



actionreport

A publication by

cac

communityassistancecenter



We Built it Together

We hope you share our excitement about what we are building together to ensure the most vulnerable people in our community have a place to turn for help. A few years ago CAC and its supporters started working together on the goal of reaching more people in need. To do this CAC needed more space to expand services. Meeting the Building Hope Campaign goal of \$2.4 M allowed CAC to expand thrift shop and food pantry operations to a new building. This freed up space in the Hightower Trail building to expand the adult education program and operate seasonal youth programs. Then, in 2018 we opened a branch office in south Sandy Springs to reach more people in need in that area. We are inspired by the difference that you are making!



Reaching People Who Need Help the Most

Our goal is to make services available to an additional 800 families a year. Why? Because CAC currently serves just 35 percent of our area's low income population, or about 5,000 individuals a year. We can help more! We are improving access by offering two new convenient locations, branch offices in south Sandy Springs, already operational, and a second branch office in Dunwoody, expected to open in late 2019. The Dunwoody office will also serve a high need area of Doraville with no access to emergency assistance services.

Why Our Work Together Matters

- Because everyone deserves the opportunity to pursue a better quality of life for themselves and their families.
- Because challenges of lost income or low/level fixed incomes often prevent hard working people from getting ahead.
- Because once people have their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing met they can focus on establishing economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Next Goal: Focus on Self-Sufficiency

CAC is poised to make an impact in helping people increase their incomes by offering a new Job Connection program! A pilot project for the program is expected to begin in the spring of 2020 and expand as more training programs and employers participate. We are excited to connect businesses in the community with clients to help improve their job skills, incomes and lives!



Community Assistance Center

1130 Hightower Trail
Sandy Springs, GA 30350
Office 770-552-4889
Helpline 770-552-4015
www.ourcac.org

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Generosity Comes from the Heart

Often people think it takes wealth to be able to help people in need. But one of our neighbors showed it just takes a big heart. Brenda is a single mother of two who lives in Sandy Springs. She barely makes ends meet on a tight budget. That didn't stop her from helping a young pregnant mother and toddler who were facing homelessness. Brenda looked into her heart and took into her home the mother and child who were abandoned by the father. After depleting her savings to pay for prenatal care for her young friend, she went to CAC looking for help. CAC is providing as much assistance as possible to help these families to meet their basic needs. People like Brenda serve as a reminder to everyone that you don't have to have a lot to give a lot.



Giving Back in the Truest Form

When Kelly first came to CAC for help she knew she would be back, as someone helping others. Kelly volunteers as a food pantry greeter. Many clients know her and look forward to seeing her friendly face in the waiting room. She originally came to CAC when she needed a little help to get by after some life setbacks. Now she comes because she wants to. "I like to work with clients that come in and I hope I give them a dignified, pleasant experience, where they feel welcome and they don't have to be anxious about being there," she said. Before landing as a food pantry greeter, Kelly volunteered in multiple places at CAC, from the thrift shop to scheduling appointments, to all jobs in the food pantry. Greeter is her favorite role. "I feel good about giving back and volunteering at CAC, it's been such a great experience."



Food Pantry Partnership Makes a Big Impact

CAC's partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) has been crucial to CAC's ability to reduce hunger in our community. The ACFB has provided grants for equipment and offers food in bulk at minimal cost.

Recently, CAC's food pantry was one of just two organizations selected by the ACFB to participate in a "Food First" study with 50 clients. By shopping at a food pantry first for their most needed and most costly items, clients can conserve cash to be used for other crucial household expenses. Positive results from our study group show that by shopping at a food pantry first, clients report less worry and stress and are able to improve food security, household budgeting and housing stability!



At CAC we are proud of our Client Choice food pantry model. With the support of donors and volunteers we distribute about 48,000 pounds of food per month to more than 600 families a month. CAC was chosen by Feeding America as one of 10 pantries to study as a model of excellence for all pantries to be adopted at a national level!

2019 VINTAGE AFFAIR *Moonlight Masquerade*

A RECORD BREAKING SUCCESS!

Vintage Affair, CAC's largest annual fundraiser, held on October 26 at Mercedes-Benz USA headquarters was a huge success! "This was the best one that we have attended... delicious food, beautiful venue and music. The online bidding was fun," said Sallie Chasteen, a CAC volunteer and donor. Thanks to the support of our sponsors, hosts, auction item donors and guests more than \$250,000 was raised to support vital programs which prevent homelessness and hunger as well as support adult education and youth programs!



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Atlanta, GA 31150

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Open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The first 3 Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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