2026 IMPACT REPORT

In 2026, ECF Granted $141,400!

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR MIDDLE AND NORTH GEORGIA
Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

2026 Grantees

Church of the Resurrection†
Georgia Mountains
Criminal Justice/Homelessness/Generational Poverty
$30,000

Crossroads Community Ministries
St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Atlanta)
Mid-Atlanta
Homelessness $20,600

MUST Ministries
St. Catherine's Episcopal Church
Marietta
Hunger $8,800

New American Pathways†
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
East Atlanta
Refugees & Immigrants $16,000

Parole Advocates
Grace-Calvary Church
Georgia Mountains
Criminal Justice $25,000

Peachtree Road Farmers Market†
Cathedral of St. Philip
Mid-Atlanta
Hunger $11,000

Rainbow Village
Christ Episcopal Church (Norcross)
Northeast Metro
Homelessness $20,000

St. Paul's Episcopal Church + Emmaus House Partnership
Mid-Atlanta
Hunger $10,000

† Challenge grant matched by the parish.

29% Homelessness

21% Hunger

21% Criminal Justice/ Homelessness/ Generational Poverty

18% People Impacted by the Criminal Justice System

11% Refugees & Immigrants

** No applications were received in the area of Human Trafficking.*

Who We Funded

$90,400 Nonprofits

$51,000 Parishes

ECF GRANT AT WORK:
Clothing and Dignity for Displaced Children

A child's clothing sends signals long before words do. When elementary students show up to school in dirty, ill-fitting, out-of-season garments, that's a sign to teachers and social workers of hardship at home. When trauma or economic strain forces a child into foster or kinship care, they may arrive with only the worn clothes on their back.

Dignity is at stake in such vulnerable moments. **Bloom Our Youth** serves these children across Georgia with free clothing, essential supplies, and support services when they, and their caretakers, need it most. When Bloom needed critical assistance, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome and ECF came through.

In Northwest Georgia, Bloom operates the Rome Bloom Closet as a free clothes boutique for these children but needed financial help outfitting it.

Rev. Deacon Devon Smyth, a convocational deacon for the Northwest Georgia Convocation, connected Bloom to St. Peter's. Together, in fall 2025, they secured a $17,720 ECF grant to make their closet fully bloom.

Today the closet's durable infrastructure includes heavy-duty shelving, storage bins, and Speed Queen commercial washers and dryers. Foster children choose brand-new or pristine clothing for free during personalized appointments.

The apparel comes from St. Peter's and smaller parishes, and Smyth says each piece carries a message: "Because you're beloved, here's the best of what we can give you."

"That's the gospel in a nutshell," she added.

For grandparents and relatives taking in these children, free clothing eases financial stress related to generational poverty and/or incarceration. Practical supports help shorten foster placements.

The parishioners at St. Peter's keep giving too. When an emergency placement brought a boy back to Georgia without shoes or a coat, a St. Peter's member purchased a brand-new wardrobe for him.

Though not a faith-based organization, Bloom follows a higher calling that aligns with the Episcopal baptismal covenant and mission of ECF: "When children come into foster care, they're at the lowest point of their lives," said executive director Becky Davenport. "Our organization is about the restoration of that dignity."

"Parental incarceration, substance abuse, and neglect can create generational cycles," explains Pamella Talley, senior vice president of Bloom's foster care and prevention operations in Rome. "Bloom is disrupting that cycle by meeting people where they are to provide for their basic needs."

Because of this ECF grant at work, children in Northwest Georgia facing a difficult separation now have clothing that signals support and stability.

Photos courtesy of Bloom Our Youth

Photo courtesy of Cathedral of St. Philip

Why I Give: Juan Sandoval

For archdeacon **Juan Sandoval**, giving is deeply tied to his diaconal vows to serve those in need. Serving primarily at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Sandoval describes his role as keeping "one foot in the church and one foot in the world."

He and his wife have supported ECF with a recurring monthly donation for more than five years. For Sandoval, a 28-year military veteran and nurse, ECF's model of funding partnerships between Episcopal parishes and local nonprofits amplifies the reach of every dollar.

"One church can't do it alone, but joining with a community partner widens the circle," Sandoval shares. From food insecurity programs at local farmers markets to support for refugees and housing initiatives, he sees ECF funds putting faith into practical action.

"Ultimately, it grounds back to our baptismal covenant—to respect the dignity of every human being," he says. "ECF helps uphold that dignity across our diocese."

Hunger Walk Run

For the first time ever, an OTP parish claimed the Bishop's Cup at the 2026 Hunger Walk Run on March 15!

Winning parish **All Saints (Warner Robins)** led a fierce, but friendly, competition between 25 parishes. From their cumulative fundraising efforts, ECF received more than $17,800 for hunger-related grants. More than 75% of funds were raised by parishes that fall outside of the Atlanta Community Food Bank's service area, demonstrating how ECF extends the benefit of this annual event to communities across the Diocese of Atlanta.

Chattahoochee Valley Convocation

Why I Give: Beth Howell

ECF donor **Beth Howell** loves supporting families in need. A cradle Episcopalian from Holy Trinity Parish in Decatur, Howell served six years on ECF's Board of Directors—including a term as board chair.

Being president of Ronald McDonald House of Atlanta influenced her philanthropy. On ECF site visits, she witnessed outreach to families in crisis, like El Refugio supporting relatives of detainees in Lumpkin.

"You have broad impact through ECF because they help people throughout Georgia," she said. "It's a great opportunity to put your money in one place and see it assist multiple communities."

Howell gives to ECF's annual fund, trusting leadership to spend where needed most.

"You can't deliver program impact without proper infrastructure and strong leadership," Howell said. "ECF makes every dollar count, extending real help to communities that need it most."

A Note from Our Executive Director

To date, the Episcopal Community Foundation has granted more than $6 million to help our parishes in Middle and North Georgia love our neighbors who are experiencing poverty and oppression.

But true impact is measured in more than dollars.

Following Christ's example, our grantmaking is intentionally relational. Through rigorous application reviews, thoughtful discussions, and hands-on site visits, we join ministries where they are. We work alongside Episcopalians so they can maximize their impact. Together, we look for that sweet spot where ECF funding, leadership, and resources can make the biggest difference. We may be best known for our grants, but financial support is just one element of our relationships with parishes and their nonprofit partners.

As I often share, ECF is about helping our parishes do ministry better. "Thank you for asking the hard questions," parish leaders frequently tell us. "Our program is so much stronger because of it."

Stewardship is everything to us and guides us as we provide grants and legacy giving support. By walking alongside our churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, ECF empowers individuals and communities to thrive both today and in the future.

Thank you for joining us in this work; we welcome anyone who wants to learn more!

Dr. Lindsey E. Hardegree, DMin
Executive Director

Ways to Support ECF & Your Parish

- Make a one-time donation online: **ECFimpact.org/donate**
- Make a recurring monthly donation: **ECFimpact.org/donate**
- Mail a check to our office (see address below).
- Interested in giving stock to ECF or your parish? **ECFimpact.org/stock**
- Enjoy tax-savings with a gift from your IRA! **ECFimpact.org/givingresources**

2026 Board of Directors

Megan Hulgan, **Chair**

Rev. Rhett Solomon, **Vice Chair**

Rev. John M. Hamilton, **Secretary**

Mark S. Johnson, **Treasurer**

Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright,
Bishop of Atlanta*

Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner,
Bishop's Representative

**Ex Officio*

Thomas Mark Jan Adkins
At-Large

Judi Carlson
At-Large

Dave Chambless
At-Large

Sheryl A. Cody
Chattahoochee Valley Convocation

Sgt. Terrie de Freitas
East Atlanta Convocation

Dr. Amy Huston Goetze
North Atlanta Convocation

DeDe Harris
At-Large

Dr. Belinda J. McIntosh
Mid-Atlanta Convocation

Laurin M. McSwain
At-Large

Rev. Dr. Patricia Miller
Northeast Metro Convocation

Deborah Parker
Oconee Convocation

Rev. Deacon Lisa Parker
Georgia Mountains Convocation

Patrick G. Renn
At-Large

Rev. Alex Sherrill
Southwest Atlanta Convocation

Robert W. Steinbruegge
At-Large

Claudia Zimmermann
Marietta Convocation

Vacant: Middle Georgia, Northwest Georgia

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dr. Lindsey E. Hardegree, LHardegree@episcopalatlanta.org
2744 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30305 | 404-601-5362 | ECFimpact.org