



Your monthly newsletter about The Place and how serving with purpose helps change lives.

January 2023

Dear Cristy,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe it's 2023. Thank you so much to all of you who supported The Place last year with your generous financial donations and your valuable time.

Last year was a tough economic year for our many clients because the costs of so many of their basic needs—food, gas, and rent—jumped in price. Our client assistance team saw a 16 percent jump in neighbors asking for help with food, a 34 percent increase in assistance with housing costs, and a 55 percent leap in requests for clothing and household items.

With The Place's Case Management Program now in place, we hope to assist more of our neighbors in need and help them to become self-sustaining this year.

Without your continued support, The Place could not continue to provide the resources to so many clients year after year.

Serving with Purpose,

Cristy Ferencik

President & CEO
The Place of Forsyth County

News and Events

Christmas for 2,245 Children!

Our 8th Annual Holiday House was a huge success. With your support, we provided gifts for 2,245 children! Our generous community and sponsors filled our shelves with more toys and gifts than ever before. Our sponsors were:



North Pole Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Jim Cherry

Elf Sponsors: [Total Renovation Services](#), [Financial Consultants Group](#), and [WaterSports Central](#)

Snowman Sponsors: [MDSI](#) and [Home with Sherry Team](#)

in Forsyth and Dawson Counties and to mobile pantries in the area. Our food is meant to supplement families who are currently food insecure.

The following items are donated the least, *but are needed the most* so we can meet the needs of our clients:

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, and dental floss
- Body wash, hand soap, deodorant, and hand sanitizer
- Laundry detergent and bleach
- Dishwashing liquid
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Diapers, hospital pads, and sanitizer wipes
- Feminine hygiene products, including pads and tampons
- Baby wipes
- Razors

Please consider donating some of these items today. You can:

- Buy the items on [Amazon Smile](#) and have them shipped directly to our warehouse, or
- Drop off your donations of non-food items at The Place of Forsyth front office at 2550 The Place Circle, Cumming, GA 30040. Hours are Mondays through Thursdays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Fridays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

For more information, contact Deb at deborah@theplaceofforsyth.org. Thank you!

Sponsor a Winter, Spring, or Summer Food Drive

While we have been blessed this holiday season with an abundance of donated food, we need to keep the momentum going into the spring and summer. Typically, the incoming food goes out just as fast as it comes in during those months.

Please consider doing a food/diaper/hygiene drive for The Place. For more information, please contact Deborah (Forsyth) at deborah@theplaceofforsyth.org or Amy (Dawson) at amyp@theplaceofforsyth.org.



Staff News



Paul Hanson is Director of Operations and Retail

Please welcome Paul Hanson, who recently joined The Place as the Director of Operations and Retail. He is responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient operations of all sites operated by The Place, along with overseeing all retail operations and developing a comprehensive and effective plan for expansion.

Paul comes to The Place with a passion and a servant's heart for our most vulnerable population. He believes every person is under the guiding hand of God and each person, when provided with dignity and opportunity, can be positively impacted and, in turn, impact others.

[Read More...](#)

Partnering with Purpose

Our partners are very important to the success of our mission. The following groups held food or coat drives for The Place.

[Haw Creek Elementary](#)
[Mashburn Elementary](#)
[North Forsyth High](#)
[Midway Elementary](#)
[Row House](#)
[Primrose Cumming North](#)
[Johns Creek Elementary](#)
[Gateway Academy](#)
[Desana Middle School](#)
[Lambert High](#)
[Big Creek Elementary](#)
[Hansgrohe](#)
[South Forsyth Middle School](#) - Future Health Professionals and Future Business Leaders of America
The Lovell Family
[Pine + Pigment](#)
[SnapTechIT](#)
[DiversiTech](#)
5th Street Poker League

[Big Peach Running Co. - Cumming](#) -
[Trinity Church of Marble Hill](#)
[Big Canoe Rotary Club](#)
[Gap Outlet](#)
[MCC Labels](#)
[City of Dawsonville](#)
[The Welch Group – Keller Williams](#)
[Big Canoe – Women of Wildcat](#)
[Dawson County Woman's Club](#)
[The King Family Light Show](#)
[Dawson County High](#)(NHS, FCCLA, HOSA Clubs)
[Kilough Elementary](#)
[Blacks Mill Elementary](#)
[Bulls Eye Marksman Gun Club](#)
[Robinson Elementary](#)
[Farm Bureau – Dawsonville](#)
Carruth Lake Estates Subdivision
Etowah Preserve Subdivision
Etowah Preserve Subdivision
Burnt Bridge Subdivision

To learn how your organization can help support the programs and services at The Place, email us at community@theplaceofforsyth.org.

Volunteer

Why I Volunteer

Don McCarthy has been volunteering at The Place for about eight years. He works with clients as part of The Place's Adult Training Program and with anyone who requests financial coaching, including people we think would benefit from his services.

Why do you volunteer at The Place?

My wife says it gets me out of the house, but seriously, it's a way to give back for all the blessings we have enjoyed.

What does volunteering mean to you?

I know it's a cliché, but I feel so much better about myself after spending time at The Place.

What do you like about volunteering at The Place?

It's like a family. The staff and volunteers are so welcoming, and everyone appears to be enjoying themselves while serving the needs of others.

What would you say to someone who is considering volunteering at The Place?

There is a place for you. There are so many varied opportunities you will be sure to find something that fits your interests and skills.



Volunteers Needed to Deliver Groceries to Homebound Clients



While our food pantry helps meet the needs of many in our community, there are others who need help with food but are unable to pick it up. Clients may be homebound because of transportation issues, medical issues, or child care constraints. We will be discontinuing our DoorDash program soon, but still want to support these families.

The Place would like to assemble a team of volunteers/drivers in both Forsyth and Dawson Counties so we can continue to provide food deliveries to homebound clients.

- If you are a current volunteer and would like to deliver food, please contact Deborah at deborah@theplaceofforsyth.org.
- If you are not yet a volunteer but would like to be, please [visit our website](#) to sign up or contact Phil at phillip@theplaceofforsyth.org.

Become a Volunteer!

If you'd like to join our amazing team, please fill out an application and attend a one-hour orientation session at The Place.

[Click here to fill out a volunteer application.](#) You'll be able to sign up for an upcoming orientation session during the application process. For more information, contact phillip@theplaceofforsyth.org.



Give a Gift Today



Double Your Donation

Did you know that many corporations match employee donations to The Place? And, if you volunteer with us, your employer may also provide us with a grant as a way to recognize your ongoing support.

[Click here to see if your support can be doubled!](#)

Give a Gift Today

Your continued support is needed and appreciated so we can continue to help our neighbors in need.

You can help advance our efforts by:

- [Providing monthly financial support](#)
- Making The Place of Forsyth your favorite charity at smile.amazon.com or krogercommunityrewards.com.
- Adding a bequest in your will
- Giving the gift of a percentage of your estate or a specific asset
- Naming The Place as a beneficiary in your life insurance or retirement plan
- Creating a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to direct your IRA distributions to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity



The Place of Forsyth County, 2550 The Place Circle, Cumming, GA 30040
The Place of Dawson County, 517 Allen Street Dawsonville, GA 30534 and Dawson Thrift Store (RIC-
Rack) at 829 Hwy 9, Dawsonville, GA 30534

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