

Out-of-School Time Stories

BOOST Grantee Spotlight: GENTS & GLAM



GENTS & GLAM shines as a transformative force for youth and families in rural Georgia, where resources for young people can be limited, and opportunities can feel distant. Founded by Santina Fryer in her living room over a decade ago, the organization has evolved into a comprehensive youth development initiative that supports children from kindergarten through college, and beyond.

GENTS & GLAM's philosophy is rooted in the belief that learning is a lifelong journey, and every child deserves a leg up. **Through its innovative practices in experiential learning and college and career exploration, the organization offers consistent support across every developmental stage, helping youth transition into adulthood with confidence, skills, and purpose.**

Academic & Personal Growth

GENTS & GLAM's summer camps feature immersive experiences designed for hands-on-learning. Youth explore photography, cooking, engineering, and coding through experiential learning that makes education fun and relevant. From measuring ingredients to building circuits, every activity is designed to reinforce academic concepts and create critical linkages with the school day in engaging ways.

The organization also partners with local schools, law enforcement, churches, and industry leaders. Companies like Georgia Power and BASF, a multi-national agricultural corporation, provide mentorship and real-world exposure. **College tours, life skills workshops and career readiness programs ensure that every youth leaves with a plan such as college, work or military service.**



2025-2026 Youth Served:
*112 Afterschool



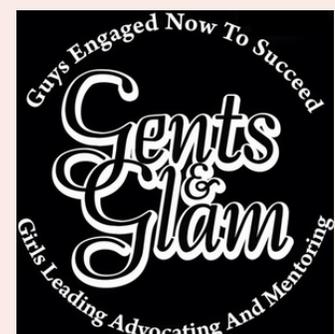
Ages Served:
K-12th Grade

Counties Served:
Appling, Jeff Davis, Telfair,
Wheeler

Programming Offered:
Afterschool and Summer

- BOOST Grant Purpose:
- Expand access
 - Reduce barriers
 - Increase quality

OST Government Funding Sources:
BOOST Grant



*Served as of date of publication
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Whole-Child Supports

GENTS & GLAM's commitment goes far beyond academics. When Hurricane Helene devastated the region, the organization assisted first responders providing food, mobile medical units, and emergency relief before FEMA or Red Cross could arrive. Today, they continue to serve families facing homelessness, food insecurity, and poverty.

Transportation, often a barrier in rural areas, is tackled head-on. GENTS & GLAM rents vans to ensure youth from neighboring counties can attend summer camp and educational trips. The organization hopes to one day own their own bus and eliminate transportation barriers entirely.



BOOST Funding Impact

With BOOST funding, GENTS & GLAM was able to expand its reach beyond Appling County, replicating its signature Camp Grow summer programs in neighboring counties. The grant also sparked the creation of new experiential learning opportunities. GENTS & GLAM's Take Flight initiative introduced youth to aviation, offering hands-on experiences in piloting planes and drones. Deep Dive provided students the opportunity to earn scuba diving certifications, an experience rarely accessible in rural communities.

Perhaps most notably, BOOST funding helped launch a summer curriculum where youth learned basic medical principles known as the Camp Grow School of Medicine. The initiative culminated in youth running a simulated hospital. From taking blood pressure to role-playing as doctors, nurses, and billing clerks, students engaged in immersive learning that bridged classroom theory with real-world practice.



BOOST wasn't just about dollars—it was about mindset. It showed us that expansion is possible, even in rural communities.

– **Santina Fryer**



A Legacy of Impact

GENTS & GLAM's headquarters features a **Wall of Fame**. The space is used to celebrate alumni who've gone on to successful careers. Accountants, military personnel, and a variety of skilled workers earning living wages are acknowledged both for their journeys and their accomplishments. One photo shows a young woman in uniform, now stationed in Italy, whose journey began in foster care and was uplifted by GENTS & GLAM's unwavering support.

From Washington, D.C. to Paris, youth have traveled the globe connecting classroom lessons to real-life experiences. One youth, standing inside the Statue of Liberty, exclaimed, "I saw this in my textbook!" Those moments, when learning becomes living, represent the heart of GENTS & GLAM's mission.

Sustainability & Vision

As the program expands, Ms. Fryer is focused on sustainability. **With help from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, GENTS & GLAM is implementing a centralized donor system and developing a replication manual to share its model with other communities.** Looking ahead, the organization is committed to cultivating a broad network of supporters, ensuring that its impact is never reliant on a single funding source. By embracing innovation and forging wide-ranging partnerships, GENTS & GLAM aims to create a resilient foundation that empowers growth for generations to come.

