HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Impact Report

FY 2025

Emmaus House

Dear Friends of Emmaus House,

For nearly 60 years, Emmaus House has stood alongside the residents of Peoplestown and surrounding areas—rooted in hope, committed to justice, and driven by a deep respect for the dignity of all. That commitment is as alive today as it was when our doors first opened.

Our work spans generations and meets people wherever they are. Through programs like CDF Freedom School and Families on the Move, we invest in children and youth. Through Southside Works and Supports for Success, we help adults open doors to economic opportunity. And through our Lokey Help Center, we ensure our neighbors have access to the essential resources they need to move forward.

One thing we have learned, however, is that no single organization can serve a community.

The impact you'll read about in these pages is the result of an extended community harnessing its collective power. Our neighbors bring courage and resilience. Our partner organizations amplify our reach. Our volunteers show up with energy and commitment. And our donors help make every program, every meal, and every moment of success possible.

Together, we are proof that community—the whole community, wherever its members reside—is a powerful force for change.

Thank you for sharing our mission and for your generous, steadfast support. We are honored to be in community with you.

With deep gratitude,

The Emmaus House Team

Mission

Emmaus House works to improve the economic and social well-being of the residents of Peoplestown and surrounding neighborhoods.

Strategic Priorities

Emmaus House seeks positive change in the lives of our neighbors and in the systems that shape their lives. To achieve this change, our programs focus on 3 strategic priorities:

Community Impact

Multigenerational Education

Economic Opportunity

Values & Commitment

For nearly 60 years, we've stood for justice and equity, rooted in faith and a deep respect for the dignity of every human being.

From our early days during the civil rights movement to the uncertainty of today, we have loved and learned, organized and mobilized, and laughed and cried with the incredibly resilient residents of the communities we serve.

It Takes a Village:

Tonya's Fresh Start in Atlanta

When Tonya arrived in Atlanta with her four children, she felt lost. She had left Florida in search of a fresh start, but navigating a new city with young kids quickly became overwhelming.

Her social worker mentioned a help center down the street called Emmaus House. When she arrived, her list of needs was long: food, diapers, furniture, summer camp for her sons, daycare for her daughters.

Instead of addressing one or two needs, the staff helped with everything. They provided a voucher so she could get an ID, referred her daughters to a daycare where they're now thriving, and even paid a $200 deposit to have furniture delivered—helping turn her apartment into a true home. Jacob and Jonah had such a positive experience at Freedom School, they continue to wear their camp shirts and talk about going back.

"The fact that everything I needed when I walked in the door was addressed," Tonya says, "that meant everything."

Located just down the street from her home in Peoplestown, Emmaus House was close and easy to get to. Unlike other organizations she encountered that were either low on resources or difficult to navigate, she found Emmaus House responsive and kind. There were no long commutes or waiting lists, no "barriers on top of barriers." From her first phone call, the staff made her feel welcome and heard.

With her daughters now in quality daycare, Tonya finally had time to look for work that fit her schedule. Emmaus House staff assisted with her job search. Now, Tonya is employed full time; bus passes help her get around the city, and her apartment—once bare—is now warm and comfortable. But the biggest change, she says, is having a support system she can rely on.

"It's like an extended village," Tonya explains. She knows that if she needs food or if the lights get cut off, she can call and someone will help. The staff continue to check in with her even when her sons aren't enrolled in a program. That ongoing relationship gives her something she didn't have before: security.

I feel like I have a real support system," she says. "And that changes everything about how secure I feel in Atlanta."

Today, Tonya calls herself "a walking advertisement for Emmaus House."

"Help is out there if you just go and get it," she says. "And when people ask if it's real, I tell them, 'I've physically been there and experienced it.'"

From being lost in a new city to finding a home and community, Tonya's story shows how accessible, compassionate support can help families not only survive, but begin again with confidence and hope.

Building Systems of Support

Our programs and services are designed to meet the evolving needs of our community. They equip children, youth, and adults with the tools and support they need to overcome challenges associated with poverty and racism. Meanwhile, we work with a wide range of partners to change the systems that perpetuate these problems.

2025 By the Numbers

107,000+ meals distributed

$95,000 in rent and utility assistance

1,338 families assisted in accessing SNAP benefits

338 Thanksgiving dinners shared

85 students engaged in education enrichment

Community Impact Through Access to Basic Needs

- **Lokey Help Center** - The Lokey Help Center is a place where our neighbors can come to be seen and served. It's the hub for a wide range of services, including SNAP assistance, medical copay, mail services, emergency financial aid, benefit assistance, ID vouchers, and more.
- **Food Pantry** - Our client-choice community food pantry provides families in need with access to a wide range of healthy food options and other essential items.
- **Holiday Programs** - At Emmaus House, we believe the holidays are opportunities to come together and strengthen family ties. Our holiday programs include distributing Thanksgiving dinners for "Thanksgiving at Home" and providing Christmas gifts for families in need.

Future Readiness Through **Multigenerational Education**

- **CDF Freedom School** - For 6 weeks during the summers, the Emmaus House Freedom School provides youth in our community with literacy training, enrichment, mentorship, as well as nutrition and mental health support during a time families often miss the support provided by schools.
- **Families on the Move** - Families on the Move is a comprehensive out-of-school program that empowers youth and their caregivers with peer support, homework assistance, and enriching activities like career exploration, financial literacy training, interactive cooking, dance, mindfulness, and more.

Economic Opportunity Through Workforce Development

- **Southside Works** - Southside Works is a collaboration between Emmaus House and other local organizations that provides Southside residents with free job skills training, helping them secure opportunities in vibrant local industries like film, tech, agriculture, and more.
- **Supports for Success** - Supports for Success is a six-month program that helps heads-of-households create stability for their families by providing them with emergency assistance, financial literacy training, and career coaching.

We Are Strong in Community

The Emmaus House community includes our beloved neighbors, generous donors, hard-working staff members, committed volunteers, expert advisors, and steadfast social service partners.

While we don't have space to list all the members of our community individually here, we deeply appreciate each and every one of them. We are especially grateful to the following partner organizations, who share our mission and work arm-in-arm with Emmaus House each and every day:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta Civic Site
- Atlanta Community Food Bank
- Central Outreach & Advocacy Center
- Children's Defense Fund
- Diabetes Association of Atlanta
- Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta
- Georgia Justice Project
- Helping Mamas
- Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage & Disability
- Midwest Food Bank of Georgia
- Per Scholas
- PNC Bank
- Someone Cares
- STRIVE ATLANTA
- Urban Recipe
- VoteRiders
- Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency

We thank every member of our community. Together we are powerful!

Emmaus House

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