

## Letter from an Agape Volunteer

## Dear Agape,

Thank you for all you do for our community. So many lives are touched by your hard work. This Thanksgiving you blessed many with a meal but you also blessed many hearts; hearts residing on both sides of the poverty line. My seven year old son, Wills, was moved by the differences he witnessed while delivering turkeys and sacks of groceries. I know the message of compassion and gratitude was profound and will continue to touch his heart.

He lugged every single frozen turkey into the homes of the recipients, looked them in the

eye, wished them Happy Thanksgiving, and shook their hands or hugged them. He commented all day on how sad he feels and how grateful. His eyes were opened to the poverty but it was his heart that was moved by our common humanity.

In my opinion "breaking the cycle" requires hard work on the part of people rising out of poverty but also it requires raising a new generation to be enlightened, compassionate, and generous. Agape is a wonderful setting for children on both sides of the poverty line to the experience compassion, view their community



differently, and learn to respect all who they encounter. I sincerely hope we can find opportunities for more children and families to get involved with the children, families, and elderly of Agape.

What an impactful start to our Thanksgiving week. As we drove along our delivery route we passed an old man laden with Agape groceries and pushing his bike straight uphill many miles from Agape. Just after passed him we passed a battered church sign that read "Lord, help us to give thanks for what we DO have." Undoubtedly he, like most passing that sign, has very little. That decrepit sign set in an incredibly impoverished area carried a message much stronger than you would think its posts would bear.

With immense gratitude,

Juliane and Wills McCaleb Atlanta, Georgia