



Agape Community Center Newsletter

July /
August 2013

Greetings from Nell Benn, Executive Director

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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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.

Group Volunteers

Contact Agape



Agape Success Story

Like us on Facebook 

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Agape Community Center's Partners

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Perry Homes Branch

Bolton Academy

Buckhead Christian Ministries

Buckhead YMCA

Collins Memorial United Methodist Church

The Agape Book and Cookie Club



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!



CTW Venture
Partners

Fox Theater

Georgia State
University School
of Social Work

Insperty

Kids on the
Block

The Junior
League of Atlanta

The Lovett School

MODA Floors &
Interiors

National Charity
League/Buckhead
Chapter

North Atlanta
High School

Northern Trust

Northside Drive
Baptist Church

Northwest
Presbyterian
Church

Pace Academy

Peachtree
Presbyterian
Church

The Robertson

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.

Scholar Program

Rooms to Go

**Rosing Painting
and Wall
Covering
Contractors Inc.**

**St. Anne's
Episcopal Church**

**Sutton Middle
School**

**Trinity
Presbyterian
Church**

Trinity School

**The Westminster
Schools**



**Camp JumpStart
Summer Reading Program
at St. Anne's Episcopal Church**

In it's 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...

Atlanta Foundation
Atlanta Women's Foundation
The Goizuetta Foundation
Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Foundation
John H. and Wilhelmina D. Harland Charitable Foundation Inc.
Peachtree Presbyterian Church
The Rich Foundation
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Waste Management
The Zeist Foundation



Funding provided in part by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Housing and Human Services Department's Grant Program.

Your generous gifts make the work at Agape possible. Thanks again!