Annual Report 2016
Where the *options* are endless

Since 1994, Walton Options has provided services and resources to help people with all types of disabilities live independently.

**Our Mission**
We believe all persons with disabilities, should be able to participate in their community. We promote equality, inclusion and independence through:

- Personal Choice & Responsibility
- Community Access
- Education
- Employment

Our goal is to help each person find and utilize the necessary, available resources on their personal journey to independence.

**Our Offices**
We have three office locations to provide services to all of our coverage areas.

- Augusta, Georgia
- North Augusta, South Carolina
- Walterboro, South Carolina

**Our Work**
Walton Options offers much more than resources and services. Our various programs and outreach guides persons with disabilities as they work toward new goals.

Through our services and programs, we are able to offer real-life training programs and opportunities for our consumers on how to utilize resources to achieve their independence.

In addition we work with consumers as they work to achieve self-sufficiency through understanding benefits such as Social Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
Services developing independence

We offer five core services and several programs that are not included at every Center for Independent Living. These are enhancements to our services for our consumers, their families and caregivers.

Core Services

- Information & Referral
- Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills
- Transitions
- Peer Support

Programs

- Assistive Technology
- Employment Services
- Nursing Home Transitions
- Youth & Young Adult Programs
- Home Modifications
- STAR Program Hub
- Works Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Program

“Walton Options challenged me to attend Independent Life Skills Training classes and to get out of my own home. They helped me overcome my barriers and now I enjoy traveling, and look forward to meeting new people! I gained confidence and achieved independence.”
Serving the community

Our Staff
We have an amazing team who understand our consumers because they themselves are persons with disabilities. Many of our staff have national certifications and are equipped to work with consumers in multiple capacities such as peer support and benefits guidance.

Of the 32 Walton Options employees in 2016, only four did not identify as having a significant disability.

Disabilities represented included:
- Visual
- Sensory
- Mental/Emotional
- Intellectual/Cognitive
- Hearing
- Physical
- Multiple

Our Consumers
If a person has a self-declared disability, we offer services to them as a consumer. We serve a variety of demographics from the CSRA and SC Low Country.

Consumers Served:
- 684 GA Counties
- 154 SC Central Counties
- 143 SC Low Country
- 11 Outside Counties

Our Board of Directors
We are governed by a consumer driven board, meaning 51% of those serving on the Board have a disability themselves – some are even previous consumers.

Of the 10 Board members who served in 2016, seven identified as having a disability, which are representative of physical, intellectual, and sensory disabilities. Our Board holds open meetings bi-monthly at the Augusta Office.

Executive Board:
Elizabeth Morrison, CPA, Chair
Lisa Sistare Harkins, Vice Chair

Board Members at Large:
Arthur Shealy, Esq  Dr. Joy Ellenberger
Colette Hughes  Rose Lawas-Smith
Dr. Dennis Skelley  Victor Rattner
James Heffner

Executive Director
Tiffany Clifford
Options by the numbers

Through a variety of funding resources, we serve a variety of demographics at all three of our offices. By tracking age, sex, race/ethnicity, and disability, we are better equipped to continue to offer the best options to our consumers.

Financial Statistics

Funding

- GA Federal: 54%
- SC Federal: 31%
- GA State: 9%
- Foundations/Private: 6%

Expenditures

- GA Core Services: 24%
- SC Core Services: 12.5%
- Low Country Core Services: 6%
- Employment/Work Incentive Education: 14%
- Institutional Transition Support: 18.5%
- Employment Services: 3.5%
- Youth Transition: 1.5%
- General & Administrative: 1.5%

Consumers Statistics

Gender

- Female: 64%
- Male: 36%

Age

- 25 to 59: 36.7%
- 60 plus: 55.2%
- 20 to 24: 3%
- 5 to 9: 4.3%
- Under 5: 0.8%

Race

- White: 29.7%
- Black/African American: 68%

Disability

- Physical: 61.1%
- Vision: 16.3%
- Mental/Emotional: 7.7%
- Cognitive: 10.5%
- Hearing: 0.9%
Key partnerships & resources

To provide our variety of services, information, and resources, Walton Options partners with a variety of federal, state and community partners. In addition, we are supported by numerous private businesses, foundations & volunteers.

Administration on Community Living • Division of Aging • Area Agency on Aging • Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency • SC Department of Health and Human Services • Georgia Advocacy Office • Georgia Ombudsmen • Georgia Independent Living Network • City of Augusta • Lions Clubs • Aiken County Board of Disabilities • Walton Foundation for Independence • Meals on Wheels America • Project Independence • Social Security Administration • Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council • South Carolina Independent Living Council • Georgia Rehabilitation Institute • First Baptist Church • Burke County Schools Burke Build • Augusta-Richmond County Library • Richmond County Schools • Aiken County Schools • City of North Augusta • ADP • The Cleveland Group • Georgia Tech • Able SC • AccessAbility • AHHS • Dobbs Foundation • Friends of Disabled Adults and Children • South Carolina Assistive Technology Project • Tools for Life • The Augusta Chronicle • State Bank • WAGT 26 • Legends Club • Flowers on Broad • Tracer Audio • Tedford CPA • Georgia Library for Accessible Statewide Services • Southern Wesleyan University - North Augusta • Channel 6 • Coca-Cola • North Augusta Police Department •

Volunteers make a lasting impact

Ms. Lura has volunteered with Walton Options for almost ten years. She spends hours talking to consumers about their goals and what ways we can continue to provide support for them. She exemplifies the philosophy the Independent Living movement and our mission. The hours she has put in over the years have enabled us to continue to provide the one-on-one support that makes Walton Options a unique resources for the disability community.
Events throughout the year

Throughout the year, we host a variety of events to encourage community inclusion, advocacy and options for persons with disabilities. In 2016, we hosted:

Legislative Roundtable
During December we hosted a roundtable discussion with Rep Howard & other local officials to discuss the benefits of CILs in the CSRA and how we can work together towards an inclusive community.

Love Shouldn’t Hurt
Our annual event to raise awareness about domestic violence within the disability community was held in February. We had a variety of resources present including the North Augusta Police Department.

ADA26 Celebrations
To mark the 26th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we hosted an Ice Cream drop-in social at the Augusta Office. Local representatives, consumers and staff attended.

TEK Quest
July saw our summer camp introduce kids age 8-12 to assistive technology. Partnering with the Augusta-Richmond County Library and GLASS to operate two half day camps for 13 children.

MVP Community Awards
In 2016, planning took place for the 1st Annual Most Valuable Partner (MVP) Community Awards that was hosted in November. These awards were designed to highlight the businesses, government organizations, partners, and individuals in the community who were personifying the spirit of the ADA in their work towards an inclusive community.