The ninth annual Friends Helping Friends Club Jam Fest & Taste of Elberton was held at the ROC building at Elberton First Baptist Church on Saturday, August 27. The event began with a special presentation as Elbert County Schools Superintendent Jon Jarvis introduced Mr. Mike Weinroth who announced the donation and dedication of the Mamie Jo Jones Bronze Bust and Pedestal to the Elbert County School System. Mr. Weinroth spent 24 years as Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Services with the Gwinnett County School System, and he currently serves on the Executive Board for the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. Mr. Weinroth knew Ms. Jones personally and he shared information about her family connections with Elberton and her impressive contributions to the development of modern-day Special Education programs in the Georgia school systems.

Event participants enjoyed family entertainment while dining at the delicious food court prepared by local restaurants and caterers. Large framed posters signed by Super Bowl Champ Mecole Hardman, Jr. and locally baked cakes were auctioned. Mark Wallace graciously served as auctioneer. The inspirational concert featured Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Praise Team with Pastor Antonio Derricotte, Marvin Hall, and Justin McCalla, and Common Ground Band with Chris Dyal, Rebbeca Holiday, Sam Maxwell, Pastor Jim McCullough, Ella Long, and Kevin Long. Scott Lunsford graciously ran the sound system. Jeff Adams filled in for Gary Purvis as MC as the Purvis family enjoyed the event surrounded by love from dear friends in the audience.

Throughout the event everyone enjoyed a delicious assortment of foods provided by local restaurants including Blazers Hot Wings, JaCarrs Catering, McIntosh Coffee Shoppe, Papa's Pizza To Go, Richard's Restaurant, and The Quarry Plates and Pours. FHF Diamond+ Sponsor Ingles of Elberton donated an abundance of groceries including supplies for the EC Middle School Coffee Shop serving coffee during the event. Chrystal Thomas (Elbert County Schools FHF Sponsor), Cherie Dove (ECMS FHF Sponsor), Anya Human and Robin Wood (ECCHS FHF Sponsors), and 20 FHF student members served food at the food court, managed the Coffee Shop and cake walk with their Friends including Lakeesha Allen, Patrick Armstrong, Priya Moon, Alexia Teasley, and Anna Watts. During the event everyone sang a hearty Happy Birthday to FHF Advantage Friend Shane Scarborough. Friends Helping Friends Club, Inc. board members preparing for the event, volunteering, and/or managing the stations were Jeff Adams, Pam Brown, Stephanie Brown, Devon Davis, Mary Jane Denny, Tom Denny, Marilyn Flores (FHF Alumni Officer), Greg Hall (Assistant Treasurer), Kelly Hall, Ann Hendrix, Debbie Jameson, Joanna Jarvis, Hannah McAvoy (Founding FHF Student Vice-President / FHF, Inc. Treasurer), Trey McAvoy, Marie Roach, Courtney Smith (Alumni FHF Student President), Maggie Stetson (Alumni FHF Student President), Grady Thomas (Alumni FHF Student President), Timmy Thomas, Elizabeth Tyler, Logan Vaughn (Alumni FHF Student Officer), and Terry Wood. Johnny Price with FBC assisted in setting up the ROC. Community volunteers provided over 50 delicious home-baked cakes.

Elberton Net videoed the event to air on local TV. Donations received totaled over $6,000. All proceeds benefit Friends Helping Friends Club, Inc., a 501(c)3 charitable organization providing inclusive educational opportunities such as school trips, special events, summer camps, sensory motor development equipment, school supplies and more for Elbert County students overcoming special challenges at no cost to the school system or to the students served. All involved in the organization serve as volunteers receiving no compensation.

Event coordinators Gary Purvis and Sandy Adams expressed sincere appreciation to this generous community for their outstanding support to Elbert County students overcoming special challenges ...with a little help from their Friends.