



Impact Insider FALL 2020

Since Last Time:

Ride for HOPE 2020 was Amazing! Thanks to the 117 bikers, 12 volunteers, 47 sponsors, and other supporters who raised more than \$19,000 for HOPE. Check out the pictures on [facebook](#), and be sure to tag, like, and share. A few other cool things took place since the last newsletter too.

- Arkia Ivey, joined the Impact Staff in September as an Admin. Assistant and will be with us through April.
- Man of HOPE "R" was promoted at work and is one step closer to moving into his own home.
- ACE recieved a grant to expand Cool Kids Club.

Finally, It's been rescheduled!

We'd love to (re)connect with you! A Fall, Saturday morning outdoors surrounded by treasures sounds like the perfect opportunity. Please stop by so we can say hello in-person and catch up.

Community Yard Sale



October 17, 2020

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

vacant lot next to
the Impact office



Need to clear some space? We'll take that!

Have used furniture, lawn equipment, toys, tools, appliances, etc. that would be a treasure for another person or family? Donate them to the Yard Sale!

You clear out some space; a community member picks up a treasure for a bargain; and you help a homeless man transition, a veteran access healthcare, and a child fall in love with reading!

Yes, an old washing machine can do all of that!

- Drop off donations at the Impact Office between 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8, Friday, Oct. 9, or Monday, Oct 12 - Thursday, October 15.

We're going to need some help... Want to [Volunteer?](#)

- set up/take down
- selling
- help in the office the week of answering phones, accepting donations, organizing & pricing, etc.

Please let us know how you'd like to be involved at www.impactwestga.org (select Fundraising/events) or contact Charlene directly at 770-834-4007 or cleague@impactwestga.org

Children's Literacy

Adult & Community Education is Expanding

ACE is expanding our children's literacy efforts. We currently have a children's book closet in which children get to take home a book each week. Thanks to generous donors and a Power of the Purse grant, we're soon purchasing a little free library to be installed at ACE. Our little free library will be at kid-height and stocked with children's books of different reading levels. Its location and height ensures that underserved children in the area will have consistent access to books without the help of an adult or transportation!



We will install and unveil it in Spring 2021 at a party complete with storybook characters, story time, and snacks. We're currently putting together the team that will pull this off.

- Can you build the library? Can you install it?
- Can you read a story?
- Can you dress up as a storybook character?
- Can you help get the word out?

If so, we'd love to have you join us! Let us know if you're interested in joining the team at www.impactwestga.org or contact Charlene directly at 770-834-4007; cleague@impactwestga.org

Don't have time to volunteer but want to be a part of the team? [Donate Today](#)

We'd love to have you join the team in whatever way you can. We have a good number of books to get started, but we will need funds to throw a fabulous Story Party to introduce the neighborhood children to the library and subsequent Story Parties to inspire their love of reading; to keep it stocked with books of all reading levels all year; and by spring, we need at least two more air conditioners. [Donate online](#), give over the phone (770-834-4007), mail a check to P.O. Box 1677 Carrollton, GA 30112, or drop by with your gift.

Working full-time @ \$10.00 an hour

Can't afford rent



The work of HOPE is a labor of love, and it is often heartbreaking. One of the biggest challenges we face in assisting men as they work so very hard to establish their independent and self-sufficient lives is helping them find a home (apartment/house/duplex...) to rent.

For a home to be sustainable, it should cost approx. 30% of the household's take-home income. By the time Men of HOPE are ready to transition, most of them are earning approx. \$10.00 an hour and work full-time.

Let's take "R" for example. Working full-time at \$10.00 an hour, his take home is approximately \$15,000 annually* and \$1,250 monthly. Affordable rent, for him, is \$375 a month. That just does not exist in the west GA region. Even if he were to find an apartment at or under 50% of his income (\$625), it is likely to be in deplorable condition or so small his children wouldn't be able to visit for the holidays. For example, in Carrollton, GA. recently a 200 sq. ft "apartment" was on the market for \$525 a month. And, it was rented in a matter of hours.

If he chooses (which most do) to rent an apartment at 1/2 his take-home income, he has \$625 remaining for utilities, food, car payments, and insurance. Mind you, he doesn't qualify for assistances such as food stamps or subsidized housing because his income is too high. Yet, "R" will survive for the time being because he's strong and determined. But he can only survive on this while he's able to work full-time. He cannot retire. He cannot fall ill. He cannot take a vacation.

Raise your voice with county and city officials.

Perhaps, a good start might be to require 6% of any newly developed communities be affordable to those at the low-income level and another 6% be affordable at the mid-income level. This strategy was implemented in Montgomery County, Maryland, and they have extremely high standards of living, high community satisfaction at all income levels, and the best schools in the country. Moreover, not one property value dropped (which is a myth often used to combat such policies).



*Calculated: 50 week year to account for holidays and sick days and subtracting taxes.

A screenshot of a real estate listing. The top part shows a photo of an apartment interior with a kitchen area, a black refrigerator, and a doorway. Below the photo is a map showing the location of the apartment. The listing details include: "\$525+/mo --bd 1 ba 200 sqft", "809 North Park Street - 809-A, 809 North Park...", and "Apartment for rent". At the bottom of the listing are two buttons: "Request to apply" and "Request a tour".

Trinka Davis Still Closed

DESERVE

Unfortunately, Trinka Davis remains closed. That means DESERVE has not resumed normal operations. We are keeping in touch with many of our veterans by phone to see how they are doing and if they need anything. When needed, we're making trips to Tanner and to the van that takes our Vets to the Atlanta VA.

Several of our DESERVE Vets have been affected by COVID-19. Some have been very ill and hospitalized while others have lost their spouses. Our Veterans continue to be among some of the most vulnerable during this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

We anticipate when Trinka Davis does reopen, DESERVE will be on the roads all day during the first weeks transporting our Veterans to re-scheduled and new medical appointment. As soon as Trinka reopens, we will need additional volunteer drivers. We'd love to have you join the DESERVE team, even if only temporarily. Click [Volunteer Now](#) or give us a call, 770-834-4007.

Check out more stories at www.impactwestga.org.

Donate now at www.impactwestga.org/donate.