



IMPACT PHILANTHROPY

50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 449, Atlanta GA, 30303 | www.atlcf.org | 404-688-5525 | November 2008

Crisis Assistance

As we approach the end of the year and the giving season, we find ourselves in challenging and difficult times for our region. Too many families are struggling to survive. The unemployment rate for Georgia is at 6.5%—its highest level in recent years. Reductions in the state budget have resulted in staff layoffs, furloughs and reduced services. Nonprofit organizations report an increasing need for basic services such as emergency financial assistance while resources remain stagnant or decline as a result of decreases in public and private funding.

At The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, our mission is to connect donors to community needs. In response to donor requests and the pressing demands of these times, we have launched *Impact Philanthropy*. *This paper is the first in a series designed to inform donors of critical issues facing people living in the metropolitan Atlanta region, including the individuals and families served by nonprofit organizations.*

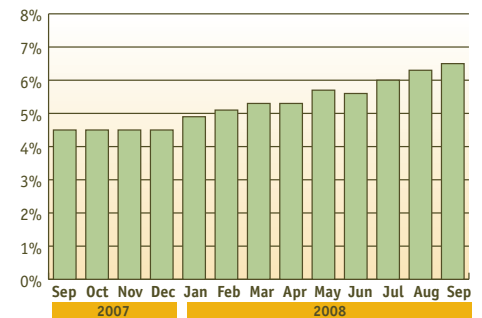
This issue focuses on what The Community Foundation believes to be the most significant needs in our community arising from

the current economic crisis. In October 2008, The Community Foundation Board approved two grants to 14 organizations in response to our current community crises. One \$100,000 grant was awarded to ten nonprofits that provide emergency funds to families for rent and mortgage, utilities, transportation, medicine and food. Another \$100,000 grant was awarded to support the work of four affordable housing advocates to jointly address the city's foreclosure crisis.

In addition to these grants, we recognize our obligation to provide education and giving opportunities to our donors. Through *Impact Philanthropy*, we will help to define the issues and recommend effective nonprofit organizations. *Impact Philanthropy* will include print, online and personal briefings with nonprofits and donors to discuss how we can make a difference together. This inaugural edition of *Impact Philanthropy* focuses on Crisis Assistance in six core areas: Child Care; Comprehensive Social Services; Emergency Assistance; Foreclosure, Housing and Eviction Protection; Hunger/Food; and Income Security.

Over the course of the next year The Foundation will publish additional issues of *Impact Philanthropy* focusing on the critical needs of our community and providing opportunities for donor investment. As philanthropists, we have the opportunity to make a difference by connecting our passions with those working toward a stronger, Greater Atlanta. We hope that you join us today and make a difference through *Impact Philanthropy*.

Georgia Unemployment Rate
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Georgia Department of Labor – Michael L. Thurmond, Commissioner

“During these difficult economic times it is tempting to be fearful for our own needs. Thank you for reminding us that it is a time to be generous and not hold back. It is helpful for The Community Foundation to call to our attention the agencies that respond to our communities’ needs. We are totally supportive and appreciate your expertise in identifying the agencies supporting the hardest hit during these difficult economic times.” – **Ralph and Marie Edwards**, donors

KEY NONPROFITS

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta understands the growing demands on nonprofit organizations on the front lines of serving individuals and families in crisis.

We selected organizations from a pool of nonprofits that have recently been reviewed and examined by our competitive grants process. The key factors in selecting these nonprofits include:

- Mission to serve low-income individuals and families
- Professional, visionary board and staff
- Strong financial stewardship
- Locations throughout the region

The Community Foundation focused its attention on the 23-county region that it serves, as well as six areas of immediate local concern:

- Child Care
- Comprehensive Social Services
- Emergency Assistance
- Foreclosure, Housing and Eviction Protection
- Hunger/Food
- Income Security



KEY NONPROFITS

Listed are descriptions of six high-capacity, high-performing nonprofit organizations that meet the factors listed above: **the Atlanta Community Food Bank, CredAbility (formerly Consumer Credit Counseling Services), Goodwill of North Georgia, Jewish Family and Career Services, the Latin American Association and Sheltering Arms Early Education & Family Centers.** Each of these organizations is highly sought by those in need. Each has a strong history in our community, and is supported by our donors and other local foundations with confidence.

We recognize that there are many additional organizations in our region providing high quality, core services. Several are listed at the end of this paper and additional organizations will be featured in future issues of *Impact Philanthropy*. For information about any of the organizations listed, please visit our website at www.atlcf.org or contact your Philanthropic Advisor.

***Atlanta Community Food Bank:** Founded in 1979, the Atlanta Community Food Bank distributes annually more than 22 million pounds of food and other donated grocery items to 800 nonprofit partner agencies in 38 counties each year. The Food Bank works to address the problems of hunger, food security and food waste through community education and collaborative action.

The Food Bank normally raises 50% of its budget in the last two months of the calendar year, but early indications show that donations will drop significantly and the Food Bank will be short of food for the first two quarters of next year. Transportation and fuel costs continue to be higher than initially budgeted and were up more than 50% at one point. Food is moving out almost as quickly as it is received; donations are down and demand is up.

***CredAbility/Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS):** Founded in 1964, CCCS educates consumers about financial management, promotes the wise use of credit

as a tool for financial planning and helps individuals and families of all backgrounds and income levels overcome financial difficulties.

As more people are adversely affected by the current financial crisis, demand for the agency's services has skyrocketed. In 2007, CCCS-Atlanta counseled more than 400,000 clients – nearly three times the 136,000 served in 2005, and a 35% increase over the 295,000 served in 2006. The number of individuals and families who turned to the agency for free housing counseling increased by 147% in the first nine months of 2008. The total number of calls to its 24-hour contact center has increased approximately 44%.

Goodwill of North Georgia: The mission of Goodwill is to strengthen communities by connecting people experiencing employment barriers to work. Goodwill provides a wide array of employment and training services to economically and/or physically challenged individuals in Atlanta since 1925. A leader in empowering people to achieve personal and economic independence, Goodwill helps people succeed at work and in life.

Reductions in public and private sector funding have led to a substantial decrease in revenue for Goodwill. Without these funds, Goodwill is unable to provide the job training and employment services necessary to keep many Georgians out of poverty.

Jewish Family & Career Services (JF&CS): Founded in 1890 as a refugee-resettlement project, JF&CS currently provides comprehensive programs and services to all members of the community, including employment support and services, support services for the elderly and the disabled, emergency services, individual and family counseling, Project Connect (an outreach service to the homeless) and the Ben Massell Dental Clinic.

For JF&CS the current economic crisis has translated into emergency financial assistance requests that have tripled between September 2007 and September 2008. In September 2008 alone, JF&CS disbursed more than \$13,000 – a disbursement rate that will bankrupt their emergency funds by February 2009. JF&CS has also lost \$250,000 in government grants, including \$121,000

lost in funding for Developmental Disability services due to state budget cuts.

***Latin American Association:** Founded in 1972, the Latin American Association (LAA) provides basic services to help Latino individuals and families integrate into the larger Atlanta community. From its main office on Buford Highway and satellite offices in Gwinnett and Cobb counties, LAA provides employment services, ESL classes and translation, emergency assistance, money management classes, family counseling and youth mentoring.

In the third quarter of this year, LAA has experienced a 25% increase in requests for assistance. Georgia's rise in unemployment has been especially hard for Latino immigrants just beginning to establish themselves in the workforce. The Latin American Association has also seen an increase in homelessness and domestic violence.

***Sheltering Arms Early Education & Family Centers:** Founded in 1888, Georgia's oldest and most well-known nonprofit child care provider, Sheltering Arms serves working families by providing high-quality, affordable childcare and education and comprehensive support services. The organization also provides professional development for early childhood educators and community outreach.

An increasing number of Sheltering Arms families are losing jobs and homes and can no longer afford child care tuition, despite scholarship assistance. As a result, children are leaving the program and missing the benefits of early childhood education, and parents no longer have the child care needed to search for employment. Family Support Coordinators are receiving an increasing number of requests for direct financial assistance for food, utilities and other basic needs. In addition, there has been an increase in requests from local center staff for counseling and mental health services to assist young children with handling family stress.

**Denotes an organization that was either a Managing for Excellence winner or finalist. The Managing for Excellence Award program of The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta annually recognizes exceptional management performance of nonprofit organizations.*

The Issues

Each of the issues includes answers to the following questions:

- What is the issue?
- Why is it a challenge in our region?
- How are nonprofits working for better results?

Child Care

What: Quality child care is essential for most families. It allows parents to work and also supports children's development and safety. Many parents in need of child care cannot find employment; and without employment, cannot pay for child care.

Why: A two-parent family with both parents working full-time, earning minimum wage, makes \$21,400 annually before taxes. In metro Atlanta, this family would spend on average \$7,072 or 33% of their income for child care for one infant.^[1]

How: Early childhood education programs provide parents with the ability to seek or maintain employment. In addition, these programs help children score higher on measures of cognitive ability and language development. For school-aged children, quality child care helps improve their grades, peer relations, emotional adjustment and conduct in school.

Comprehensive Social Services

What: Families that are most vulnerable to the current economic crisis often face multiple challenges. They often move from an initial emergency need to a long-term crisis requiring more comprehensive services to help them get back on their feet.

Why: Funders prefer to support issue-specific projects. Thus, comprehensive social services are costly to provide and more complicated to sustain. The Atlanta region faces a shortage of nonprofits providing comprehensive social services.

How: Comprehensive social service organizations offer a menu of supportive services that include child welfare, mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, aging, immigration and refugee resettlement, parenting skills and basic needs.

Emergency Assistance

What: Most individuals and families who turn to emergency assistance face economic hardships due to loss of income, reduction of wages, illness, dislodgement or other unanticipated circumstance. These families in crisis need immediate, short-term assistance in order to survive.

Why: Emergency assistance organizations are experiencing diminishing resources while urgent requests are increasing. As an example, the Emergency Food and Shelter Assistance Local FEMA Board grants nearly a million dollars to nonprofits in Fulton and DeKalb counties that provide emergency assistance. The amount granted is not nearly enough and is less than 50% of the amounts requested by the nonprofits to provide such assistance.^[2]

How: Emergency Assistance organizations focus on basic needs stemming from crisis situations. They provide a range of services and assistance including, overnight shelter; food through community soup kitchens and pantries; rent and mortgage payment assistance; prescription medicine payment and utility payments.

Foreclosure, Housing and Eviction Protection

What: Eviction and foreclosure threaten a family's safety and health. They also threaten the health of a community as more and more properties become vacant and property values and tax revenues decrease.

Why: The State of Georgia ranks third nationally in seriously delinquent home loans, and mortgage foreclosure notices in metro Atlanta have increased by nearly a third in a year. Data from RealtyTrac for September 2008 indicates that Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Fulton, Henry and Rockdale counties had extremely high foreclosure rates. Further, Clayton had one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation: 1:156 housing units. In the City of Atlanta in 2005, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment was \$928 per month. In order to afford the rental rates, a household would have to earn more than three times the minimum hourly wage of \$6.55. In 2008, the average fair market rental unit is \$1,066.^[3]

How: As the foreclosure dilemma penetrates the lives of families and neighborhoods, many nonprofit organizations are providing assistance in the form of affordable housing and ombudsman-type services between financial institutions, developers, municipal officials and consumers. Others represent clients who have been victims of predatory lending and fraud.

Hunger/Food

What: In difficult times, food often becomes one of the first household budget items to be trimmed.

Why: As many as 35% of individuals served by Feeding America's national network of food banks report having to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage. The USDA reports that more than half a million individuals are at risk of or already experiencing problems in access to quality nutrition for themselves and their families.^[4]

How: Nonprofit organizations offer a variety of approaches to address the underlying problems and causes of hunger. These organizations provide groceries and meals as well as access to public programs such as Food Stamps; WIC, a nutrition support program for pregnant women and their infants; school meals; and nutrition programs for seniors and the chronically ill.

Income Security

What: People with low educational achievement and few marketable skills compete poorly in a workplace of highly technical jobs. Outsourcing jobs compounds this issue for job-seekers in the Atlanta region.

Why: Georgia is currently experiencing its highest rate of joblessness in more than 15 years. Many of these lost jobs were in the service industry and held by lower-wage earning workers.^[5]

How: Nonprofit organizations respond to unemployment and underemployment by training job seekers in high growth sectors. Additionally, nonprofits are providing opportunities for job seekers to start businesses through microenterprise.

[1] Quality Care for Children, Child Care in Metro Atlanta, December 2007 [2] United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta [3] Progressive Redevelopment Incorporated. (2008). *Project Development Preserving Affordability*. [4] The USDA defines food security as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Individuals experiencing low food security were able to get enough food to sustain their families by cutting back on variety or quality. Families with very low food security had to reduce food intake or change their normal eating patterns on more than one occasion because of a lack of sufficient resources for food. [5] Georgia Department of Labor, website, 10/28/08

What can you do to make an impact?

The Community Foundation has created *Impact Philanthropy* to focus on periodic opportunities for our donors to make a greater impact through individual philanthropy. Several donors have asked us what they can do to support nonprofits and individuals in our community during this economic crisis, and we want to help you make those connections.

Here are some ways you can make a difference:

- Recommend a distribution to one of the featured organizations from your donor-advised fund through Donor Central or your Philanthropic Advisor. You may reach Erin Drury, Audrey Jacobs, Barrett Krise or Rob Smulian at 404-688-5525.
- Contact your Philanthropic Advisor to discuss your giving options, including co-investment opportunities and learn more about additional organizations you would like to support.
- Participate in one of our upcoming Community Conversations. This series of gatherings, both in person and online, will bring together donors and nonprofit leaders to further discuss the issues addressed here.

Our first Community Conversation will focus on Comprehensive Social Services and will take place on Thursday, November 20, at the Center for Family Resources. Further details regarding this and future conversations will follow via email.

Here we have also listed additional organizations located throughout our region providing desperately needed services to community members. Please visit our website, www.atlcf.org, to learn more about these organizations as well as for updates on Community Conversations.

ADDITIONAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Atlanta Children's Shelter
Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership**
Atlanta Pet Rescue
Atlanta Prosperity Campaign
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta
CARES, Inc.
Center for Family Resources
Clayton Family Care
Community Action Center
Decatur Cooperative Ministry
The Edge
Enterprise Community Partners
Families First
Family Consultation Service (FCS) Urban Ministries**
First Step Staffing
Gate City Day Nursery Association
Georgia Avenue Food Co-op
Georgia Justice Project
The IMPACT! Group
Literacy Action
Midtown Assistance Center
Open Hand*
Senior Connections*
Senior Citizen Services*
Norcross Cooperative Ministry
Quality Care for Children
Refugee Family Services
Resources for Residents and Communities (RRC)**

*Meals on Wheels Programs

**These organizations are part of Enterprise Community Partners Networks addressing the foreclosure crisis.



The Community Foundation

FOR GREATER ATLANTA

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