



## **Congregation Highlight**

Haygood Memorial United Methodist Church began in 1926 in a small, two-story building on the back of the lot at the corner of Highland Avenue and Lanier Place. The roll recorded 36 charter members, and it's said that Haygood's first pastor met every moving truck that appeared in the neighborhood. Just before World War II, the church bought its present property at 1015 East Rock Springs Road.

Haygood youth are regular and devoted Food Pantry volunteers once a month. Haygood's men's and women's organizations, Scouts, and mission committee also support Intown's programs. The church's senior pastor is the Rev. Dr. Sheila Bookout.

## **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

## **Fresh!**

Tomatoes. Apples. Squash. Broccoli. Peaches. These may be usual items in your grocery cart, but until recently, members of Intown's food pantry and its two food Co-ops had limited access to fresh produce. That is changing.



**Food Pantry.** In May 2013, Intown received a \$31,000 grant for capacity-building from the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) and the Whitehead Foundation. With this money, we increased our Food Pantry storage and purchased one freezer and two industrial-sized, energy-efficient refrigerators. Now we can store seasonal and fresh food that we purchase, obtain from ACFB, or receive from individuals. Fresh food collected during a week is distributed the following Saturday to Food Pantry participants.

**Food Co-ops.** In the past year, Intown has increased by over 300% the amount of fresh produce our Co-op members receive. That means that members, who previously took home less than 3 lbs. of fresh produce/month, are now receiving 10 lbs./month.

Food Co-ops are in place at Briarcliff Summit and William Booth Towers. At both locations, residents are low-income, and many are elderly or disabled. Members pay \$10/month to be part of a Co-op that provides them with \$100 food/month, and word spreads quickly that the Co-op is well worth the effort.

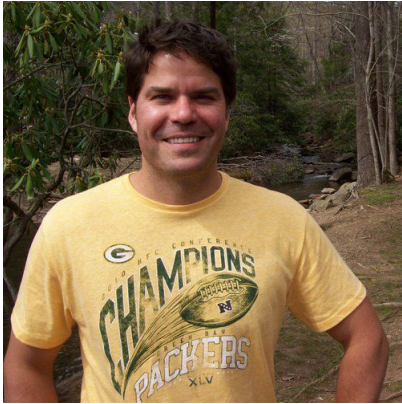
Members attend two meetings each month and participate by ordering and unloading food, collecting the required fee, or making name badges for meetings. Rev. Allen Jones, our Co-op coordinator, buys produce twice a month. Within two hours of pickup, it's delivered to a meeting for members to take to their rooms.

***With this new focus, Intown Co-op members receive more fresh produce as well as food staples.***

**FALL 2013**

[www.intowncm.org](http://www.intowncm.org)

1026 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30306



I didn't even make it through the sermon in church before my stomach started growling.

I had eaten my first breakfast on my SNAP Challenge on a Sunday morning last month and I was hungry again

before noon. SNAP (formerly food stamps) provides an average of \$31.70/week of assistance to 49 million hungry Americans. The SNAP Challenge is to live on this amount, if only for a week. For me, it was an exercise that I knew would be over in seven days. Yet I felt in my body something of the life of so many of my neighbors.

I lost eight pounds in seven days. I'm not complaining or looking for sympathy. I lost weight because it is impossible for poor people to afford healthy food. I tried. I ate beans and rice, whole wheat pasta and oatmeal, vegetables and milk. But it wasn't enough, not for me and not for the 23 million kids or 4 million seniors in the United States on SNAP.

I am equal parts grateful and outraged having experienced even a simulation of hunger in this country. Voices in the media judge and criticize the poor and hungry, yet with no contact, much less empathy, with poor and hungry people. I encourage you to join us at the Intown Food Pantry on a Saturday or the Intown Food Co-ops on a Thursday. And call your U.S. Representative (202-224-3121) and tell them to save SNAP funding.

I believe we are called to care for each other, especially for the vulnerable. Hunger is not an "issue." It's people. Get connected. Join us.

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

# Dine Out For ICM!

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

10% Of Your Bill Between  
6 PM - Midnight  
Goes To Support ICM!



Gordon Biersch Restaurant Midtown  
848 Peachtree Street  
(Between 6th and 7th)

## Support Our Programs

Intown is a lifeline for over 600 families in our intown Atlanta neighborhoods. Last month alone, our Food Pantry and Co-ops delivered over 9,500 pounds of food to 590 hungry guests. Our Street Outreach and Heading Home programs served 60 people, and our Clothes Closet is bustling. All of the work we do is because of supporters like you. Will you donate to Intown this fall? Return your gift in the enclosed envelope or click on [intowncm.org](http://intowncm.org). All donations of cash, stocks, and in-kind are tax deductible as allowed by law.

**Donate**

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## Never Give Up

### Partner Profile: Kenny - Heading Home Program



Kenny is a talented and resourceful man. He's crafted ice sculptures and food displays for hotel banquets, and when he worked in construction, he built the structures that support bridges.

When Kenny's house burned, he decided against living with relatives and didn't ask his father or family for money. Instead, he chose to be homeless. Only one sister knew that Kenny was sleeping in shelters.

While at Journey, a shelter for men supported by several Sponsoring Congregations, two things happened. First, Kenny was helping a friend paint houses, and the wife of the contractor recommended him for employment at the Marcus Jewish Community Center. Second, he heard about our Heading Home program.

Kenny has now been employed in food service at the Marcus JCC for more than a year. He started part-time, learning the system, ordering supplies, and getting to know menus and clients. Since August 2012, Kenny has been the kitchen coordinator at the center, serving breakfast and lunch to about 70 adults each day. He knows all of them by name and remembers their dietary requirements.

Kenny was recommended by Journey for the Heading Home program, but he had to wait for an opening. Maria Carr, Intown's case worker, can work with approximately 12 partners at one time.

"I was proud of Kenny for his creativity," Maria said. "We talked about how he could move into an apartment on his income. And he came up with the idea of sharing an apartment with Al, a fellow chef who lived at Journey. They get along very well, and it was brilliant of them to make it work."



Because different programs have different rules about length of stay, Kenny had to move from shelter to shelter. But he says, "If you're homeless, never give up. There are a lot of good people out there who will help if they see you're making an effort. They'll back you up. Never give up. Never."



## Thankful for the Opportunity

### Volunteer Profile: Howard Campbell

Howard Campbell seems to do things in "two's." He has two wonderful children, two master's degrees, two major responsibilities with his job at the Atlanta Community Food Bank — and he volunteers every second Saturday as the distribution leader at our Food Pantry.

Howard's interest in social service is genetic. "I grew up in a giving society," he said. "Both Mom and Dad taught me to give back, and for some reason, I really became invested when I moved to Atlanta. In a sense it cleanses me. It changes my mood knowing I was able to help another family."

As the former social services coordinator at Briarcliff Summit Apartments, Howard was well acquainted with Intown's work. When he began to volunteer at the Food Pantry, he was a "runner," someone who takes a participant's order to be filled. (Before a runner fills an order, a participant signs in and is interviewed about his/her food needs, ability to cook, allergies, etc.) For the past three years, he's been the distribution leader, responsible for all operations — everything from assigning volunteers and assessing pantry needs to cleaning up. "I enjoy staying connected," said Howard. "As people come back to the Food Pantry, I see they're still growing. And progress always brings a smile to my face."

Howard is especially proud of participants who give back. One is a part-time employee who cleans at the pantry, while others volunteer consistently. "They are now fully engaged in helping people," he said. "It's a breath of fresh air to see people doing this work when they're not required to do it. I love seeing the evolution from participant to volunteer."

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Please join us for the  
Intown Collaborative Ministries

## 3rd Annual Food Day Banquet

Thursday October 24, 2013  
5- 7 p.m.

Druid Hills United Methodist Church | 1200 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30306



**Bring your family and a covered dish  
that serves 10!**

*Come celebrate National Food Day and the work of ICM at our family potluck!*

October 24 is National Food Day. Please join us for our annual celebration of ICM's work to eliminate hunger in the neighborhood. Members and guests of our food pantry and food co-ops will join volunteers, supporters, and parishioners from ICM's 16 Sponsoring Congregations for this celebration of community, food, music, and fellowship.



*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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on Facebook  
for more info



### Lynda Baker (1955-2013) In Memoriam

On July 8, 2013, Lynda Baker died in her sleep. She was 58 years old. With her bright dresses, Lynda was a fixture on Ponce and at the Intown Food Pantry. She had been homeless for about 10 years in Atlanta. Our Heading Home case worker helped Lynda find housing on four different occasions, none of which ended up being permanent. She died sleeping in a lean-to shack in the woods. Each year, 40-60 people die on the streets in Atlanta, an average of 25 years sooner than the general population.

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