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HOMEAID CAREKITS FOR ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Building industry volunteers pack hygiene kits to help fill the gap.

ATLANTA, GA – JULY 28, 2020 – On July 20, HomeAid Atlanta volunteers from **McMichael & Gray, PC** assembled 500 HomeAid CareKits to donate to the **Atlanta Community Food Bank**, which distributes food and other items to more than 600 nonprofit partner agencies serving families and individuals in 29 metro Atlanta and north Georgia counties. CareKits contain deodorant, a comb, snacks, bandages, shampoo, socks provided by **Bombas**, and other self-care items. CareKits items were provided by a generous donation from **Meritage Homes**, with additional items donated by **North Georgia Brick**.



McMichael and Gray, PC volunteers with HomeAid staff on July 20.

The Food Bank receives donations of hygiene items like those in CareKits because they are in great need by people experiencing homelessness and low-income families. Access to clean, dry socks, especially, helps people living on the streets avoid foot infections. Hygiene items like shampoo and deodorant are not covered by existing government safety net programs, and helping fill that gap for people in need means a lot to McMichael & Gray, PC volunteer Ashton Reaves. “Packing CareKits with HomeAid is so rewarding because you know that each bag is going to help improve the life of someone in our city,” she said. “It is amazing how something that seems so small can make such a large impact. Working with HomeAid has allowed me to realize how fortunate we truly are and how we can use our gifts and talents to touch those throughout our city.”

McMichael & Gray PC volunteer Rhea Dawkins said, “I am so grateful to work for a company that finds the importance in partnering with organizations like HomeAid! I have done a few projects with HomeAid, and I was thrilled to join their team once again for the assembly of CareKits. In the midst of everything we are dealing with in 2020, it can be easy to forget that there are still so many people in need of basic items. I am hoping that our small sacrifice of time and energy will make a huge impact on lives in Atlanta. Thank you HomeAid Atlanta!”

The value of the 500 donated CareKits is over \$2,700. The Atlanta Community Food Bank’s Benefits Outreach Team will bring CareKits along when screening people who have applied to receive food, as well as when they visit partner pantries and shelters. “The Atlanta Community Food Bank has had three consecutive record-setting months in terms of distribution, and we continue to work towards combating the issue of rising food insecurity in our community. The people in our 29-county service area rely on donations from the Food Bank, and donations like the 500 hygiene kits provided by HomeAid Atlanta give us the ability to support them. With more than 1,000,000 food-insecure people in our community, we sincerely appreciate the support of organizations like HomeAid Atlanta,” said Jay Arnold, Atlanta Community Food Bank Food Drive and Events Specialist.

In 2014, HomeAid began its CareKits initiative with support from HomeAid national partner Bank of America. HomeAid Atlanta has assembled and donated 7,300 CareKits to date.

HomeAid Atlanta is a nonprofit organization founded in 2001 that builds new lives for families and individuals experiencing homelessness through housing and community outreach. HomeAid builds, renovates, and maintains facilities for nonprofits that serve people experiencing homelessness. HomeAid has completed over 140 projects at locations for victims of domestic violence, teen mothers, veterans and more, utilizing connections with building industry professionals and community organizations. HomeAid also provides essential items like diapers, wipes, and hygiene products to those affected by homelessness. HomeAid is the designated charity of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association. Learn more at www.homeaidatlanta.org.

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