Sandy Springs Education Force
Organizational History

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush challenged the nation to improve education by establishing a goal oriented program, Education 2000. In support of this challenge, Governor Zell Miller convened an Education Conference to encourage Georgians to find ways to achieve those goals in their own communities. Four prominent education- community leaders attended the conference and became energized to form the Greater North Fulton Education 2000, which was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1993. They worked with State Senator Sallie Newbill to create grass roots projects targeted specifically to meet the needs of all public school students, including those deemed economically disadvantaged. The organization later partnered with Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce and served as its Education Committee. When the Chamber re-organized, the nonprofit group changed its name to Community Education Force (CEF) and continued independently to serve the community with programs and projects for at-risk students. During that time, CEF received numerous awards by county and state organizations lauding its work in assisting students in successfully graduating high school. In 2004, the leaders of CEF were solicited to take on other responsibilities in the community, and CEF became temporarily dormant. Then, in September 2008, the organization received a multiyear funding commitment from the Couchman & Noble Foundation to once again pursue its mission. During the four year dormancy, Sandy Springs became a city, and thus Community Education Force (CEF) officially became Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF). The city of Sandy Springs is the 9th most affluent city in the U.S., yet over 60% of our public school students are economically disadvantaged. Today, SSEF has a full time Executive Director, a twenty- one member board, and implements numerous programs Sandy Springs' public schools impacting thousands of our most at-risk students each year as well as the general public school population.