HOPE • HEALTH • RECOVERY—Partnerships Make it Happen

River Edge Vision

To be the keystone provider of behavioral healthcare in our community, known for compassion, high quality work and the professionalism and excellence of our staff.

River Edge Mission Statement

To be the leader in behavioral healthcare providing comprehensive services with dedication and pride.

We stand for:

- Behavioral healthcare that adds substantial quality to the lives of our clients.
- Providing high quality services with objectivity and professionalism.
- Respecting diversity and the uniqueness of all individuals.

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River-Edge.org

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FROM THE CEO

Hello everyone:

Thank you for your interest in the work of River Edge Behavioral Health Center and its affiliates! Our sole focus is making life better for the Georgians and Georgia communities we are privileged to serve!

Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013) Accomplishments

- River Edge served more than 15,000 individual residents of 70 Georgia counties seeking outpatient mental health or addiction recovery services or developmental disability supports.
- River Edge provided a paycheck to 615 Georgians directly and created an 110 additional jobs through our construction development.
- River Edge completed two complexes adding 20 state-ofthe-art and green-friendly housing options for persons seeking recovery from mental illness and addictions.
- The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) also recognized River Edge:
 - As a Housing Peer-to-Peer Learning site to share our experience on housing persons seeking recovery nationwide.
 - As "outstanding and forward-thinking" for work –
 in partnership with View Point Health in Health
 Information Technology.
- River Edge supported additional individuals to achieve Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist certification.
- River Edge garnered, through private financing, medications with a wholesale value of \$6.8 million to support uninsured individuals' behavioral health recovery.
- Ninety-one percent of individuals in River Edge's Assertive Community Treatment program were neither hospitalized nor incarcerated during the year.
- River Edge, at the request of Judge Jason Ashford of Houston County State Court, began Family Violence Intervention services in Houston County.
- In Baldwin County, where River Edge now supports more than 4,000 active clients:
 - The Georgia Department of Corrections recognized the Baldwin Accountability and Treatment Collaborative Court – River Edge serves as the only treatment provider – as Partner Agency of the Year.
 - Judge Philip Spivey of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit selected River Edge as the treatment provider for the newly established family dependency court.
 - The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) selected River Edge to administer the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention initiative in partnership with a local middle school.
 - River Edge finalized federal financing, which will enable us to offer 10 additional new homes in Baldwin County by June 30, 2014.
- River Edge expanded supported employment options for

- people seeking recovery.
- River Edge secured a contract to add intensive case management to the support options offered beginning in fiscal 2014.
- River Edge made application, at the request of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, to provide specialized housing to HIV-positive persons and strengthened our partnership with the North Central Public Health District to provide wrap-around supports.
- River Edge was the first agency in the nation to achieve meaningful use incentives using CareLogic.
- River Edge provided pay supplements to every person who invested work energies in River Edge for meeting financial and clinical outcome targets.
- River Edge tightened many internal processes in Developmental Disability Services to better support individuals with intensive medical and behavioral support needs.

Fiscal Year 2014 Accomplishments and Focus Areas

- River Edge hosted five national re-accreditation surveyors in July 2013. Surveyors identified River Edge as having "thousands of strengths" and a place they would want to work and/or refer family members in need.
- River Edge will procure an electronic clinical record system that will support the likely changes in public financing under the Affordable Care Act.
- River Edge will implement its new agreement to become a fellowship training site for master's prepared behavior analysts.
- River Edge will finalize development of services in Baldwin County to provide specialized treatment and supports for people with both intellectual disability and mental illness.
- River Edge will, in partnership with the Macon Land Bank Authority, finish refurbishment of a new communityintegrated residential support site for people with intellectual disability.
- River Edge will complete application for new funding to construct state-of-the-art residential options that support maximum independence and inclusion for persons with developmental disabilities.
- River Edge will continue its automation of internal processes toward improved efficiencies and effectiveness.
- River Edge will continue its support of successful implementation of the U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement as it is to be implemented by DBHDD.

We appreciate your partnership as we seek to make life better for the individuals and communities we serve – to promote recovery and independence, to be a first choice provider of services and supports, to remain a clinically relevant, financially viable, and enjoyable partner that strengthens our communities.

Together, we make life better! We appreciate you!

Warm regards,

Shannon

Shannon Terrell Harvey, LCSW Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr. Ray Bennett, Chair



Ms. Debra Toole Vinson, Vice Chair



Dr. Priscilla Doster, Secretary



Mr. Lonzy Edwards



Mr. Andrew Galloway



Ms. Mattie Middlebrooks



Ms. Oreatha Sewell



Mr. Eric Manson

RIVER EDGE LEADERSHIP



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Beth Tyler Chief Financial Officer



Lisa Rudeseal Chief Operating Officer



Ali Yallah Chief Information Officer



Miranda Nunez Chief Clinical Officer



Jean Boone Director, Baldwin County



Michele Fulcher Director of Nursing & Recovery Center



Cathy Hackle Director, Human Resources



Christy Hallman Director, Adult Outpatient Services



Melvin Harris Director, Consumer Relations



Cass Hatcher Director, Housing & Facilities Development



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Brian Layman Director, Pharmacy



Director,

Developmental Disabilities



Cynthia Patterson Director, Supportive Housing



Lynne Tollison Director, Risk Management & Health Information



Mark Vanderhoek
Director,
Community Relations



Vickie Welker Director, Monroe County



Wendy Yawn Director, Utilization Management

A REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2013

Saving Money for Georgia Taxpayers

Many persons with behavioral health disorders are uninsured and can face staggering costs for psychotropic medications. River Edge operates pharmacies in Macon and Milledgeville; through these sites, River Edge connects uninsured individuals to the medication assistance programs operated by pharmaceutical companies. Through these partnerships, this fiscal year, River Edge distributed **more than \$6.8 million in medication** to individuals who did not have private health insurance and did not qualify for Georgia Medicaid.

Were it not for River Edge leveraging these private resources, the individuals would have faced hundreds to thousands of dollars per month in costs, or been forced to go without life-saving medications, ending up in emergency rooms or jails with a mental health or substance abuse crisis. However, through this program, River Edge's work leveraged \$6.8 million in additional resources that would otherwise be borne by Georgia taxpayers.

Leading the Way in Electronic Patient Records

To modernize operations and ready for federal mandates included in the Affordable Care Act, River Edge has converted all of its clinical records into an electronic record system. In addition to realizing significant efficiencies in care delivery, tracking and billing, through this "meaningful use" during fiscal 2013, River Edge was awarded \$200,000 in federal monetary incentives, the first provider in the nation to achieve this using the CareLogic electronic record system.

One of Central Georgia's Largest Employers— Harvey Appointed to WorkForce Board

Providing a paycheck to more than 615 staff and creating more than 110 additional jobs in Central Georgia through its development work, River Edge is one of the largest employers in Central Georgia. Because of this, and the River Edge commitment to corporate citizenship, CEO Shannon Harvey has accepted an appointment to serve on the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb WorkForce Investment Board.

SAMHSA Recognizes River Edge Housing

The United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recognized River Edge as a Housing Peer-to-Peer Learning site, to offer our methods to improve housing for people seeking recovery nationwide. River Edge hosted housing representatives from Houston, Denver, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

River Edge Health IT 'Outstanding and Forward-Thinking'

In the second year of a SAMHSA Health Information Technology grant, SAMHSA recognized River Edge for its "outstanding and forward-thinking" work – in partnership with View Point Health – in health information technology. Through the grant, River Edge has expanded its use of telemedicine, electronic client appointment notifications – reducing missed appointments by 12 percent – and implementing computer learning labs at each outpatient site. River Edge also launched a web-based peer-topeer support portal, iCareRecovery.org, to facilitate clients' recovery self-management.

Department of Corrections' Partner of the Year

The Department of Corrections named the Baldwin Accountability Treatment Court Collaborative as its Partner Agency of the Year. River Edge is the exclusive behavioral health partner for the court, which is Georgia's first braided mental health and substance abuse court and one of the first 11 in the United States funded by SAMHSA.

Whole Health Integration: First Choice and TenderCare Medical Care Homes

River Edge is proud to serve as the mental health provider partner to First Choice Primary Care in Macon and TenderCare/Family Medical Center in Milledgeville. The TenderCare partnership is modeled on the First Choice partnership, which has been operating with shared staff since 2009. Both partnerships focus on individual-centered medical care homes.

Staff Achieve Outcomes, Share Rewards

River Edge staff live our mission of care with compassion, dedication and pride as we deliver whole person care and supports that are both clinically relevant and financially viable. Through consistent staff attention to both clinical care and getting paid for what we do, River Edge was able to distribute performance incentives to staff for outcomes achieved in fiscal year 2013.

River Edge Revitalizes Macon City Block, Creates New Housing

In 2013, River Edge completed and opened Second Neighborhood, 10 one-bedroom units funded by U.S. Housing and Urban Development dollars, to expand housing options for persons seeking recovery from mental illness. River Edge also completed construction on Third Neighborhood as project developer using Macon Neighborhood Stabilization funding, creating eight one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units of new greenfriendly housing.

River Edge launched a new Facebook page – fb.com/RiverEdgeBHC and Twitter account @RiverEdgeBHC.

A WIDE IMPACT

Outpatient Services

River Edge contracts with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to serve seven Central Georgia counties.

However, residents from **63 additional counties** also chose River Edge to provide needed outpatient services as well.



Outpatient clients, by county of residence



All Services

During FY 13, River Edge had the privilege of providing services to residents of 134 of Georgia's 159 counties. What an honor!

All services, by county of residence

DBHDD & River Edge: Partnership Highlights

Through our key partnership with Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, River Edge is expanding its array of service and supports for persons with behavioral health disorders and/or developmental disabilities while lowering costs.

Core Services

Through our partnership with DBHDD, River Edge delivered more than 829,000 units of service to our clients.

Settlement Agreement Services

As part of a 2010 settlement agreement between the State of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Justice, DBHDD is working to create more community-based opportunities for persons with mental illness, addiction and/or developmental disability outside institutions. In partnership with DBHDD, River Edge operates several key settlement agreement services.

Crisis Service Center

River Edge opened Georgia's first Crisis Service Center in Baldwin County. Fully operational during FY 2013, this site is one of six around-the-clock outpatient sites statewide available to anyone experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Crisis Apartments

In addition, River Edge operates two, two-bedroom crisis apartments where individuals in crisis can extend their stay beyond the Crisis Service Center's 23 hours, often alleviating the need for hospitalization.

Assertive Community Treatment

River Edge staffs an Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT) to partner with individuals with the most severe, persistent mental illnesses to help those individual achieve recovery. The 12-person team operates with Dartmouth University model fidelity to help individuals avoid hospitalization and/or incarceration and build independent lives in the community. This year 91 percent of people served in ACT were not hospitalized and not incarcerated.

Supported Employment

A key part of long-term recovery success is employment. River Edge was awarded funding to support 20 additional individuals on their roads to competitive employment.

Intensive Case Management

Also in FY 2013, River Edge won a contract to develop intensive case management, which is similar but less intensive than ACT and offers wrap-around supports for individuals. The 10-person team will launch in FY 2014 and seek to link and broker services for individuals seeking recovery from mental illness who have outpatient support needs beyond the scope of traditional outpatient services.

Developmental Disability Services

River Edge continues to expand its services to adults with developmental disabilities, offering group and individual community access options as well as community living supports and community residential alternatives and family supports.

Newer Sites, More Active Schedules

Based in River Edge's belief that persons with intellectual disability can grow, learn new skills and achieve more and more independence, River Edge adopted several new tools to promote safety, support choices and learning as well as maximum opportunities for community integration across all sites during fiscal 2013. Come check us out!

New Services for Seniors with Intellectual Disability

During FY 2013, River Edge opened a community access group option tailored specifically to seniors with developmental disabilities.

New Community Residential Alternative Home to Become Available in FY 2014

The Macon-Bibb Land Bank Authority partnered with River Edge to donate and refurbish a community residential alternative home. Licensing and Medicaid eligibility for the home should be completed during fiscal year 2014 to allow service to individuals.

A Day of Healing Stigma



River Edge photo

Through an event grant from DBHDD, on June 27, 2013, River Edge partnered with Phoenix Center Behavioral Health of Warner Robins for a free HIV Testing Day event as part of DBHDD's Healing Stigma campaign. Pictured attendees participated in the HIV/AIDS Awareness walk. The walk kicked off the event where more than 120 people were tested.



River Edge also partners with the Value Options' National Campaign: stampoutstigma.com Stamp Out Stigma: Recognize. ReEducate. Reduce.

River Edge Partnership Wins Award



Photo courtesy of Amy Michaud

Baldwin County Adult Treatment Court Collaborative team and staff celebrate their award.

Through a grant from SAMHSA, River Edge serves as the sole behavioral health partner for the Adult Treatment Court Collaborative in Baldwin County. The Baldwin Adult Treatment Court Collaborative (BATCC) serves defendants from the Ocmulgee Judicial District whose behavioral health disorders contributed to the commission of a crime.

The braided court is one of 11 in the U.S. funded by SAMHSA. Though many courts around the country serve either substance abuse or mental illness, few address both concurrently, though many adults whose behavioral health challenges contribute to their crimes often have co-occurring substance abuse and

mental disorders.

The BATCC is a flexible court and community network to foster access to treatment and supports as well as accountability for adults with behavioral health issues. The approach coordinates judicial activities with River Edge's integrated, evidence-based and culturally competent treatment and recovery support services.

The BATCC has helped more than 100 individuals and reduced fragmented stress on the social services, law enforcement, and jails. The Georgia Department of Corrections named the BATCC as its Partner Agency of the Year for 2013.

SAMHSA and River Edge: a Vital Housing Partnership

River Edge's innovative approaches to supportive housing—including its development of housing and its adherence to person-centered care—have gained notice around the country. SAMHSA named River Edge as a Peer-to-Peer Learning site for its grantees. The first group of six delegates came for a two-day tour and learning April 17-18. One Pennsylvania attendee evaluated the visit by saying, "Your teams provided wonderful insight into their programs. They were candid, informative and helpful. I will seek to expand a number of our services as a result of this visit." (For more quotes from delegates, see page 11.)

Health IT Grant Helps River Edge, Clients

Now in the second year of a three-year grant from SAMHSA, River Edge's Information Technology Department has fully developed a number of innovative IT solutions, including telemedicine, a new individual-guided recovery management web portal - *iCareRecovery.org*, an electronic appointment reminder system and computer labs at all outpatient sites in River Edge's sevencounty service area. SAMHSA chose to highlight the River Edge HIT initiatives in its Ideas Exchange website. Here is the story:

A Technology-Based Hub-and-Spokes Approach to Treatment

By Leslie McEllicott

One night a 27-year-old man arrives at the 24-hour crisis service site operated by River Edge Behavioral Health in Milledge-ville at 10 p.m. He reports only "drinking a lot," having had seizures in the past when he stopped drinking. Stat lab work results received show a blood alcohol level of .459. He is tremulous. His palms are sweaty. His blood pressure is fluctuating. He clearly needs medical detoxification services but refuses. What to do?

The covering psychiatrist is busy with other crises, so staff call Shannon Harvey, River Edge's CEO, a licensed clinical social worker with 20 years' experience in addiction treatment. As an LCSW, Shannon holds state credentials that empower her to commit someone to involuntary detox. From her home 70 miles away, Shannon opens her laptop, logs into the telehealth application, evaluates the man and completes a 1013 to have him transported for involuntary evaluation/stabilization. After detox, the man agrees to transfer to a long-term residential recovery service. He is now actively engaged in recovery.

River Edge — in partnership with View Point Health — has adopted a hub-and-spokes telemedicine approach to extend 63-year-old River Edge's reach. Since its launch, this health information technology initiative has successfully promoted access to recovery for people across 15 locations, mostly rural, throughout Georgia.

Shannon credits Ali Yallah, the initiative's project director and a credentialed IT professional, with what SAMHSA site visitors termed River Edge's "entrepreneurial, forward-thinking, and solution-focused approach." Ali's expertise helped River Edge choose VeaMea, a low-cost, easy-to-use, secure application, as their telehealth solution. Now, clinical staff routinely consult remotely to provide diagnosis and intervention services to clients. With a laptop, Internet connection and webcam, a clinician can assess and treat a client from practically anywhere.

As a part of this project, River Edge also has adopted several other technology-based strategies to serve individuals. For example, its Smoke Signal system provides digital telephonic reminders to clients about upcoming appointments. Rolled out in 2013, it has already reduced client appointment no-show rates by 12 percent.

In addition, River Edge has incorporated computer labs at each outpatient site to help individuals served cross "the digital divide." In the labs, individuals can use self-paced goal-setting and tracking software, build resumes and connect with employment services. The availability of onsite technology is transforming lives. For example, one woman had lost everything due to alcoholism. After receiving services and getting sober, she got her GED and learned new computer skills, including Photoshop. She now publishes a magazine.

Finally, River Edge's iCareRecovery Web portal promises to be "the Facebook for recovery." Upcoming enhancements include chat features, blogs and peer support services for clients when a counselor is unavailable.

Shannon and Ali are passionate about technology. As Shannon says, "We believe treatment is effective, recovery is to be expected, technology is treatment, and technology is health care."



River Edge photo

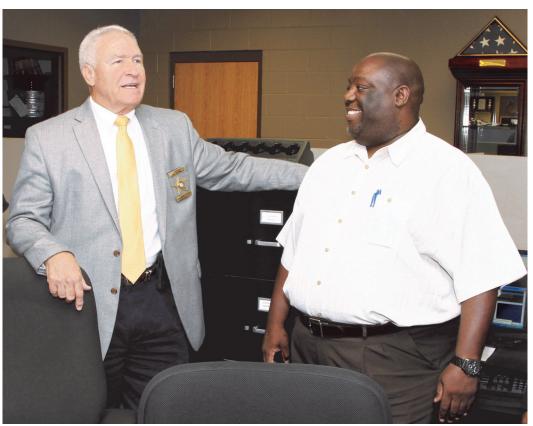
Clients use the newly installed computer learning lab at River Edge's Emery Highway location.
A Health IT grant from SAMHSA funded the lab at Emery, as well as River Edge's other outpatient locations and sites at View Point Health.

Partnering with Law Enforcement to Make Lives Better in the Community

Mental health care and substance abuse treatment often begins when an individual runs afoul of the law. River Edge has built extensive partnerships with local law enforcement to help

treat individuals who find themselves in such circumstances. With fast and appropriate treatment, individuals can return to their lives as healthy, productive citizens.

Baldwin County Sheriff Bill Massee (left) works closely with staff from River Edge's Baldwin site, including Bennie Paige (right) to insure that residents of Baldwin County who break the law are properly evaluated for substance abuse and mental health issues, and processed quickly into the appropriate River Edge programs. As just one example, River Edge's Baldwin-based Assertive Community Treatment team has helped to reduce incarceration and hospitalizations, freeing Sheriff Massee's resources to serve other critical needs in the community.



River Edge photo



River Edge photo

River Edge is the contracted mental health provider for the **Bibb County Law Enforcement** Center. In an environment where on average more than 20 percent of the jail's inmates are under treatment for mental illness or substance abuse, having an experienced partner like River Edge is essential, says Sheriff David Davis (right). Davis and his deputies work closely with Victoria Burdeshaw (left), head of forensic services at River Edge, to insure all inmates in need of treatment are evaluated and receive appropriate treatment, helping keep those inmates stable and helping jail operations run smoothly.

What Are People Saying?

River Edge Behavioral Health Center is vital to Bibb County and the region in providing access to **state-of-the-art prevention**, **treatment and support services** that improve the health and quality of life within our entire community. Their **holistic approach and commitment** to children, youth, families and adults **saves lives**, **money** and **makes life better** for our fellow citizens.

We have had **an excellent partnership** with River Edge. **They are very responsive**, not only to me as sheriff, but to the nurses at the jail and the deputy staff as well.

Chairman Sam F. Hart Jr. Bibb County Commission

Sheriff Bill Massee Baldwin County Sheriff's Department River Edge has an **impressive array of facilities** and programs that **treat the whole individual**. Every person I encountered was extremely welcoming and informative, giving so much more than a simple hello. It was an honor to be here!

What most impressed me about River Edge was the **quality and dedication of the people** who make up the organization. The staff see themselves as **family dedicated to the common goal of serving their communities**. Must be a great place to work!

Josephine Penhallurick Outreach Services Coordinator, Mercy Housing, Denver, Colorado, SAMHSA Peer-to-Peer Tour Delegate Supportive Housing

Bill Reed

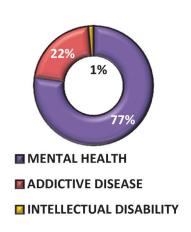
Director of Veteran's Services and Supported Employment, The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania SAMHSA Peer-to-Peer Tour Delegate Supportive Housing

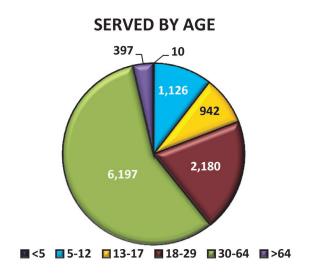
A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

In Fiscal Year 2013, River Edge Behavioral Health Center touched the lives of more than 15,000 Georgians!

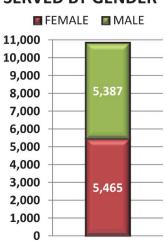
River Edge served 10,852* individuals through DBHDD and traditional Medicaid funding:

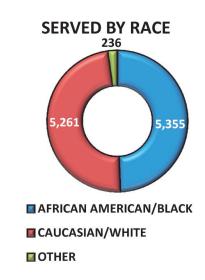






SERVED BY GENDER





Through alternate funding, River Edge also provided:

- housing supports to 411 individuals formerly homeless due to behavioral health disorders
- behavioral health assessment and disposition facilitation services to 2,402 individuals in local ERs
- transport to emergency receiving facilities for **nearly 1,000 individuals** experiencing life-threatening behavioral health crises
- crisis intervention to more than 800 individuals in Baldwin, Bibb and Monroe county jails
- the full array of outpatient services for individuals with Care Management Organization Medicaid and other private insurance providers

*unduplicated count of individuals

OUR SERVICE LOCATIONS

RIVER EDGE-EMERY HIGHWAY 175 EMERY HIGHWAY MACON, GEORGIA 31217 (478) 803-7600

RIVER EDGE-MONROE COUNTY

168 OLD BRENT ROAD

FORSYTH, GEORGIA 31029

MENTAL HEALTH (478) 803-7602

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
(478) 803-7863

LifeSPRING 5113 COLLEGE CROSSING DRIVE MACON, GEORGIA 31206 (478) 803-8729

> GROVE PARK VILLAGE 1505 CLINTON ROAD MACON, GEORGIA 31211 (478) 803-8704

JONES COUNTY SERVICE CENTER
530 SETTLEMENT DRIVE, SUITE A
GRAY, GEORGIA 31032
(478) 803-8701

RIVER EDGE-BALDWIN BLANDY WAY OFFICE PARK 60 HIGHWAY 22 WEST MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA 31061 (478) 451-2700

THE RECOVERY CENTER
CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT
3575 FULTON MILL ROAD
MACON, GEORGIA 31206
ADULT (478) 803-8617
CHILD & ADOLESCENT (478) 803-8605

BILLINGSLEA RECOVERY RESIDENCE 1243 FIRST AVENUE MACON, GEORGIA 31204 (478) 803-8723

> OPTIONS TOO 139 WOODFIELD DRIVE MACON, GEORGIA 31210 (478) 803-7657

TWIGGS COUNTY SERVICE CENTER
952 MAIN STREET
JEFFERSONVILLE, GEORGIA 31044
(478) 803-8711

YOUR GIFT TO RIVER EDGE HELPS MAKE LIVES BETTER



Giving to River Edge

Please consider a tax-deductible gift to River Edge through our nonprofit affiliate, Georgia Behavioral Health Services Inc., doing business as The River Edge Foundation. Make your check payable to Georgia Behavioral Health Services Inc./The River Edge Foundation and mail to Georgia Behavioral Health Services, 175 Emery Highway, Macon, Georgia 31217. For more information, please contact Mark Vanderhoek, Director of Community Relations, at (478) 803-7800 or mvanderhoek@river-edge.org.