



Atlanta Roswell Connection

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WINTER 2016

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President's Address

Happy 2016! I don't know about you, but I love the start of a new year. It's a chance to start fresh with a clean slate and reflect on the previous year.

Personally, my goals or resolutions are to do a better job of living out the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. I plan on participating in the Reading Program and have already started reading. I will enroll in a Bible Study this spring. I will not only learn more about social justice issues, I will become more intimately involved through prayer and action. I will also invite and support women interested in becoming a part of United Methodist Women. I am attending a Leadership Development workshop in North Carolina this month to learn how to become a better, more effective leader.

The Atlanta Roswell District

UMW has some wonderful events planned for this year that will help you live out our PURPOSE, and you will read more about them in this newsletter. President's Brunch is planned for Saturday, February 13. An Evite was sent via email to all local unit Presidents. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience. We also have a wonderful Lenten Time Apart/Spiritual Growth event planned where we will learn more about Human Trafficking and ways we can get involved. As always, the Conference has some wonderful events and everyone is invited to attend those as well.

Have you made any resolutions for this year? Are you planning on doing something new or revising something from last year? Let me know how we can help. Our information is listed near the end of this newsletter and we would love to hear from you.

Blessings,
Stephanie



Stephanie Dressler
2016 AROS District
President
United Methodist Women



Pleasant Grove

Advent Fruit Baskets

The United Methodist Women of Pleasant Grove distributed over thirty fruit baskets during the advent season to the senior members in their church. Proceeds raised from a fall fundraiser helped fund their local outreach project.

Open Your Umbrellas



On Sunday, February 7, 2016, the **Super Bowl** will take place at Levi's® Stadium in Santa Clara, California. And like any big sporting event, a game like this intensifies the space where human trafficking can occur. That's why United Methodist Women has asked members to join the Intercept the Traffickers photo campaign and **open your umbrellas** to raise awareness of human trafficking. Thousands will travel to the San Francisco Bay Area to take part in Super Bowl festivities. Among the travelers will be those arriving by force, fraud, or coercion—they will not be there of their own free will but as victims of human trafficking.

The Super Bowl ranks second only to Thanksgiving as the day on which Americans consume the most food, and some of those who are trafficked will be serving food in restaurants or at catered parties related to the Super Bowl. Others will clean hotel rooms, wash dishes, tidy nail salons, deliver dry cleaning, or wash windows. Some will be trafficked as sex workers for escort services or in "gentlemen's" clubs.

To express our belief that we can help survivors of human trafficking live as whole persons, we invite you to join us by **Opening an Umbrella** to form a virtual line of defense around Levi's® Stadium, to prevent and protect those who may be victimized by human trafficking. Let's name human trafficking as the crime that it is. Let us commit ourselves to ACTS of prevention and protection so that those who are victimized can move from trauma to thriving. Behind your umbrella chart a strategy to pass laws that prosecute the traffickers, not the vic-

timized. Let our umbrella line of defense bear witness to the strength of survivors and to our partnership in their journey to wholeness. Open your umbrella and take your defensive position to intercept the traffickers so that justice can reign.

United Methodist Women members are called to listen to the mandate of our faith to help the vulnerable. Between now and January 29, 2016, take a picture of your United Methodist Women's group holding umbrellas together with letters spelling out, "We are United Methodist Women opening umbrellas to intercept human trafficking." The photo of your umbrellas will be connected to others we receive, and you will be part of our Umbrella Line of Defense around the stadium. (see umw website for suggestions)

In your neighborhood, at church, in the grocery store, and at work, become a part of our circle of protection and prevention to intercept human trafficking. (see website for suggestions)

United Methodist Women stands against the exploitation of those forced to submit to civil injustice as a result of their basic needs or position in society. As many as 30 million people internationally have fallen victim to human trafficking, and the epidemic has become the second largest criminal activity behind the sale of illegal arms. As advocates for social justice, United Methodist Women will continue to work for the rights of those exploited by this cruel trade and end this all-too-prevalent form of modern-day slavery.

Learn more about this issue and what we can do at the AROS Social Action Lenten Time Apart Event Saturday, March 5, Winter's Chapel UMC

In His Service,

Deaconess Jo Sheetz





United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Atlanta-Roswell District United Methodist Women

LENTEN TIME APART

Saturday - March 5, 2016

Registration/ Networking - 9:00 am Breakfast foods available

Social Action Awareness- 9:30-10:45 am

Interfaith Children's Movement – Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking

Worship, Music and Communion 11:00-11:45 am

Guest Speaker: Pastor Scott Dunbar

Winters Chapel UMC
5105 Winters Chapel Road
Atlanta, GA 30360
770-396-4550

Cheryl Dunbar, AROS Spiritual Growth Coordinator, cdjackets@outlook.com
Jo (Elna) Sheetz, AROS Social Action Coordinator, josheetz@gmail.com

Share This Sheet With Your Unit

2016 Social Action Project

What You Can Do To Raise Awareness About Human Trafficking

- Attend AROS Lenten Time Apart – hear from Interfaith Children’s Movement (mission today requirement)
- Join us in the #UMWHUDDLE against Human Trafficking!
- United Methodist Women all over the country can join together to stop modern-day slavery. Your unit can host an education forum to help educate others on the realities of human trafficking. Call the United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy at **202-488-5660** to identify a program facilitator.
- Invite local law enforcement agencies, friends and other faith-based and humanitarian groups to your program.
- Contact your local law enforcement agency about human trafficking in your community. How does your local agency prevent and prosecute trafficking? Are there safe houses, legal or translation services, medical or counseling services to assist victims of trafficking in your community? How can you help?

Tell us what you learn at umwanet@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

- Watch for signs of trafficking. Be aware, and report possible trafficking to local authorities and the U.S.

Department of Justice at 1-888-428-7581. Share the signs of human trafficking with youth groups and others in your church and community. Create a community task force. *Victims don’t usually identify themselves.*

- Buy fair trade. Know where the products you buy come from and how they are made.
- Support education and business opportunities for women and girls.
- The United Methodist Women website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) provides many tools for your use, including human trafficking Bible studies, action alerts and a PowerPoint presentation as well as downloadable fliers and materials from its Intercept Human Trafficking campaign.
- Read “The Road of Lost Innocence” by Somaly Mam with Ruth Marshall, “Half the Sky” by Nicholas D.

Kristoff and Sheyl WuDunn, “The Slave Next Door” by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter, and “Sold” by Patricia McCormick or other suggested readings found at umw.org.

- Visit your state capitol and speak to your senators and representatives in person.
- Write an article about human trafficking for your local newspaper editor or for the online groups at UMWonline.net.
- Raise awareness of human trafficking by sharing what you learn with all women, especially those who are vulnerable to being trafficked.
- Learn about your state laws, the federal William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act Of 2013. For Internet searches, type in your state’s name and “human trafficking laws” to find this information.
- Advocate for serious penalties that are enforced for traffickers along with services to assist the rescued victims.
- *Rescue missions are not something you can do.* Talk with local and regional professionals who are in a position to identify victims to get the rescue process underway. Ask if they have been trained to identify and assist anyone they suspect of being trafficked.
- Talk to health care professionals, social services professionals and law enforcement professionals.
- Find out if there are any shelters for victims who are rescued and need to go through legal and reintegration processes. They do exist—but don’t expect to get an address or even a town name. **Offer to collect and provide needed supplies for daily life and hygiene.** *
- Keep learning about trafficking, its victims and its survivors. Don’t support businesses that you know are a part of human trafficking.
- If you come in contact with a victim of human trafficking, call **the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888 OR the Nineline at 1-800-999-9999**. Some states recommend that you call your local law enforcement and/or the

District Attorney. Do both. You can also call the National Domestic Violence Hotline **1-800-799-SAFE**.

***AROS- UMW will collect hygiene items for local agencies working with women & children in crisis – collection next annual meeting, November 2016. Specific items/agencies will be announced at Lenten Time Apart – but begin saving hotel sized toiletries!**

Happy New Year from the New Nominations Committee Chair

A New Year and a new opportunity for me.

Let me introduce myself. I am Suzi Ross, from Bethelview UMC in Cumming. I relocated here from California for work. I was the Director of Quality Assurance for Kraft Foods, but now I am retired. I am originally from Battle Creek, Michigan. I moved to Cumming in 2003, and the longer I am here, the more I like it.

I made a leap of faith this year and volunteered to lead the Nominations Committee, at the District level, without really knowing exactly what I would be doing. This is my first experience at the District Level. Our President, Stephanie has been most helpful in letting me know the duties of my position. I look forward to working with this dynamic group of Christian women, and getting to know you and your Local Units in your Church. I hope to find women who want to fill our current vacancies at the District Level. Current openings are:

Vice President: You'll help coordinate events and programs.

Secretary: You'll be responsible for taking notes of the board meetings, and other important communications.

Nominations committee member: You'll help in finding women to serve on the board at the District Level.

If, you have interest in serving, or know of someone who might be interested please give me a call: my phone is 770-886-9614. I look forward to meeting all of you, or most of you. My goal is to visit all the Churches in the conference at one of your unit meetings.



Suzi Ross
Nominations Chair



Andrea Hartfield
Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

We love and appreciate any submissions for the newsletter on what your units are doing to fulfill our PURPOSE. The next newsletter deadline will be April 2nd for submissions. Please feel free to send me anything you would be willing to share (pictures are also appreciated). Please submit to me at Suanpug@aol.com

45 Lessons in Life

1. Life isn't fair, but its still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next step.
3. Life is to short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing then crying alone.
8. It's O.K. to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's O.K. to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry. God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. What ever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special!!
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always chose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative—dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. The best is yet to come.
42. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.



Dorothy McKinney
Historian

These 45 Lessons in Life came from the internet. I liked them and wanted to share them with you.

2016 AROS District Calendar

January 16	AROS District Board Meeting	President's House
February 13	AROS President's Brunch	Mt. Carmel UMC
March 5	AROS District Lenten Event Social Action Event	Winter's Chapel UMC
May 7	AROS District Board Meeting	President's House
September 10	AROS District Board Meeting	Alpharetta 1st UMC
November 12	AROS District Gathering	Alpharetta 1st UMC

2016 AROS District Officers

PRESIDENT	Stephanie Dressler	12135 Edenwilde Drive	Roswell, GA 30075	770-663-4324	770-337-8461	sdressle@bellsouth.net
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	Cheryl Dunbar	3131 Bernauer Trace	Atlanta GA 30360	770-778-5624		cdjackets@outlook.com
TREASURER	Sheryl Willis	230 Boca Ciega Court	Alpharetta, GA 30022	678-624-9588	678-294-5178	willisshoz@aol.com
PROGRAM RESOURCES	Diane Gilbert	3395 Holbrook Road	Cumming, GA 30028	770-844-9068	404-405-1689	dgilbert30040@yahoo.com
EDUCATION and INTREPRETATION	Eleanor Brown	P. O. Box 2242	Suwanee, GA 30024	770-688-5793		eleanorcbr@aol.com
COMMUNICATIONS	Andrea Hartfield	320 Weatherstone Place	Woodstock, GA 30188	770-549-8850	770-592-9083	suanpug@aol.com
SOCIAL ACTION	Jo Sheetz	57 Chaumont Square	Atlanta, GA 30327	404-218-1606		josheetz@gmail.com
HISTORIAN	Dorothy McKinney	143 Farmington Drive	Woodstock, GA 30188	770-595-1309		n4vyp@yahoo.com
NOMINATIONS	Suzi Ross	6405 Byerly Turk Way	Cumming, GA 30040	770-886-9614	770-335-4518	suzkraft@aol.com

OPEN POSITIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

VICE PRESIDENT
 SECRETARY
 PARLIAMENTARIAN
 5 MORE OPEN POSITIONS FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Program Resources



Diane Gilbert
Program Resources

Here we are looking toward a year filled with prosperity and spiritual growth. I hope you have already begun to read the books for this year. If you haven't ordered the 2015-2016 books, here is the web-site, unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.

I challenge each of you to read at least 5 books (one from each category).



Dunwoody Spiritual Growth Mission Study

Dunwoody UMW is having a Spiritual Growth Study, "Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God", by Cynthia A. Bond Hopson and led by Dan Brown.

This will be a 3 session study in the Asbury Room on Tuesdays, January 19, 26 and February 2, from 10:30am to around Noon.

There is no registration for this event. All are welcome to attend. If you don't have a Mission Study planned for 2016, this would be a wonderful opportunity to get a group from your Unit together to not only learn something but also to get credit for taking the study.

Education and Interpretation

What Time Is It?



A New Year brings to remembrance a 1992 devotional book I've read entitled *Wake Up Calls: Practical Insights for Busy People*. Each of the readings were thought provoking as scriptural principles were applied to daily life, and in a sense brought the reader to reflect upon ***"What time is it?"***

Well as we start the New Year in AROS UMW, and indeed are very busy people, our question could be just that. In the life cycle of our growth, as we plan what resources we will use to educate ourselves collectively and individually in 2016: ***What time is it?*** Will 2016 be a time to become more involved in our local church, district, conference, jurisdiction, national, or global UMW?

The good news is that you each get to decide through either collective goals for your UMW circles, or your individual passions to follow ***"A Fresh Wind Blowing."*** Your local group of United Methodist Women is vital to the mission of the larger organization. The national office is committed to providing the resources you need to have inspiring and productive programs and meetings. So in answering what time it will be for you in 2016, find the resources below will allow you an opportunity to focus and set goals for your unit.

What Time Will It Be for You in 2016?

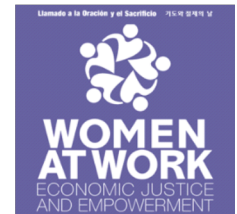
A Time for Prayer?

➤ [A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2016](#)

Women At Work: Economic Justice and Empowerment

"A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" materials offer an opportunity for United Methodist Women members and friends to prepare and give to United Methodist Women special missions. This annual observance gives local and district units a chance to study and reflect on a particular theme each year and to designate funds for ministries related to the theme for the year.

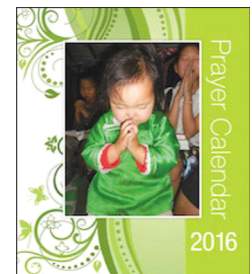
<http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/a-call-to-prayer-kit-2016>



➤ **PRAYER CALENDAR – 2016**

This invaluable resource lets you know what is happening in mission and moves you to put your faith, hope and love into action for people in our communities and around the world. 190 pp.

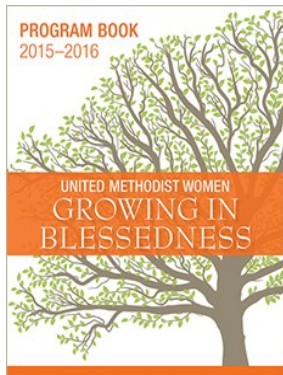
<http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/prayer-calendar-2016>



A Time for Engaging Programs?

Growing in Blessedness

United Methodist Women Program Book 2015-2016



Journey through the Beatitudes together in this next program year. Explore what it means to not only live in blessedness, but also to practice and work towards extending blessedness to all.

The Program Book will help you better understand why the Beatitudes of Jesus are crucial to us as Disciples of Christ. In each program you will have the opportunity to determine how you can best reach out to meet all kinds of needs within your church, community and world.

[http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/2015-2016-program-book-](http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/2015-2016-program-book-growing-in-blessedness)

[growing-in-blessedness](http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/2015-2016-program-book-growing-in-blessedness)

A Time for Real-Time Missions?

Ubuntu Journeys: 2016

Ubuntu trips build relationships. Ubuntu Journeys are unique, short-term mission service opportunities for United Methodist Women to interact with the world through mission partners. Ubuntu Journeys are about women of faith coming together though shared mission to address social issues and discover new ways of working together, supporting one another, and growing spiritually. Ubuntu: an African word and proverb meaning "I am human because you are human." Together with global sisters, United Methodist Women will share the human experience of worship, prayer and spiritual reflection to engage in mission that will cultivate faith, hope and love into action.



Texas and Mexico: A Walk in the Light —Journey with Us on the Border May 4–12, 2016 Serve with the women of Mexico and women living along the U.S. side of the border near McAllen, Texas. Learn about the current-day issues impacting both sides of the border between Mexico and the United States. Through on-on-one conversations, share hopes and dreams for our families, communities and churches. Savor our cultures through local foods and customs as we cross not only cultural but ecumenical lines. Learn about and open our hearts to God's mission in this area.

- Contact team leader Becky Harrell at bhinscj@yahoo.com or 830-643-9717.

Ecuador: Women, Faith and Ecology / Mujeres, Fe y Ecología August 17–26, 2016

Join the journey to Ecuador—a wonderful land of incredible people and beauty. Meet with our Methodist sisters in the Sierra District's Pijal Church, the Costa District and the Tsáchila Community. Learn of their holistic relationship with the earth, their daily life. Share cultural experiences; learn of their handicrafts and Andean farming. Develop new friendships, visit cultural sites and be prepared to laugh a lot and build networks among women of Christian faith.

- Contact team leader Christie Leininger at christie@leiningers.com or 814-730-0007.

Japan: Listening with Love and Hope September 29–October 9, 2016

Travel to Tokyo and Sendai, and connect with incredible Christian women involved with many mission-oriented groups along the eastern coast of Japan. Help prepare lunch at the Emmaus Center; visit with women who survived the 2011 tsunami and listen to their unbelievable journeys to recovery; visit a shelter for women where Global Justice Volunteers serve; and fellowship with women from the United Church of Christ in Japan. An opportunity will be offered for those who wish to visit historic Kyoto.

• Contact team leader Jeanie Blankenbaker at jbumvimny@aol.com or 843-342-7092.

For additional information about Ubuntu Journeys, e-mail: Ubuntu@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

A Time for Critical Reading?

➤ The Reading Program:

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. For 140 years, members of United Methodist Women and predecessor organizations have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study, and action. Form an action team to take action on an issue addressed in one or more books.

About the Reading Program Books

Every year, we recommend a diverse range of books to broaden exposure to a variety of concepts. Books are organized into 5 categories:

- Education for Mission
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth
- Leadership Development


Most Reading Program books are available through the e-store at unitedmethodistwomen.org/store.

Ways to Organize and Promote:

- Start a reading group of adults and/or children or youth.
- Present book reviews of Reading Program books at United Methodist Women meetings and on the Reading Program online community.
- Take Reading Program books and response to retirement and nursing homes and read regularly to residents.
- Let pastors, church leaders and Sunday school teachers know of the books available through the Reading Program.

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/readingprogram/plans>

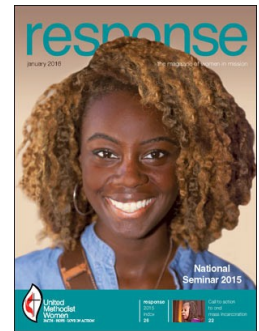
Get the 2016 Catalogs

 [Download the 2016 Reading Program Catalog](http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/reading-program-catalog-2015-3) or order free copies at <http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/reading-program-catalog-2015-3>

Join the Reading Program Online Group!

This group on **UMWOnline** is a place to discuss books, share insights, get more ideas for action and make the most of this program. You'll find book reviews, recommendations and event announcements.

- **response Magazine** – offers a digital and print magazine of women in mission! **response** is the official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office.
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response>



- **UMW Newsletter Subscription** - United Methodist Women News is a free newsletter for and by United Methodist Women. Hear stories of mission from United Methodist Women locally, nationally and globally and stay updated on United Methodist Women events and important news. Subscriptions are free.
<http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/subscribe-to-umw-news>

A Time to Advocate or Work for Global Justice?

- As members of God's family, we are all connected - and so are the issues that we must face together. **United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18** as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Beginning in 2016, United Methodist Women's work will focus on four priority areas:

Climate Justice: Life-giving stewardship that promotes sustainability.

Maternal and Child Health: Life-saving access and education that promotes well-being.

Racial Justice: Advocacy and Education: Protecting women and families by ending criminalization of people of color.

These issues were explored in depth at National Seminar 2015 in Chicago.

Economic Inequality: Inequality is a women's issue.

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy>

- **United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men** have partnered to launch a **domestic violence initiative** to raise awareness and provide training in United Methodist congregations.

Mobilize Your Church

If domestic violence is a new issue for you, here's how to help raise awareness in your church. Downloads available:

 [Download this Domestic Violence Awareness poster](#)

 [Download the Domestic Violence Fact Sheet](#)

Happy New Year, and much success in 2016 as you consider what time it is in your UMW ministry.

Eleanor Brown
Education & Interpretation Coordinator
Ephesians 3:20-21



AROS Education & Interpretation
Coordinator





interfaith
children's
movement

www.interfaithchildrensmovement.org

ICM DAY AT THE CAPITOL WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Gathering at Trinity United Methodist Church, 265 Washington St., Atlanta

We represent a constituency of **2.5 million futures!**



WE MUST SPEAK UP FOR GA'S CHILDREN

School to Prison Pipeline

14,292

Pre-K thru 3rd graders
suspended out of school
(GA 2013-2014)

Safe Harbor / Rachel's Law

SR 7

Nov. 2016 vote to help
child sex trafficking victims

Juvenile Justice Reform

35,000

of GA children served
by DJJ in FY2013

Education Reform

47

of active PBIS school
districts out of 181 (8/15)

Child Welfare Reform

10,000

Avg # of GA children in
DFCS on any given day

Family Care Act

878,000

GA employees w/o
family care days

FODAC at 2015 Gathering

