

FOCUS ON

Health and Human Service Centers: Improving community health and well-being

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Are you interested in learning a line dance, improving your driving skills, or learning basic photography or sewing skills? Gwinnett County Health and Human Services offers these programs and more and partners with public and private agencies to provide senior citizens, families, and individuals with quality programs, services, and facilities to improve their health and well-being.

Pat Baker heads the division and coordinates health and human services and aging programs that served more than 450,000 residents last year. The services provided include senior services programs at three senior centers plus one satellite center and support services and meals for seniors at home. The division also operates two human service centers and one community center, oversees the health and human service subsidy budget, and collaborates with community agencies such as the [Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services](#) and other partners to serve the needs of the community. The staff members at each center identify the needs of their respective area and extend an invitation to volunteers and local agencies to achieve their goals.



Seniors participate in a game of bingo at the Buford Human Services Center.

"We offer something for everyone, with programs for all age groups and interests," says Baker, who has more than 43 years of experience in the field of health and human services. "This includes both group classes and opportunities for individuals to enjoy the many resources provided by our community partners."

Some of the programs and services provided at the centers include activities for senior citizens, educational classes for adults and youth, mentoring, health and safety courses, support groups, and homeownership and financial literacy workshops. Most classes are offered for free or at an affordable cost and have enabled residents to be self-sufficient in their daily lives as well as gain lifelong learning experiences.



Youth concentrate in chess class at the Centerville Community Center.

Centerville Coordinator **Vivian Gaither** offers a mix of programming that promotes healthy lifestyles and celebrates the diversity of Gwinnett residents. Activities focus on building community involvement, family support, education and enrichment for all ages, individual health and wellness, and positive child and youth development. Rental space for special occasions is also available at the center.

The Norcross Human Services Center is one of the two one-stop centers offering a wide array of services and programs to low-income individuals, families, and seniors. Staff members, led by center coordinator **Doris Dietrich**, works with volunteers and more than 60

public and private agencies to provide resources and programs that promote health, financial growth, self-esteem, efficiency, and empowerment to local residents. At the Norcross facility, you can also find a Gwinnett County tag office, a satellite office of Right From the Start Medicaid, Ninth District Opportunity Inc. that runs the Norcross Head Start and Pre-K Program, the Norcross Health Center, View Point Health, and Norcross Senior Center.

Ingrid Patrick manages the building at the other one-stop center in Buford. Public agencies housed there include Buford Public Health, the health department's dental care, the state's WIC program, and the Buford Senior Center. The Asian-American Resource Center and Ser Familia also have office space in the building.

To find out what's happening at any of the centers, the [OneStop](#) guide lists the various programs and services offered by the division. It is a four-month calendar of classes and events for the Norcross and Buford Human Services Centers and the Centerville Community Center.

The Health and Human Services centers offer a range of affordable programs. So whether you're interested in learning a new language, how to play chess, ways to repair your credit, or self-development and enrichment classes for you or your child, one of the three centers has programs specifically geared to your everyday needs. For more information on the Health and Human Services centers, hours of operation, services, and classes, visit www.gwinnetthumanservices.com.

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