

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CLEAN CATOOSA 2021: a county-wide Earth Day initiative to celebrate and contribute to the beauty of our environment.**

**Ringgold, Georgia, March 19, 2021** – LIFT Youth Center Inc, in conjunction with Catoosa County government, the City of Fort Oglethorpe, the City of Ringgold, Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, and other local groups and non-profits will hold a county-wide Earth Day initiative to celebrate and contribute to the beauty of our environment. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Clean Catoosa will be held across Catoosa County from 9 am – 12 pm on Saturday, April 17, 2021 with a tentative RAIN DATE of April 24.

**In the fall Clean Catoosa had 17 Groups complete projects, a total of 249 people worked across the county – planting trees and flowers, shoveling mulch and gravel, cleaning creek banks and picking up 90 bags of trash, recycling, and general debris!!** Clean Catoosa participants did a lot of amazing work across the county in October of 2020. Clean Catoosa is exactly the kind of event LIFT hopes to always be known for, one that empowers students and families to engage in caring for and improving our community.

"The City of Fort Oglethorpe is very excited to be working with LIFT for the Clean Catoosa event. We have so many beautiful areas in our community and we are extremely grateful to have many involved citizens who want to join in the efforts to keep Catoosa County clean!" -Molly F. Huhn, Fort Oglethorpe City Manager

In 2020, roadside trash increased greatly. In an effort to make a tangible positive impact on our county we will be increasing the scope of projects for Clean Catoosa in 2021. For the first time ever, Clean Catoosa will be doing three roaming road blocks for trash pick-ups. We are thrilled to have Catoosa County Public Works partnering with LIFT to make trash pick-up projects on roads such as Holcomb possible! Currently, we have 29 clean-up and beautification projects planned with more possible should other groups wish to participate. **If you have a group that would like to participate and help LIFT serve Catoosa County please visit [LIFT-ringgold.org/cleancatoosa](http://LIFT-ringgold.org/cleancatoosa) or email [info@LIFT-ringgold.org](mailto:info@LIFT-ringgold.org).**

"LIFT has definitely become a convener of resources and people within Catoosa County. The Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce is proud to be a part of the collaboration of public and private entities and individuals coming together to make our community shine as the jewel we know it to be as a part of Clean Catoosa 2021. This is what makes Catoosa County a great place

to live, work, and play!" - Amy Jackson, Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO

LIFT Youth Center is thankful for the support of the following local organizations and businesses for all they have done and will do! If you have a business that would like to sponsor Clean Catoosa please visit [LIFT-ringgold.org/cleancatoosa](http://LIFT-ringgold.org/cleancatoosa) or email [info@LIFT-ringgold.org](mailto:info@LIFT-ringgold.org).

- **Lead Sponsors:** County and City Governments, the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, the Ringgold Convention and Visitors Bureau and Teems Electric

- **Community Sponsors:** North Ga Conservation District, True Life Chiropractic and Pinkston's Complete.

Tina Pinkston, LIFT's Executive Director and the Event Coordinator for Clean Catoosa said, "It is such a beautiful thing to watch our citizens, young and old, come together for good causes like this! We will have groups from neighborhoods, from Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, from High School Clubs and Teams, from businesses and existing groups of friends who wish to participate. LIFT will have enough student participants for 3 Projects this year. These group leaders and participants see a need and they know together we can do something about it!"

In 2018 LIFT organized its first Earth Day event for the community. The event has grown each year as has their organization. LIFT Youth Center Inc is a local nonprofit that will be opening a drop-in youth center for 5th-12th grade Catoosa County students. They are about to currently remodeling their building - the Claudia Nance Rollins Youth Center - and will have their ribbon cutting on April 30, 2021 at 9am. There will be an Open House to follow and the community is invited to come by and meet our Staff. LIFT's mission is to create opportunities for teens to be Loved as they are, Inspired to be more, Found in community, and Trusted to make a difference. LIFT is looking for all sorts of partnerships... from in-kind donations, to support in certain industries, to finding volunteers or resources that can be utilized in their space and with their students. They are grateful to have already experienced a beautiful ground swell of support from individuals, businesses, local government, and other organizations.

If you wish to learn more about LIFT Youth Center Inc please visit [www.LIFT-ringgold.today](http://www.LIFT-ringgold.today) and consider making a donation to help aid in the success of our mission. Donations can be made online at [www.LIFT-ringgold.org/donate](http://www.LIFT-ringgold.org/donate).

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