Our story begins in 1967. It begins with the people of Athens investing time, resources, and a vision of their future and of our future by forming Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA), a private non-profit agency. ACCA is a place where both the frail and vulnerable and the active and engaged older adult can receive support. In FY2014, ACCA was subjected to sequestration funding reductions putting our services at risk. In our Center for Active Living Plus program, we faced cutting services to 14 people each day. This is 33% of those that attend for meals, socialization, health education, health screenings, access to exercise equipment and classes, assistance with chronic disease management and fall prevention. How do you decide who will stop coming to ACCA? How do you ask 14 people to raise their hands and volunteer to stay home and be lonely or hungry? ACCA is a place where the clients, the staff, the volunteers and most importantly the community come together to ensure services weren’t lost when we experienced our agency’s largest budget cuts. Through our amazing partnership with UGA’s Campus Kitchen, a student managed food rescue group, we were able to take supplemental food resources and put them into our daily operations. We did not have to decrease any services. Our story began in 1967 but it thrives today because of our reputation and because of the support of our community. The support on which we were founded. Our innovative initiatives coupled with walking through the door and hearing laughter from older adults enjoying themselves is the reason we have ACCA. Our story was started and continues because of you.
The Athens Community Council on Aging had an operating budget of $3.6 million in fiscal year 2014. ACCA was able to generate a growing awareness of the needs of the aging population which resulted in an increase in donations from the community and other local funding. Operational efficiencies and increased productivity allowed ACCA to use 86% of revenue towards direct services and programs.

FINANCIAL report

- Federal Government: 41%
- Medicaid: 26%
- State & Local Government: 15%
- Fundraising/Donations: 10%
- Fees/Other Local: 8%

IN-KIND donations

- 68,597

Program highlights

- Volunteers for Meals on Wheels drove over 85,588 miles and provided 76,484 meals to clients in Clarke and Barrow counties. In addition to meals, this program provides pet food, fans, library books, smoke detectors, fresh produce, microwaves and other ancillary services.
- The Senior Community Service Employment Program placed 8 older adult workers into full-time positions and had 39,142 hours of community service.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsman successfully investigated 335 complaints which were all 100% resolved to the satisfaction of the resident while performing 598 routine visits.
- Adult Day Health initiated the Care Closet which provides medical supplies and over the counter medications to members in the community who may not otherwise be able to afford these products.
- GeorgiaCares responded to 2,514 appointments and saved clients over $682,538 through Medicare counseling.
- 99% of the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion volunteers said their volunteer job gives them an increased sense of independence. 99% of them said their health has maintained or improved because they keep active by volunteering through the Senior Corps Program.
- ACCA Transportation provided 19,072 rides to area older adults.
- The Center for Active Living expanded its programming and trip offerings to better meet requests from participants.
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren served 214 individuals this year, which is an increase of 36 from fiscal year 2013.
- ACCA utilized 237 Campus Kitchen at UGA volunteers for over 4000 hours of service.