

Executive Director's Insight

So often in our public discourse we see assumptions made about entire groups or classes of people who are left out of the conversation. But if this election cycle has taught us anything, it is that **no group, class or race is a monolith**. This is no different for those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. From the chronically unhoused living on the street with severe and persistent mental health challenges, to the single, working mom living in an extended stay motel with her children, there is a spectrum of experiences and causes of homelessness and poverty that demands a diversity of responses. When we talk about these issues, it's easy for discussions to become oversimplified or even abstract, but the reality is far more nuanced. People who are unhoused or at risk of homelessness come from all walks of life, with unique circumstances that require tailored approaches.

We recently held our annual fundraiser and chose the theme “**Pathway to Home.**” But the reality is that there must be many pathways to stability because no two journeys are the same. For some, it might mean providing mental health support and long-term care; For others, it might involve temporary shelter, job training and housing assistance, or some combination of all of these. The diversity of these needs reflects the fact that the root causes of homelessness—whether economic, social, or psychological—are just as varied. Are we listening to what those in crisis are telling us about the realities of their need and the forces, most often beyond their control, that have led to their situation? Or are we projecting our own experience onto them and assuming that we know what is best?

With a change in administration, **the future of critical social services is more uncertain than ever**. Proposed tax breaks and budget cuts from the incoming administration will disproportionately harm those experiencing and at-risk of homelessness.* This places the burden for the needed responses for the health and safety of our neighbors squarely at the feet of nonprofit organizations like Crossroads. While concerned citizens must continue to respond by advocating and voting for public services commensurate with the challenge, we must also decide if we will defer to the existing public and private systems, which are often under resourced, understaffed and overwhelmed, or if we will personally invest in the future of our own communities. A response that will meet the need will require more education, more action and more money.

Crossroads stands ready to respond. We take the time every day to listen to the stories our neighbors are sharing, and we understand the work it takes to walk with each one to a place of stability. That journey takes the time, effort and expertise of case managers and support staff willing to give of themselves for the good of the community. They understand how to navigate a complex system of services that can be overwhelming. What they need is more help and access to more immediate resources. For a nonprofit, that means more people giving more often. If you are one of those who have made that investment, thank you! We need you now more than ever to remain faithful in your giving. If you have not yet chosen to invest in this critical work, now is the time! **Be part of making your community a place where everyone can find a pathway to home.**

Peace, *** See a recent Brookings Institution analysis of this at <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/trump-administration-budgets-and-programs-for-people-of-limited-means/>**

Tony

Did You Know?

Crossroads Community Ministries was officially founded in **1996**, but our roots trace back to **1974**.

It all began with the **Ladies of St. Luke's Episcopal Church**, a group of compassionate women dedicated to providing meals to those in need.

Your continued support helps us honor this legacy of service and create new pathways to stability for our neighbors.



Pathways Built Together

Pathway to Home Fundraiser

On October 3, thanks to your generosity, we raised \$50,000 to support the Door-to-Door Housing Program, which provides tailored housing solutions for families, veterans, and individuals.

Atlanta Pride Parade

This year, we handed out water at the Atlanta Pride Parade for the first time, demonstrating solidarity and care for thousands of attendees.

PepsiCo Water Donation

During a downtown boil advisory this summer, PepsiCo donated lifesaving water when our community faced intolerable heat and limited access to clean drinking water.

Atlanta Community Food Bank Partnership

Our partnership with ACFB continues to grow! This summer, ACFB began assisting guests with SNAP benefit applications, helping up to 20 guests a month access critical resources.

Atlanta Falcons Rookie Club

This fall, the Falcons Rookie Club joined us in Clyde's Kitchen, bringing energy, compassion, and teamwork to serve our guests.

Did You Know?

On any given night in 2024, over **1,040** individuals are visibly experiencing homelessness on the streets of Atlanta. This number does not include those staying in shelters, motels, or short-term living situations, where thousands more face instability and uncertainty. At Crossroads, **24%** of the adults we assisted are veterans, and **57%** of those we served are children. Your support ensures these neighbors have access to stability, dignity, and hope. Together, we can continue building pathways to brighter futures.



Building a Pathway to Dignity

We're thrilled to share exciting progress on the **Pathway to Dignity Campaign!** This initiative will create a covered entrance and walkway, ensuring our guests have a safe, welcoming environment as they access essential services. With **\$50,000 left to reach our fundraising goal**, we are aiming to break ground in 2025. Thanks to generous contributions from supporters like the **Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation**, we're closer than ever to making this vision a reality. Every gift helps us build a space that reflects the dignity and care we extend to all who come through our doors. If you'd like to contribute to this project, visit <https://crossroadscommunityministries.kindful.com>

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Fall 2024

How You Can Help

Join Kroger Community Rewards

Make an impact while you shop! By linking your **Kroger Rewards Card** to Crossroads Community Ministries, a portion of every purchase helps fund our programs. Visit [kroger.com/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) to sign up today.

Become a Monthly Giver

Join the **Crossroads Cornerstones** and provide ongoing support that helps sustain our mission. Monthly giving ensures consistent resources for meals, housing assistance, and vital services to our neighbors in need.

Corporate Matching Coming Soon!

We are excited to announce that **corporate matching** will be launching as part of our year-end campaign! Soon, a search bar will appear on our regular donation page, making it easy to see if your company participates in matching gifts. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!

Volunteer Your Time

From **Clyde's Kitchen** to the **Renewal Project Mailroom**, there are plenty of ways to make a difference. Whether you're available weekly or just once, we'd love to have your support.

Every act of kindness brings us closer to a stronger, more compassionate community. Visit our website or contact us to learn more about these opportunities to get involved!



Imagine Your Impact Lasting for Generations

Through legacy giving, you can ensure Crossroads continues to serve with love, compassion, and dignity for years to come.

Starting in January 2025, we'll launch our **Legacy Giving Campaign** to grow our new endowment seeded by the **Schoen Foundation**. Would you like to learn more? Use the enclosed postcard or email knewman@crossroadsatlanta.org to request more information.

Every pathway to stability begins with a small, meaningful step.

Annual Sponsors Making a Difference

We are deeply grateful to our annual sponsors who sustain our programs year-round. Special thanks to United Way, a key supporter of our Door-to-Door Housing Program, and to all our sponsors for their dedication to building a stronger community.



Wayne and Lee
Harper Vason



Marc and Carol
Gendell





Numbers with a Story

MAY- OCT '24

- **The Renewal Project**
 - **788** State IDs Provided
 - **660** Marta Support Provided
 - **837** Birth Certificates Provided
 - **7,627** Mailroom Visits
 - **271** Volunteers Engaged In Service
- **Clyde's Kitchen**
 - **12,991** Meals Served
 - **565** Volunteers Engaged In Service
 - **2,073.2 lbs** Food Saved From The Landfill
- **Door-to Door Housing**
 - **28** Households Prevented From Losing Housing
 - **52** Households Assisted In Securing Housing
 - **93** Adults Assisted
 - **22** Veterans Assisted
 - **123** Children Assisted
 - **4,599** Households Seeking Housing Services

Every statistic tells a story of **resilience and the power of community**. These numbers reflect your unwavering **solidarity** with our neighbors in need and your commitment to building **pathways to stability**. While we do as much as we can with the resources we have, it is only a drop in the bucket compared to the immense and growing need. Together, as a **united community**, we can expand our capacity and ensure no one is left behind in their journey toward **stability and dignity**.