

2016-2017 Annual Report

youth-spark.org



Since 2000, youthSpark has been committed to making a difference for young people. Our mission is to “is to advocate for youth who are in need of legal and adult protection in abusive and exploitative situations.” Our work in 2016-2017 has focused primarily on expanding our existing framework for girls to now include services for boys and LGBTQ youth. Through the launch of our Youth Services Center, we’re now able to serve more youth than ever before!

We want to share this “snapshot” of who we are and what we accomplished in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. We also want to thank everyone for their amazing generosity and support that makes this work possible.

—Jennifer Swain
Executive Director

Staff and Board

10 staff members

14 board members

16 years in partnership
with the Fulton County
Juvenile Court

Our Partners

- Fulton County Juvenile Court
- GABWA
- Atlanta Coalition for LGBTQ Youth
- SunTrust Bank
- Federal Home Loan Bank of ATL
- Home Depot Foundation
- Truly Living Well
- Georgia State University
- and many more!

Movers, Shakers, & Changemakers



On the evening of January 26, 2017, youthSpark held its 2nd Annual “Movers, Shakers & Changemakers” event, raising over \$70,000 to support our new Youth Services Center. These funds provided one-on-one case management, court and legal advocacy, group therapy from our licensed clinicians, gave youth safe transportation to and from the Fulton Juvenile Court, opportunities for personal and educational mentorship, and most importantly, hope for a brighter future.



Over 150 of Atlanta’s top influential civic, business, and community leaders in attendance, who took in the beauty of The Wimbish House in midtown, which was graciously donated by the Atlanta Woman’s Club. exploitation.

At the event, youthSpark recognized the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for approving the buildout of the YSC, and Ms. Jan Lennon, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport Security Director, for her leadership blazing the trail of corporate accountability in the fight against trafficking and exploitation.

The YSC

youthSpark's new Youth Services Center—housed within the Fulton County Juvenile Court, but owned and operated independently by youthSpark—bridges many of the extreme gaps that existed in Atlanta's capacity to connect exploited, abused, and at-risk youth with life-changing services.

At the YSC, youth-in-need are connected to mental health/trauma counselors to meet their individual needs and also provided assistance to overcome barriers to accessing their treatment.

Youth are also provided opportunities to enroll in non-traditional educational programs, like job training, GED classes, and assistance with testing fees, are also offered to clients. With the help of volunteers, we are able to provide other unique opportunities, including music lessons and art classes, to empower youth and cultivate their talents.



YSC Stats

Remembering Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr.

Judge Lovett was a friend of youthSpark and countless others in Fulton County. His dedicated passion and work improved the lives of many youth and his impact will be felt for generations.

Lovett received his undergraduate degree from Yale University before earning his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1988 and his Master of Laws in Litigation from Emory Law School.



He was appointed to the bench in May of 2013 where he served as a Presiding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court until his untimely death in January, 2017.

The youthSpark family expresses their deepest condolences to the Lovett family.

2018 Movers, Shakers, & Changemakers Save the Date

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