

# **BOLDLY** **BE**

**SPARK THE**  
**COMMUNITY!**

CASE FOR SUPPORT

**WE NEED THE  
AUGUSTA COMMUNITY  
TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE  
IN EVERYONE.**

**DR. DENNIS SKELLEY**  
President / CEO Georgia Rehabilitation Institute

**100%**  
**OF**  
**PEOPLE**  
**ARE**  
**PEOPLE**

**BOLDLY**  
**BE**



**Since 1994**, Walton Options has provided services and resources to help people with all types of disabilities live independently within the community. As a private, non-profit, non-residential Center for Independent Living (CIL), we serve 16 counties in Georgia and 10 counties in South Carolina. Our Core Services include Information & Referral, Independent Living Skills, Transition, Advocacy, and Peer Support. We are able to provide these services, information, and resources through a variety of federal, state and community partners.

At Walton Options, we believe all persons, including those with disabilities, should be able to participate in their community. We promote equality, inclusion and independence through Personal Choice, Personal Responsibility, Community Access, Education and Employment.

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

**Over the past 25 years, we have grown to 3 offices, over 35 members of staff, and have worked with thousands of consumers on their journey to independence.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Rose Lawas-Smith**  
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## FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The landscape of Augusta is one many people do not fully appreciate until they have visited and spent time here. The Garden City is at the heart of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) and encapsulates the area's community, culture and innovation. Some think they know Augusta because they see the rolling greens once a year on television but they have not seen the heart of what makes our area unique.

Over the years, Augusta has continued to grow with new businesses choosing our area as their base of operations as well as local community members revitalizing our spaces Downtown. As we see more opportunities emerge, we need to ensure that everyone in the community is able to be a part of them. People with disabilities are a vital part in the growth of Augusta and the CSRA. However, the perception of people with disabilities has not been reflective of the impact they have in our everyday lives. We are here to change that.

Walton Options has been working for over 25 years in the CSRA to equip persons with disabilities with the tools they need to gain and maintain their independence in our community. We understand first-hand how people with disabilities are devoted, creative, inventive people who bring so much to the table.

The new Center for Disability Rights and Resources will be an epicenter of inclusion which will bring together all members of the community by providing a space where anyone, regardless of disability, will be empowered and equipped to live their life independently.

We are here to spark the community towards positive change and full inclusion, as we boldly declare that every person, regardless of ability, deserves to take up space, to exist, and to BE. We are asking you to join us in this vision. Will you too Boldly BE a Spark and join with us on this opportunity towards an even better community?

**-James Heffner** | Vice Chair  
Walton Options Board of Directors



## CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

**James Heffner, Committee Chair**  
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Walton Options

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Walton Options



\*# SPARK THE \*#  
COMMUNITY!

# SERVICES

## Advocacy

As a Center for Independent Living, we provide advocacy options and resources to persons with disabilities and their families to help them to be able to live and work in a barrier-free community. Whether it is self-advocacy or systems advocacy, our goal is to equip our consumers with the tools they need to have their voice heard in the community and bring about positive change towards independence.

## Information and Referral

Of all of our core services, Information and Referral is the most extensive and most utilized service. At Walton Options, we work to provide our consumers with resources to help people live their lives independently in their own homes and communities. Although we cannot provide for every need of each individual on site, we have many community partners that we collaborate with to provide extensive Information and Referral Services.

## Independent Living Skills

We offer resources and training in group and individual settings depending on consumers' goals and preferences. Classes include topics on rights, personal responsibilities, financial planning, household management, health management, and how to access community support systems (e.g. transportation, housing, employment services, etc.). Instruction is provided by highly qualified team members, typically peers with disabilities.

## Transitions

Walton Options believes all people, regardless of disability, have the right to live their lives independently in the community to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, we provide support for youth with disabilities as they transition into adulthood in the community as well as assistance to persons with disabilities and their families in transition from nursing homes and other institutional facilities into the community housing options of their choosing.

## Peer Support

Our Peer supporters are persons with disabilities who mentor others with disabilities by demonstrating and encouraging independence. They provide support as well as share their knowledge and experiences. Peer support values the expertise that comes from being a person with a disability and the realization that often times the only person who can really relate to you is another person with a disability.

# PROGRAMS

Walton Options is able to bring our services to life through a variety of programs across our three offices. The goal of all of our programs is for our consumers to be able to participate in an active, accessible community based life. Our programs give consumers the chance to develop new skills and improve their independence.

Our programs include:

- \* Home Modifications
- \* Assistive Technology Labs
- \* Work Incentives Planning Assistance
- \* Adaptive Sports
- \* Employment Services
- \* Youth Programs
- \* Peer Support Groups
- \* and much more!

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**A professional down to earth approach that allows each person to be comfortable. - David, Consumer**

**Because of Walton Options, I am more independent.**

- Edna, Consumer

**We were in a rehab center and Walton Options came to us. They are really good and helpful. - Kenya & Roosevelt, Consumers**

**Coming to Adaptive Golf every week, being disabled veterans, gives us something to look forward to - genuine connection and fellowship. - Bruce, Consumer**

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**61 MILLION** ADULTS IN THE US  
REPORT **LIVING WITH A DISABILITY**

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WHICH MEANS  
**1 IN 4 ADULTS** IN THE US  
HAS SOME TYPE OF **DISABILITY**

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THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH  
DISABILITIES IS **HIGHEST IN THE SOUTH**

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A P P R O X I M A T E L Y  
**30% OF ADULTS** IN THE CSRA  
HAS SOME TYPE OF **DISABILITY**

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# OUR COMMUNITY IS OUR PASSION.

We believe that we can **work together** to make our community **accessible and welcoming for everyone** regardless of disability. We are motivated to see consumers achieve personal goals and realize that not only are they an **integral part of the community**, but that they **add value to it**.

## YOU SHOULD KNOW:

**80% of Walton Options staff are persons with disabilities.**

**Walton Options provides consumer services for all disabilities which include physical, intellectual, cognitive, sensory, mental, & multiple disabilities.**

**75% of our Georgia consumers live or work in Richmond County & Columbia County.**

## LAST YEAR,

- \* **We served over 1000 people** in our community
- \* **Our consumers set 987 Independent Living goals**
- \* **We provided 2326 services** including:
  - ♦ 100 home modifications
  - ♦ COVID-19 resources provision & PPE supply distribution in the community
  - ♦ Peer support both virtually and in-person
  - ♦ 56 nursing home transitions
  - ♦ Voting advocacy
  - ♦ Youth employment services
  - ♦ Adaptive Sports
- \* **We contributed 3490.25 hours** to community advocacy
- \* **We partnered with more than 75 local businesses, community organizations, and schools.**



# BOLDLY UNITE





# FOR A BOLD FUTURE

For over 25 years, Walton Options has provided services and resources to help thousands of individuals in the CSRA with all types of disabilities live independently and contribute to the community. In those 25 years, we have grown to a point where we have reached our capacity to serve consumers in our current space. Yet there are thousands more that need our help.

Walton Options' vision is to be known as the ultimate resource for those with disabilities, breaking the mold and challenging the current perception of what it means to be an invaluable part of society.

The new Center for Disability Rights & Resources will provide accessible consumer meeting spaces and classrooms, expanded staff areas, and a communications lab as well as a multi-purpose room designed for community use including round-table legislative discussions, community information fairs, and other engagement opportunities.

## PROJECT BUDGET

<b>ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN &amp; ENGINEERING</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b> DEMOLITION NEW 6500 SQ FT BUILDING WITH PARKING LOT SOIL REMEDIATION EXISTING BUILDING REFURBISHMENT NEW WINDOWS, AWNINGS, DOORS, PAINT, AND ROOF ON EXTERIOR; UPDATED CARPET AND PAINT ON INTERIOR	<b>\$1,461,279</b> \$60,000 \$1,131,279 \$40,000 \$230,000
<b>EXTERNAL FEES AND INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>
<b>RENDERINGS</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<b>OUTREACH AND CASE FOR SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b> IT SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS TECHNOLOGY DEMO LAB	<b>\$70,000</b> \$20,000 \$50,000
<b>ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>INTERIOR DESIGN AND FURNISHINGS</b> (NEW CONSTRUCTION)	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>EXTERIOR SIGNAGE</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,053,779</b>

**Our vision is to be known as the ultimate resource for those with disabilities, breaking the mold and challenging the current perception of what it means to be a**

**BOLD**

**invaluable part of society.**

**Our new Center for Disability Rights & Resources will provide accessible consumer meeting spaces and classrooms, expanded staff areas, and a communications lab as well as a multi-purpose room designed to**

**MOVE**

**and impact our community.**

# BUILDING



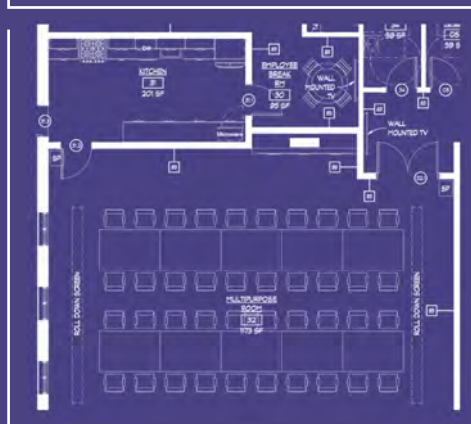
# EXPANDING

CORNER OF WALTON WAY AND 10TH STREET  
 Renderings provided by Dickinson Architects, Augusta, GA



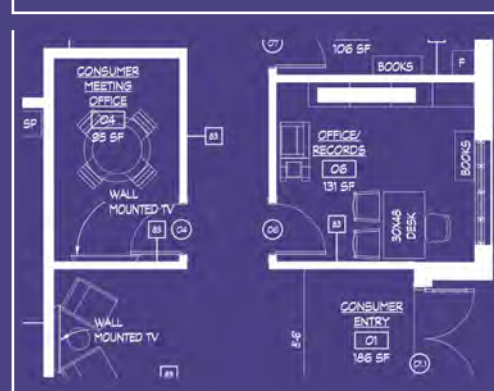
### MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Multi-purpose Room 5 times larger than the current conference room space.



### WELCOMING ENTRY

Easy access with dedicated consumer space at the main entrance.



### ADDITIONAL FEATURES



- \* Accessible covered entry with easy access to curb-side parking
- \* Additional meeting space for staff
- \* Development & Communications Studio Lab to accommodate multimedia resources for consumer services as well as community outreach
- \* Climate Control VRF System allows for accessible climate controls for staff and consumers
- \* Flooring designed to reduce friction for mobility aid users as well as reduction of allergens
- \* Natural light throughout the building/offices

# MEET WILLOLA



In 2011, a fatal crash on a Florida highway changed Viola's life forever. The accident resulted in the death of her partner, and she experienced multiple life-threatening injuries. Viola had to remain in a long-term care facility in Florida for three months recovering from her injuries. She had limited mobility, could not move from her bed on her own, and the facility did not care for many of her basic needs. Grieving without her family and friends and healing without proper care was a time of great darkness for Viola.

# VIOLA WILSON

*"I was stressed and depressed."*

Knowing that her family was home awaiting her return and along with reading her Bible kept her spirited enough to keep fighting. Viola finally made it home to Augusta, and she was admitted to Walton Rehabilitation Center where she received the care she needed and the experience she deserved. Viola began gaining new levels of strength and recovery, and she prayed that God would grant her the opportunity to help people in the same situation.

Viola turned her experiences into a desire to help others, and she was ready to get back into the workforce. She quickly experienced the barriers that people with disabilities face when searching for employment. After some struggles and uncertainties, she was introduced to Walton Options. Walton Options worked closely with Viola, giving her a volunteer position to help her rediscover her unique skillsets while utilizing the best mediums for job search. She eventually accepted a full-time position with Walton Options doing something she had become passionate about: providing peer support and resources to individuals with disabilities who are finding their way through just as she had done.



# MEET KINGA



Kinga enlisted in the United States military at 30 years old after witnessing the devastation of 9/11. While serving in Afghanistan, she sustained both a traumatic brain injury and a serious cervical spine injury. Kinga underwent multiple surgeries which kept her home for a year and a half, dependent on her husband to help with daily tasks. The stress of such a major lifestyle change took a great toll on her mentally.

“I was struggling with accepting the fact of disability. Disability was taking over my body while trying to recover.”

## KINGA KISS- JOHNSON

Kinga refused to give up, and made the choice to persevere with the aide of her innate will and the unwavering support of her husband. She was not going to let her new reality get in the way of creating a life that could bring herself and those around her abundant joy.

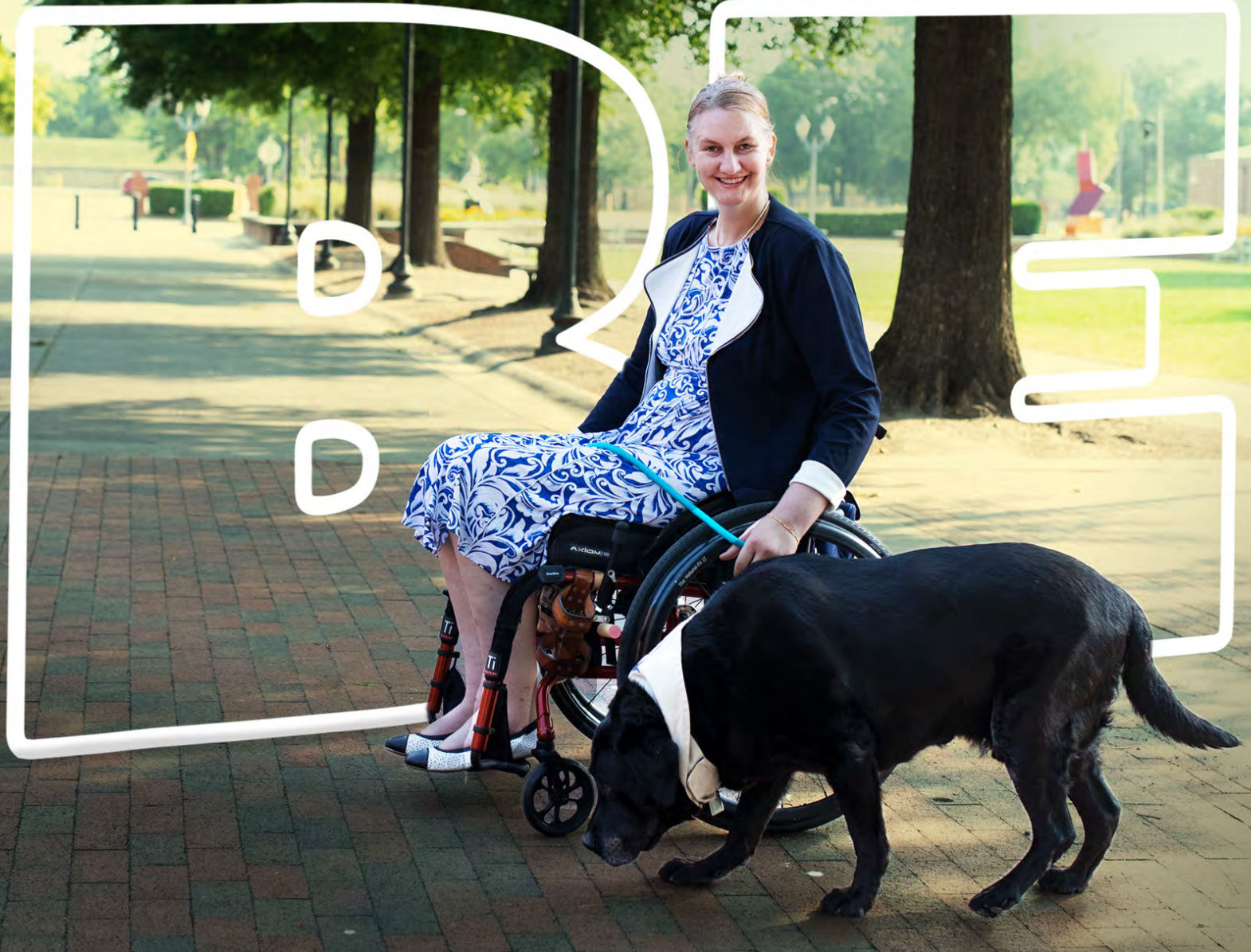
She wanted to use her determination to help others in situations much like her own. Kinga sought out Walton Options and found a village of resources and people just as resilient as her.

*“They gave me the push that I can do it. I just have to do things differently than everyone else. I may be slower or need to take notes and record to come back later, but they taught me that those are just tools that I can use to be able to go back to work.”*

The independence that Kinga gained through Walton Options resources built up her confidence, and she eventually joined the Paralympic Archery team in 2010. She secured 9th place finish at the World Archery Para Championships in 2013.

Kinga now serves on the Walton Options Board of Directors, making an impact on the way we are able to serve and instill confidence into our community.

# BOLDLY



# MEET STANLEY





When Stanley Hawes Jr. was born with Cerebral Palsy and Right Hemiparesis, his mother, Dora Hawes, knew that she needed to find resources that would not only support their current needs but also look to the future to help Stanley live a more active and independent life.

Dora immediately felt a bond with Walton Options as their mission of inclusion and independence stood out to her. The organization provided resources and comfort to the family as they worked to move past the barriers and obstacles that came with the uncertainty of Stanley's unique ability. In the years after the initial meeting, the family became even more involved in the organization as dedicated volunteers.

## STANLEY HAWES

*“We wanted to be a mouth piece and get the word out, spreading the services that Walton Options provided.”*

Stanley, a 29-year-old lover of the arts, technology, and history, is up for new challenges, and he encourages others to be bold and accept challenges as they build strength.

In recent years, Stanley felt encouraged to seek out inclusive job opportunities. Walton Options staff members stood in his corner, not only helping Stanley find the best fit for him, but also teaching him about balancing his Social Security Insurance (SSI) benefits and employment. Stanley currently works at a local YMCA on their membership staff team, giving tours and registering new members.

Dora understands what it means to feel uncertain about the future, but she learned to accept help instead of trying to navigate alone. Stanley and Dora are grateful for Walton Options and proud of the organization's growth over the years, noting that since they became consumers, the organization's programs and services have grown from the little building on 15th street.

*“Do not feel like you're in [your situation] alone...Walton Options is there for you!”*





SPARK THE  
COMMUNITY!

OUR COMMUNITY IS  
**STRONGER**

WHEN WE  
COME TOGETHER &  
LOOK PAST DIFFERENCES  
TO WHAT  
**UNITES US**

REGARDLESS OF ABILITY,  
WE ARE ALL  
**PEOPLE**

AND WE ALL DESERVE TO  
**BOLDLY**

**BE**

**PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES WILL BE  
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NEW BUILDING. IT IS  
ALSO A DREAM COME  
TRUE AS AN ADVOCATE.**

**DR. DENNIS SKELLEY**

President / CEO Georgia Rehabilitation Institute

**BOLDLY**

**BE**

**AN ADVOCATE  
FOR CHANGE**

**THROUGH YOUR DONATION, AND BY  
SPREADING THE WORD, YOU WILL**

**SPARK THE**  
**COMMUNITY**

## **3 WAYS TO GIVE**

**Securely online at [BOLDLYBE.ORG](https://boldlybe.org)**

**By texting **BOLDLYBE** to **44321****

**Mail a check and/or Donor Card to**

Walton Options for Independent Living  
PO Box 519  
Augusta, GA 30903

Make checks payable to  
Walton Options for Independent Living