

—HOME OF HOPE—
2025 Annual Report

TRANSFORMING FAMILIES

Two Generations at a Time



As we look to the future, we see the changing needs in our community. Calls are coming in fast and furious, and the need seems to be greater.

We do a telephone assessment with each caller to see if we can help or point her in the right direction, if it is not Home of Hope. When a mom is invited for an interview for one of our spots in the program, we dig deep and look for that spark of desire in someone who really wants to change her outcome.

We need to know that mom is willing to work hard to do her part, while we do ours supporting her on her journey back to independent living.

This way, she has “skin in the game” and values the work she put in while living with us here on campus. Our kids have one job to do, and that is to be happy, safe and secure children while at Home of Hope.

We provide a stable home-like environment while mom works a high-accountability program designed with her and for her to get her on her feet. This multi-generational approach saves young families out of homelessness while saving taxpayers by reducing the rate of recidivism for the need of social services. Home of Hope is a win-win for our community.

We have no government funding, and your support is paramount to our continued success. Thank you for all you give to Home of Hope at Gwinnett Children’s Shelter.

Many blessings to you and your families.

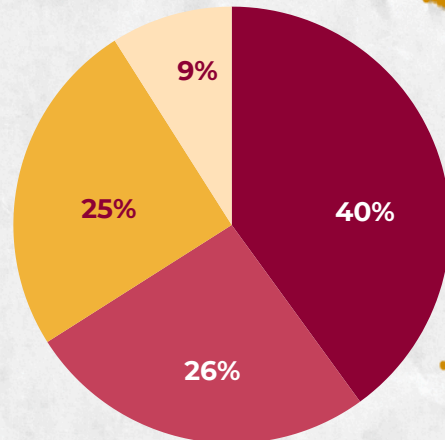


Maureen

Maureen Kornowa
CEO & Executive Director

Where the money comes from:

Individuals/Businesses	40%
Events	26%
Grants/Foundation	25%
Churches	9%



Executive Board:

Jennifer Bridwell, Chairwoman
Gwinnett Market President | GBC

Jim Joedecke, Vice Chairman
Partner | Andersen, Tate & Carr, PC

Ruth Davis, Secretary |
Community Partner & Home of Hope Volunteer

Lever Stewart, Legal Counsel |
Attorney- President/CEO and Co-Founder Accushield

Ray Stanley, Treasurer |
Community Member

General Board:

Autumn Bailey-Ford, CEO |
Autumn Bailey Entertainment, LLC

David Ehrhardt, Associate VP
(retired) | Hazen and Sawyer, P.C

Andrew Hedrich, CPA, Manager
| Smith+Howard CPAs

Matt Hopkins, President & CEO
| SEI Group, Inc.

Doug Meyer, Fund
Development | Community Leader

Peggy Slappey, Broker |
Peggy Slappey Properties, Inc.

Average cost to house a family

\$4,800 per month based on a household of 3.5

Average savings upon leaving

\$4,000-\$7,000



“Home of Hope’s staff and volunteers transform your way of thinking and give you the hope and motivation that you are a good mom. **You are loved. God loves you.**”



“Regardless of your circumstances and of anything you’ve gone through in the past, **if you want to be better, you can be better.**”

— Kanisha, Home of Hope graduate

HOPE BEGINS HERE:

Brandy's story

Brandy had to leave the toxic situation she was in, even though it meant facing homelessness. Anything was better than staying.

“I just got my things and left.”

“I’ve never been homeless and had never had to go through any of the things that I went through — it was very hard,” she said.

For the next two months, Brandy — who had just found out she was pregnant — and her three children stayed in hotels while she tried to figure out her next step.

“When I heard ‘shelter,’ I’m thinking you’ve got to share everything with somebody else,” she said. “But when I got here, it was really nice. I’ve got my own space. **Since I’ve been here, it’s nothing but blessings.**”

Brandy’s youngest child is with her at Home of Hope and is adapting well — especially after meeting the other kids staying with their moms. For Brandy, being around other women who have faced similar situations has been encouraging.

“They’re in my corner helping me out,” she said. “It’s just life-changing.”

But the emotions that came with being pregnant and without a home became overwhelming, and she contemplated ending the pregnancy.

“I’m like, ‘I just can’t do this; I don’t have anywhere to stay,’” Brandy said. “I just can’t see myself another day longer in this situation.”

God had other plans for her. When she arrived at the clinic, she met some people from a local church who encouraged her to keep the baby and offered to help. They paid for some hotel stays, donated a car to her and helped her find Home of Hope.

At first, she was fearful of the idea of going to a shelter because she didn’t know what to expect.



10 years of Sip & Swine Over \$1 Million Raised

Thank you for joining us at one of our biggest events of the year! We celebrated **10 years** of Sip & Swine with delicious BBQ, live music and local vendors — and have **raised over \$1 million** through a decade of this event.



2025 Gala Over \$255,000! Raised

We unmasked hope and celebrated life change at the Masquerade Ball! We danced the night away, and together, **we raised over \$255,000!!**



Thank you for joining us to fight homelessness two generations at a time!

Giving the Gift of “HOME”



Meet Jeanne White-Shepherd, one of our faithful donors and local State Farm agent for 35 years!

As a mother herself, Jeanne White-Shepherd can't imagine how she would feel if her children didn't have a place to call home. When she heard about the single mothers and their children in her own community struggling with housing insecurity, Jeanne knew she wanted to help.

“I know how hard it was for me to work and raise two kids,” Jeanne shared. “I couldn't imagine having to do it out of a car or out of a tent or while asking other people to let you stay a couple of nights at their place.”

Since becoming donors, she and her husband have pitched in where they can to benefit mothers and children at Home of Hope. She enjoys chatting with the children whenever she's able to visit and is encouraged to hear how happy they are at Home of Hope.

“They look at [Home of Hope] as their home. They don't think they're homeless. When the kids are happy and feel like they have a home, then it's a success,” she said. “We can help them create strong foundations so they can become whatever they want to be.”

THANK YOU DONORS,
for sharing hope with our families!



Three ways YOU can fight homelessness:

GIVE ONLINE

Every gift matters! Whether you can bless our families once or can become a monthly giving partner, your gift is building better futures.



DONATE

A gift card, a home-cooked meal or new clothes kids can call their own all make a difference! Gather your church, friends and family or community group to collect needed items that remind our families they're seen and loved.



VOLUNTEER

Do you love playing with kids? Outdoor maintenance? Planning events? We'd love to find a fit for your skills on our volunteer team!
(Note: Background checks are required for all volunteers.)



“

Whatever I can do to organize, fix, clean, beautify or improve the experience of these families in some small way means I'm freeing up their staff to better serve the moms and kids.”

— Peter Rudnick, volunteer



—HOME OF HOPE—

“[Home of Hope] provides hope, a hope of stability. It provides hope of potentially building connections with other families. It builds hope in learning how to manage money. It builds hope in the small things, like just being able to sit and watch your child play with the other kids.

“It’s all possible because of the donors and the volunteers and everyone who gives out of their time and money just to be able to help provide us more stability.”

— Briana, recent Home of Hope graduate



Home of Hope at Gwinnett Children’s Shelter
P.O. Box 527 Buford, GA 30515-0527

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