

**I**m a woman of passion, and I am fortunate to use my passion every day.” Susan Crumbley is the Executive Director of Connecting Henry, a nonprofit organization that operates as the local branch of the Georgia Family Connection Partnership in Henry County. Its mission is to identify and connect existing resources in the community for the purpose of developing and implementing programs that address challenges to the families in Henry County.

Susan Crumbley and Connecting Henry are almost synonymous: they share the same motto, which is “We don’t do mediocre”. Susan prides herself in providing excellent service throughout Connecting Henry and surrounds herself with good staff. Two of those staff members are quoted as saying, “She is the best boss I’ve ever had and a great person to work for!” While Susan is pleased with the praise, she is much more focused on improving the quality of life for children and families in the community.

Susan began working with Connecting Henry after 22 years in the transportation industry. She liked the bustling pace but wanted to do something with more immediate ties to her local community. She started as an administrative assistant with Henry County in 2008 and worked her way up to her present position. The board of directors officially appointed her Executive Director of Connecting Henry in 2014. Since that time, Susan has led a total overhaul of the organization’s programs and outreach. She revamped the entire youth program with new staff and a new vision - “SWAG” - Students Working to Achieve Greatness. It is a job readiness and life skills program that provides young adults a second chance. SWAG offers a variety of services including free G.E.D. classes, tutoring, entrepreneurial skills training, internships and substance abuse counseling. Susan loves the empowerment and connectivity people feel when they complete these programs. Many come to Connecting Henry feeling isolated and defeated; they leave feeling inspired and prepared.

Under Susan’s leadership, Connecting Henry also expanded its Community Christmas program. The program is funded through 100% donations from corporations and the community. Connecting Henry obtains a donated warehouse, decorates it as a Christmas Wonderland and parents come to shop for toys - all for free! Working with the Henry County Board of Education and school counselors, Connecting Henry sends invitations to the parents of need-based children to select toys for Christmas. In 2014, over 700 children received up to four gifts each. The number of gifts varies each year depending on the donations received.

Susan is very involved in Henry County, serving on the Board of Leadership Henry, Program Chair of the Henry County Kiwanis Club, a member of the United Way Council Board, Emergency Food & Shelter Board, and a member of both the Local Emergency Planning Committee and Crisis Intervention Team of Henry County. All of these connections ensure Connecting Henry is a treasure chest of referral data and information, including rent and utility assistance, job acquisition, and food and clothing provisions. “If I don’t know the referral source to help a person, I can find it.”

Susan is very family oriented. She and her husband have been married for 36 years, and he is a successful business owner. When not engaged with Connecting Henry and its affiliates, Susan loves spending time with her children, and grandchildren. She loves reading and traveling, and on her bucket list are family reunions and Atlantis at Paradise Island. **S**

To connect with Susan and learn more about Connecting Henry, visit [www.ConnectingHenry.org](http://www.ConnectingHenry.org)

