



SPRING 2025 | [ADVOCHILD.ORG](https://advocchild.org)

ADVOCATES

Protecting Children. Empowering Youth. Uplifting Families.



NEWMAN HOUSE

becomes a reality

"Where there is no vision, there is no hope."

George Washington Carver

Hundreds of children now have hope for the future thanks to the vision – and persistence – of Advocates for Children. What was once a dream of one campus for all programs became a beautiful reality with the ribbon-cutting of Newman House.

"The Newman House will come alive this spring when the drop-in center opens and will continue to blossom this summer when the children and youth move into the 14-suite home, complete with a large commercial kitchen, living areas,

kitchenettes in each room and the gift of love and guidance from a compassionate staff," said Rachel Castillo, Pres. and CEO of Advocates.

Leaders from Advocates and the community joined the Newman Family in breaking the barriers that have chained young people who have no home. In a symbolic act that brought tears to many in the crowd, the group cut a paper chain made by the children age 7-17 in the current Flowering Branch Children's Shelter who will now become part of the Newman House.



Register
Online:



CARTERSVILLE HALF MARATHON + 5K

HOSTED BY WIRE2WIRE

05.17.25

315 ETOWAH DRIVE
CARTERSVILLE, GA

New race name honors Advocates' mission

The Pinwheel Pursuit (formerly the Duck Dash) is sporting a new brand to better communicate the cause behind the event. The May 17 Cartersville Half Marathon and 5K is being renamed for the national pinwheel symbol that stands for prevention of child abuse.

"Many in our 11-county region are committed to fighting abuse and neglect among the children in our communities," said Rachel Castillo, Pres. and CEO of Advocates. "The Pinwheel Pursuit is a significant event for our fundraising efforts to support the many programs Advocates provides to protect children and empower families."

Sign up today and enjoy running/walking with friends and family while supporting a meaningful cause that makes your community – and its children, youth and families - better.



A SALUTE TO WELLS FARGO

When corporations connect with Advocates, transformations happen. Kristina Christy, Vice President, Philanthropy and Community Impact at Wells Fargo, and her company are the epitome of an invaluable partnership with Advocates.

An outstanding Volunteer of the Year recipient, she was instrumental in making Newman House a reality and has helped shape conversations with other foundation supporters to strengthen engagement and support.

Her willingness to share best practices and insights truly embodies the essence of partnership. Since the launch of the Build Families. Protect Children Capital Campaign in 2022, Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation have invested more than \$100,000 for Advocates capital projects and programs that effectively help prevent youth homelessness in northwest Georgia.

Donor focus

Four community leaders selected for board



Vicky Newman Durham has spent much of her life connected to Advocates for Children. She and her husband moved back to Cartersville, her hometown, in 2015 and knew immediately that she would be involved with Advocates. She is pleased to carry on the legacy and passion of her mother, Nancy Newman, who founded Advocates with many others in 1983. Vicky believes we are called to serve others and is honored to be back on the Board serving the children, youth and families in our region.



Carol Hatch, program manager for Calhoun Housing Authority's nonprofit, New Foundations Development, Inc. is known for helping others achieve their goals, particularly children, veterans, seniors and families. Her dynamic interests and skills are a strong fit with Advocates' mission. She also enjoys singing gospel music and encouraging the discouraged.



Lamont Kiser brings a wealth of experience and dedication to our community as a longtime Bartow County employee and the Director of the Water Department. He understands the importance of strong infrastructure, both in our county and in the lives of children and families. Beyond his professional role, he serves as a pastor in Rome.



Jud McGivaren is returning to the Advocates for Children Board of Trustees and bringing extensive experience. He is the CEO and Founder of RenovationX. As a past Board Chair and longtime supporter, Jud played a vital role in shaping our mission and impacting the lives of children and families in our community. His leadership, dedication and passion for advocacy have been instrumental in our growth, and we are grateful for his continued commitment.

SAVE THE DATE!

graze[®] 
& raise '25

Make plans to join us:

Saturday, November 8th 2025
Cartersville Country Club

Watch for early ticket sales
coming soon!



A HOMELESS TEENS

Triumph

Logan's mother was fighting addiction and couldn't care for her daughter, so grandparents stepped in. But they mistreated her and soon she was a homeless teenager.

Coping with great loss, Logan turned to couch-surfing and sleeping in cars. A referral to Advocates put her on the long road back to stability. It started with drop-in services like enrolling back in school and receiving her diploma, then progressed to receiving Medicaid and financial assistance.

"I walked to about 15 job interviews up and down Joe Frank Harris Parkway," she said of her determination to find employment. Eventually, she found work and later an even better job. She got her driver's license, was able to purchase a vehicle and found an apartment, all with the guidance and encouragement of Advocates case managers.

Her plan is to attend a trade school and maintain current housing. Life is very different now and she's found hope.

"Even after I completed the program at Advocates, I felt supported though bi-monthly case management. Without Advocates, I wouldn't be here."

Give her a way out and a way *forward.*

Help us provide safety today and stability tomorrow.

The homeless youth crisis is one of the deep heartaches of our community.

Some are running away from abuse and neglect. Some are fleeing domestic violence or addictions. And some end up homeless because their parents can't afford a home and there is no place for their children.

The good news is that our region has a new residential home called Newman House, a desperately needed facility designed and staffed to help young clients embrace their inherent value and limitless potential. Give them hope and a future.

The need is urgent. Please give today.

Easy ways to give

Donate using the enclosed envelope.

Give online at advochild.org

Drop off your donation at any of the Advocates locations in Bartow, Cobb or Gordon.



Cobb location moving to bigger program space

After just three years, the Advocates program in Cobb has outgrown its space and is moving from Kennesaw to a more central location in Marietta. The new offices will be on the bus line and near other nonprofits who network with Advocates to provide extended resources.

The Cobb location began with an emphasis on keeping families together who were involved with the child welfare system and living in poverty. The goal is to keep those families intact so children are not removed to foster care because of poverty issues that can be corrected. Family navigators

help determine needs such as food, clothing, employment, transportation and housing and work with the families to access resources.

"Most of our clients have nowhere to turn," said Family Navigator Kataya Brown. "They don't know what's available to them or how to access resources. We provide emergency relief through our food pantry and clothes closet, then begin to untangle their complicated situations by guiding them to viable solutions.

"These families usually come to us through DFCS or the school systems and are known to be loving parents or grandparents who can't make it financially and are terrified of losing their children because of a lack of resources," she explained.

The Cobb office has doubled its caseload with the addition of a second family navigator, plus a parent educator was recently added to provide in-home parent education.who was recently added. The team quickly becomes a stable source of hope for families living in despair. The office is also a designated Safe Place where runaway youth can find help and be referred to the Advocates program for unsheltered young people.

April shines light on preventing child abuse



With Georgia ranking 38th for child well-being, Advocates focuses on raising awareness every April during Child Abuse Prevention Month. What is a year-'round effort by the nonprofit comes to the forefront of the community during a month to alert others to the growing number of abused and neglected youths.

The activities kick off with a March 31 Bartow Courthouse planting of blue pinwheels, the national symbol for child abuse prevention. Pinwheels will also be planted at Harbin Clinic, an Advocates corporate partner, and on the Advocates campus at 827 Joe Frank Harris Parkway.

In addition, April 4 will be "Wear Blue Day" in the 11-county region Advocates served and supporters can buy a virtual pinwheel to be planted online in honor or memory of a child. Follow Advocates' social media for details. A round up campaign will allow local retailers to round up sales for an Advocates donation and the mayor will sign a proclamation in April.



Prevent youth homelessness and pay lower state taxes

An incredible opportunity enables Georgians to redirect personal state tax dollars to make a direct impact on the lives of youth aging out of foster care. Donations sent to Advocates, among the select organizations approved to receive funding through the Fostering Success Act (FSA) will support youth in the independent housing program.

Receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in Georgia state tax liability when helping assist young people at risk of homelessness, poverty and unemployment.

How the tax credit works

Contribute through the FSA:

Your Contribution = Your Tax Credit

Example: Owe \$10,000 in Georgia taxes? Contribute \$5,000 to Advocates for Children and reduce your tax bill to \$5,000.

Who can participate and maximum contribution amounts:

- *Individuals/Heads of Household:* Up to \$2,500
- *Married Couples Filing Jointly:* Up to \$5,000
- *LLCs, S Corps or Partnerships:* Up to \$5,000
- *Corporations:* Up to 10% of Georgia tax liability

Scan this QR code for more details on how to apply for this unusually generous tax credit on 2025 income. Save on taxes by diverting some of your tax amount to helping youths!



Advocates for Children

www.advochild.org

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