Our Mission
To provide financial assistance, access to food, temporary housing, and supportive services to foster students’ realization of a healthy, stable, and dignified life academically and professionally.

Furthermore, to serve as a model of professional excellence and effectiveness by upholding core values of social justice, equity, economic sustainability, and mutual partnership.

Our Vision
To promote educational equity, inclusivity, and compassion, ensuring student success for those who have experienced homelessness, food insecurity, and foster care.
KSU CARES
Offers support to students who have experienced homelessness, food insecurity, and/or the foster care system.
- Food Pantry
- Case Management
- ASCEND Program

GEAR UP GEORGIA, PRIORITY MODEL
Strives to increase the number of Georgia's homeless and foster care youth who obtain a secondary school degree and are prepared for and succeed in postsecondary education.
- Academic Enrichment Services
- Mentoring Services
- College and Career Exposure
- Leadership Services
- Financial Aid Advising

KSU AMERICORPS VISTA NETWORK
KSU's VISTA network ultimately reduces barriers to resources which in turn decrease individuals' experience of poverty due to inability to access support.
- CARE Services
- Women's Resource Center
- Cultural and Community Centers
- Student Leadership and Service

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
Supports students in overcoming unforeseen hardships hindering their successful academic progress
- Financial Assistance and Employment
- Food and Necessities
- Guidance and Support
GEAR UP Georgia - Priority Model

450

In year 4 of 7, approximately 450 students have benefited from GEAR UP Georgia's services and support across 6 counties.

GEAR UP Georgia is first in the nation of its kind to serve both youth and homeless students.

KSU VISTA Network

- Mobilized and implemented free female-only STEM summer camp for Title I middle and high schools in Cobb County
- Facilitated creation of 177 volunteer opportunities, added 16 community agencies, and resolved 33 community agency requests
- Recruited 924 new users and garnered a total impact of 5711.34 volunteer hours completed
- Increased pantry usage among Marietta students by 500 percent within the first week of campaign release date in November 2019

Emergency Assistance

Launched August 2019 and received 108 requests

- Provided campus resources: 73 individuals
- Referred to CARE: 8 individuals
- Given financial assistance: 8 individuals
Thadeus Frazier is the first recipient of the American Opportunities Foundation Scholarship, which is provided by Kennesaw State University Campus Awareness Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Services.

Frazier bounced between homes during high school, sometimes sleeping on friends’ couches and the financial aspect of attending college seemed impossible. With the help of KSU CARES, which provides support for the students dealing with homelessness, he soon enrolled at the University for summer semester.

“I had a hard time making myself at home though,” Frazier said, adding that he never unpacked his bags that semester. “It was really stressful to worry if college was going to last. It looked like no one lived in my room because all I had were two pieces of luggage,” he added.

In early September, Frazier, a first-year student majoring in sociology, learned that he had been awarded the scholarship. With that good news, he finally unpacked his bags.

"It was the most stress-free I've felt in my entire life,” Frazier said. "I cannot say thank you enough for this opportunity. I can finally be a student.”
Aspirations

- KSU Housing’s Living and Learning Communities could be an opportunity to foster a community culture among KSU CARES’ most in-need students
- Utilization of AmeriCorps VISTA position to improve programmatic capacity to serve the high acuity needs of students resulting from the extensive experience with foster care system and/or generational poverty families
- Creation of a Train the Trainer Program to further solidify the KSU CARES Program as a national model for other colleges and universities to emulate

Points of Pride

- Partnering with Kroger and Forerunner Foods to create an expanded pantries with fresh food options
- Starting summer 2020 the Ascend Program will provide a comprehensive menu of orientation, financial preparedness, and academic support designed to ease the transition from high school to college
- First university to establish partnership with Lyft to provide rides...resulting in collaboration with 3 other colleges: Life University, Chattahoochee Tech, and Georgia Highlands College

Aspirations

- Only GEAR UP Priority Model to serve high school youth in America experiencing homelessness and/or foster care
- First summer camp designed especially for youth experiencing homelessness and/or foster care on a college campus.
- Fall 2019 began using graduate-level and undergraduate-level interns to serve as Accountability Partners to bridge the gap between the virtual services offered while attending to the unique social and emotional needs of this population.

Points of Pride

- Scale up program from serving current 6 counties to at least two additional counties and increase number of internship opportunities from three to five during next grant year cycle.
- Within new service model design, serve an additional 600+ students by the end of the grant in 2023
- Develop contingency plan as grant sunsets at the end of year seven
Five full-time positions dedicated to Kennesaw State University at a cost savings of $187,382.40 based on $14.45 pay-rate of a Program Assistant

Embark Grant awarded funding to establish a KSU Foundation VISTA Operational Fund

Spring 2020 applying for 10+ VISTA Summer Associates to provide direct support services for 8 weeks.

Engage campus Peace Corps Coordinator and the Graduate School on collaborative opportunities

Work with AmeriCorps State Coordinator to qualify for a VISTA Leader to oversee the KSU VISTA Network and provide support to our VISTA Members

Establish an online process for other KSU Departments/Colleges, community nonprofits, and/or governmental entities to apply for consideration as a sub-worksite

More than 100 students applied for assistance since August 2019 website launch

Research, identify, and apply for grants and other funding to improve the program's ability to meet requests for emergency assistance
GIVE to CARE

ASCEND PROGRAM
A comprehensive program of orientation, financial preparedness, and academic support designed to ease the transition from high school to college while building a strong academic foundation.

CARE SERVICES ENDOWED FUND
CARE Services Endowed Fund is an open endowment for any donor to contribute a lasting charitable legacy through CARE. This fund increases the department's capacity for operations and programs benefiting students at risk of being homeless and lacking enough to eat.

ELLEN LONG ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
This open endowed scholarship provides support to undergraduate and graduate students who receive assistance from KSU CARES with the goal to ensure these students successfully graduate from KSU with a degree in their chosen fields of study.

Additional funds are needed to increase this endowment to $500,000 in order for this award to provide a debt-free degree to qualifying students, filling a gap in the financial aid support system by picking up where other scholarships and financial aid options leave off, covering a student's full cost of attendance.

CARE SERVICES FUND
Throughout the year CARE uses this fund to immediately help students when they have a need.

If interested in giving to CARE please call 470-578-2284 or visit our website care.kennesaw.edu and click "Help CARE Services"
A shower, a meal, a bed to sleep in are the basic things that a student needs to succeed academically.
CARE Team

CARE

Carrie Olsen, Program Coordinator
Student Assistant
Graduate Level Interns
Academy for Inclusive Learning Intern
Marketing/Outreach Intern
Federal Work Study Students

GEAR UP

Kati Tatnall-Arias, Program Coordinator
Kristina Barrett, Program Assistant
Student Assistant
Undergraduate/Graduate Interns

KSU VISTA Network

CARE Services
Women's Resource Center
Cultural and Community Centers
Volunteer and Service Learning
Health Promotion and Wellness
OwlSwaps
Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery

Emergency Assistance

Carrie Olsen, KSU CARES
Devon Harness, KSU CARES
Sarah Baumhoff, Financial Aid
Joni Malson, Scholarships
Dean of Students Office
Graduate Level Interns

Because I would not be in college if I did not have some of the services that CARE provided. That’s a given.
CONTACT CARE SERVICES

careservices@kennesaw.edu
470-578-5260
@KSU_CARES
@ksucare

care.kennesaw.edu