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HOMEAID ATLANTA AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE A HAPPIER THANKSGIVING

Building industry volunteers host successful Thanks for Giving Campaign

ATLANTA, GA – NOVEMBER 23, 2020 – Beginning in September, the **Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association’s Young Professionals Group (YPG)** partnered with **HomeAid Atlanta** to raise funds to provide Thanksgiving food baskets, gift cards, and a monetary donation to **Jerusalem House**. Jerusalem House provides permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as supportive services and educational opportunities that contribute to overall self-sufficiency.



Members of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association’s YPG with Karen McLane, HomeAid Atlanta Director of Community Outreach (right) at Jerusalem House on November 18.

The fundraising drive raised nearly \$3,000. On November 17, YPG members gathered at the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association in Dunwoody to pack and decorate twelve baskets filled with Thanksgiving food items for Jerusalem House’s Family Program, which serves families experiencing homelessness with adults living with HIV/AIDS and their children who may or may not be HIV+. Each basket also included a \$50 grocery gift card. Remaining funds provided 23 additional \$50 grocery gift cards for individuals in Jerusalem House’s Adult Program, which serves single adults experiencing homelessness who have AIDS. Additionally, the Young Professionals Group presented a check for nearly \$700 to Jerusalem House on November 18.

“We are so thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Thanks for Giving Campaign,” said Joy Dyess, BankSouth Mortgage VP, Special Projects Manager, and YPG Board Member. “We believe in giving back to serve our communities and partnering with amazing organizations like HomeAid Atlanta and Jerusalem House to support impactful services for families and individuals.”



YPG member Tony Cann shows off one of the Thanksgiving baskets for Jerusalem House.

The Thanks for Giving Campaign provided a Thanksgiving meal and more for people like Jerusalem House resident Marie, a mother of two pre-school aged girls, one of whom is HIV positive. Marie truly exemplifies the transformative power of permanent supportive housing. She not only achieved her GED diploma, but also received the highest score on that exam in the State of Georgia while at Jerusalem House. Marie then completed course work and passed the state exams to become a Certified Nursing Assistant within a six-month period. Marie has not allowed her HIV status or formerly homeless situation keep her down.

This was HomeAid Atlanta’s second partnership with Jerusalem House. In September 2019, more than fifty HomeAid Atlanta volunteers participated in Care Day at Jerusalem House to provide free-of-charge maintenance and repairs including repairing a brick retaining wall, painting, landscaping, mulching the playground area, and more.

HomeAid Atlanta is a nonprofit organization founded in 2001 that builds new lives for homeless families and individuals through housing and community outreach. HomeAid builds, renovates, and maintains facilities for nonprofits serving 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.