



Student Spotlight: Destiny's Story



Dedication and Determination describe the persistence Destiny Looney had when she first stepped foot into Foothills. Not only is she a May 2016 graduate of Madison Foothills, but she is the first person in her family to graduate from high school and pursue a post-secondary education.

Destiny struggled during high school with many obstacles. During high school, Destiny felt very uncomfortable around large crowds. In addition, Destiny was a victim of bullying and name calling. The pressure became too much and caused her to drop out of high school: "In day school I was often a victim of bullying and name calling. Not only did this make me not want to go to school, it made me feel unimportant." Destiny was determined that she was not giving up on her education. She decided she was going to get her GED. Destiny recalls, "I was on my way to attend my GED classes next door from Madison Foothills. The GED office happened to be closed, so I decided to see what Foothills was about." She felt the atmosphere was warm and accepting:

"When I walked into Foothills, I felt a completely different atmosphere. Happy, smiling faces would greet me daily. I felt important and like I mattered. I was never bullied, called names, had to deal with drama or any unnecessary activities. I really enjoyed the security and drama-free environment at Foothills. I truly enjoyed my time attending Foothills. The Foothills staff was extremely helpful. Their encouraging words helped push me to graduate on time."

While at Foothills, Destiny faced additional hurdles. She was pregnant with her first child. Nevertheless, this was not going to stop her determination to finish her education: "At the time I was attending Foothills, I was pregnant with my now 1 year old son. He was my motivation. Although I took a small break while giving birth and taking care of my son, Foothills welcomed me back with open arms. I can honestly say, Foothills went beyond my expectations."

Destiny is currently enrolled full-time at Athens Technical College majoring in nursing. Destiny shares, "My future plans consist of graduating college and starting my career. I want to continue to set successful goals while watching my son grow." She says she wants to continue to be successful in order to be a positive role model for her son and family.

Destiny leaves us with these encouraging words: "I definitely recommend Foothills to students who have a job, just don't like day school, feel uncomfortable around a lot of people, or even someone who is being bullied. They help you when you need it, and they are there when you fall. I made great friendships in this school and met people I can carry relationships on forever with. Foothills all the way around is a great organization to help you achieve your high school education and beyond."

The Foothills Family . . .

Our students describe the supportive atmosphere at Foothills, but our staff feel it, too! This picture from Madison shows part of our Foothills staff "family."

Joe Barnett, Shannon McCarty, and Jase Upton, whose mom Sarah is a graduation coach.



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Foothills Video

If you haven't seen the newly released video showcasing many of our Foothills students, you are in for a treat!

These students remind us what Foothills is all about and the impact that we are having on their lives.

You can link to the uplifting, 8-minute video from our homepage at www.foothillscharter.org.



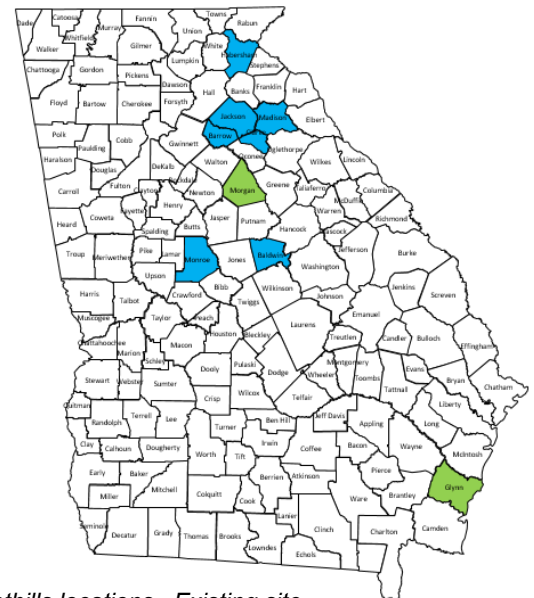
Foothills valedictorian Christian Crowe with Governor and Mrs. Deal

Here We Grow Again!

Foothills Education Charter High School is growing! Thanks to the success of the original seven sites, there has been great interest in having Foothills available to other students around the state. The goal of Foothills is to ensure that all students in the Northeast Georgia RESA area have access to Foothills. The four NEGA RE-SA sites—Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, and Madison—will be joined by Morgan County in January 2017. We are in conversation with Walton County to possibly open in July 2017. Adding these two sites, in addition to Baldwin, provides a circle around our region to provide more opportunities for students to earn a high school diploma.

Other areas of the state are interested in replicating the work of Foothills. Glynn County and others will become part of a Foothills replication. It will be called Coastal Plains Education Charter High School. Glynn will open in January 2017, as an expansion of Foothills until Coastal Plains begins operation in July 2017. In Fall 2016, Glynn Foothills and Morgan Foothills staff will be visiting our sites to learn how to operate a successful program. We will be providing training and mentor services to Glynn until they are operational under their own charter. Conversations are underway with Candler and others to join Glynn as part of Coastal Plains Education Charter High School.

If you are a staff member at any of our Foothills sites, be proud of your work. Your good work is paving the way for many other students across the state to have the option to earn a high school diploma. Caring for each student one at a time. You are appreciated.



Map of Foothills locations. Existing site locations in blue; new locations in Morgan and Glynn Counties in green.



Foothills Education Charter High School
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The Foothills Vision

Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.