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Source: HomeAid Atlanta

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HOMEAID ATLANTA HOLDS ANNUAL ESSENTIALS DRIVE CAMPAIGN

HomeAid Atlanta's 15th Annual Essentials Drive to benefit homeless babies and their mothers wrapped up on May 5, just in time for Mother's Day. The community-wide effort to collect "essential" baby products such as diapers, pull-ups, baby food, formula, baby wipes, and baby hygiene products was a huge success. More than 130,000 baby items were collected and distributed to 17 area nonprofits serving homeless children and families, providing critical support to these organizations and the families they serve. Since 2002, almost 900,000 essential baby items have been collected and distributed through the Essentials Drive.



From April 25 – May 3, more than 30 Atlanta business and organizations and hundreds of individuals participated in the Essentials Drive by donating new baby items, hosting collection sites, and shopping for baby items online. On May 5, volunteers from companies including Bank of America, CBRE, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta worked diligently at HomeAid's office to sort and pack baby items for delivery to the 17 participating nonprofit organizations.

On May 6, Atlanta-based UPS joined HomeAid Atlanta for the tenth year to assist with delivery of donated items. UPS provided two trucks and four UPS employees who volunteered their time to deliver the much needed essentials to Atlanta-area organizations serving homeless families; many operate facilities that were built or renovated in partnership with HomeAid Atlanta. Participating organizations include: Action Ministries (Atlanta), Atlanta Mission (Atlanta), Ceek to Fulfill (Conyers), City of Refuge (Atlanta), Community Advanced Practice Nurses (Atlanta), Decatur Cooperative Ministries (Decatur), Our House (Atlanta), Haven ATL (Atlanta), Helping Mamas (Snellville), HomeStretch (Roswell), Intown Collaborative Ministries (Atlanta), Nicholas House (Atlanta), Phoenix Pass (Conyers), Sheltering Arms (Atlanta), Solomon's Temple (Atlanta), The Drake House (Roswell), and The United Methodist Children's Home (Decatur).

"It was like Christmas morning!" said Jamie Lackey, Executive Director of Helping Mamas in Snellville upon receipt of Essentials Drive donations, "The timing was perfect for this donation. We were out of Pull Ups and size 6 diapers and had several requests for them. The Essentials Drive donations allowed us to fill those requests. We were very low on wipes as well, so again perfect timing. We will be able to keep serving so many babies because of HomeAid Atlanta!"

Of the estimated 9,000 people in Metro Atlanta who are homeless on any given night, 40 percent are women and children. The Essentials Drive was first launched by HomeAid Atlanta in 2002 to help meet the growing needs of Atlanta's changing homeless population. As the growth in homeless families increases, the need for essential baby items continues to grow.

HomeAid Atlanta, founded in 2001, is a nonprofit organization that builds new lives for homeless families and individuals through housing and community outreach. HomeAid works in partnership with the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, as well as community building industry organizations, to assist the temporarily homeless. To date, HomeAid Atlanta has completed 53 housing, remodel and care day projects at locations that serve victims of domestic violence, teen mothers, abused and abandoned children, and more. Learn more at www.homeaidatlanta.org.

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