

## Executive Director's Insight

My friend Cotten recently shared an article\* with me detailing the writer's first time engaging with someone experiencing homelessness in her neighborhood. The article by Amanda Blum (lifehacker.com) goes on to give some insightful guidance on how to best assist our houseless neighbors (she shares a compelling reason for the use of the word "houselessness" over "homelessness"). Blum provides an astute summary of the many physical and social barriers that exist for individuals and families as they struggle to overcome their circumstances, saying:

*"Think of anytime you've had to deal with your health insurance, or the cable company, or the IRS, and how frustrating and time-consuming that was. You probably still got it done, but it was clear who to call, and you did it from the quiet comfort of your home or job, on a cell phone that had unlimited minutes and was charged, in a warm place, with a fridge and pantry nearby.*

*Now try to reimagine doing that while trying to keep your body warm enough not to shiver, in clothes you've been wearing for days, with traffic noise around you, on a phone you've borrowed with no place to charge, while trying to figure out how you'll get your next meal. You probably haven't had decent sleep in a long time because of the cold, or anxiety about security, or the police making you pack up and move suddenly, without anywhere for you to go."*

\*<https://lifehacker.com/why-you-shouldn-t-call-the-police-on-an-unhoused-person-1850344587>

Each day more than 100 men, women and children walk through the doors at Crossroads having faced these realities and many other barriers on their journey to leave homelessness behind. Such trauma can strip away their **dignity**, leaving them with anxiety and trepidation as they seek to navigate a daunting labyrinth of often confusing and unwelcoming public and private resources which may or may not lead to real help.

As we continue to strive each day to ensure that the process at Crossroads is more accessible and more informative, leading to real opportunity for stability, we recognize that the most important step is usually the first one. Taking the time to get to our facility and deciding to walk through the door and ask for help is a true act of courage. Such an act by any human being deserves to be met with **dignity** and **compassion**. But for the moment, our neighbors are met with the frustration of a long line, standing outside on a sidewalk - maybe for hours - as hundreds of cars pass by, dealing with whatever conditions the weather throws at them.

In response, we have introduced the **Pathway to Dignity Project**, a \$1.2 million campaign to create a space where all are welcomed and provided a respite from the trauma of homelessness. In this space (detailed in this newsletter), our neighbors will be afforded the **dignity** of a beautiful, covered courtyard in which to wait, providing the time they need to decompress and collect their thoughts before jumping into the process of securing the resources they need. They will also be shown the hospitality they deserve, receiving vital information from staff and volunteers who are trained and ready to make the next steps go more smoothly and quickly.

I am asking that each of you continue with our neighbors on this Pathway by maintaining your financial support of the programs and services at Crossroads. Summer is always a challenging time in our budget, and we depend on you to sustain the resources we provide for the more than 6,000 individuals we serve each year. If you would like to make a gift or pledge specifically for the **Pathway to Dignity Project**, please reach out to me directly at [tony@crossroadsatlanta.org](mailto:tony@crossroadsatlanta.org).

Peace,

Tony



# PATHWAY TO DIGNITY PROJECT

Creating a space where ALL are welcome



The Pathway To Dignity Project is a structural enhancement we've desired for years to better serve our guests as well as to functionally make operations flow in a more seamless and productive way.

**DIGNITY** is a core value of Crossroads which we seek to practice in every aspect of our work. This new enhancement will allow for our guest to be **SEEN, HEARD** and **SUPPORTED**.

## Check out the **Plans!**



## Scan to see more





# 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.





# Numbers with A Story

## January to April 2023

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

- 1006 New Guests served
- 6,230 Mail room visits
- 10,052 Birth certificates/ID's provided
- 92 Mobile site engagements

### Clyde's Kitchen

- 8,838 Meals served
- 207 Volunteers
- \$21,632.19 in food donations

### Door-To-Door

- 95 Households assisted
- 49 Prevention households served
- 46 Households secured new housing
- \$131,280.05 in housing support



We ALL need a hand!  
Join us as we seek after hands left empty.

P.O. Box 55397

Atlanta, Ga. 30308

[info@crossroadsatlanta.org](mailto:info@crossroadsatlanta.org)

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

