

MAY 2019

CENTRAL OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY CENTER

MEDIA KIT



HISTORY

It all began in a closet. The year was 1980 when a young woman named “Mary” knew she needed help. She had a place to live, but her minimum wage job did not provide enough income for her utilities and food. Her family was hungry, so she swallowed her pride and walked in the front door of a nearby church – Central Presbyterian.

She spoke with Rev. Joanna Adams who listened to her story and arranged for her to pick up some groceries for her family. From that humble beginning, the Outreach Center grew into a widely-known program, with its own large space, where dozens of people in need receive services each weekday. Perhaps the word which best describes the Center is evolving. Central Presbyterian Church saw a need in their community and began to address it in the best ways they could. However, eventually realizing that the needs of those experiencing homelessness in downtown Atlanta and those at-risk of homelessness were too large for their church staff to address, the Central Outreach and Advocacy Center hired staff and eventually became an independent non-profit.

Today, Central OAC continues to serve downtown Atlanta from the lower level of Central Presbyterian Church. Our agency has developed from an emergency food pantry to a church outreach ministry into one of the most well-known nonprofits in the downtown area. As we continue to grow and change with the needs of our community, we always strive to serve everyone that comes through our doors with the respect, kindness, and humility that “Mary” was met with nearly 40 years ago.

In 2017, Central OAC celebrated 20 years of service as an independent nonprofit. Help us continue to celebrate by ensuring we have the resources to continue serving for another 20 years and beyond!



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Georgia ID
- Birth Certificates
- Legal Referrals
- Medical Referrals
- Vision Referrals
- TB Test Referrals
- Mental Health Referrals
- Clothing Referrals
- Food Referrals
- Shelter Referrals
- Homeless Verification Letters
- Hygiene Kits

FACT SHEET

At Central OAC, we serve a variety of individuals on a daily basis. Each person who comes through our doors has a story, and we strive to meet each guest where they are by listening to these important stories. A main lesson our guests continue to teach us is that homelessness and poverty are complicated issues. Each guest experiences a variety of hardships, both societal and individual, that lead to their circumstances. However, our guests also continue to inspire us with their resilience and hope. To give you a taste of who our guests are and what they experience, here are a few demographics from 2018 about the people we serve:

66

Average # of Services Provided
Per Day

334

Veterans

31

Average # of Monthly
Participants in Art Program

459

Assisted with Access to Medical
Care

2508

Experiencing Homelessness
(Housing Status)

2534

Assisted with Georgia ID

330

Chronically Homeless

29

Graduates of Main Frame



PHOTOS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name:	Affiliation:	Position:
Jeff Hilimire	CEO, Dragon Army	Board Chair
Mike Hibbison	Vice President, Merchandising, Home Depot	Co-Vice Chair
Sarah Zimbardi	Attorney, Office of The Public Defender	Co-Vice Chair
Steve Bacon	Retired, Presbyterian Minister	Board Treasurer
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Sydney Langdon	Manager of Corporate Responsibility, Turner Broadcasting System	Director
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DeAndria Nichols	Vice President, Adult Vision Services, Prevent Blindness Georgia	Director
Rev. Anna Traynham	Associate Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church	Director
Yvonne Cowser Yancy	Commissioner of Human Resources, City of Atlanta	Director
Steve Young	Lecturer of Marketing and Sales, Georgia State University	Director



STAFF



Kimberly J. Parker, Executive Director

Kimberly has degrees from Barton College (BS), United States Sports Academy (MSS), and Columbia Theological Seminary (MDiv).

She worked eight years as an exercise physiologist at the University of South Alabama Cardiac Rehabilitation Program and three years in campus ministry prior to attending seminary.

Upon graduating from Columbia in 2004, Kimberly was hired for a part-time position with Central Outreach and Advocacy Center. Her job description has changed three times during her twelve years at the OAC. She was appointed Executive Director in September 2013.

STAFF



Ahren Cassinari-Foster, Main Frame Coordinator

Ahren is a native of Portland, Oregon. He has a degree in philosophy and theology from Northwest Nazarene University and a Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology. He is completed his Masters of Social Work at University of Georgia in 2017. Ahren's call to service outside the academy brought him to Central Outreach and Advocacy Center, where he serves as the Main Frame Coordinator for the Main Frame Job Readiness Program.

Ahren has been deeply impacted by his position at Central OAC as he learns about the challenges faced by Atlanta's homeless population and works side-by-side with the dedicated volunteers and staff. Ahren joined the OAC Staff in January 2014.

STAFF



Chattrelle Gillyard, Program Director

Originally from Tallahassee, FL, Chattrelle earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Georgia State University and shortly after received her Master's degree in Social Work from Barry University in Miami, FL. She became a Licensed Master Social Worker in September 2017.

Chattrelle has four years of experience in both the mental health and substance abuse fields. She recently served with the United Way's Another Chance Program, where she served as a case manager, working with Veterans to obtain employment and housing. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, journaling, and traveling to any city that has a local beach. Chattrelle joined the OAC staff in January of 2019.

STAFF



Brenna Lakeson, Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Brenna grew up in North Carolina and attended Elon University where she studied music education and Spanish. She received her Masters of Divinity (MDiv) from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2016.

Brenna is a United Methodist clergyperson on the path toward ordination as a Deacon.

Brenna previously completed internships with Gateway Center and Action Ministries to learn about the issue of homelessness in Atlanta. She is passionate about many issues of social justice, and is involved in anti-death penalty efforts in Georgia. Outside of her justice work, Brenna writes poetry, enjoys running and yoga, and cuddles with her 2 cats, Beyonce and Seffie. She joined the OAC staff in July of 2016.

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