



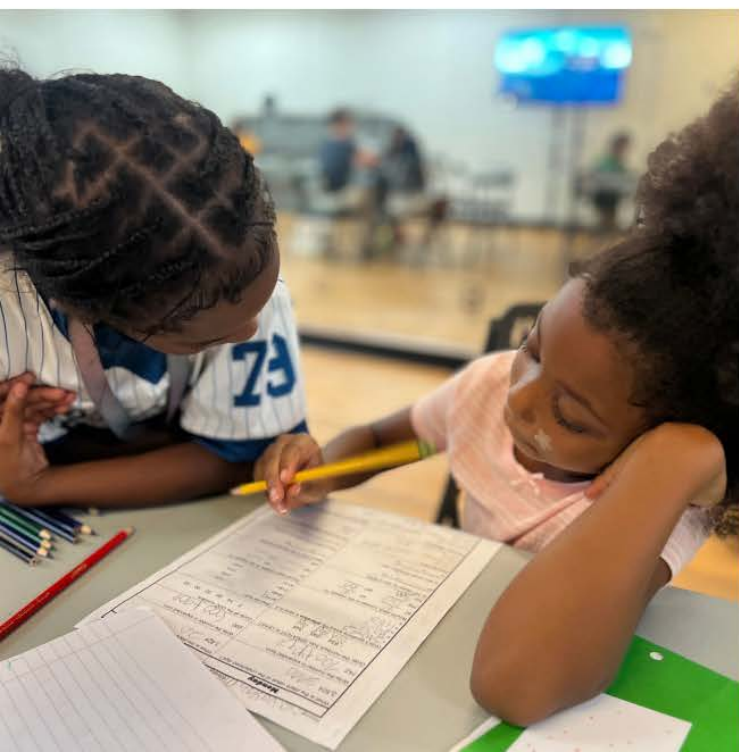
2025  
**ANNUAL  
IMPACT  
HIGHLIGHTS**

## Where Youth Thrive.

Creating safe spaces where youth are supported, nourished, and empowered to learn, grow, and thrive during the hours they need it most.









## Who We Served

In 2025, the KONG Center at J.D. Sims provided consistent, high-quality afterschool and summer programming to children and youth in Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward during the most critical out-of-school hours.

- **95 Registered Students**
- **Ages 5–18**, with the majority in elementary and middle school
- Most participants qualified for **free or reduced lunch**

In 2025 the KONG Center partnered with **two local schools** to provide afterschool programming for their students:

- **Kindezi Old Fourth Ward**
- **Hope Hill Elementary School**

These partnerships expanded access to safe, structured afterschool care for students and families within the community.

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## Program Reach & Engagement

Using daily attendance records, the KONG Center demonstrated strong, consistent participation across both the school year and summer months.

- **~7,400 total student visits (student-days)**
- **Average daily attendance:** ~41 students
- **~22,200 hours of safe, supervised programming delivered**

Programming focused on academic support, enrichment, physical activity ensuring students returned consistently and remained engaged.

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## Summer Program (June–July 2025)

During the summer months, the KONG Center operated a **structured summer program** serving approximately **35 children**.

Summer programming included:

- Dance
- Arts and crafts
- Baking
- Sports and physical activity

Each week concluded with a **trip to the splash pad**, providing students with safe recreation, social connection, and memorable summer experiences.

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## Nutrition & Basic Needs

Food insecurity remains a reality for many of the families we serve. The KONG Center ensures no child leaves hungry by providing a **daily snack and meal** to students during program hours.

- **~7,400 nutritious meals provided**
  - **Daily snack and meal served to all participating students**
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## KONG Center Community Events

Community-building is a core part of the KONG Center experience. In 2025, we hosted events that supported families, strengthened relationships, and created meaningful moments for youth.

## Friendsgiving Dinner — November 20, 2025

The KONG Center hosted a **Friendsgiving Dinner** for students and families, creating space for connection, gratitude, and fellowship ahead of the holiday season.

This event was generously **sponsored by Portman Holdings**.

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## Cookies & Cocoa Christmas & Angel Tree Program - December 18, 2025

Our annual **Cookies & Cocoa Christmas** celebration brought joy to students and families through holiday treats, activities, and gift-giving.

As part of this celebration, the KONG Center hosted a **Christmas Angel Tree**, which provided holiday gifts to:

- **67 registered KONG Center students**
- **25 additional children who attended the event but were not registered participants**

Angel Tree gifts were distributed during the Cookies & Cocoa Christmas event, ensuring that every child present felt included and supported. Special thanks to the Portman Holding Service League for donating over 50% of the gifts. The remaining gifts were made possible through the generosity of our Board Members and KONG Center Volunteers & Friends, whose support helped make this holiday season meaningful for every child.

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## Atlanta Medical Center Construction Site Field Trip - December 10

The KONG Center took 35 students on a field trip to the Atlanta Medical Plaza Demolition site, located off Boulevard. With support from the Old Fourth Ward Neighborhood Association, who helped organize the visit and connect the KONG Center with Atlanta Demolition, our students were invited to tour the site and experience sitting on large demolition equipment, sparking curiosity and hands-on learning about construction and demolition.

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## Partners & Support

The success of the KONG Center is made possible through strong partnerships and public investment. In 2025, our partners included:

- **Luluma Foundation**
- **Wingate Companies**
- **Portman Holdings**
- **City of Atlanta**
- **Old 4th Ward Neighborhood Association**
- **Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (Gsan)**
- **Georgia Department of Education**
- **KONG Center Board Members**

We were proud to be awarded the **Georgia Department of Education BOOST Grant**, recognizing the quality, impact, and effectiveness of our afterschool programming.

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## Why This Matters

The afterschool and summer hours are the most vulnerable times of day and year for youth. By providing safe spaces, trusted adults, enrichment activities, and meals, the KONG Center plays a critical role in:

- Keeping students safe during high-risk hours
  - Supporting working families year-round
  - Reinforcing academic, social, and emotional development
  - Creating stability and consistency for children who need it most
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