



*The Drake House provides short-term crisis housing, education and empowerment programs for homeless single mothers and their children in North Metro Atlanta, designed to provide stability for the children and assist the family in working toward self-sufficiency.*

...since 2006

## March is Social Work Month

We are proud to have an amazing team of social workers here at The Drake House. They act as the #1 reason that our resident moms are able to be successful in stabilizing their families after graduating from our short-term program. And the Fulton County



L to R\_ Olivia Kemp - GA St Intern, Christy Merritt, BSW - Director of Programs, Kathryn Woerner, LMSW - Career Coach, Kelli Tolbert, LMSW - Family Intake Coordinator, Colleen Carrington, MSW - Family Services Coordinator

School social workers are often our primary referral partner when a child is reported by her teacher about possible homelessness. We applaud all social workers who dedicate themselves to the cause of unselfishly serving others!

This month, The National Association of Social Workers is honoring those serving the most vulnerable in our community. "Social workers are trained to look at situations in a holistic way. They help people increase their ability to solve problems, to cope with stressors and to get needed resources. Social workers bring individuals together with other people and their communities to find

### Make a Difference

Your support is needed to help our homeless mothers and children.



### Ways to Give

[Sponsor a Drive](#)

[Donate Gift Cards](#)

[Donate to the Pantry](#)

[Donate Securities](#)

[Financial Support](#)

[Donate a Car](#)

### Upcoming Events

solutions for problems that continue to plague our society, including hunger, lack of affordable housing, and equal rights for all. And social workers make organizations responsible to people through sound social policy". (NASW, 2017) Thank you to our Drake House social workers, who have a combined 77 years of experience in the field!

Congratulations to FCSS and DFACS social workers as well who do yeoman's work with little recognition!

*Kathy Swahn*  
Executive Director

Saturday, March  
25th  
LGE  
[5K Decade Dash](#)



Does your group plan on holding a fundraiser for The Drake House?  
**Let us know.**

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2017

We ❤️ our volunteers! They are vital to the success of The Drake House. Our mothers and children thrive due to the generosity of service, time, and talent.



Melinda & Luke Szegedi

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Teen Shine Award</b><br>Megan Fisher                                   | <b>Right On Time Award</b><br>Jeanie Lipsius   | <b>Pinch Hitter Award</b><br>Jason Price                             |
| <b>Thelma &amp; Loiuise Award</b><br>Carol Sknowronek & Kaye Hart         | <b>Jack-Of-All-Trades Award</b><br>Duane Thacker, Mike Dooley & Mike McNeil              | <b>Inspector Clouseau Award</b><br>Paula Pope & Julie Mizer          |
| <b>Supporting Actors In A Lead Role Award</b><br>100 Black Men of Atlanta | <b>The Shopaholic Award</b><br>Clarice Parver & Paula Hope                               | <b>Mother Goose Award</b><br>Lynn Hollman                            |
| <b>Heavenly Helper Award</b><br>Beth Kotler & Helen Rosengarten           | <b>The Mikey Award</b><br>Beverly Yearack & Yvonne Chrimes                               | <b>Cherry On Top Award</b><br>Sally Kadrich                          |
| <b>Marathon Team Leader Award</b><br>Becky Galloway                       | <b>It Takes A Village Award</b><br>Cheryl Abbott, Paula Hope, Tara Matuza & Mary Maxwell | <b>Youngest Volunteer In A Supporting Role Award</b><br>Luke Szegedi |

**SHINING STAR AWARD**  
Peggy Brinkley

**HUMANITARIAN AWARD**  
Charles Curtis

### Save The Date

Tuesday, June  
13th 5:30 - 9:30pm  
Drake Closet  
Fashion Show  
UPS World  
Headquarters

Monday, June 19th  
LGE  
Ed Collins  
Community  
Outreach Golf  
Tournament

Sunday, August  
27th  
2 - 4pm

[13th Annual Miss Mary's Ice Cream Crankin'](#)

on Roswell Square.  
Contact **Holly York** for sponsor or Crankin' info.

### February Volunteers

573 hours  
1,315 hrs YTD



208 Individuals

**Work groups:**

\*Synchrony Financial

\* Jack & Jill Organization

\* American Honda Finance

\* First Baptist Church Roswell

\* YMSL

\* NCL Milton

\* Alpharetta and Gardinia

\*RPC Women's Circles

\*RUMC dinner team



**The Drake House Leadership**

**Board of Directors**

- Jim Alford, Treasurer
- Moses Brown
- Charles Curtis
- Sandra Girona
- Dr. Lisa Hasty, MD
- Philip Hasty, Secretary
- Vetta Hauser
- Andy Hepburn
- Layne Kamsler
- Karen Lee, Chair
- Laura Madajewski, CPA
- Genille McElvey
- Ausker Morris
- Pam Page
- The Rev. Michelle Ortiz
- Natasha Robinson
- Tisha Rosamond
- Karen Trylovich, Vice-Chair
- Rev. Ollie Wagner
- Anu Whitaker



If you would like to volunteer, please [Click here](#) to complete the online application. If your group would like to schedule time to volunteer in 2017, please contact [Melinda Szegedi](#).

## After School Program is Growing



Since early February, our After School Program has doubled in the number of participants. We are seeking energetic and caring tutors that are high school age and older to work with our elementary age children. Volunteers are needed any day, Monday through Friday from 3:00-5:00pm or 5:00 to 7:00pm. If

you are interested, please contact [Caroline Choe](#) our After School Program Coordinator.

## Alumni Learn About Social Media Use by Recruiters

Recruiters today have many more tools than just a resume, and social media is one of those primary tools. At our February Alumni event, Katheryn Woerner, our Career Coach shared info about the various forms of social media and how even our personal accounts can be viewed during the recruiting process. We explored the purpose of our individual digital footprint and how we are responsible for the content that we put online.



The group shared their personal knowledge of ways that social media has impacted their employment journeys and how they are making changes now in their interaction online. The key takeaways were to remain authentic and professional. Board Members on the Program Committee hosted the delicious dinner and American Honda Financial entertained our children of all ages.

One Alumni mom who was attending the gathering for the first time has this to say:

*"Coming back to The Drake House brought tears to my eyes because I thought about when my daughter and I moved in where I was in my life. What state of mind I was in. What condition my life was in and how I felt. Now I came back for alumni night and I'm in a totally different place, an Alumni! I'm in a different state of mind and different position in life! I feel proud to say I conquered the hardest battle of life thus far. I'm so much better and healed and for that I am truly grateful to The Drake House!!!! "*

### President Emeritus

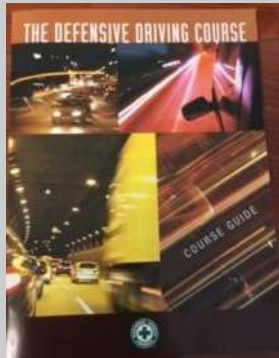
Tedra W. Cheatham, CEcD  
Craig Dryden  
Freda B. Hardage  
David Hammond  
Kathy Swahn

### Neighbor to Neighbor Partners

Roswell Presbyterian  
Northbrook UMC  
Temple Kehillat Chaim  
Northview Church of Christ  
Zion Missionary Baptist  
First Baptist Roswell  
St. James UMC  
North River Baptist  
Alpharetta UMC  
Alpharetta Presbyterian  
St. David's Episcopal  
St. Thomas Aquinas

## New Program for our Moms

We all know that getting on the freeways and side roads in metro Atlanta can be hazardous, even on a good weather day. That's why we asked Nathan's Driving School to partner with us to offer a 4 week defensive driving course for all of our moms.



Each participant received a National Safety Council Certificate of completion upon passing their exam. This included learning how to avoid the six most unsafe driving behaviors:  
1. Improper Speed, 2. Violating Right of Way, 3. Driving Left of Center, 4. Turning Improperly, 5. Passing Improperly, and 6. Following Too Closely.  
Drake House moms now have the skills and knowledge they need to be a defensive driver.

## Did You Know?

Though many of our families successfully complete our program, finding suitable housing once leaving The Drake House is not as simple as one may think. As of late, many of our mothers have had great difficulty locating and securing independent housing due to a battery of reasons. Past eviction records, underemployment with low earning potential, the "3x the rent" income rule, coupled with additional credit issues are just a few of the significant hindrances. Thus, our families are considered "risky renters"; and what once appeared as a straightforward transition, is now riddled with unforeseen obstacles. So how can we as a community counteract this phenomena? By determining and providing alternative rental accommodations. If you can help or know of any private rental opportunities available, please contact [Dianne Berry](#). It can make all the difference in supporting our mothers on their journey to independence.



## Donations Make a Difference - Thank You

**Infosys McCamish Systems, LLC** celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th. They put together baskets with cleaning products and hygiene products and sold each basket for \$15 - \$5 of that went toward purchasing gift cards. They also collected food items for our pantry and individual cleaning and hygiene items.



**Crabapple Crossing Elementary School** hosted this school year's sixth Walk to School event. Third grade Girl Scout Brownie Troop #15307 waited to cheer everyone who skipped the school bus and braved the chilly weather and walked to school.

The troop had requested walkers to bring tall kitchen garbage bags for The Drake House. When the school bell rang, they had collected 150 loose bags plus an additional 350 in unopened boxes. At their next meeting the girls bundled up the loose bags into packs of five for The Drake House pantry.



Sponsored by a grant from **The Sandy Springs Society**, The Drake House now has a new utility shed. Thanks to **First Baptist Church Roswell** for assembling the shed during their 2017 Beyond Our Walls Service Day.



Van donation from Louise & Bruce Plagman - The After School program loves their new ride!

## Thank You to Our Donors February 2017

Silver \$5000 +



Patron \$1000 +

Georgia Center for Nonprofits/Suntrust

## Thank You to Our Major 2016 Sponsors

Premier/Presenting \$50,000 +



Platinum \$25,000 - \$49,999



**Gold \$10,000 - \$24,999**



**Silver \$5,000 - \$9,999**



Alpharetta

**Bronze \$2,500 - \$4,999**

Honda Financial Services

Alpharetta UMC

Roswell Women's Club

Northbrook UMC

AT&T

Alpharetta Presbyterian Church





