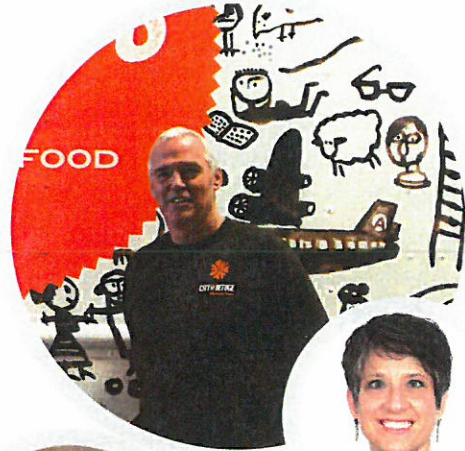


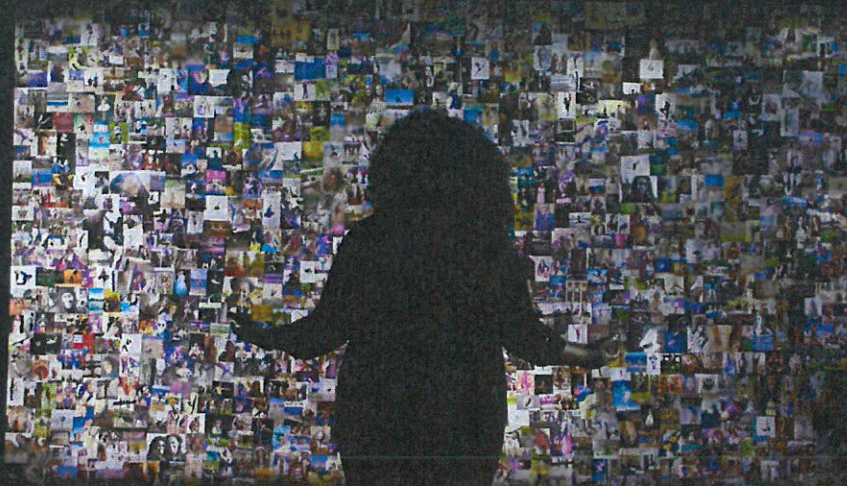
GEORGIA NONPROFIT NOW



THE POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

How Georgia collaborates
to build capacity, expand reach
and accomplish outsized results

No. 11
Winter 2015
A member
publication
of the Georgia
Center for
Nonprofits



“Start small and move fast.”

—Kim Nolte, President and CEO, Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential

Keeping Partnerships Vital

The most important part of establishing strong partnerships and keeping them vital, according to the partnership experts as well as the on-the-ground practitioners we spoke to, is honest, open, and continuous communication.

Kim Nolte, President and CEO of the **Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential**, has been overseeing the collective impact project known as the Georgia Public-Private Partnership for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, or P3, since its 2011 inception, racking up recognition (including the Outstanding Emerging Innovation Award from the nation-wide Healthy Teen Network) and results (\$6 million of aligned funding from partners and a 12 percent reduction in the state’s teenage pregnancy rate in one year—the second highest drop in the country). One of her communication strategies for building solid partnerships is working together on grant proposals: “As soon as the opportunity comes out, we sit down and strategize together, write the proposal together, and decide collectively who’s going to be fiduciary agency,” said Nolte. Even if they don’t win the grant, she said, going through the process together “clarifies ideas, strengthens

relationships, and helps us better position ourselves for the next opportunity.”

Another big factor in collaborative success, said Nolte, is “starting small and moving fast,” a practical spin on the tried-and-true adage that “success breeds trust”: “Every single meeting has to move the project forward. Think about what you can do right now and put a plan of action to work.” If you can demonstrate at least one accomplishment at every meeting, however small that may be, you build momentum for the work and you get people excited about coming back for the next meeting.

City of Refuge, said CEO Deel, creates this shared sense of momentum by communicating stories of success—individuals served, events completed, impact achieved—along with regular scheduling updates, which “helps each partner stay abreast of the success of others on campus.”

Communication is no less vital once the partnership has solidified and the work is underway, of course. At P3, they use an annual assessment survey to get feedback from each partner on questions of leadership, alignment, awareness, and engagement, and then hold meetings to go over that feedback. At City of Refuge, they also review contracts yearly, but make sure to address any potential issues early through open, honest conversation.

Above: The Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential partnered with Brothers Young Productions on a short video promoting Untapped, a film about teen empowerment.