relationships with PTNG families and staff. We plan to continue the relationship through our volunteer work and continuing our "Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline" webinar series together- thereby furthering the reach of disrupting the pipeline!

Psalm 127:3 - "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. What a joy it is to be of service to children for we are therefore serving the Lord."

-Jessica Godfrey, Social Action Chair of the N. GA UMW



In May of 2020, through a grant from United Methodist Women National, we provided a free virtual webinar educating the community about social-emotional learning, the school to prison pipeline, and what people could do to help interrupt the pipeline. The series continues this fall.

"The children bless me. It is a joy for me to read with them."
-Jessica (photo from summer 2019)

"Being in partnership with PTNG allowed me participate in the virtual summer reading program. I met some dedicated interns and volunteers. I really enjoyed meeting the children and seeing their excitement and determination."
-Tryphenia, President of N. GA UMW





Project Transformation is the best job I have ever had and I wouldn't even call it a job, because it is my calling. My favorite memory of the summer was our family fun night. What really touched me was that families brought us homemade gifts from the supplies we had given them. That was really special. Even though it was a drive-by event, it was an event that was beneficial for everyone involved.

- Intern, PTNG Summer 2020



Host Churches

This summer, both Stone Mountain First UMC and North Springs UMC opened their doors to families in their communities and in partnership with their intern teams, provided impactful distribution in their neighborhoods.



Both host churches said they would like to host the camp again and that they had a positive experience hosting PT as a ministry. We are excited to continue our ministry together!

A World Rooted in Love: Drive-By Family Fun Night

A Night We Will Never Forget @ Stone Mountain UMC

Can you do anything with 40 pounds of fish?

This season of our lives with COVID-19 is a time we could have never imagined! Churches and businesses were closing for an undetermined amount of time, folks were out of work wondering how they would survive, and for a time we couldn't even find the essentials we needed at the stores.

With the church building being closed and the inability to gather like we used to, we felt restricted in our ability to build and strengthen relationships. Despite the challenges as a church, we wanted to continue the outreach that drives us as Christians.

While the church was closed, Project Transformation was able to safely support families with a limited number of volunteers. My wife, Beth, and I signed up to serve at their weekly distributions. It was so great to get to know families by talking with them, even if it was just for a moment through the car window and while wearing our masks.

One week during distribution, a local restaurant owner asked if we could do anything with 40 pounds of fish. We quickly came up with the idea of a drive-by Family Fun Night. While we couldn't bring a crew into the kitchen due to COVID-19 guidelines, my 40 years as a chef allowed me the chance to sanitize the kitchen and safely prepare 190 meals that went out to the community. It was a night filled with food, fun, and safely distanced fellowship.

It's easy to focus on what we can't do. If we think outside the box and want to continue what God has called us to do, it can be done.

-Jeff Freehoff, Chef and Stone Mountain Community Member



"My favorite moment was witnessing the joy on children's faces as they got to pick out their own books to take home!"

-Rev. Ellen Shepard, Pastor at SMUMC





"I have had a great experience with reading with the kids. During this session I attended, one child read to the entire group. She read really well and even added in a few of her personal stories, which are quite interesting. Occasionally she also showed her stuffed animals, drawings, and spoke about her day."

-Meghan, Virtual Volunteer



13
PARTNER
CHURCHES



50+
VOLUNTEERS



264+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



When COVID-19 hit, we worked alongside Stone Mountain Elementary School and DeKalb County to distribute children's books to kids with their sack lunches. On this day, we gave away over 300 children's books! A special thank you to principal, Dr. Covington, for working with the county and us to facilitate this special day.

Community Partners

Action Ministries
ADOX, ACPK, and AROS districts of the
North Georgia Annual Conference
B & C Farms
Candler School of Theology
Chick-fil-A on Memorial Drive
Christ UMC in Roswell
Consignment Sale of St. James Atlanta
Crafters Guild of Northbrook UMC
Daughters of the King of St. Michaels
Decatur Rotary Club
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Dunwoody UMC
ECW of Epiphany Episcopal Church
ECW of St. Michaels
Embry Hills UMC
Glenn Memorial UMC
Inman Park UMC
Johns Creek UMC
Little Shop of Stories in Decatur
Junior League of DeKalb County



Thanks to support from the Decatur Rotary Club and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation we were able to purchase new books for every child. **Every family received a copy of "Antiracist Baby" and every child received 3-4 books specifically tailored to their interests and reading level.** Thank you to "Little Shop of Stories in Decatur" for helping us make these books special for each and every child.

Community Partners Cont.

National Network of Young Adults
Neighborhood Church
North Decatur UMC
North Springs UMC
Northbrook UMC
Project Transformation Network
Sandy Springs UMC
St. James UMC - Atlanta
St. Michaels & All Angels Episcopal Church
Stone Mountain Elementary School
Stone Mountain First UMC
Stone Mountain Woman's Club
The Atlanta Community Food Bank
The Bertha & Hix Green Family Foundation
The City of Stone Mountain
The North Georgia United Methodist Women
The United Methodist Connectional FCU
The Wish Foundation

**And a special thank you to all our volunteers
and our 152+ donors!**



This year we were able to build a unique relationship with the City of Stone Mountain. Not only did the City support the program for children of the City, but we also worked together throughout the year to ensure children have their own books at home. **In the summer of 2020, we gave away over 750 gently used children's books at the City's "Back to School Bash."**

Pursuing the Equity of all People: Access to Fresh Produce

A Partnership with B&C Farms

We are committed to fresh produce for the community

B&C Farms, located in the heart of Stone Mountain, GA, *has its heart set on providing fresh food for the community and doing our part to make the world a healthier place.*

Being a healthier community means taking a holistic approach to farming. At B&C farms not only do we provide fresh produce at affordable prices, but we train missionaries in sustainable farming practices. *For us, farming is a spiritual practice that is good for your soul and your spirit, meant to be shared in relationships with others.*

We were blessed to be able to serve with Project Transformation this summer. We are grateful to be a part of serving families that are committed to educating their children and providing a safe place for them to grow and mature.

My favorite moments from this summer were seeing the joy fresh produce brought to families. Every week families expressed gratitude to us regarding their produce boxes. These moments are why we do what we do.

People always benefit from fresh food; however, what's most important to us is our relationships with those we serve. Thank you Project Transformation for this opportunity!

-Bill Johnson, Founder and Farmer of B&C Farms



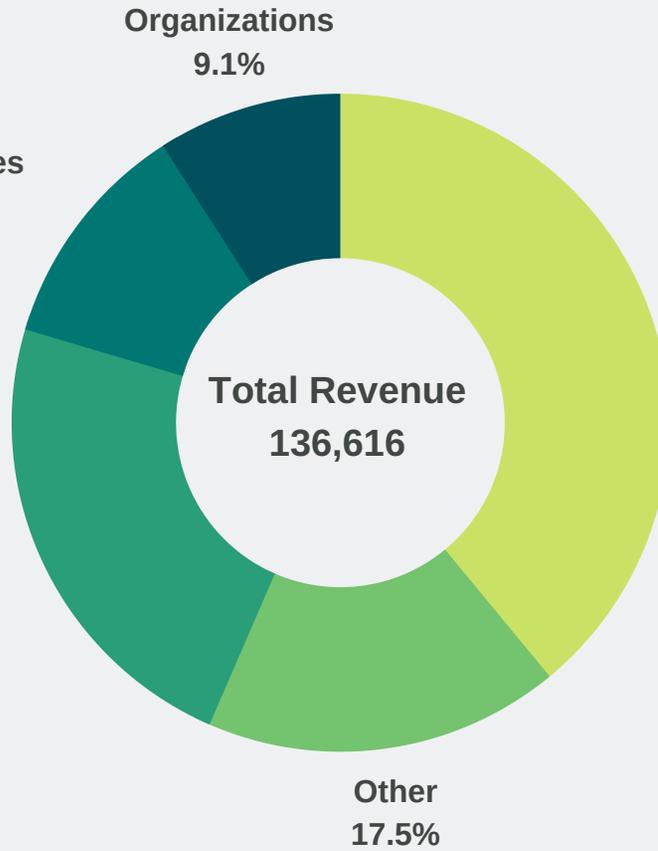
This partnership was made possible through funding from the Decatur Rotary Club and Northbrook UMC. Thank you for helping us support families with better resources and a more holistic approach.

"That was the best cabbage I've ever had. The produce has been a real blessing." -Camper Parent

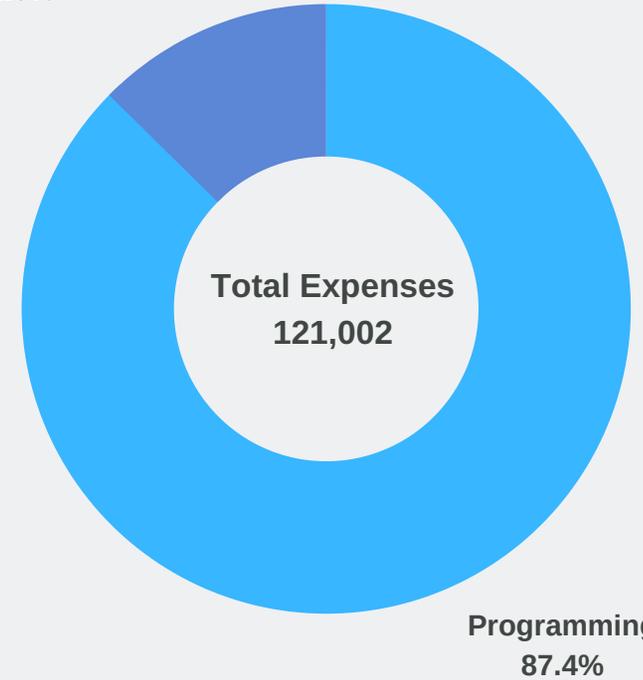


Financial Report

For the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year
(September 1, 2019- August 31, 2020)



Admin and Development
12.6%



STAFF

SONYA CURTIS-TSHUMA
*DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMMING*



DIANE WARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD MEMBERS

**ROBERT BLYTHE, JAMIE NEWTON,
REV. NATHALIE NELSON PARKER,
REV. DR. ELLEN SHEPARD, KATHRYN STANLEY,
SUZANNE SUCCESS OSBORNE**



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