



Service League
OF CHEROKEE
COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT



2025 / 2026

MAY - APRIL

SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

2025-2026 MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Stephanie Barber
PRESIDENT

Laura Killen
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Melissa Wehunt
PAST PRESIDENT

Amber Domino
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Megan Morgan
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Jaimie Sims
LEAGUE HISTORIAN

Savannah Holcomb
LEAGUE PUBLICITY

Danielle Gantt
LEAGUE RESOURCES

Jennifer Ghorley
PARLIAMENTARIAN

Julia Aubin
RECORDING SECRETARY

Tiffanie Cromer
WEBMASTER

Michell Houston
TREASURER

Sarah Smith
WAYS AND MEANS

PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Maria Allison
Shyronne Avery
Heather Crachi
Lauren Day
Keri Fabiano
Amanda Gergans
Daylan Greene
Ellie Hammonds
Stephanie Lowry
Erin Richardson
Dawn Starnes
Chelsie Stehlik
Leslie Thames

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Mindy Apple
Rachel Ashe
Julia Aubin
Stephanie Barber
Lexi Barnes
Tracy Barre
Lendsey Bishop
Tamara Bishop
Rachel Blackman
Erika Bryant
Kristine Corona
Tiffanie Cromer
Melissa Day
Amy Didzbalis
Amber Domino
Danyel Edwards
Allison Estapa
Michelle Ewald
Becky French
Hailey Gagner
Danielle Gantt
Amanda Gauthier
Tori Gay
Jennifer Ghorley
Carol Goodreau
Gwen Green
Ashley Harwell
Allison Hawkins
Teresa Henry
Savannah Holcomb
Michell Houston
Kristin Johnson
Erica Jorgensen
Amy Kesler
Jessi Kessock
Laura Killen
Anna Lamprey
Regina Martin
Sara McCloskey

Leigh McCord
Kim McCrary
Megan McDonald
Shauna Miller
Carolyn Moraniec
Jodi Morgan
Megan Morgan
Rachel Murphy
Bethany Nelson
Reagan O'Connor
Stephanie O'Rourke
Brittany Page
Tricia Parks
Melissa Pavsner
Amy Priest
Jenny Purvis
Andrea Rafanelli
Maggie Reames
Jenna Roberts
Beth Rogers
Emili Roman
Kasey Ross
Nicole Ross
Amy Rowan
Rachael Sanford
Elizabeth Selkey
Jaimie Sims
Jill Smallwood
Sarah Smith
Alison Smock
Melissa Sneed
Amanda Speights
Marcey Stein
Kelly Street
Jessica Testa
Lauren Thomas
Angela Trethaway
Angie Trimbach
Rebecca Ward
Melissa Wehunt
Diane Worley



THANK YOU FOR TEN YEARS OF SERVICE



For ten years, these ladies have served and led the League. They have served as board members, president and committee chairs. They have given their time and hearts to the children of Cherokee County! Overall, these ladies have volunteered nearly 8,000 hours. Congratulations on becoming honorary members and "white shirts"!



Rachel Ashe



Julia Aubin



Rachel Blackman



Amanda Gauthier



Carol Goodreau



Amy Kesler



Kelly Street



Melissa Wehunt



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

2026-2027 Provisional Members

In March the League welcomed 15 new members who will serve the next year as provisional league members before being voted to full membership. We appreciate these ladies commitment to serve the children of Cherokee County for the next ten years!



Suniah Ayub



Kristin Cannon



Nicole Cline



Heather Deyton



Erin de Lira



Peyton Jackson



JoAnna Jackson-
Pietrack



Cathy Kramer



Krista Leonard



Kaila Morris



Stefanie Raleigh



Robyn Slaton



Renee Stacy



Tonya Stansel



Elisabeth Walden



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with both gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together as the Service League of Cherokee County.

This year has been one of meaningful growth—not just in numbers, but in the depth of our impact. Through the collective efforts of our members, sponsors, and community partners, we continued to live out our mission of serving children and families across Cherokee County in tangible, life-changing ways. Whether through Riverfest, the Reindeer Run for the Children, our Annual Gala, or the Golf Tournament, each event represented far more than a fundraiser—it represented hope, opportunity, and a community coming together for a greater purpose.

One of the most defining aspects of this year has been our commitment to casework. As needs in our community continue to grow, so has our response. This December alone, we provided over \$20,000 in direct assistance to students—our largest single month of giving to date. These are not just numbers; they are real stories of students who now have access to basic necessities, medical care, and opportunities they otherwise would not have had.

We also celebrated the incredible individuals in our community through the Heritage of Hope Award, honoring those who exemplify service and compassion. It was inspiring to receive a record number of nominations this year, a testament to the quiet but powerful work being done across Cherokee County every single day.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our members. The hours you give, the energy you pour into every detail, and the heart you bring to this organization are what make the Service League so special. I have been continually inspired by your willingness to step up, lean in, and serve—often behind the scenes and always with purpose.

To our sponsors and community partners, thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the work we do. Your support allows us to extend our reach and deepen our impact in ways we could not do alone.

It has been an honor to serve as President during this remarkable year. As I transition into the role of Past President, I do so with full confidence in the leadership ahead and excitement for what is to come. The future of the Service League is strong, and the need for our work has never been greater.

Together, we are making a difference—one child, one family, and one act of service at a time.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Barber
President, 2025-2026

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

Money Spent on Casework

126,524.19

Children helped through Casework

623 children

Families assisted through Casework

342 families

Hours Volunteered by League Members

7,893 hours

05/2025 - 04/2026

CASEWORK

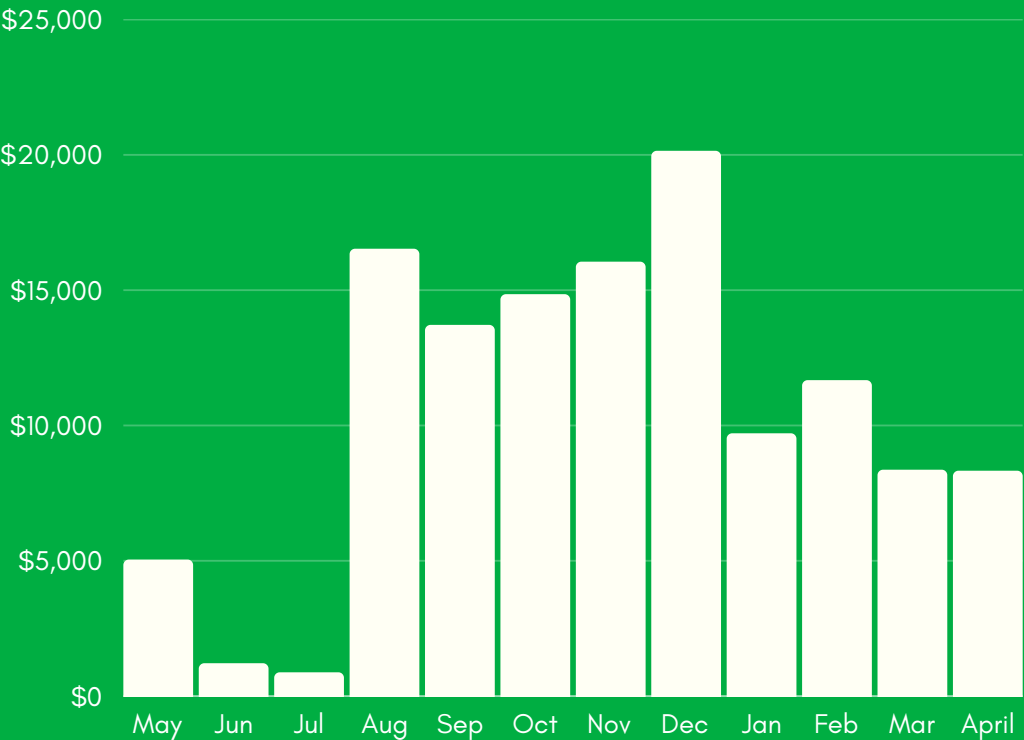
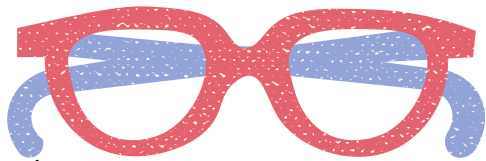
Serving the children of Cherokee County through our casework efforts remains at the very heart of the Service League’s mission. Over the past year, we assisted 623 children from 342 families, with each request reflecting a genuine and often urgent need.

Under the leadership of our dedicated President-Elect, Laura Killen, we responded with compassion, care, and a deep commitment to making a difference. A total of \$126,524.19 was allocated for casework, representing a 70% increase over the last two years. This increase really shows how much our community's needs have grown, and it reflects our deep commitment to supporting them.

These efforts would not be possible without the partnership of CCSD school counselors and social workers, as well as community partners such as Shipley & Wayland Eyecare, Knox Bridge Dental, Trotter & Patel Pediatric Dentistry, and Lice Ladies of Cherokee County. This year, we provided 100 pairs of eyeglasses and assisted families with essential needs such as medical care, housing, and utilities, helping ensure children feel safe, supported, and seen.

One case that stands out occurred earlier this year, when we were contacted about a single mother of two who had suddenly lost her sister. Overnight, she took in her two young nephews while grieving that loss herself, instantly becoming responsible for four children. The family had very little and needed help immediately. Because of our Casework program, we were able to arrange for essential supplies to be delivered the very next day. In a moment of unimaginable stress, she wasn’t alone, and the children were cared for.

That’s the heart of this work. We are meeting the very real needs of local families and showing up in the moments that matter most. We are deeply honored to continue the League’s longstanding tradition of service. It’s more than just a legacy; it’s a promise. And thanks to the fundraising efforts, numerous donations, and generous community partners, we’re keeping that promise, one child at a time.



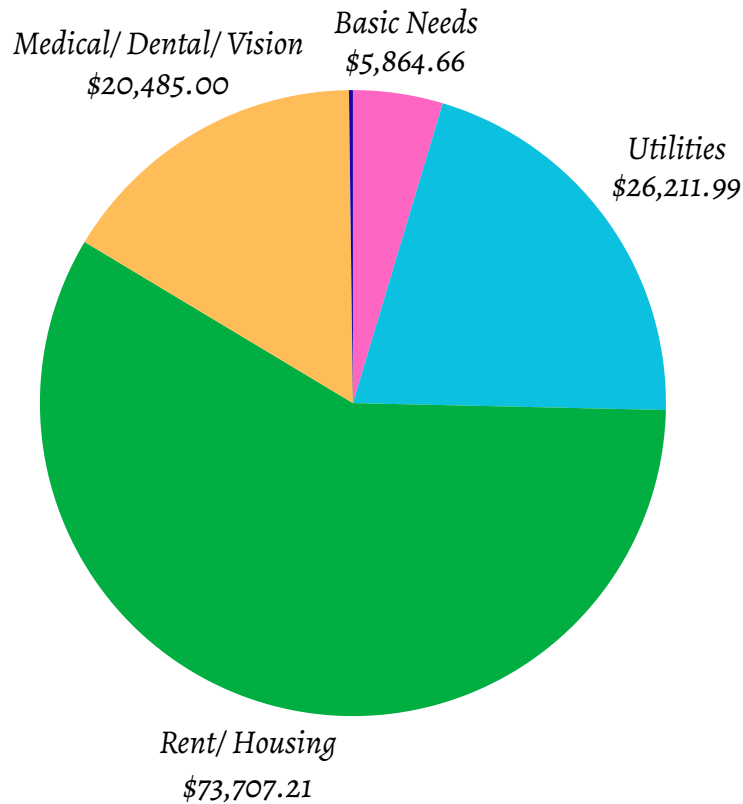
We are incredibly grateful for the Service League’s unwavering support of our School Counselors and Social Workers. Their partnership allows us to meet the needs of our students and families when it matters most.

-CCSD Social Worker

FIGURE 1.
CASEWORK TOTALS BY MONTH
May 2025-April 2026

CASEWORK BY THE NUMBERS

Casework meets a wide range of children's needs, from housing and utility assistance to medical, dental, and vision care. Housing support, including emergency stays in hotels, made up the largest portion of the League's efforts this year. In total, the Service League spent \$122,708.52 on casework, helping children right here in Cherokee County.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your generosity and assistance were nothing short of a miracle for our family. In a season when things felt overwhelming, you stepped in with compassion, dignity, and love. God promises to meet us right where we are and to provide even when it seems impossible. Your organization is a shining example of that promise- truly the hands and feet of God in our community. Please know that your kindness has left a lasting impact on our family. We will remember it always."

- Cherokee County Parent

2025-2026 PHOTOS



2025-2026 PHOTOS



COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Service League of Cherokee County loves to give back to the children in our community in as many ways as possible. In addition to our own events, we partner with other organizations in the county for community service opportunities.

In June, our members packed over 500 breakfast and lunches for MUST Ministries. In July, we had the opportunity to partner with CCSD to sort and bag donated produce to give to those in need over break. We also were able to help Revolution Church setup for their annual Give a Kid a Chance event.

In the Fall, we donated packaged desserts to Cherokee Thanksgiving and many of our members helped package meals as well. Over winter, we volunteered at Hope for Christmas as well as Night to Shine. These three events mean so much to us and the community, and we enjoy getting to be a part of them!

In the Spring, we helped build beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and were able to help the Children's Haven with organizing their Care Givers Closet.

We were also able to start a new initiative this year by donating food items and hygiene kits to different school food pantries. We are so excited to continue this effort for years to come.



Organized the Caregivers' Closet
at The Children's Haven



Serving at Give a Kid a Chance



Serving at Hope for Christmas



Donated and served at Cherokee
Thanksgiving



Donated to several Cherokee County School District food pantries



Golfing FORE! The Children

JUNE 13, 2025
FAIRWAYS OF CANTON



7TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Service League of Cherokee County hosted the 7th Annual Fore! the Children golf tournament on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Fairways of Canton.

Nearly 75 golfers came out to Fairways of Canton to support the Service League's event. Golfers were treated to Chick-fil-A biscuits for breakfast and a tasty lunch put on by Fairways of Canton. Golfers also had fun bidding on raffle baskets and participating in a new 50/50 cash raffle. Throughout the tournament, golfers purchased mulligan packages to improve their scores--this served to boost competition and raise additional funds during the event! Sponsors were also featured along the golf course where they set up tents and interacted with the golfers throughout the tournament.



The golf tournament was a great success and raised \$18,593.38 for the Service League's important mission of helping children in need in Cherokee County.

**8th Annual Golfing FORE! the
Children will be June 12, 2026
at Fairways of Canton!**



Riverfest Arts & Crafts Festival

SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2025
ETOWAH RIVER PARK



Riverfest 2025 marked a milestone year for the Service League and the Riverfest Arts & Crafts Festival. This year, the committee implemented a momentous new festival layout designed to enhance the experience for vendors, attendees, and the community. Thanks to the dedication and collaboration of the Riverfest Committee, the Executive Board, and our many valued community partners and vendors, this vision became a reality.

The results were truly encouraging. Riverfest 2025 generated over \$131,000 in profit, directly benefiting programs that support the children of Cherokee County.

This achievement was the product of tremendous teamwork, thoughtful planning, and the willingness of many to embrace meaningful change. We extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the leaders, volunteers, vendors, sponsors, and community supporters who helped lay the foundation for this monumental shift. Their commitment and trust made this year's success possible and helped position Riverfest for even greater prosperity in the years to come.

**Riverfest 2026 will be held at
Etowah River Park on
September 26-28, 2026.**





The 22nd Annual Run for the Children was held on December 6, 2025. Race events included a 1 mile Fun Run, and Peachtree Qualifying 5K and 10K races. Thanks to the support of our community, sponsors, and runners, the event raised \$19,298.36 to meet the needs of children in our community.

This year was the best yet for our run! We had over 400 people race and many more who donated as Santa's helpers as well as 27 sponsors who supported our cause by donating goods and money! This year we added a section for kids to write cards to santa and "mail" them to the North Pole which was a HUGE success! We even had some silly elves running around having "snowball" fights which was a hit for everyone in attendance.

The 2025 Reindeer Run for the Children will be December 5, 2026 at Etowah River Park.

Reindeer Run for the Children

DECEMBER 6, 2025 | ETOWAH RIVER PARK



CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

One of our most cherished traditions each year is shopping for children during the Christmas season. The children we serve are identified by school counselors and social workers, who work closely with families to create wish lists that include both essential needs and special wants. These needs often include everyday items such as bedding, clothing, coats, and other basics that provide comfort and support throughout the year.

During the 2025–2026 League year, we had the privilege of assisting 172 children, helping make the holiday season brighter for each of them. Thanks to the generosity of our community, through donations, sponsorships, and participation in our fundraising events, we were also able to fulfill many special requests, including “big ticket” items like bikes, scooters, and tablets.

In total, the League invested \$36,627 to support children and families across Cherokee County. We are especially grateful to the Blue Ridge Bar Association and Carlile and Side, P.C., as well as Safe Kids Cherokee, for providing helmets for children receiving bikes and scooters. We also extend our appreciation to Walmart in Holly Springs for helping us stretch our resources even further.

Our League members gathered to organize and prepare gifts for distribution, ensuring families received them in time for Christmas morning. Every donation, volunteer hour, and partnership helped ensure local families felt supported and cared for during the holiday season.



172

CHILDREN PROVIDED FOR

36,627.79

DOLLARS SPENT

"Thank you for your continued support during the holiday season. Because of your generosity, many of our students not only received gifts, but also experienced a brighter holiday season full of hope, love, and joy. We are forever grateful."

- CCSD SCHOOL COUNSELOR

GALA & BENEFIT

JANUARY 31, 2026 | TIMBERS ON ETOWAH

The Service League's Annual Gala & Benefit was held on January 31, 2026, at Timbers on Etowah. The evening brought together supporters, sponsors, and community members for dinner, dancing, fellowship, and fundraising in support of the children of Cherokee County.

Due to a winter snowstorm that created hazardous road conditions throughout Cherokee County, attendance was lower than anticipated. Despite these conditions, 125 guests attended the event. During the evening, the League recognized its valued sponsors, shared highlights of its work over the past year, and honored members who completed ten years of dedicated service to the children of our community. The Service League extends its sincere appreciation to the sponsors whose generosity helped make the event possible.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Fifth Annual Heritage of Hope Award. The League recognized three outstanding finalists: Marcie Smith, Debra Murdock, and Eddie Robinson. Marcie Smith was named the 2026 Heritage of Hope Award recipient in recognition of her exceptional dedication and service to the children of Cherokee County.

Through the efforts of the Gala & Benefit Committee and the generosity of sponsors and attendees, the event raised \$16,798.94 to directly benefit children in Cherokee County. A portion of the evening's proceeds was also designated for Heaven's Gait Therapeutic Riding Center.

The Service League is grateful for the continued support of its sponsors, volunteers, and community partners who make it possible to advance its mission of serving the children of Cherokee County.

HERITAGE OF HOPE AWARD



President-Elect Laura Killen and President Stephanie Barber
Presenting the 2026 Heritage of Hope Award to
Marcie Smith.



President Stephanie Barber with 2026
Heritage of Hope recipient
Marcie Smith- Executive Director
The Children's Haven.

SERVICE LEAGUE

Gala & Benefit



ANNUAL LUNCHEON

During the luncheon, the League's current President, Melissa Wehunt, highlighted the organization's many accomplishments over the past year. Jaimie Sims was recognized as the 2024-2025 League member of the year, an award voted on by league members to recognize a member who shows outstanding devotion and work to support the League.



2024-25 Member of the Year



A commemorative quilt thoughtfully crafted by League Historian, Allyson Tanner, using vintage shirts to beautifully represent the organization's many years of history and shared memories.



Service League sisters- honorary, active, and provisional- gather together in celebration of the year's accomplishments, honoring their shared commitment, dedication, and impact.

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Sponsorships at League fundraisers enable sponsors to support the mission of the League and assist hundreds of children in our community. All sponsorship dollars remain in Cherokee County. The positive impact our sponsors make to our mission reaches children in every part of Cherokee County.

CORPORATE SPONSOR



RIVERFEST ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Platinum

Canton Tourism

Gold

A-JAC Electrical (In-kind), Cherokee Tribune (In-kind), Family Life Productions (In-kind)

Silver

Coosa Valley Credit Union, Renewal by Andersen, Ridgeline Floors, Knox Bridge Dental Care, Leaf Guard, Kinetic, Price Law Group, Goshen Valley, Renasant Bank, Outback Deck

Transportation

Page Relocation

Bronze

Jape Services, Herndon Heating and Air, Corblu Ecology Group

Children's

Life Wise Academy, Once Upon a Child, 10-10 Contracting, Harmony Orthodontics, Three Sisters Gifts, Edward Jones, Canton 1st Methodist Preschool, Sixes Church, ProntoTrak

Riverfest Associate

Dameron Family Dentistry, Grisham, Poole & Carlile, P.C., CAIRE, Inc., Peachy Play Zone, Orange Theory, Universal Alloy Corporation

Platinum In-Kind Sponsor

Cherokee Co. Fire and Emergency Services, A JAC Electrical, School of Rock, Gunnin Survey

Silver In-Kind Sponsor

BarrWood Cabinets, Darnell Porta Johns, YNDR

Riverfest Associate In-Kind Sponsor

North Metro Waste and Hauling, Big Springs Farm

GOLF FORE THE CHILDREN

Gold

Allstate – Kelly Scott, Cobb EMC (Grant), GMASS, Inc.,
Kesler Law Firm, North Georgia Foundations,
Scott Huskins Funeral and Cremation, YNDR,
Zack Bobo Real Estate

Silver

Amba Products, Credit Union of Georgia, Erin de Lira
State Farm, Goodwin & Greene, P.C.,
Law Office of Jay G. Wall, Workfast Consulting

Bronze

AirPro Heating and Air, Canton First Methodist Men's
Prayer Breakfast, Casteel Heating, Cooling, Plumbing &
Electrical, Ridgeline Floors

Hole

Canton Chiropractic and Massage, Canton Tire & Wheel,
Dameron Family Dentistry, Golf2Grow, Harmony Lawn
Care, Jape Services, JP Haynes Lumber Company,
Kim McCrary Harry Norman Realtors, Leafguard,
Orangetheory Fitness Canton, Providence Insurance
Advisors, Speights Law, Turning Point Family
Chiropractic, Valor Environmental

Silver In-Kind Sponsor:

Whydrate (Raffle Baskets & Gift Cards)

Bronze In-Kind Sponsor:

Chick-fil-A (all Cherokee County locations)

REINDEER RUN FOR THE CHILDREN

Runner Recognition Sponsors

Cobb EMC, North GA Foundations, YNDR,
Allstate – Kelly Scott, Northside Hospital – Cherokee,
Cherokee Children's Dentistry

School Presentation Sponsors

Ridgeline Floors, LLC, Canton City Lifestyle,
Woodstock Pediatric Medicine, Harmony Orthodontics,
Caribou Coffee

Mile Marker Sponsors

Workfast Consulting, Goodwin Investment Advisory,
H & H Electric and Security,
Sawnee Electric Foundation, Lakota Water

Starting Block Sponsors

Reliable Home Lenders, Dameron Family Dentistry,
Peachy Play Zone, Club Pilates, Fleet Feet,
Branded Expressions

GALA AND BENEFIT

Presenting

Synovus

Table + Bar Sponsor

Zack Bobo Real Estate

Gold

North Georgia Foundation, Carlisle & Side PC

Silver In-Kind Sponsor

Hannah Ward Photography

Table Sponsor

Burns Smith Law, Parrish Construction

Silver

North Georgia Pump Company, Precision Roofing

Bronze In-Kind Sponsor

MSA Entertainment

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Service League greatly appreciates every organization who has supported our work. Generous sponsors are essential to our work and enable us to continue to serve the children of Cherokee County.



serviceleague.net