

Executive Director's Insight

"I really need help with rent for this month and I will be able to pay every month after. Please!! I had to pay my little brother senior fee so he can graduate next month. Please help me!"

"I'm 44 years of age and I've been homeless since March of 2023, and I've been trying to find a place to live ever since. I receive disability monthly, and I also cut hair on the side. I wasn't evicted. Code enforcement seized the property due to non-maintenance from the landlord and I had to move. I've been living from hotel to my car for over a year. Could you please help? I have kids as well and my situation is hindering my relationship with them."

"As a single parent, my 2-year-old and I have faced significant challenges recently. Earlier this year, we were evicted from our home due to my job loss in September, which was preceded by a mental breakdown resulting from depression. I had to seek treatment at a facility to address my mental health concerns. Since then, we've been homeless, lacking both stable shelter and transportation. Our financial situation is dire, with several overdue utility bills adding to our burden. Despite my efforts, job hunting has been futile, and without access to childcare, finding employment has been even more challenging. I've applied to numerous jobs to no avail. Additionally, I've sought assistance from programs, but have encountered roadblocks and haven't been successful in securing aid. At this point, our primary need is stability—a stable home and a reliable source of income. Any assistance in obtaining housing and finding employment would be greatly appreciated as we strive to rebuild our lives."

These are just a small sample of the more than 20 requests for housing assistance we receive each day. According to the *National Low Income Housing Coalition*, "*The affordable housing crisis and the inability to afford housing is the primary cause of homelessness.*" In Georgia, there are only 34 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 of the lowest-income renters, and someone working full time would need to earn \$24.75 an hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment – well above the minimum wage. (https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/SCOTUS_Grants-Pass-V-Johnson_Advocacy-Toolkit.pdf)

In 2023, thanks in large part to the support of The United Way of Greater Atlanta and Fulton County, Crossroads had the privilege of directly assisting 142 households in avoiding eviction and the very real threat of experiencing homelessness, providing more than \$200,000 in relief. But this was just a small portion of the total requests that were received. It is heart-wrenching to have to refer families in real life crisis to other programs because of a lack of resources to meet the volume of demand, knowing that the programs to which we refer them may also be overwhelmed. For so many, assistance with just one or two month's rent or utilities can make the difference between maintaining stable housing or slipping into the despair of homelessness. Once that occurs, it becomes far more difficult - and far more expensive - to return to a stable existence.

We know what **works** to end homelessness: providing individuals and families with immediate access to stable, affordable and safe housing with supportive services such as case management, healthcare (including mental health services) and employment services. These all work together to improve long-term housing sustainability and personal well-being. Without this support, many will be stuck in a perpetual cycle of housing crisis that erodes all the other stabilizing factors in life.

That is why we continue to reach out to you, the **Crossroads Family**, to help us say "**Yes**" to families seeking to avoid homelessness. It is not enough to just provide a response for those who have already lost their home. Until we as a **community** guarantee affordable housing for all, we will never end the injustice of homelessness.

Tony Johns

Donate+Discover

**Are you desiring to get involved
but can't come in person?**

Consider our **Donate+Discover** Initiatives!

These initiatives allow you to support our work in very real and tangible ways which directly benefit our guests as they engage with our various supportive service programs.

Go to the link below to learn more and feel free to reach out with any questions you may have!

<https://crossroadsatlanta.org/volunteer/#donateanddiscover>



CAMPAIGN UPDATE!

PATHWAY TO DIGNITY PROJECT

Creating a space where ALL are welcome



See Our Progress!

\$1,000,000 Raised

We are nearing our overall goal for the *Pathway to Dignity Project*. Through the support of many **amazing** foundations and individual commitments we're preparing to break ground this **October**! With this being a reality, we need your help to get us to our overall goal. If you'd like to make a **pledge** or **donation** towards the *PTDP*, please scan the QR code or go to the link below.

<https://crossroadsatlanta.org/pathway-to-dignity-project/>



Scan to see more



Numbers with A Story

January to March 2024

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.

The Renewal Project

- 899 New Guests served
- 4,402 Mail room visits
- 470 Birth certificates
- 352 ID's provided

Door-To-Door

- 47 Households assisted
- 23 Prevention households served
- 24 Households secured new housing
- \$57,343.02 in housing support

Clyde's Kitchen

- 7,391 Meals served
- 304 Volunteers
- Over \$29,000 in food donations



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