Get Involved!

Sponsor a Backpack for a Child in Need

Fore! Agape’s Charity Golf Tournament!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Calendar

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Greetings from Nell Benn, Executive Director

Summer Reading Loss Devastating?

In a 2009 government web cast, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described summer learning loss as "devastating." This is what many researchers describe as the summer slide. Researchers estimate that the average student will lose up to one month of instruction during the summer months and that children from underserved and economically challenged communities are disproportionately affected.

Many children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds don’t have access to books and are not involved or participating in educational programs during the summer months. Research also indicates that many of the achievement gaps relate to experiences children have outside of school.

At Agape we strive to end the cycle of generational poverty by not only offering an academic based afterschool program, but offering summer programs that address the reading deficiency for underserved students. Please continue reading this newsletter as we highlight our ways of addressing the achievement gaps for underserved children during the summer months.
The summer months are notorious time for students from underserved families to incrementally fall behind each year throughout their school career. By 12th grade the gap is often significant. That is why Agape was very excited and appreciative when Elsie Henderson began the Agape Book & Cooke Club this summer!

The Book & Cookie Club runs concurrently with GoGirlGo! and Fit Camp for Boys. All students in the summer fitness programs are divided in 12 groups by gender and age. Each group meets twice a week for an hour, and students read aloud from age appropriate books selected from the Atlanta Public School summer reading list. The books are chosen for the rich vocabulary to expose the students to new words, cultures, religions, geography, and holidays. After each chapter the Q&A focuses on deepening reading comprehension. When the book is completed each child can take the book home and keep it.

Elsie Henderson is a long-term Agape volunteer and in 2012 co-chaired Agape's Spring Benefit. The Book and Cookie Club is lovingly staffed by Elsie and 10 volunteers from Trinity Presbyterian Church. Thank you Elsie and all of your volunteers for your deep commitment to the children's success.
NY Times Bestselling Author Reads for GOGIRLGO!

Emmy Award winning and New York Times Best Selling Children's Literature Author Carmen Agra Deedy (pictured left center) took time out this summer to visit with GOGIRLGO! Ms. Deedy read from her books and the kids screamed out when they realized that she had written books that they knew and loved.

A very special Agape thank you to Ms. Fefe Handy, (pictured right center) Executive Director of Page Turners make Great Learners, Inc, a nonprofit literacy organization for elementary students, who arranged for Ms. Deedy's visit. The mission of Page Turners make Great Learners is to motivate and encourage kids to read.
Camp JumpStart
Summer Reading Program
at St. Anne's Episcopal Church

In its second year, Camp JumpStart has increased enrollment to 30 rising first and second graders. The program is led by St. Anne's volunteers Margot Shuford, Ruthanna Bost, Janet Edwards, Nancy Brown, Janice Carter, Cele Covatta, and Ethel Wright. Program partner Educational Advisory Foundation (EAF) is staffed by Cindy Howell, Rachel Wright, Evelyn Simmons.

Camp JumpStart focuses on early literacy and reading proficiency by third grade. Each child meets one on one with trained staff from EAF each day to work on pronunciation, literacy and sight words. The children also participate in cooking classes to prepare lunch for the group each day and learn about healthy food choices and preparation.

Filling out the ranks are volunteers from The Lovett School, Pace Academy, The Westminster School, Holy Innocents Episcopal School and Jefferson High School. Thank you to NCL for organizing the schools' participation. Finally, four paid program assistants come from Agape's very own Ginger Kaney Mentoring Institute for High School Students.
Join us for the 3rd Annual
Agape Golf Charity Tournament!
Monday, September 30, 2013
Capital City Club - Brookhaven

For more information or to register your foursome click here!
Save The Date!
Agape Presents: The Westside Fest
September 15, 2013

Join us for West Fest! Our community Festival is expanding to create an event where the community can come together to celebrate the Westside, Bolton, and Riverside neighborhoods. Children's area, food trucks, craft beer, artist market, music, and fun for the whole family.

Click here for more details

Sponsorships available.
Vendors and artists needed!

Special Thanks...

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The Goizuetta Foundation
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