

Annual Report 2025

Staff

Danny Malec, Executive Director
Jo Barnes, Dir. Community Connections
Mikhayla Smith, Program Manager
Lisa Sammons, Operations Manager
Elena Tothazan, MSW Intern
Joe Cordova, BSW Intern

2025 Board of Directors

Shelagh Emmott, President
Lindsay Jackson, Secretary
Shane Sims
Brent Andrews
Terry Salguero
Jennifer Elkins
Steven Flig
John Q. Williams

2025 At a Glance

Dear Friends and Supporters of GCC,
Once again I come to you with greetings of peace. As we near the end of this year's winter fundraising campaign, I am also filled with gratitude for your ongoing and generous support of GCC's work, mission and vision. Thank you for believing in the transformational potential of restorative justice approaches in communities, schools, organizations and the criminal legal system.

2025 has seen significant political, social and cultural upheaval, though GCC's mission—*building peace with justice by advancing restorative justice approaches*—grows more and more relevant every day. At the conclusion of the first three years of our Restorative Justice Diversion (RJD) Program, we have now received 41 youth-focused RJD cases and of the first 30 youth that have completed the program, only 2 have reoffended. This is a recid-



ivism rate of less than 7%, well below the statewide recidivism rate of nearly 40%! In addition, we continue to support the Clarke County School District, and individual schools throughout Georgia, with restorative practices training and implementation support. We are also supporting a wide range of organizations and the local Athens community with restorative approaches to conflict and communication, always with a focus and intentionality of living into our vision of a just and equitable community where all can thrive and prosper.

GCC finished 2025 on solid financial footing, ending the year with a net income of over \$20K for the second consecutive year. 2025 marked GCC's 15th year in existence and we cherish the opportunities that we had throughout the year to celebrate this milestone with so many of you! We also worked with The LightRoom Athens to produce our first ever promotional video, [which you can see here](#).

Again, we are grateful for your continued support and we look forward to our collective growth and development in 2026!

In peace, Danny Malec



GCC Team (l-r): Danny, Jo, Mikhayla, Lisa, Joe and Elena

GCC Mission

GCC exists to advance restorative practices in communities, schools and institutions in Athens and beyond.

Goals for 2025

Our 3 main goals for 2025 were:

1. Sustain and grow the Restorative Justice Diversion Program.
2. Grow our school-based restorative work within Clarke County and beyond.
3. Increase GCC awareness and engagement in local Athens community and beyond.

Goal #1: Sustain and grow the RJD Program

Increased case referrals by 50% over 2024 and promoted Mikhayla to Program Manager. Continue to expand grant funding for this program to nearly \$60K.

Goal #2: School-based Restorative Practices

Continued with a 2-year contract with CCSD to provide RP training and implementation support to all 23 schools. Continued the partnership with Communities in Schools of Georgia to train Site Coordinators throughout the state.

Goal #3: Increase community awareness and engagement of GCC's work

Facilitated a series of community conversations related to the impact of criminal justice system involvement. Collaborated with The LightRoom Athens on a GCC promotional video. Began a community education campaign, called "Restorative is Inclusive", to promote restorative justice as an equitable and inclusive approach to school culture, conflict, discipline, as well as certain criminal offenses and harm. Stay tuned for more in 2026!

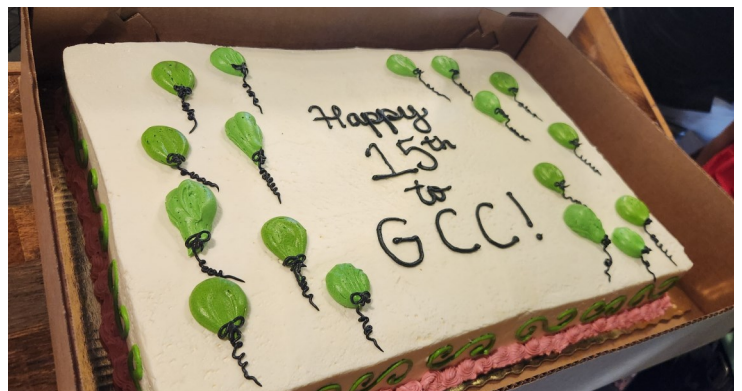
Who did we serve/partner with in 2025?

Clarke County School District
Communities in Schools of Georgia
The Ansley School
Global Village Project
DPH Violence Prevention Program
Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office
Juvenile Offender Advocate, Inc.
Divas Who Win
People Living in Recovery
Dignidad Inmigrante
ACC Neighborhood Leaders
Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement
The Cottage Sexual Assault and Children's Advocacy Center
ARC-Southeast
Common Justice Practitioners Lab
Emerging Leaders for Community Change
Great Kids, Inc.
UGA Schools of Education, Law and Social Work

Celebrating 15 Years of GCC

2026 marked GCC's 15th year of existence and we took every opportunity we could throughout the year to celebrate this important milestone. As we move toward our strategic planning retreat later this month, we expect the next 15 years to be about collectively strengthening networks for restorative justice throughout the Athens community and beyond.

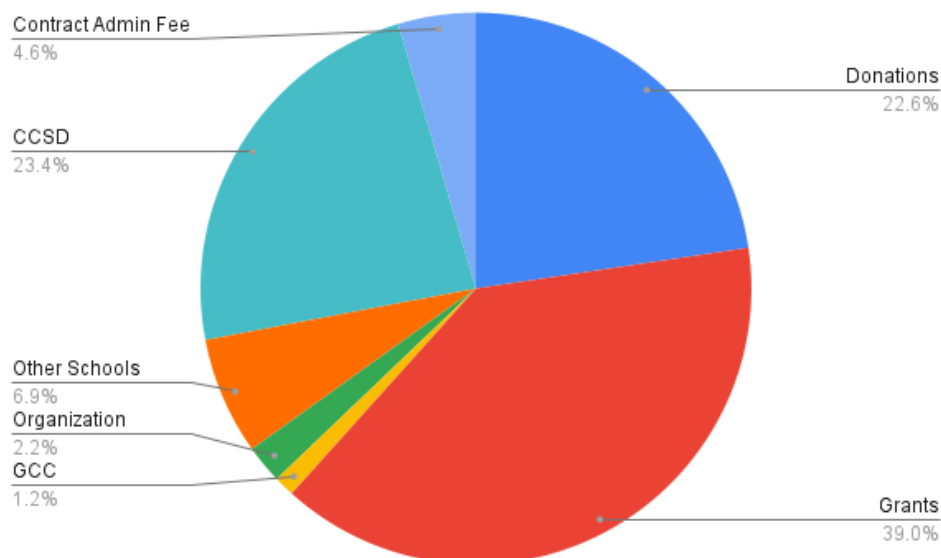
Stay tuned to www.gaconflict.org for upcoming events and join us!



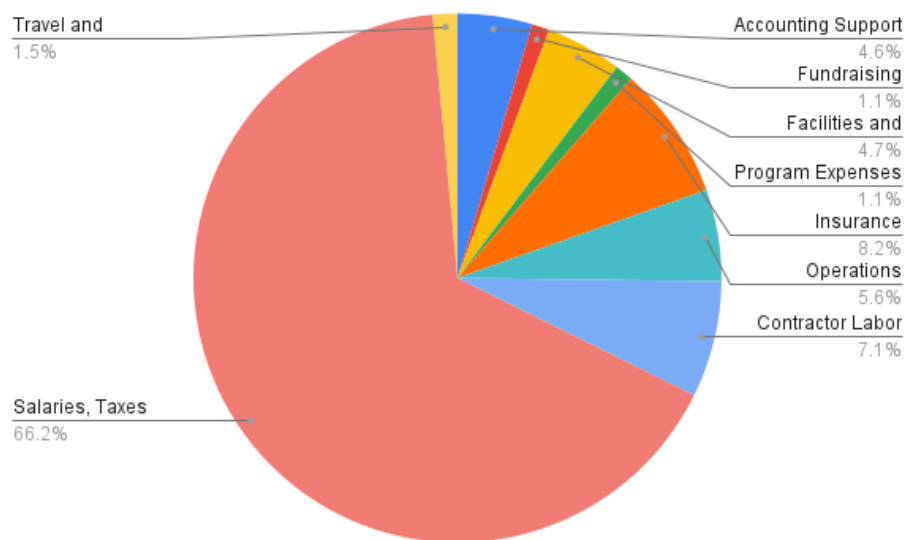


2025 GCC Financials

Total Income for 2025: \$248,000



Total Expenses for 2025: \$225,400



**2025
Net Income
+\$22,600**

Visit www.gaconflict.org to learn more

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