

# THE GIVING LIFE

Summer 2025

Community  
Foundation  
for Greater Atlanta

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY



Folks,

As I write this note, our community, both neighborhoods across Atlanta, and America, for that matter, is navigating significant and uncertain change. Bruce Feiler calls it 'lifequakes' – alluding to the pace of philosophical, technological, and social change that test our shared values.

Throughout this edition, we invite you to read stories about giving, where our shared values of impact and belonging ground us. These thoughtful perspectives from your fellow donors, investors in our affordable housing program, your Board Chair, and Feiler himself, provide salve in challenging times.

In these stories a repeated message of hope, belonging and the importance of community speaks to what binds us. Trust is built through people, at the local level, coming together to solve problems and chart a shared future. Local solutions for local problems.

That local connection matters now more than ever, and we hope you will join us through this edition of *THE GIVING LIFE*.

In service,

Frank

*P.S. Please don't forget to mark your calendars for the 25th anniversary of our Investment Briefing on September 25 at Ansley Golf Club and on October 8 for 10% Happier with former Good Morning America anchor, Dan Harris, at the Atlanta History Center.*

## INSIDE

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On the cover: City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens is joined by Foundation board member Marc Pollack and housing leader Sarah Kirsch for the ribbon cutting at Bonaventure.

# BUILT



# TO

# LAST

From homelessness to homeownership and everything in between, a broad coalition is working to make Atlanta a better place for all who call it home.

Above photos from upper left clockwise: (opposite page) 729 Bonaventure St. housing renovation project; Quest's Residences at Holly Hills at 339 Holly Street; Georgia Works at 250 Auburn Avenue NE; Domos' Towne at Lakewood Heights at 1770 Richmond Cir. SE; Atlanta Land Trust's The Avenue at Oakland City at 1091 Tucker Avenue.

*Editor's Note: In the Fall 2024 issue of THE GIVING LIFE the story "Closing Time" chronicled how the Community Foundation's housing team closed on eight properties within five weeks, resulting in grants and impact investments for the construction or renovation of 750 affordable homes for seniors, families and first-time homebuyers. The following story offers news and insights as the Foundation drives toward its goal of supporting the creation and preservation of 500 units of affordable housing by the end of 2025.*

Asking for the impossible.

That was developer Darion Dunn's first reaction when he heard of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens' rapid housing initiative to build 500 units of Permanent Supportive Housing by the end of 2025.

Dunn's second thought: Why not?

"We really had no idea how we were going to do it," Dunn said on a recent afternoon, as he took a brief break from overseeing a 24-unit affordable housing renovation at 729 Bonaventure St. "But it sometimes takes folks outside of the housing industry to push the envelope."

Darion Dunn, pictured here, founded his firm in 2010 with his brother Trenton, to focus on affordable housing, but found himself limited in his impact until partnerships with the Community Foundation came along.

**"IT SOMETIMES TAKES FOLKS OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSING INDUSTRY TO PUSH THE ENVELOPE."**

Darion Dunn

That includes folks like the housing team at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and its visionary donors, both individual and institutional, who have sped more than halfway toward the envelope-pushing goal of their own.

The Foundation is on track to support the creation or preservation of 500 units of affordable housing by the end of 2025. Sparked by an initial \$100 million commitment from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation in 2023, the Community Foundation's Atlanta Affordable Housing Fund has raised over \$152 million of the \$200 million.

Both the Foundation's and the Permanent Supportive Housing's goals are helping to drive toward Mayor Dickens' promise of building or preserving 20,000 units of affordable housing across the city by 2030.

The urgency of the effort speaks to the daunting scope of the persistent challenge and the opportunity to harness local resources for our community's needs. An Urban Land Institute's Atlanta District Council update to its 2018 Affordable Atlanta report found in 2023 that within the core five-county region, there is no ZIP code where someone earning 80% or less of the area's median income can purchase a home at the median price.

While acknowledging the substantial progress that has been achieved through Atlanta's public-private partnerships and unprecedented philanthropic funding, the study's authors characterized the findings as "distressing" – and a clarion call for more action.

Meanwhile the annual 2024 Point in Time (PIT) Count found approximately 2,867 individuals experiencing homelessness in Atlanta, including both sheltered and unsheltered populations. The count represented a 7% increase from the previous year, highlighting a growing need for effective interventions and support systems.



**THE FOUNDATION IS ON TRACK TO CREATE OR PRESERVE 500 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY THE END OF 2025, INCLUDING THESE TWO SITES, ON MORELAND AND AUBURN AVENUES, RESPECTIVELY.**



### A 'MODEL FOR THE U.S.'

The data on housing affordability and homelessness helps frame the central challenge facing most major cities nationwide: how to devise and execute solutions and actions capable of outpacing – and, over time, reducing – the rate of the affordable housing shortage.

On that count, Atlanta has emerged a pioneer. Atlanta's rapid progress has drawn national attention of leaders, planners, advocates, foundations and philanthropists eager to hear how it is tackling a common challenge.

In March, Harvard University published an article touting Atlanta's approach as "a social housing model for the U.S." The piece provides an in-depth analysis of the innovative public-private-philanthropic investment that is delivering real results.

The coverage has made Sarah Kirsch, the Community Foundation's managing director of housing funds, a first call for those from other communities who are looking to make progress on addressing their regions' housing crises.

"We've heard from community foundations from almost every major city in the country that are grappling with this issue," Kirsch said. "Some are overwhelmed on where to start. We're able to share what we have found to be our secret sauce of a unique platform of establishing a philanthropic fund and a low-cost loan fund, working with government, having a highly engaged volunteer network,

and frankly, relentless tenacity to make it happen."

A key ingredient to that sauce has been dedicated donors such as Marc Pollack, co-founder of the Atlanta Affordable Housing Fund, who worked with the Community Foundation's staff to execute on the novel idea to direct money from his donor-advised fund to support the effort.

"That was sort of the first move that opened up a whole plethora of possibilities for other people to use their donor-advised funds to do the same thing and really build momentum," Pollack said. "What's happening in Atlanta is pretty amazing. There is a terrific collaboration on this issue right now, and the Foundation is at the forefront of making it happen."

**"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ATLANTA IS PRETTY AMAZING. THERE IS A TERRIFIC COLLABORATION ON THIS ISSUE RIGHT NOW, AND THE FOUNDATION IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF MAKING IT HAPPEN."**

Marc Pollack

**"WE'VE HEARD FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS FROM ALMOST EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE COUNTRY THAT ARE GRAPPLING WITH THIS ISSUE."**

Sarah Kirsch  
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta  
Managing Director of Housing Funds

Harvard University touted Atlanta's approach as "a social housing model for the U.S."

## STEADY SUPPORT BEYOND MOVE-IN DAY

Another strength of Atlanta's efforts has been greater understanding that walking through a new front door is often just the first step in a homeowner's or resident's journey toward stability.



The entrance to the building, built in 1930 and on the National Historic Register, sits one block from Ponce City Market and on the Ponce de Leon Marta line.

**BACKED BY PARTNERS LIKE THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, DUNN IS HELPING TO AMPLIFY IMPACT TO HELP THOSE UNHOUSED IN ATLANTA**

Case in point is the Rapid Housing Initiative launched by the city and nonprofit Partners for HOME to reduce unsheltered homelessness through the Permanent Supportive Housing model. The model aims to help ensure long-term stability for its tenants, who have been deemed chronically homeless based on a chronic debilitating condition and lengthy stretches of homelessness.

A \$212 million campaign is underway to create sustained funding for supportive services, which include mental health and addiction treatment, job training, and life coaching, said Partners for HOME Chief Executive Officer Cathryn Vassell.

There's also help at the ready to deal with everyday challenges such as figuring out newfangled microwave ovens that do triple duty as air fryers and convection ovens.

"These are regular folks that are coming to the table with lots of trauma and sometimes just medical and mental health issues that have gone untreated for a really long time," Vassell said. "So a lot of this is playing catch up and making sure we're comprehensive and helping that person get what they need and what they want so they can live happier more fulfilling lives – and that spans everything, including how to use the microwave."

## 'RESILIENCY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT'

Back at the Bonaventure project, Darion Dunn reflected on the work happening there as well as on several other affordable housing projects that his firm, Atlantica Properties, is working on.

Dunn says that Atlantica, which he co-founded in 2010 with his brother, Trenton, has long been committed to affordable housing. Yet the risk associated with the firm committing its own capital to challenging projects limited what it could achieve.

Now, backed with considerable funding and resources from partners like the Community Foundation, Dunn is making an impact for those unhoused in Atlanta.

"If you really want to make a lot of money as a developer, you don't do this type of work – but then who would be left to do it?" Dunn said. "We have the expertise in this space, and it's hard to turn your back on it once you have seen the reality of what people are facing."

Indeed, that reality is something Dunn has seen firsthand with the Bonaventure project. Prior to renovations starting there, several homeless men were using the property to shelter at night. Early on in the work, Dunn's team would half-heartedly board up the building at day's end – with the unspoken expectation that the men would easily find their way back in at night.

Eventually, however, Dunn had to lock down the building to ensure security and on-time completion of the work.

Still, it's his hope that, eventually, some of those same men who sought refuge in the then dilapidated building will be able to return – but this time as tenants living in a safe, stable and supportive environment.

"These folks, they're real to me," Dunn said. "To struggle through homelessness and just survive is very impressive and shows the resiliency of the human spirit. I never cease to be amazed that, even in the midst of homelessness, the positivity that many of these people still have, and the faith that many still hold on to. That's what drives us to keep making progress."

**"A LOT OF THIS IS PLAYING CATCH UP AND MAKING SURE WE'RE COMPREHENSIVE AND HELPING THAT PERSON GET WHAT THEY NEED."**

Cathryn Vassell  
Partners for HOME  
CEO

The 24-unit complex is set to welcome its first residents in May 2025. To right: Cathryn Vassell and Darion Dunn.



# DOCTOR ON A MISSION

Founded by Community Foundation donor, Dr. Mark Holzberg, and Dr. Adam Leaderman, Project HEAL Aids the Move From Hospital to Housing for Those Experiencing Homelessness



Dr. Mark Holzberg in a clinic for those experiencing homelessness in downtown Atlanta.

**D**ermatologist Dr. Mark Holzberg's commitment to helping Atlanta's homeless population is more than skin deep.

When Holzberg learned in 2018 that local medical clinics for homeless individuals didn't offer dermatological services, he started the Volunteer Dermatology Clinic for the Homeless at the Gateway Center Mercy Care Clinic.

Today, more than a half dozen dermatologists continue to volunteer their time to meet a pressing need at the downtown Atlanta clinic.

Two years after he began volunteering, he realized the needs were great, and he wanted to do more. With the help of a friend, Dr. Adam Leaderman, he launched Project HEAL (Homeless Empowerment through Accessible Living), a program to help homeless individuals facing hospital discharge land in a warm bed and shelter rather than heading back to the street.

Project HEAL aligns seamlessly with Atlanta's "housing first" philosophy. That means neighbors are best served by getting stable housing, which makes support programs and services much more effective and sustainable. With stable housing secured, partnerships such as Project HEAL can more readily help people.

Funded in part by the Medical and Mental Health Supportive Care Fund – a donor-advised fund with the Community Foundation – Project HEAL features two key elements:

- **The Hospital Housing Navigator** program, which employs a full-time Navigator who works with Atlanta-area shelters and educates Atlanta-area hospital social workers and care coordination teams on how to identify available beds and housing in real time for their discharged patients.
- **Medical and mental health on-site supportive care** for people with chronic, complex health needs who have been homeless before. This effort is helping to reduce repeated hospital stays and emergency department visits.

## UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION

National research has shown that hospitalizations of homeless individuals can decrease by 40% when proactive programming such as Project HEAL is in place, Holzberg said.

And he is especially heartened to see Atlanta's hospitals joining forces to support Project Heal.

"Historically, it's been really hard for the City of Atlanta and these five competing hospitals – Grady, Emory, Piedmont, Northside and Wellstar – to get together in the same platform and try to do some good together," Holzberg said. "Fortunately, these hospitals recognize the potential cost savings and know that housing individuals with ongoing support and care who experience homelessness will improve their social determinants of health. It's a win-win for everyone."

Indeed, Project HEAL is an example of how Atlanta is coming together to provide sustainable and compassionate solutions to the homelessness and affordable housing crisis as the city strives to reach a goal of 20,000 new or renovated housing units by 2026 (5,000 of which are being supported by the Community Foundation).

Health-care organizations, government officials, philanthropy, and social service agencies are all working to collaborate to address this challenge – requiring new ways of coordination and new ways of thinking.

Case in point: Several of the new affordable housing communities under construction include dedicated Project HEAL units. There, individuals who are recuperating or have chronic conditions will receive a range of wraparound medical and mental health services to improve health outcomes and stability.

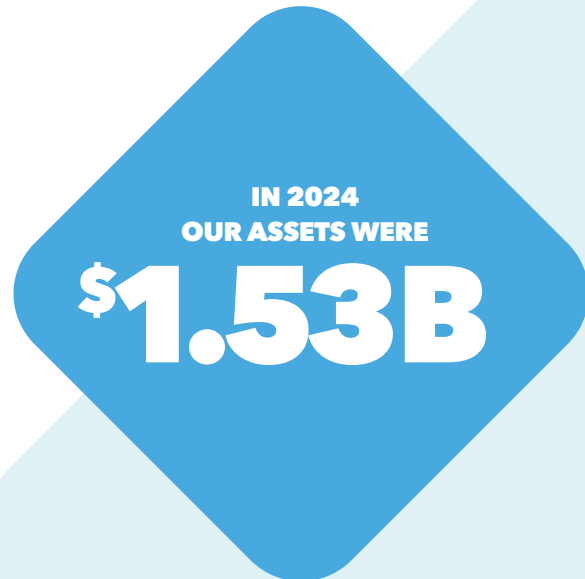
"These individuals will have access to home health aides, community health workers, licensed clinical social workers – whatever they might need to ensure that they stay out of the hospital and in their homes," Holzberg said.

**SEVERAL OF THE NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION INCLUDE DEDICATED PROJECT HEAL UNITS**



# GRANTMAKING FOR IMPACT

The Community Foundation is our region’s steward of the long-term philanthropic assets that are entrusted to us for the future of greater Atlanta.



**GRANTS WERE MADE IN 27 ISSUE AREAS  
THE TOP THREE WERE:**



## OUR GENEROUS DONORS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

We received more than \$266 million in gifts in 2024 and established 35 new funds. Our most popular giving vehicle is the donor-advised fund. In 2024, 81% of our total grants were made through donor-advised funds. We distributed approximately 11% of our total assets through grantmaking in 2024.

The Foundation’s portfolio earned a net return of 10.8% for 2024. Global equities gained 16.7% in 2024 and fixed income returns of -0.9%. From geopolitical tensions, the Fed trying to navigate a soft landing, and major elections across the globe, developed market equities still posted very strong returns in 2024. The United States elected their 47th president. Although he did not take office until early 2025, financial markets responded quickly with optimism about extended tax cuts and a more favorable regulatory environment. In 2024, the Federal Reserve made three consecutive cuts before pausing, which is reflective of the economy’s steady growth, a strong job market, and stubborn inflation. Current expectations suggest that the Fed may only implement two rate cuts in 2025.

The financial information contained in this annual report is unaudited and summarized. Our 2024 audited financial statements and 990 will be posted in November 2025. Until then, our 2023 audited statements and 990 are available online.



Thomas Carroll, CEO of Homrich Berg, and the firm’s chief marketing officer, Joanna Irwin, in front of the iconic Ansley Golf Club.

## CENTERED ON PURPOSE

The Aha! Moment That Changed Homrich Berg’s Future

Joanna Irwin, a Community Foundation fundholder since 2017, was in a season of professional transition. So when the Foundation spotlighted Bruce Feiler’s NYT bestseller, *Life Is In the Transitions*, in fall 2023, she signed up immediately. The book’s insights resonated deeply—and the event, even more so.

During the Q&A, Joanna asked Bruce about “aha moments”—those flashes of clarity when the next step becomes clear. He advised embracing the journey and signed her book: “For Joanna—Aha! Here you come.”

As fate would have it, she reconnected that night with two other Community Foundation fundholders: college friend Susan, and Susan’s husband, fellow Westminster alum Thomas Carroll, CEO of Homrich Berg Wealth Management. This seemingly chance encounter proved pivotal. One conversation led to another... and a few months later, Joanna joined HB as Chief Marketing Officer.

Now Thomas and Joanna are coming full circle with HB’s sponsorship of an upcoming Foundation event. “At the investment briefing, we all learn how to grow more to give more back,” Joanna shared. “That’s an important value I share with Thomas and with HB.”

“Agreed,” Thomas added, “as an Atlanta-based firm for 35 years, giving back to our community and supporting organizations like the Community Foundation is the center of HB’s purpose.”

Then, with a grin: “And isn’t it wonderful Joanna had her ‘aha moment’ after all?”

**Join us:**  
Community Foundation 25th Annual Investment Briefing  
in partnership with Homrich Berg  
Ansley Park Golf Club, Prado Hall  
**Thursday, September 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
196 Montgomery Ferry Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

# REUNITE. REMEMBER. REAFFIRM.

On March 20, 50 past and present members of the Community Foundation's Board of Directors gathered at KR Steak to celebrate the accomplishments of the past 70+ years and to talk about the Foundation's future as it continues to solve critical community challenges. Here are a few candid moments from a fantastic evening of fellowship.



Board Chair, Doug Hooker, invites reunion guests to raise a glass, celebrate our past and push forward with hope, love and belonging for an Atlanta where all can thrive.



Above: Juanita and Greg Baranco, with Board chair alum John Reid standing behind them, in conversation with fellow attendees. Left: Cynthia Currence, alongside Board chair alum Ken Barnhardt, greeting colleagues.



Above: Angie Allen takes in Frank Fernandez's remarks. Below, Kimberly Spear, the Foundation's director of donor giving, chats with Ann Cramer, board alumna.



Above, Board alum Ramon Tome enjoys a laugh with Malcolm Barnes, husband of Board alum Virginia Hepner. Below, Board alum Tad Hutchinson, wife Janin and Foundation director Kimberly Spear in conversation.

**FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR**



**DEAR FRIENDS,**

The meaningful connections we create and foster within our community have the power to strengthen our entire region. This is especially true in times of adversity and uncertainty like today. This is one of the most important lessons I will take with me from my tenure as Board Chair of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta – a very meaningful experience in my life.

At its core, the Community Foundation is about connections: aligning those who want to give with those who need support, and in doing so, improving lives and strengthening the fabric of our region and making our community better for all who call metro Atlanta home. This can take the form of connecting more Atlantans to safe and affordable housing, strengthening family legacies through engaged intergenerational giving, or building productive partnerships with the many nonprofits we support.

The stories of donors, families and companies who dedicate themselves to this work remind us that philanthropy is not just about today; it is also about creating a legacy of community building that endures for generations to come. This progress and impact is made possible through the work of a committed team.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my fellow board members, to the Foundation’s talented staff, to our many dedicated nonprofit partners and to the donors whose commitment makes this work possible. Each of these groups plays a vital role in shaping our impact, and I’m grateful for the values and vision they bring to this shared mission.

I would also like to recognize the five board members who are completing their terms

of service this year: Jennifer Bennecke, Rabbi Peter Berg, Bert Clark, Richard Courts, Dr. Jeff Hines and Wonya Lucas. Their leadership helped chart the Foundation’s path forward, and I am grateful for their service.

Amid rapid changes within philanthropy and society, navigating these paths of strengthening community demand capable, visionary leadership. Thus, I am very excited to pass the torch to Julia Houston as the incoming Board Chair.

Julia’s journey with our Foundation began in 2010 when her CPA suggested she open a donor-advised fund. In the years since, she has gone from knowing little about our work to being an engaged and optimistic leader with a knack for seeing possibilities – and then rallying support and enthusiasm to turn those possibilities into reality.

Having worked closely with Julia, as Chair-elect, I know that she understands how forging deep connections with people from every corner of our community is the key to creating an Atlanta, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and achieve their full potential.

While my time as Board Chair is coming to a close, my belief in this community—and in the work of this Foundation—is stronger than ever. Thank you for your partnership, your trust and your commitment to making a difference.

With deep appreciation,

Doug Hooker  
Board Chair, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

**FROM OUR CHAIR-ELECT**



Over the years, I’ve come to understand the power of community foundations and their ability to champion the power of advocacy in tackling the most pressing issues facing their communities, from affordable housing to education to healthcare. And through the work of the Community Foundation, I’ve come to believe that advocacy is not just about raising our voices—it’s about bringing communities together to drive meaningful change. Together, we have the opportunity to do that for the city we all deeply care about; the place we call home. I’m honored to work alongside this community and lead with purpose, act with courage, and build a stronger Atlanta for all.

Julia Houston  
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta  
Board Chair, 2026-2028

**OUR BOARD MEMBERS COMPLETING THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE THIS YEAR**



Jen Bennecke



Rabbi Peter Berg



Bert Clark



Richard Courts



Dr. Jeff Hines



Wonya Lucas



# FAMILY GIVING THROUGH CHANGING TIMES

A Q&A with family and meaning expert Bruce Feiler

**“THE MONEY CONVERSATION BECOMES MORE OF A CONVERSATION OF OUR VALUES AND THESE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF OUR FAMILY.”**

If money is the only thing that comes to mind when you hear the word ‘inheritance,’ then Bruce Feiler suggests expanding your thinking.

Doing so, Feiler says, offers a key step toward strengthening your family’s relationship; while providing greater clarity and consensus around how wealth and financial inheritance might be directed to make an impact on your community and our world.

A Savannah native, Feiler is a nationally known expert on family, transitions, wellness and meaning in life. He’s authored seven *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Life in the Transitions*, *The Secrets of Happy Families*, *Abraham* and *Council of Dads*.

Feiler contends that each generation inherits many things from their parents and grandparents – and that having a better understanding of the full scope of what is passed down can help guide current giving as well as how financial inheritance might be directed to particular causes and charitable organizations.

Feiler recently spoke with the Community Foundation’s Elyse Hammett about meaningful family giving amidst changing times. What follows is a Q&A that captures some key moments of the conversation.

**Q: You define inheritance in broader terms than most people are accustomed to. Can you provide more context?**

A: A family is actually a collection of inheritances – and the way I see it there are five things we pass down. First is the values and beliefs we hold as a family. Second, is what I call social inheritance – our social network and community. Third is biological inheritance, which is the genes we pass on. Fourth is the generational inheritance – the characteristics and issues that define each generation. The fifth is the material inheritance: the money, possessions and property that gets handed down. The reason I mention the material inheritance last is that considering all of those other factors can offer guidance on how a family thinks about their charitable giving.

**Q: In what ways does that process help provide clarity?**

A: Through this lens, families decide what they are trying to communicate with their giving. What is the larger message about what is important to our family that we are trying to pass on? So ultimately the way I think about it is the money conversation becomes more of a conversation of our values and these unique aspects of our family and how they can be demonstrated through how we give.

**Q: What are some of the issues that families need to navigate when thinking about their philosophy and approach to giving?**

A: Well, the reality is the pace of change is increasing so rapidly and that change tends to highlight generational differences, and, at times, conflicts. The reason that it can be so difficult for those of us, who are, say 40 plus, is that we grew up in a time that I refer to as the linear life when there was this widespread expectation that everything happened in a preordained order, on preordained timeline, on preordained scripts. That’s not true anymore.

**Q: So then what is true today?**

A: Well, the linear life is dead. The whole idea that your children or grandchildren are going to do the same thing in their twenties and the same thing in their thirties, and then have a midlife crisis once in their life between 39 and 44, that’s ridiculous. The reality is that we all go through crises and transitions all the time, and we have to reorient our mindset that these things don’t happen in a linear fashion anymore and there’s no going back.

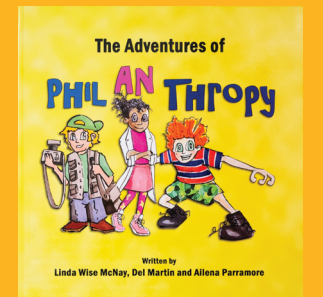
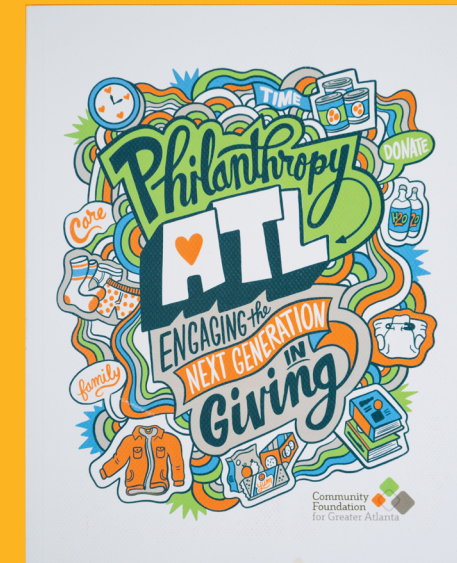
**Q: How does an awareness of these changes help families navigate and make better decisions?**

A: So transitions are a skill that we can master. We can learn to get through these transitions as individuals and families, but we have to reframe our expectation and catch ourselves up to date to realize our families are in constant flux, so let’s find the tools to manage that flux.

I think from a giving perspective, conversations about the causes and organizations your family cares about – even when there isn’t always total agreement on what those are – offers an opportunity for greater connections. It helps us lean into the power of the family and its potential to do good.

## ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

The PhilanthropyATL products provide philanthropic education by age-range, personalized family services and special materials, as well as games, to help foster and encourage upcoming generations in the joy of giving back. A depiction of some of these is below, and your philanthropic advisor is here to help you.



From games such as The Giving Cubes to large photographic image cards for the Picture Your Legacy tool, the Community Foundation has a plethora of educational aids to facilitate discussion with your family on the power of giving back. The philanthropy team is also certified in these tools, through the 21/64 program. If you are looking for help getting started, send us an email at [info@cfgreateratlanta.org](mailto:info@cfgreateratlanta.org).

# GIVING LIVES

Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta has scores of generous donors committed to giving back and improving the quality of life for all Atlantans.

In each issue of *THE GIVING LIFE*, we shine a spotlight on several of those in our community who are making a difference in the lives of others. We hope these stories both demonstrate our deep appreciation and serve as inspiration for others.



## GOOGLE.org DONORS SINCE: 2024

Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, recently granted a \$1 million fund to support Atlanta-based nonprofits in learning, adopting and integrating artificial intelligence (AI) skills as part of Google's broader \$75 million AI Opportunity Fund. Google has called Georgia home for more than 20 years, with an office in Atlanta and a data center in Douglas County, and aims to equip over one million Americans with essential AI skills.

Leveraging the Foundation's local nonprofit expertise, the initiative offers in-person training sessions, webinars, personalized AI adoption roadmaps and one-on-one coaching. The program kicked off with a "Discovery Day" event on April 28, 2025, bringing together Atlanta nonprofit leaders for a full day of AI-focused programming alongside AI experts.

According to a recent Google study, over 40% of nonprofits surveyed reported that none of their staff had AI training. This investment aims to close that gap, helping organizations boost efficiency and expand their impact.

"Nonprofits are tackling some of society's most urgent issues, and we're committed to helping them do it more effectively through AI," said Maggie Johnson, VP and Global Head of Google.org.

Frank Fernandez, president and CEO of the Foundation, added, "This support unlocks new potential for local nonprofits to innovate and lead in an AI-driven world."



## KATE KIEFER LEE AND ANDREW LEE DONORS SINCE: 2021

Seeing giving through the lens of teaching their three young girls, Alice, Jane and Louise, has called Kate Kiefer Lee and Andrew Lee to a new level of showing up. "We want our girls to see us volunteering our time and sharing our resources to support nonprofits because of the impact they make on the communities they serve," Andrew suggests, "And ultimately, our girls need to understand that it's not about 'us.'"

Their giving became more intentional during Kate's 15-year tenure leading communications at Mailchimp, where her team partnered with the Community Foundation to launch Mailchimp Community College. It also evolved through her service on the boards of the Woodruff Arts Center and Community Farmers Markets, and through Andrew's work as a photographer with nonprofits like The Giving Kitchen, No Kid Hungry and Oyster South.

Kate shared, "We focus a lot of our giving on food access and supporting farmers, the arts and arts education, and now more than ever, organizations that advance equity and advocate for marginalized communities. We feel deeply connected to the city of Atlanta and try to support both local nonprofits and those working at a global scale."



## BARBARA AND STUART PLINER DONORS SINCE: 2017

Like many donors contemplating how best to pursue their philanthropic passions, Barbara and Stuart Pliner considered starting a private foundation.

Then their trusted team led by wealth advisor Brian Frank and estate attorney JW Haas recommended the couple consider tapping the Community Foundation's nonprofit expertise, cost savings and connections to like-minded donors.

Barbara and Stuart quickly saw the Foundation as the right fit, launching a donor-advised fund to pivot their giving focus from national organizations to addressing Atlanta's pressing needs.

"Our hearts always go with the giving - whether it's animals, arts, children, disasters or education, we don't just write checks..." shared Stuart, "we get active." With the Foundation's guidance, they began giving more intentionally while creating a ripple effect by collaborating with other donors. Through Extra Wish, they've supported refugee programs and independent farms.

Barbara deepened her connection by serving on the Foundation's Board from 2018 to 2021. "It changed my perspective on how I—and we—can make a difference and inspire others to do the same," she reflected.

"As Atlanta continues to grow, nonprofits must give back more than they take," Stuart added. "That's always been Atlanta's secret sauce—giving more than its weight."



## LATA AND MANJEET CHINNAN DONORS SINCE: 2000

Lata and Manjeet Chinnan laugh easily and often, finish each other's sentences and relish each other's company.

The couple, originally from India, met in the mid-1970s at University of California-Davis. Later, the couple moved to Georgia, where Manjeet taught Food Science & Technology at UGA for 38 years. Lata opened and ran a business, the New South Package Store in Riverdale, south of the Atlanta airport, for 36 years. For Lata "that business gave me the opportunity to give back to the community and that became my passion."

And it was after those nearly four decades of, as Manjeet says, "giving forward, thinking about all the people along our journey who helped us to get to where we got," that they had the opportunity to take their giving to new levels.

Chinnan's CPA, Ben Loggins, a Community Foundation Board member, encouraged them to open a donor-advised fund.

The Chinnans established an endowment at their alma mater, Punjab Agricultural University, which jointly supports academic excellence and athletics. They also have endowments at Clayton State University and the University of Georgia. Their legacy remains where it all began.



191 Peachtree St NE  
Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30303



## **DAN HARRIS - 10% HAPPIER EXCLUSIVE DONOR EVENT**

**Date: Wednesday, October 8**

**Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Location: Atlanta History Center  
130 W. Paces Ferry Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30305**

Dan Harris spent 21 years as an anchor and correspondent at ABC News, where he hosted Nightline and the weekend editions of Good Morning America. The winner of an Edward R. Murrow award and four Emmys, Dan spent years in the field, covering combat, natural disasters and presidential campaigns. After having an on-air panic attack, he turned to meditation and published the #1 *New York Times* bestselling book *10% Happier*. The *10% Happier* podcast followed,

which today has over 600 episodes and regularly ranks among the top 100 shows.

Join Dan and the Community Foundation on October 8, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Atlanta History Center for a night you need. Walk away refreshed, renewed and maybe, just maybe, 10% Happier.

To make a reservation, please email Diaka Burke, events lead, at [dburke@cfgreateratlanta.org](mailto:dburke@cfgreateratlanta.org).

