

Turning Point

June 2016



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TONY JOHNS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Proven servant leader embraces new role*



Crossroads has a new leader. The Board of Directors of Crossroads Community Ministries has selected Tony Johns to be the organization's next executive director. Currently Chief Operating Officer of City of Refuge, Johns takes up his new duties on July 1.

"We are simply thrilled with this appointment," noted Crossroads Board Chair Wayne Vason, senior counsel with Troutman Sanders. "Over the past 16 years, Stan Dawson and his team built a gratifying reputation for combining compassion, accountability and dignity in service to the homeless among us. Tony Johns's record with one of our key partners, the City of Refuge, along with his lifelong pattern of service to others have prepared him superbly for this opportunity."

Johns joins Crossroads with significant experience in operations, fundraising and program management gained within a variety of nonprofit and faith-based organizations in Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, California and Utah, many of which serve the needs of the homeless.

"I have experienced first-hand the impact of Crossroads' work with some of the most vulnerable people in our community," Johns said. "I am humbled by the board's vote of confidence and look forward to working with the committed staff and volunteers as together we collaborate with others in service to people in need."

The search for a new executive director encompassed over 100 area leaders, many with direct experience serving the disadvantaged. "After several rounds of interviews with a number of highly interesting candidates, the search committee concluded unanimously that Tony combined just the right blend of experience, passion and ministerial grounding to help lead our organization to even greater impact in service to our guests and to the larger community," noted Vason.

Over the past seven years with City of Refuge in northwest Atlanta, Johns has been Director of Community Involvement, Chief Development Officer and, most recently, Chief Operating Officer.

An active volunteer himself, Tony Johns currently serves on the board of directors of Bright Futures Atlanta. Previous roles include his chairmanship of The Refuge Community Centre in Cleveland, TN, service on The Employment Council for the United Way Regional Commission on Homelessness in metro Atlanta, and his participation on the advisory board of "Smart & Secure Children Parenting for Parent Leaders" for the Satcher Health Leadership Institute of the Morehouse School of Medicine.

A native of Cleveland, Tennessee, Johns is an ordained minister of the Church of God. He, his wife Angela and their two children reside in Douglasville.

Johns succeeds long-time executive director, Stan Dawson, who retired from full-time service in December 2015 after over 16 years of service to the mission.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Thanks to donations from Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, Crossroads is now able to help "dress" its Guests for job interviews – a much-overlooked but key element to moving from homelessness to the workforce. The law firm donated over 2,500 pieces of new and gently used women's, men's and children's clothing and shoes - including 50 suits. Attorney John Moyer serves on the Crossroads' board and helped bring attention to Crossroads' program assisting individuals transitioning from homelessness back into the workforce and the need for donations. Volunteers working on the clothes drive also prepared 100 toiletry kits to be distributed along with the business attire. Special thanks goes to LaToya Conaway, Daniel Copeland, Beth Harris, and Lavonia Hayes for leading this effort through the Atlanta Volunteer Council.

2016 SADDLE UP GALA A HUGE SUCCESS



Our 4th Annual Saddle Up with Crossroads Benefit was our most successful ever! We celebrated Stan Dawson’s sixteen years of leadership and service, and raised over \$176,000 for Crossroads’ programs and services.

Thanks to our “Dream Team” Co-Chairs, John Beane, Perry Foreman, Jane Long and Marry Perrin for putting together a fun evening of good food, drink and entertainment, featuring the Parson’s Pickers bluegrass band. And we had a terrific Silent Auction headed by Nancy Zintak, Laura Law, Marilyn Williams, Jeffrey Hagy and Cheryl Alford and Live Auction with Cap and Drew Putt (Donald Trump and Megan Kelly) as auctioneers.

In addition to our Auction and Ticket Sales, the financial success of this important annual event is largely dependent upon Patron and Corporate Sponsors. Our Sponsor team of Mike Ruberti, Robert Kennedy, Livingston Johnson and John Moye made this our most successful event ever.

Our brief program featured a film edited by Kate Kennedy and David Hinshaw which focused on Crossroads’ Services as a primary first stop for our Homeless Guests. It takes an army of volunteers to put on a successful and entertaining fundraiser. We are grateful to all of you who attended and all of you who made this evening so successful. Be on the lookout for a “Save the Date” for our 2017 Crossroads Saddle Up Benefit!

Wayne Vason
Board Chair



Empowering people who are homeless to progress on the road toward economic and personal self sufficiency.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

PRESENTING	WIN
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Jordan Jones, a student at The Lovett School, was able to collect over 750 items by organizing his fellow students and seeking donations from RPM Health Club, Elite

Smiles Chastain, Atlanta Center for Cosmetic Dentistry and Georgia Skin Specialists.

The track team at Starr's Mill High School in Fayetteville collected over 200 pairs of shoes for Crossroads in its first ever shoe drive. Thank you, Coaches Walker and Jones!



CROSSROADS Hope Lost - Dignity Found by Audrey L. Jones

In a time
Where helplessness
Wants to claim you
Hopefulness breaks through

Your stomach is rumbling
Your documents are missing
There is nowhere that you belong
But hold on...

A meal, a prayer, a ride, a coat
A sense of dignity
To challenge the void inside
Is it all thrown up to chance?

Or did God meet you at the Crossroad(s)?

A note from the author:

My name is Audry Jones and I fell hard. My disability along with financial instability put me in a position where I had seemingly nothing that I needed for basic survival.

Caught in a crowd of those like me, unable to distinguish who wanted to evolve or make "homeless" a permanent home, I was encouraged to go to an orientation at Crossroads.

When will I return to a professional career, a home, the life I once knew? It may take sometime...meanwhile Crossroads has offered me a light to guide my steps.

Meals, shoes for a job interview that resulted in a hire, birth certificate replacement, an address to receive correspondence, a warm coat in response to feeling cold, all delivered with a sincere vote of confidence and a smile.

Thank you so much!!



Phone: 404-873-7650
Email: info@crossroadsatlanta.org

For more information, to volunteer or to donate:
CrossroadsAtlanta.org

KUDOS for CLYDE



Crossroad's Clyde Corbin has been nominated for the Atlanta Citizen Review Board's (ACRB) Kathryn Johnston Spirit of Truth Award. Through this award the ACRB honors individuals and groups that have rendered extraordinary service to the community.

In announcing the nomination, ACRB noted: "For over 24 years, Clyde Corbin has been the director of the Crossroads Kitchen. "Mr. Clyde," his dedicated staff, and tireless volunteers rise before dawn each day to serve over 60,000 meals each year. By the end of 2013, Mr. Clyde had served approximately 2,800,000 meals."

Crossroads supports ACRB's mission of making sure that all citizens are treated fairly and justly by allowing ACRB to distribute information cards to its guests that spell out their rights when encountering law enforcement.

ACRB was established in 2007 to ensure that city departments directly responsible for public safety, particularly the Police Department and the Department of Corrections, have the proper support of the government and its various agencies. It is designed to provide citizen oversight of misconduct accusations against sworn members of the police and corrections departments in the City of Atlanta, providing credible, independent forum where complaints and accusations can be assessed.

