



*Celebrating  
35 years!*

HOME  
OF  
HOPE

at Gwinnett Children's Shelter

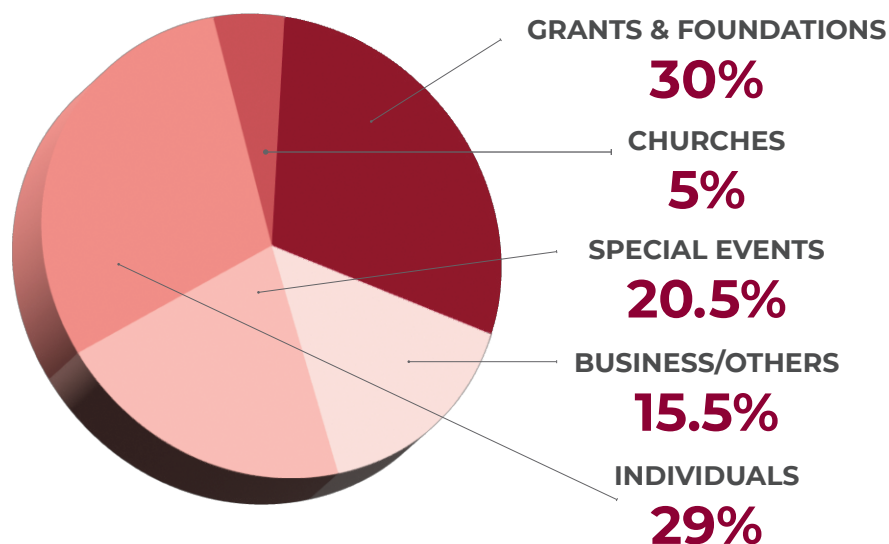
*For 35 years,* Home of Hope has been working hard to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Gwinnett County two generations at a time – by helping each mom who comes through our program and her children. It has been an honor to play a small role at Home of Hope over the years, and I'd like to thank our amazing leadership team, staff and the hundreds of volunteers who make it happen with such care, passion and love.

To our many generous supporters, we cannot do any of this without you. Bless you, thank you and please continue to support Home of Hope as post-Covid, we are once again 100 percent supported by private donations.



Gratefully,  
*Doug Meyer*  
Home of Hope Board Chair

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



## DISBURSEMENTS



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Doug Meyer**  
Chairman of the Board  
Community Leader

**Ruth Davis**  
Secretary  
Fund Development/  
Community Leader

**Ray Stanley**  
Treasurer  
Community Leader

**Lever Stewart**  
Attorney  
President and CEO  
Accushield

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Jennifer Bridwell**  
Gwinnett Market President  
Georgia Banking Company

**David Ehrhardt**  
Associate Vice President  
Hazen and Sawyer, P.C.

**Melody A. Glouton**  
Attorney  
Andersen, Tate & Carr, PC

**Andrew Hedrich**  
CPA, Manager  
Smith+Howard CPAs and Advisors

**Matt Hopkins**  
President and CEO  
SEI Group, Inc.

**Jim Lloyd**  
President and CEO  
InsuranceHub

**Mark McGrath**  
Partner  
WMBO CPA Group

**Leana Roach**  
Community Leader

**Amanda Thomas**  
Vice President  
City National Bank



## THIS YEAR'S IMPACT:

# 61

FAMILIES SERVED

# 47

FAMILIES TRANSITIONED  
TO A STABLE HOUSING/  
LIVING SITUATION

# 107

KIDS SERVED

## CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES



### Shelter makes additions



#### YOUNG CHILDREN'S RESIDENCE

Up to eight children ages eleven and under are served in this neighborhood setting. Live-in houseparents, attendance at public school, and participation in community activities creates a home-like environment for our young residents.

### Human trafficking bills signed into law

New measures bolster fight against offenders, protections for victims.

By Greg Bluestein  
gbluestein@ajc.com

It's not often that a priority of Gov. Brian Kemp's office gets unanimous approval from Georgia lawmakers. It's even rarer that the measures pass repeatedly without a single "no" vote. But that's been the case with Kemp's efforts to crack down on human trafficking, a push driven largely by his wife, Marty Kemp, who worked with lawmakers to craft and promote the legislation.



Georgia first lady Marty Kemp has played a key role for the governor, working with state lawmakers to craft and promote the legislation, which was passed unanimously.

into law Georgia's latest efforts to end the crime. Senate Bill 33 allows victims or state officials to sue for damages against traffickers and "bad actors" who know about the crimes, while Senate Bill 34 lets a name change pri-

A third measure, House Bill 287, would have initially required students starting in kindergarten to learn about the risks of tobacco use and vaping. But at the urging of a local Girl Scout troop, lawmakers agreed to add a provision that educates students starting in sixth grade about human trafficking.

All passed unanimously, lowering earlier human trafficking measures that passed with little opposition. "As I've told folks ever since, some of the only things I've ever get unanimous support for is the Buford facility. I'm confused by that, and you me, she remind of that."

Trafficking continues





# CELEBRATING! 35 YEARS!

Thirty-five years ago, Gwinnett Children's Shelter was a state-contracted shelter for youth transitioning to foster care. But that all changed in 2013 when it shifted to become a privately-funded home for young moms and their children experiencing homelessness.

"I was brought on board to close down the old program that was Gwinnett Children's Shelter and take us in a new direction," said CEO Maureen Kornowa.

"We started looking for a new name or a word to describe what we were doing. And hope was one of those words. It just rang true for most of us — and for me — because that's what we were doing here. We were instilling hope where people felt hopeless.

"It's also this negative, cold feeling around a shelter. It feels institutional," she added. "We wanted this to be home. A place of refuge. So, 'Home of Hope' was a natural progression."

As Home of Hope celebrates its 35 years of history, they're also looking toward the future.

"If you don't change as the world changes, you die. We're looking forward to being part of what comes next," Maureen added.

So, what will come next for Home of Hope?

"We're hoping to be part of the affordable housing arena. Not sure what that looks like yet, but we have opportunities there," she said. "And we want to work closely with our nonprofit partners so we can all leave this world a little better than we found it."





There are never too many people to love a child. That's what spurred on this children's shelter from the very beginning. It's such a rewarding thought to know you can have a tiny piece of changing someone's life.

- **LEANA ROACH**, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS  
OF GWINNETT CHILDREN'S SHELTER



Our dream for Home of Hope families is for them to live in a [permanent] place that they can call home, have a good job, educate their kids and know that God is always with them. That [Home of Hope] will continue to strengthen families in crisis so that they can believe in themselves. To know they — like each of us — are born with a purpose. To learn they are worthy and will pass their gifts on to others. That God is always with them. That Home of Hope will always be open for others to come in.

- **SANDRA STRICKLAND**, LONG-TIME HOME OF HOPE SUPPORTER



I've served on a lot of nonprofit boards. Usually, your service period comes and goes. This is the only board I've served on anywhere near this long. By a long shot. Through this whole period, I've been impressed that this organization has always tried to stay on top of it — being impactful, not losing sight of their mission and evolving where needed.

- **LEVER STEWART**, HOME OF HOPE BOARD MEMBER  
FOR JUST OVER 30 YEARS



What I love most about being part of Home of Hope is just knowing that I helped one family stay off the streets. Or that one mother did not have her child taken away. That plain and simple is enough for me to want to spend time and money to try to see that not happen.

- **BRAND MORGAN**, FORMER HOME OF HOPE BOARD CHAIR



# YOUNG MOM LEARNS HOW TO LIVE A LIFE SHE NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE

**She was caught in an abusive relationship and had nowhere else to go. Nikki, her daughter and her son needed something more. But when Nikki couldn't afford rent, a family friend told her about Home of Hope. She was uncertain, though.**

"I did not want to go to a shelter. But Home of Hope is like a home, not a shelter," Nikki said. "From the rooms and how they're set up to the way the staff acts with you to activities for the kids, things to do and gifts at holidays...they treat you like family."

Having a group of people rallying around her and pushing her forward was just the encouragement Nikki needed.

"Before, my life was all over the place. But the Home of Hope staff welcomes you with open arms and pushes you to want to do better. When you're having a bad day, they're there to talk to and listen to you," she said.

After a year at Home of Hope, Nikki and her kids have now lived for more than six months in their own apartment. And Nikki is taking other steps toward some of her goals for the future.

"I came to Home of Hope with \$0 in my bank account, and I left with \$10,000 in my savings," she said. "My goals are to have a house by the time I turn 35, to go back to school to be a nurse, and to not live paycheck to paycheck but live comfortably."

"I also want to be an inspirational speaker — to use my story to help other people. It's always made me feel better to know that I'm not the only one going through hard times."

And Nikki's message to the Home of Hope staff and donors comes from a heart filled with appreciation.

"To the staff: I don't know where I'd be right now [without you]. Home of Hope honestly saved my life and my kids' lives and just put us on a better path than we were on. To the donors: You're using your donations for the right thing; you've really helped us," she said.

"Thank you to Home of Hope for opening a door for me and my kids. Home of Hope is a blessing."



**HELP EVEN MORE KIDS AND THEIR YOUNG MOMS!**

## HERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS.

### 1 GIVE ONLINE AT [HOMEOFHOPEGCS.ORG](https://homeofhopegcs.org)!

Whether it's a one-time gift or a monthly donation, your giving makes a difference in the lives of our children and families.

### 2 DONATE!

Encourage your neighborhood, church, civic groups and social organizations to host a drive to benefit our children and families. From non-perishable items to gift cards and passes, there are many ways to help.

Find a complete list on our website.

### 3 VOLUNTEER!

We have many volunteer needs throughout the year. Find your spot on our website. (Please note that we do background checks on all our volunteers.)



**GIVE NOW!**





## Sip & Swine

WOW! The Sip & Swine BBQ Festival beat last year's total and raised about **\$85,000** for Home of Hope children and their moms. Thank you to all of this year's donors, supporters, volunteers and, of course, the 20,000 attendees. We could never do this without YOU!

## Charity Golf Tournament

The North Gwinnett Kiwanis Club hosted its Annual Golf Classic at Chateau Elan Golf Club in Braselton, GA on September 14, 2021. For the second year in a row, all proceeds benefited Home of Hope at Gwinnett Children's Shelter. Thanks for raising money for our kids and moms!



## Characters for Christmas

So much Christmas joy was shared during last year's event! Thanks to Cosplay Atlanta, Volunteers of Atlanta and our other Home of Hope volunteers who made Characters for Christmas happen.



## Bourbon & Bubbles

Thank you for all the ways you made the 7th annual gala a success — and for continuing to share hope with children experiencing homelessness in Gwinnett County. Together, we're ending homelessness two generations at a time.







*"I can't even tell you how grateful I am to be here!  
I feel like God orchestrated it all! Thank you for giving  
me a chance to save money and to learn how to budget!  
I'm shocked to know a place like this even exists. I won't  
be discouraged at all, cause I'm on a mission.  
Thanks again for everything."*

*-Home of Hope Mom*

**HOME OF HOPE AT GWINNETT CHILDREN'S SHELTER**

P.O. Box 527 Buford, GA 30515-0527

**HomeofHopeGCS.org**