



Congregation Highlight

The Church of Our Saviour was founded in July 1924 and moved to its present location in the heart of the Virginia-Highland neighborhood in 1925. The church maintains a tradition of worship (sometimes called Anglo-

Catholic) that uses the Book of Common Prayer in its fullest and richest expression of the church's liturgy. It is also a teaching and learning church where study of the scriptures and preaching of God's Word play a major role.

Intown has partnered with the church and the Episcopal Charities Foundation for the past several years to serve our neighbors in need. On Monday mornings, members open and help run the Intown Clothes Closet, and on Thursday mornings members assist Intown clients with Social Security and transportation. Men and women of the congregation also donate clothing and food and volunteer regularly at our Food Pantry.

The Rev. Zackary Thompson was called as rector in April 2014. Learn more at www.oursaviour.episcopalatlanta.org or by calling 404-872-4169.

Sponsoring Congregations

Atlanta Primitive Baptist Church
Church of Our Saviour
Congregation Shearith Israel
Druid Hills Baptist
Druid Hills Presbyterian
Druid Hills United Methodist
Epworth United Methodist at Candler Park
Glenn Memorial United Methodist
Grace Lutheran
Greater Smith Chapel AME
Haygood Memorial United Methodist
Inman Park United Methodist
Mercy Community Church
Morningside Presbyterian
St. John's Lutheran
Virginia-Highland Church

Contact. Assess. Connect.

Our programs always strive to meet the changing needs of our community. Our new Outreach program is the latest example of shifting resources to better serve our neighbors who are homeless and hungry. Two years ago, we made concerted efforts to build rapport with our homeless guests and refer them to services. Yet a gap appeared as we lacked the resources to provide follow-up after referrals. We met people who were ready for change but still needed support.

Outreach is focused on three things: Contact, Assessment, and Connection. First, we will continue to have contact at our Food Pantry on Saturdays and at Mercy Community Church and the Open Door Community throughout the week. Second, we will assess people as they identify their own barriers to health, housing, and income. Third, we will connect men, women, and families with supportive services—and follow up with them should they need ongoing encouragement and assistance.

“When a person is ready, we’ll be there to walk with them and connect them to resources they need to overcome barriers,” said Maria Carr, director of Outreach. “This is case management customized to the needs of each individual.”

Like every program of Intown, Outreach will be tailored to the needs of the people we meet. If someone is a military veteran, for example, Intown might refer them to a veterans' housing program or get help for PTSD. If mental health is a barrier, we can connect that person with mental health providers and perhaps help them apply for disability income. The individual's case plan—and his/her commitment to the plan—will determine how identified barriers will be managed.

FALL 2014

www.intowncm.org

1026 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30306



From the Director

Last month, we had our inaugural fall week highlighting the work we do in our community. It was our *Harvest for Hunger* week, with seven days of fun, education, advocacy, shared meals, and a benefit concert. We had over 600

neighbors and supporters come to our festivities to celebrate a good year of good work.

This really is “harvest” time for us at Intown, when we gather in those who have worked hard and supported us all year and say “Thank You.” We are thankful for the labors of those who donated food for over 40,000 meals this year and to the 500 volunteers who gave of their time to volunteer with us and give back to their community.

As we gather to celebrate, we do so knowing that much work remains. For the fourth year in a row, demand for our services grew in 2014. Generous funding from foundations, government, individuals, our Sponsoring Congregations, businesses, and events has allowed us to continue to serve our community and even expand our services. This fall we launched our Outreach program to better serve our most vulnerable neighbors—those who are chronically homeless—to help them move into safe, stable housing.

We have only been able to labor in the fields because of supporters like you. Thank you. We have met the need and pledge to continue to do so in the new year. We celebrate this good work we have done together and look forward to your faithful support.

Gratefully,

Brad Schweers—Executive Director
404-590-6956
brad@intowncm.org

October Harvest for Hunger Week

For our Food Banquet, we had a crowd of 200 volunteers, supporters, staff, members, and guests of our food ministries. Intown’s Brian Liddy, vice chair of our board of directors, smoked BBQ for the whole gang.



Seventy people came out to Druid Hills United Methodist Church for our Food Truck night. (left to right): Rev. Anna Hall, our Food Pantry volunteer coordinator and minister for Spiritual Formation at Virginia-Highland Church; Laura Rogers Reece,

volunteer superstar at the Food Pantry from Glenn Memorial United Methodist; Laura and Steve Cushing from Druid Hills United Methodist. Laura is one of our five distribution leaders for the Pantry.

Poverty is Real and Variety Playhouse hosted a great show. Junior Brown played for a crowd of 300, which benefited Intown. (left) Spencer Smith, executive director at Poverty is Real, and Brad Schweers.



The week was sponsored by Variety Playhouse, Dorsey Alston Realtors, and the Hall Booth Smith law firm.



Serving to Achieve Excellence

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Francina Walker Client Profile



“It Benefits Those That Can’t”

Francina Walker was born and raised in Miami. About age 30, she asked herself the question, “Where will I be five years from now”? Georgia wasn’t on her list. However, Francina believes that while the Scriptures tell us to

make plans, God will direct our paths. In 1986, she moved to Atlanta, and 10 years ago, she became a resident at Briarcliff Summit Apartments.

Francina was one of the first to join Intown’s Food Co-operative when it came into the picture at Briarcliff Summit more than four years ago. “There was news in the building about starting the Food Co-op,” said Francina. “We paid \$10 each month (a price that has not increased during the lifetime of the Co-op), and we received food twice a month. The money did not pay for the food as much as for gas and delivery.”

Now a leader in the Co-op, Francina says, “Members volunteer so we can serve as a community here. Members run the Co-op while organizations and volunteers supervise. The Food Co-op provides us with much more than the \$10 we pay.” (Intown estimates that Food Co-op members receive about \$100 per month of food, including fresh produce.)

Francina was born with Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome, a disease diagnosed for her at approximately age 20. “I don’t like cooking because it takes a toll on my feet,” she said. “But the Co-op benefits me every month. We get food we could not get otherwise. I’m grateful for it.”

Briarcliff Summit Apartments was originally built circa 1900 as a hotel by Atlanta businessman Asa Candler, founder of The Coca-Cola Company. It operated as a hotel for many years but was converted to low-income housing in the 1980s. The current owner has recently renovated the property. More than 99% of the apartments receive a rental subsidy from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Meet Rebecca and Raun Staff Profiles

Rebecca Arayan is Intown’s development associate. She has worked with nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations for the past 16 years and in fundraising and development for 11 years. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Rebecca became a Peace Corps volunteer in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia. Rebecca holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from Georgia State University with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management. She serves as a board member for Hands of Hope International Ministry in Guatemala. Rebecca lives in Stockbridge with her husband and two sons and is an active member of Stockbridge United Methodist Church.

Raun King, our Heading Home case manager, holds a bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Albany State University and is currently completing a master’s degree in Mental Health Counseling. Raun brings experience from the Police Athletic League of New York as well as from respected organizations in the Atlanta area. As a resident advisor at Chris Kids, he provided direct supervision for youth in crisis. Raun also has experience with the Department of Family and Children’s Services in Cumming and has worked with both Ombudsman Alternative School as a behavioral interventionist and St. Jude’s Detox Clinic as a detox technician.

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Share With Those Less Fortunate

As we enter this time of harvest, family, and home, please remember our neighbors who are struggling to find hope. For the past four-and-a half years, Intown has worked with the poorest in Atlanta. Your donations in support of our programs bring warm food to our Food Pantry and Co-op members, comfort and guidance through our homeless services, and a hand up through our Clothing Closet. It is only with your support that we are able to continue our work.

Please donate at intowncm.org!

Donate



The Porch Light is a publication of Intown Collaborative Ministries, a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving the 30306 and 30307 ZIP codes. We seek to build relationships and find permanent solutions to homelessness and hunger in the neighborhoods we serve.



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