

## Improving Health

### Good News at Noon Garden, 2025

Wisdom Keepers worked in coordination with the Hall County Extension Coordinator, a Master Gardener, and the Good News at Noon Community Coordinator to develop a community garden at Good News at Noon. In addition to building lifestyle skills for residents, classes encourage their involvement in the garden and provide Good News at Noon with a variety of fresh vegetables.



### Looping Everyone In, 2024

Hearing loops are special sound systems that use a magnetic signal to directly transmit sound to hearing aids. This allows the user to hear the sound to the specifications of how their hearing aids are programmed. Wisdom Keepers worked with Gainesville High School's Theater Department to successfully demonstrate the loop system at a performance preview of *The Little Mermaid*. The Theater Department Director expanded the school's participation to include a lesson on diverse audiences. Attendees at the demonstration included representatives from the Arts Council and Gainesville First United Methodist Church who are considering installation of a hearing loop.

### Informed Trauma Awareness, 2024

Wisdom Keepers worked in partnership with the Hall-Dawson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Brenau University to expand materials to increase awareness and support for trauma's impacts, particularly among foster children. They engaged a Ph.D. intern to conduct panel discussions and organize a three-part Zoom meeting Book Club based on the book, "What Happened to You" with CASA. The team identified resource needs and developed a framework for toolkits to assist foster parents, teachers, volunteers, churches, and others that work with children who have experienced trauma. They developed a Digital Resource Book Club on the topic of trauma with Brenau, the University of North Georgia, and Lanier Tech for students enrolled in medical related classes. The Occupational Therapy program at Brenau includes the material in their curriculum and CASA uses the materials in their training.

## Giving Pantry and Library, 2022

United Way of Hall County approached Wisdom Project 2030 for help in building and installing “Giving Pantry and Libraries,” the sturdy little houses on a post with the capacity to hold canned and non-perishable foods and books. Three were built and installed at the Salvation Army, Midtown Villages at Melrose and My Sister’s Place, all locations easily accessed without a car.



## Mental Health First Aid, 2022

The Mental Health First Aid 8-hour course gives members of the community key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. In partnership with the United Way of Hall County’s (UWHC) Reach Out campaign, Wisdom Keepers became trainers and delivered the course without charge to nearly 500 persons across the county. As of 2022, the training program has been fully incorporated into the Mental and Behavioral Health Committee of One Hall, an organization of the United Way of Hall County.

## Improving Victim Support, 2014

Rape Response provides valuable support, advocacy, and education to sexual assault victims while safeguarding the dignity of each person served. After learning about Rape Response during the Wisdom Project Program, a Wisdom Keeper, who had retired from the health care system, saw an opportunity to improve local health care system links. Working with Rape Response, the Wisdom Keeper developed factual information and resource tools for use by Emergency Department nurses in assisting assault victims. They also developed targeted trauma education which area hospitals and agencies can provide to their nurses as part of continuing education licensure requirements. These tools positively changed and improved how sexual assault victims are received into the local health system.

## Good News Gratitude Committee, 2022

With over 300 volunteers and strategic partnerships, Good New Clinics faces challenges in determining an ongoing approach to gratitude or appreciation. The Gratitude Committee determined a strategic format to follow to address this challenge, by categorizing the volunteers at GNC into four categories: 1. Grantors, Donors, Board, Staff, 2. Universities and Churches, 3. Clinical directors and volunteer providers, 4. Health Access specialists/Imaging. They researched best of class community examples and developed a list of approaches for each group to show the organization's appreciation. At the conclusion of the project most of those involved volunteered to continue working with GNC to implement those ideas.

## Plan in a Can Delivers Vital Information, 2020

Many patients arrive at the hospital in an emergency without information vital to their treatment, adding challenges to an already difficult situation. Northeast Georgia Health System asked *Wisdom Keepers* to help adapt a program which started in Michigan to benefit residents of Hall County and surrounding areas. *Wisdom Keepers* developed a solution which puts vital health and treatment information in English or Spanish, an Advance Care Directive, and small personal items, such as eyeglasses, into one container easily transported with the patient to the hospital by family or emergency responders. Used tennis ball cans provide the containers and are sourced from a newly established recycling program in greater Hall County. The "Plan in a Can" program is integrated into the Advance Directive Program at Northeast Georgia Health System and is being shared with communities across north Georgia. <https://www.nghs.com/advance-care-planning>

