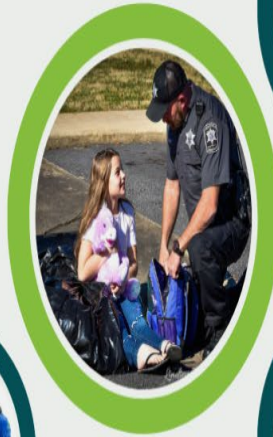




Providing security and comfort to a child in crisis.



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Adventure Bags, Inc.

Email: donations@adventurebags.org

Website: www.adventurebags.org

Tel: 678-425-0316

163 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Winder, Ga 30680

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Word from our Executive Director _____	3
Executive Summary _____	4
Agency Overview _____	5
Board Member Overview _____	6
Year End Financial Status _____	6
Year in pictures _____	7-9
Letters from those who matter most _____	10

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Happy New Year!

As we close out yet another year and begin a new one, I find myself thankful for my first nine months of serving as the Executive Director for Adventure Bags, Inc. Whether it has been collaborating with the board, community partners, volunteers, or supporters; I am fortunate to be in the company of such amazing individuals. Being in this position has given me the opportunity to meet some of the most inspiring leaders, along with some of the most compassionate people who truly believe in what we are doing and want to be a part of it.

This year has been an exciting year for us as an organization. Since Adventure Bags, Inc. began in 2011, it has operated solely off volunteers. From packing bags to the administrative tasks, every step was done by volunteers. In April, the board decided that it was time to hire their first employee and it would be the Executive Director. This move has enabled us to have a larger presence within our local community and begin to grow a presence in other communities that we serve. We have been able to implement strategies that would streamline our procurement and fulfillment area, while also making the administrative side of things more efficiently. In 2022, we successfully served over 5,036 of Georgia's children. This was possible by partnering with over 250 agencies in 152 counties across the state. We have provided over 750 bags to 27 first responding agencies this year. We also provided 460 bags to children that have been rescued from human trafficking. In 2023, it is our desire to partner with as many of these agencies and provide our services to the children facing uncertainty.

2022 brought some great opportunities for us to bring awareness to who we are and what we do. Skills USA Post-secondary chose Adventure Bags, Inc. as their 2022-2023 Service Project. This assisted us not only with bringing awareness across the state, it increased the donations of supplies. Through this partner, we had the ability to serve even more children across the state. Civic organizations are a big part of our organization. It is through their support; we can network and gain support from all across the state. Speaking of...we brought in the new year over the road as we traveled with Kiwanis Governor, Darryl Gumz. Governor Gumz selected Adventure Bags, Inc. to be his Governor's Project for his term in office. With this honor, comes the opportunity for us to share about Adventure Bags, Inc. Through this, we plan to connect with new supporters and potential partners that provide direct services to children in crisis. I would like to close by saying Thank you to those that have supported what we do and to those that continue to support us. It would not be possible without your support, our committed volunteers, and sponsors/donors that continue to want to make a difference in a child's life...*One bag at a time.*

Sincerely,
Misty Manus
Misty Manus
Executive Director
Adventure Bags

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Positive changes came to Adventure Bags, Inc. in 2022, not only financially, but also a new fresh logo along with a full time Executive Director. Adventure Bags, Inc. is excited to see what 2023 has in store for this agency. Ultimately, more children served across Georgia creating smiles during traumatic events is what our mission vows to do and staff along with volunteers will make this even better in 2023.

This annual report contains the achievements and financial highlights of the non-profit for 2022. With the success of Adventure Bags, Inc., served **40** counties this year, along with the ability to serve a total of **5,036 children** across Georgia in 2022 alone. This brings our total to **45,925** since Oct 2011. We have made many new partners during this year, bringing our total to over 250 agencies in 152 counties.

Our 2022 focus was to bring on a full-time executive director rather than volunteer director and we are excited to share that we met that goal. In April 2022, we hired our first ever Executive Director for Adventure Bags, Inc.! The ability to do this has opened a significant number of doors for our agency and has given us substantial community awareness and growth across Georgia.

Our 2023 focus is to increase the network of partnering agencies and individual/corporate sponsors to ensure that our reach across Georgia can continue with partnership development across the state and not just within our local communities.

The total approximate value of the Adventure Bags provided in 2022 is a GRAND TOTAL of **\$251,800**

Note:	2011 - 2017	(21,955 bags x \$25= \$548,875)
	2018 – 2020	(16,860 bags x \$35 = \$590,100)
	2021	(2,704 bags x \$50 = \$103,700)
	2022	(5,036 bags X \$50 = \$251,800)

Total since 2011: \$1,494,475 in Adventure Bags

Shown below breaks down what type of agencies Adventure Bags, Inc. was able to serve across Georgia.



AGENCY OVERVIEW

Adventure Bags, Inc. is a non-profit based in Winder, Ga. It was founded in October of 2011 and has been serving children across Georgia through partnering agencies and community collaboration.

Adventure Bags was founded by Debbie Gori, after her daughter went to Los Angeles to pick up three siblings who DFCS had obtained custody of. When Gori's daughter and her coworkers got there, they noticed the children's belongings were packed in a black trash bag. She knew at that moment that this could not continue. As they got ready to board the plane, one of the children had an asthma attack and the group could not board until they got medical clearance and wound up staying overnight in a hotel. The children had some belongings in their bags, but not everything they needed for the night.

“What was supposed to be a red-eye flight out there and back turned out to be an overnight stay,” The founder's daughter and her co-workers went to the airport gift shop and put together backpacks with overnight essentials and comfort items for the children in their care. The next morning, the children packed up their old and new belongings in their backpacks. The youngest (Age 3) as they walked through the airport was so proud of her new backpack which was almost as big as she was. For her to carry it, they had to hold the loop at the top so she would not topple over with the backpack on her. When they returned, Debbie's daughter went and told her about the heartbreaking situation. At that moment Debbie decided that no one's belongings should be in a black trash bag, but especially a child going through a traumatic situation. Debbie Gori took the idea and ran with it and was a “one-woman show” for eight years. Debbie Gori built this organization with the help of her board and lots of volunteers and the community. Founder, Debbie Gori, passed away in 2019 after a short battle with lung cancer that was discovered after a fire in the former Adventure Bags' facility. It was through the fire that they found her lung cancer. Prior to Debbie Gori's passing, she asked Misty Manus to take over the nonprofit. Misty Manus had been working with the organization since its beginnings, serving behind the scenes as a fundraising coordinator. Misty Manus could not have been a better person for the job. Misty Manus has seen first-hand the impact these bags have on the children who receive them. She and her husband fostered for 10 years, and she can recall when her 9 yr. old boy who was foster child was giving one of the bags. *“He looked at her and said, ‘do you mean this is mine and no one's going to take it from me,’”* Misty Manus at that moment reported that it clicked with her. *“No matter where he goes, no matter what he does, this and his contents belong to him.”*

These bags do not only help our children in crisis, but it also gives foster parents, case managers, first responders and families a way to comfort and connect with the child(ren). Adventure Bags as a whole, does not want the glory. We want to be able to empower whoever is working directly with these children so that they can give them the most support and love possible while connecting with them in some of the most traumatic points in their lives. Since Oct 2011, Adventure Bags, Inc has had the honor of serving over 152 agencies across Georgia and over 45,000 children.

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS:

Adventure Bags, Inc. recorded a revenue of 164,739.78 for 2023, which is a significant increase from the previous year.

Adventure Bags, Inc. recorded outgoing expenses of 152,437.74 for 2023, which is a increase from the previous year, however, we brought on a full time Executive Director, therefore, the salary, taxes and insurance were part of the increase.

Adventure Bags, Inc. recorded an amount of total grants of \$66591.91 for 2023 of that, \$26,000 is *restricted grants* (only to be used for supplies for the bags) & \$40,591.91 *unrestricted grants* (to be used as agency sees fit)

ADVENTURE BAGS, INC. 2022 BOARD MEMBERS:

Tracey McMahon, Dept. Of Family & Children Services	Chairman of the Board
Courtney McGuire, Salesforce	President
Monica Fulkes, Aircraft Specialist, Inc.	Board Member

THE FOLLOWING WERE BOARD MEMBERS WHO RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD IN 2022, however, are still very active with Adventure Bags, Inc. on a monthly basis.

Randy Cooper, Cooper Signage & Graphics
Esther Maass

At this time, Adventure Bags, Inc. has **4 potential board members** who have expressed interest in a 2023 term. Our Executive Board along with the Executive Director are working with each of them to ensure that they are a good fit for our board and will work collectively with us on improving our agency.

ADVENTURE BAGS INC.

2022 was filled with new adventures, new volunteers, and new partnerships to ensure that we continue to serve Georgia most vulnerable children 1 smile at a time!



11th Annual Adventure Bags

Providing security and comfort to a child in crisis.

Debbie Gori Memorial Ride



Event Details
 Saturday, October 1, 2022
 Winder Moose Lodge
 434 GA Hwy 211
 Winder, GA 30680

Registration 9:00AM
 KSU: 11:00AM

\$20/Bike - \$10 Passenger
 Includes Event & T-Shirt for Riders
 Lunch Provided For ALL participants
 (T-Shirts for passengers available for additional cost.)

\$8.00 Per Plate For Non-Participants
 50/50 Raffle - Silent Auction - Food
 Music - Door Prizes - & More

Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors
 NEXGEN COMETTES

Gold Sponsors


Silver Sponsors








Adventure Bags, Inc.

knows that at the end of the day **THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!**

As our lead volunteer says so often

“It is not about US; it is about these kids!”

- Linda Morrison, AB Procurement Specialist

