

Dine Out for Intown!



**SWEET AUBURN
BARBECUE**
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
656 N. Highland Avenue
Atlanta 30306



**THE
PORTER**
Tuesday, July 7, 2015
1156 Euclid Avenue
Atlanta 30307

10% of proceeds will go to Intown!

Staff Profile

Caroline Cahill is Intown's new Director of Food Ministries, managing the Food Pantry and Food Co-ops. Caroline is a second-year graduate student at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, concentrating her studies in Public Nutrition. She holds a B.A. degree in Exercise Science from Willamette University in Oregon.



As a youth volunteer at the Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry in South Orange, New Jersey, Caroline became aware of the great need for nutritious food. Through this work and her training in public health, she developed a keen interest in alleviating and reversing health disparities due to socio-economic status and societal barriers. Please welcome her at caroline@intowncm.org.

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.



SPRING 2015

www.intowncm.org

1026 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30306

Intown
Collaborative Ministries
1026 Ponce de Leon Ave
Atlanta, GA 30306

the Porch Light



Congregation Highlight

St. John's, Atlanta's oldest Lutheran church, began in 1869 as an all-German congregation. It has been at its current location in Druid Hills since 1961. The church's offices, meeting rooms, and fellowship hall

are in the Stonehenge Mansion, a Gothic-style home built in 1914. A sanctuary in-the-round was added in 1969 and is made of the same material as the original structure, Stone Mountain granite. Its central altar means that no one is ever seated more than five rows back, reflecting St. John's understanding of church as God's family gathered around God's table.

St. John's has been involved with Intown from the organization's inception, offering financial support and leadership to the weekly Food Pantry. The church also touches the neighborhood's homeless population on cold winter nights, when the St. John's retreat center is used as a freeze shelter for Intown clients and others.

Rev. Nancy Christensen is senior pastor. Learn more at www.stjohnsatlanta.org or by calling 404-378-4243.

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

A Model That Works

As we seek to prevent and reverse the hunger and homelessness in our own community, Intown's five programs – Food Pantry, Food Co-ops, Outreach, Heading Home, and Clothing Closet – work together to meet the needs of these neighbors "where they are."

All too often, people who are poor and hungry find themselves struggling to navigate frustrating or even humiliating systems to meet their basic needs. From ordering a birth certificate (when you don't have an ID) to getting a social security card to applying for disability benefits, people are beat down rather than lifted up. At Intown, it's different. We strive to constantly examine what we do in order to better meet the needs of our community. If things aren't working – if people are stuck in homelessness or unemployment – we look at what we can do to walk with our neighbors to a better place.

When we noticed our Food Pantry was serving the same local neighbors with disability, we opened a Food Co-op in their building, rather than making them come to us. Our Heading Home program has successfully helped dozens of men and women transition from homelessness to stable housing. But we saw that we weren't reaching our most vulnerable, so we launched our Outreach program, which literally meets people on the streets and in the parks – and places people directly into supportive housing. Also, our Clothing Closet, open for several hours every Monday, is the only available option for low-income men and women who cannot afford every-day or professional clothes.

It is supporters like you who allow us to always adapt and meet people where they are, to meet real human need with dignity, support, and love.

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From the Director

Spring is here and we are busy at Intown. Like gardeners, we work year-round to cultivate and bring to life new ways of advancing our work and mission to prevent and reverse homelessness in our community. Here's

some of what has been growing in our greenhouse:

Arts & Eats

We are hosting our third annual fundraiser on Sunday, May 3, to benefit Intown and the Glenn Memorial UMC Snack in a Backpack program. Last year we raised \$84,000, and we are shooting for \$100,000 this year! Auction items include week-long stays at apartments in Paris and St. Croix!

Outreach Resource Table

Our Outreach program launched a Resource Table – staffed by volunteers – every Saturday at our Food Pantry. Guests learn about community resources such as voter registration, connecting with veterans' benefits, mental health treatment, and much more.

Hunger Walk/Run

Intown had a crew of two dozen supporters and kids participate in the Atlanta Community Food Bank's 31st annual Hunger Walk/Run to raise funds and awareness for hunger. Our team – led by Glenn Memorial UMC, Druid Hills UMC, and Druid Hills Baptist Church – raised almost \$2,000 for our Food Pantry and Food Co-ops.

Dine Out at Sweet Auburn BBQ

Come join us on Wednesday, April 8, for the best BBQ in town while 10% of your bill goes to Intown. Everyone wins!

Join us and see what's growing at Intown.

Yours,

Brad



Arts & Eats

A Fundraiser For
Intown Collaborative Ministries
& Snack in a Backpack

3rd Annual Arts & Eats Fundraiser

MAY 3, 2015 • 4 – 7 PM

The Hellenic Center

2500 Clairmont Road, Atlanta 30329

**SILENT AUCTION • LIVE AUCTION
WALL OF WINE • DOOR PRIZES
LIVE MUSIC • GAMES
AND CIRCUS ARTS ENTERTAINMENT**

EARLY-BIRD PRICING!

Tickets are \$85/person (\$170/couple) if purchased by March 31
\$100/person (\$200/couple) April 1– event day
\$50 of each ticket is tax-deductible, and a receipt will be provided.

Be a Sponsor, Patron, or Host
Deborah Marlowe: sponsors@intowncm.org

Donate to the Auction
Dawn Francis-Chewning: auction@intowncm.org

All information at intowncm.org/artsandeats



Terry Russell Partner Profile

From Homelessness to Housing

In 1976, when Terry Russell was 15 years old, he was in a horrific car accident that left him partially paralyzed on his left side. Two years later, he and his mother and sister moved from Chicago to Atlanta, but Terry, wanting

to be independent, left his mother's home at age 19.

Terry spent the next number of years homeless, managing on the streets and in shelters and occasionally staying in a rooming house. He suffers from alcohol addiction, which began as he struggled to cope with the injuries and trauma of the accident.

In 2005, Pastor Chad Hyatt founded Mercy Community Church – a Sponsoring Congregation of Intown – and Terry was one of the first participants. "Mercy Church meant getting my life back together," said Terry. "Pastor Chad is like a father to me. He's caring and wants to see people make something of themselves."

Terry met Maria Carr, Intown's director of outreach, at Mercy about six months ago. They talked and made a case plan, discussing Terry's barriers to moving forward into housing. With the support of Mercy and a good friend who encouraged Terry in his sobriety, Maria (using the Housing First model) worked with Terry to find affordable housing. After spending 34 years in homelessness, Terry moved into permanent housing in January 2015. And with the continued aftercare of Intown's Outreach program, Terry is managing his finances, spending time in the community room at his apartment complex, and enjoying being housed. "I have felt good about myself," he said. "For the first time, I have a place to call my home. I am glad to have a roof over my head and housing after all these years."

Terry's goals include restarting physical therapy, maintaining his housing and his sobriety, and getting more connected to his community. In the past, he has been sober for as long as six months. This month, he will earn his 90-day chip.

Volunteer Profile



Photo: Steven Cushing

Laura Cushing is a beloved preschool teacher at Druid Hills United Methodist Church. But outside of school hours, you're likely to find her at Intown's Food Pantry, also located at Druid Hills UMC. She's been a diligent worker at the Pantry since it opened. In fact, she served on one of the startup committees.

"I've lived in the neighborhood for about 20 years, and I realized that the people coming to the Pantry were people I saw on a daily basis," said Laura. "I started recognizing faces, and our homeless neighbors recognized me. That's how my friendship with many of our visitors came about."

Laura is a Food Pantry distribution leader one Saturday each month. That means she keeps the day running smoothly. However, there's much more behind-the-scenes work. During the week, Laura weighs and shelves all donations, cleans the refrigerator, rotates stock, and packs 20 Express Bags (to-go bags) for Pantry visitors who need food but for various reasons can't stand in line on a Saturday morning.

Laura would like us all to know that the Food Pantry is "not just a Saturday thing." If you have time to volunteer during the week, please contact Caroline Cahill at caroline@intowncm.org. There are many ways to serve to "make Saturday happen" for the 85 guests we serve each week.

Our Resource Table is a welcome addition to the Food Pantry. Trained volunteers help connect our visitors with resources such as a veterans' group or a mental health organization.