

Executive Director's Insight!

I have written before about the stained glass over the Courtland Street entrance to our offices. It graphically depicts the Acts of Mercy spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 25. In this passage, the provision of or equal access to food, water, clothing, housing, healthcare and justice are extolled as fundamental to the function of every community. Each day, we are poignantly reminded of our purpose as our guests enter under this beautiful symbol.

But each day, we are also reminded that, as a whole, our society does not value each person equally or provide equal opportunity. We see first-hand the disparities that exist based upon race and ethnicity, gender and sexual identity, what neighborhood one is born into, physical abilities, or even physical attributes. We do our best with the resources to which we have access to navigate barriers on behalf of our neighbors, but the underlying causes of inequity continue to work against us. Many of these factors have indeed become systemic in the social fabric.

The thing that is most frustrating in our work is not the lack of resources that exist in our community, it is the limited access those we serve have to those resources. I was struck this past week by the following statement shared by the Center for Action and Contemplation (founded and led by Father Richard Rohr) from Rachel Harding. She was inspired by the work of her mother, Rosemarie Freeney Harding, who was a spiritual leader in the Black Freedom Movement and helped form an interracial community in Atlanta in the 1960's. Harding writes:

There is no scarcity. There is no shortage. No lack of love, of compassion, of joy in the world. There is enough. There is more than enough. Only fear and greed make us think otherwise. No one need starve. There is enough land and enough food. No one need die of thirst. There is enough water. No one need live without mercy. There is no end to grace. And we are all instruments of grace. The more we give it, the more we share it, the more we use it, the more God makes. There is no scarcity of love. There is plenty. And always more.

When we move from an insular perspective of scarcity and self-preservation to one of plenty and self-giving, we begin to break down the barriers that create inequity. If as individuals and a community we can learn to live with open hands, asking first what role we play in creating equal access to all the community's resources for the good of all who live in the community, we can begin to change the far-too often accepted injustices of homelessness and poverty that do not have to exist.

So, what is your role? How will you use your gifts, your talents, even your privilege, to dismantle the inequities around you? If we work together, we just might change things.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Program Highlights

Renewal Project

The **Renewal Project** continues to provide fundamental stabilization services to our guests in the local community. These come in the form of individual assessments, case management, a mailing address along with mailbox access, identification and documentation services, and direct referrals to various partners in the Atlanta area.

Door-To-Door

Our **Door-To-Door** Housing Program continues to grow and expand as we provide support to individuals, families and veterans who are experiencing homelessness. This support comes in the form of case management, emergency rent, move-in costs, utility assistance, employment navigation and much more. Our goal is to provide our direct services well and partner with other top rated organizations who handle the other supports our guests may need.

Clyde's Kitchen

The dining table has been a staple of Crossroads. We believe a loving and trusting relationship can greatly impact ones journey to stability.

Clyde's Kitchen has maintained and enhanced the environment in which our guests receive more than just a meal. Through great leadership, supportive staff and seasoned volunteers, we're able to create a safe, loving and trusting environment for guests as they take advantage of the supports available thru The **Renewal Project** and the **Door-To-Door** Housing Program.



Partners Matter!

Check out the amazing partners we have on campus weekly/monthly providing crucial care and support to our community guests. Our impact increases dramatically due to these great providers!

- [Richmont Trauma Center](#)-Counseling and behavioral health therapy
- [Housing Plus](#)-Placement and housing navigation
- [Gateway](#)-Diversion prevention and Rapid Exit services
- [Aniz Inc.](#)-HIV Testing and support
- [Sickle Cell Foundation of Ga.](#)-State benefit screening

Partner Highlight

Crossroads ability to enhance our guests experience is multifaceted.

One of those facets includes our amazing partners who offer specialized supports we do not have to directly provide or raise funding for; we simply provide the space. Richmont Trauma Center has been such a partner for more than a year. Mr. Eric Daniel has been the primary therapist here on Mondays offering support to our guests; in person, virtually and at other Richmont Trauma Center locations. He will soon be stepping into the Coordinator role, overseeing the therapists and interns here at Crossroads and the Boyce L. Ansley School. I had time to sit down with him recently to reflect on his time here thus far and here's what I learned...

Visit our website to read entire highlight story,

<https://crossroadsatlanta.org/news/>

Numbers with A Story

January to June 2022

Behind every number lies a story! These stories belong to the amazing resilient guests we have the honor and privilege of coming alongside each and every day. Below you will find the ways this has been accomplished.

Renewal Project

- 1,877 New Guests served
- 6,245 Mail room visits
- 2,088 Birth certificates/ID's provided
- 117 Mobile site engagements

Clyde's Kitchen

- 16,140 Meals served
- 428 Volunteers
- \$35,870 in food donations



Door-To-Door

- 241 Households assisted
- 101 Households secured new housing
- 33 Employment connections
- \$142,447.90 in housing support



"I thank God for Crossroads...Once they help you, you help yourself, then you go out and help someone else"

-The Bookers

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