



December 2, 2013

Family Connection & CIS
902 Linton Road
Sandersville, GA 31082

Dear Community Partners:

Teens in our community are making choices everyday whose consequences have monumental effects on their future, as well as far-reaching effects on their community. As a result of some of these choices, senseless tragedies happen - especially around prom and graduation. In addition some of these consequences-such as early pregnancy and childbearing can be closely linked to a host of critical social issues, including *poverty and income disparity, child well-being, out-of-wedlock birth, and education*. When considering these issues, it is also alarming to see some of the statistics among teen drug use in middle schools and high schools. It should be noted that alcohol kills five times more teenagers than all other drugs combined. **These are all critical issues that can affect the Washington County community as a whole in terms of health and wellness of the community, socio economic status, and development of a qualified, emerging workforce.**

In an effort to encourage Washington County's young people to make good choices that positively impact their future and the future of this community; several local organizations including law enforcement and emergency management agencies, local non-profits, statewide governmental agencies, churches, and schools partnered in March 2013 to sponsor a "Teen Maze" for high school students at Brentwood School and Washington County High School. This life-sized interactive "game" allowed approximately 250 students to advance through the Maze by "chance" where they had no "choice" about the decisions they "make" regarding life choices. They were shown the consequences of engaging in sexual behaviors, underage drinking, drinking while driving, and drug use. After overwhelming positive feedback from volunteers, the schools, and the students, plans for a 2014 Teen Maze are underway.

We are reaching out to local businesses and organizations to gauge interest in volunteer opportunities or potential sponsorships with the Teen Maze. We would extremely grateful if you would consider joining this community collaborative effort to impact our young people.

The Teen Maze is being planned for **Monday, March 17, 2014** at the Boys & Girls Club. If you are interested in participating or becoming an event sponsor, please contact Roy Jackson, Family Connection and Communities in Schools at 478-552-2007 ext. 3229 or by email at rjackson@washington.k12.ga.us or Kim Jackson, UGA Archway Partnership-Washington County at 478-357-3788 or by email at kimjack@uga.edu. Donations can be made to Family Connection & Communities In Schools a local 501(c)3 organization. We appreciate your consideration and interest in reaching the youth in Washington County.

Sincerely,

Roy Jackson
Family Connection & CIS of Washington County

Kim Jackson
UGA Archway Partnership-
Washington County