

COMMUNITY HELP, INC

2017



Annual Report

A 501 (C) 3 Organization



Our Mission

“To improve the quality of life of economically challenged families in the city of Savannah and Chatham County, Georgia through assistance to youth and senior citizens by focusing on education, economic development, and safe, secure housing”.



COMMUNITY HELP, INC.

(A 501 C3 ORGANIZATION Gifts are tax deductible)

912.228.3539

www.communityhelpinc.org

From the President



May 5, 2018

Greetings To Everyone,

It is with great joy that I begin this letter. I have the opportunity to tell you about Community Help, Inc. and the work we did last year. There were a number of highlights. But first, I would like to thank you all for your support of our mission during the past year. Your support has made these good things possible.

To begin, for a second straight year Community Help, Inc. received a commendation for our work in partnership with the City of Savannah and construction contractors who worked to repair twenty-five homes during 2017. The scope of that work ranged from roof replacements, to heating and air upgrades to fixing worn out kitchens and bathrooms. We could always tell the worth of the work that was done by the home owners facial expression and their comments when the work was done. The total cost for these home repairs amount to approximately \$208,000 with all the partners contributing. Mayor Eddie DeLoach and the City Council recognized our board members and volunteers during a City Council Meeting.

Volunteer teams visited sick and shut-in seniors with hot meals, conversation and prayer each Wednesday. Most visits range from ten to fifteen minutes and included opportunities for updates on life during the past week. On occasion, when the mood is right the visit ends with a song of uplift.

We conducted two "Share the Harvest" bulk food distributions last year. Two hundred twenty –five boxes, weighing approximately 70 pounds each were given to economically challenged families. This work was also done with a number of partners that included St. Philip Monumental A.M.E. Church, International Paper Company, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, Savannah State University and individual community volunteers.

But even as we completed our work in 2017 we recognize that our community's needs are not being met in some other areas. We are presently spending some time looking and evaluating whether there is a role for Community Help, Inc. as we work to improve the lives of the citizens of Savannah and Chatham County.

May God Bless us all.

Bernard Polite, President

The Board of Directors



- Mr. Bernard Polite – *President*
- Mr. Charles Nelson – *Treasurer*
- Mrs. Kimberly Thompson – *Secretary*

- Mrs. Claudia Clarke
- Mrs. Ruby Lipscomb
- Mrs. Brenda Elmgren
- Atty Bonzo Reddick
- Mr. George Bowen
- Dr. Frank D. Williams
- Mr. Keith Lord

- Rev. Marsha Verdree - *Emeritus*



Some of Community Help, Inc. Board members

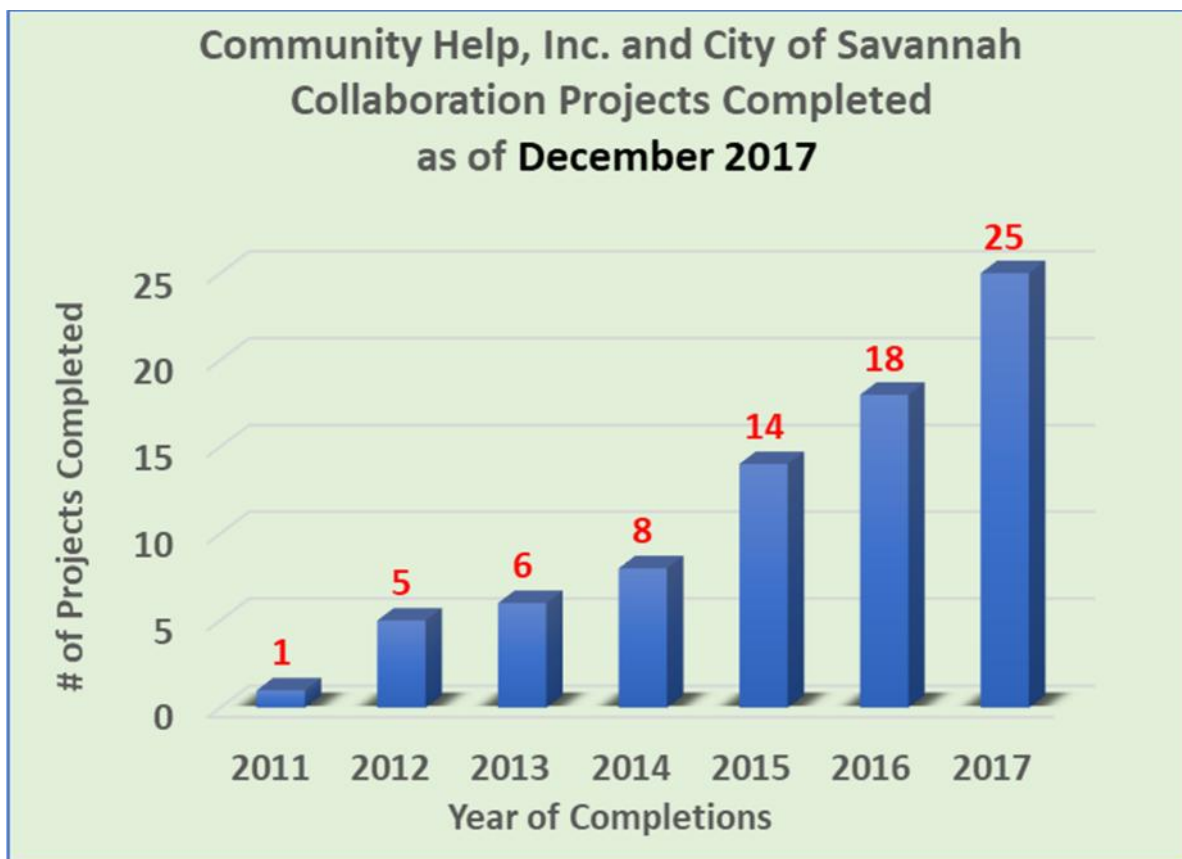


*Some Community Help, Inc. board members(front)
with members of Savannah City Council (rear)*

Safe Secure Homes



- Community Help, Inc. is a Community development corporation created in 2005, in response to the City of Savannah and Chatham County's Anti-poverty Taskforce report to the community.
- Community Help's primary focus is "to foster improvements in low to moderate income communities and neighborhoods in Chatham County, Georgia.
- Community Help Inc offers "Minor Home Repair & Paint Program" to "home owners" in need of assistance with home repairs and painting.
- This work is accomplished through partnerships with local government entities and donor partners to pursue our core objectives. Over the years Community Help has devoted much of its energy and resources to meeting the needs of qualified applicants falling within the scope of its core programs.



Safe Secure Homes



Community Help, Inc.'s contributions of \$1,000 - \$2000 along with the City of Savannah and other available funding, made the exterior and interior home improvements to the following homes possible:

Exterior Repairs



Before



After



Safe Secure Homes

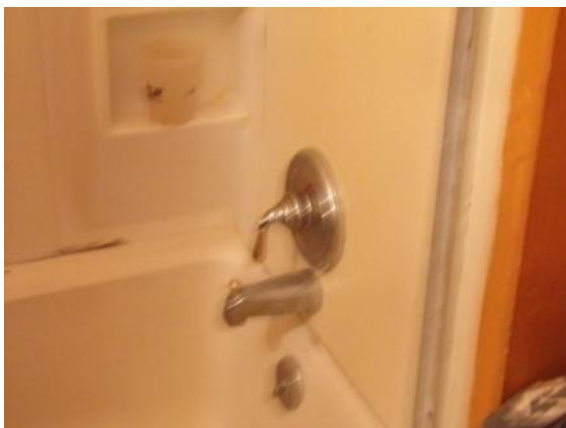
Interior Repairs



Before



After



Youth Education



- Each summer The Historic Savannah Foundation conducts a one- week camp for kids called "Hands on History". It is a collaborative effort; so they have a number of partners. Elementary and Middle School students are recruited into this broad ranging and hands-on introduction to historic preservation.
- Community Help, Inc. has provided campership funds for kids and assisted with the actual conduct of the camp. With this exposure, a good number of these kids are enrolled into the first year Historic Preservation Class of the Early College Program. We have continued our support to this program through classroom presentations and field trips for the students.



Student in the Historic Preservation Class of the Early College Program, prepares presentation for classroom showing

- Historic Presentation Class attends the reenactment of the speech given by Fredrick Douglass with supporting commentary by Harriet Tubman in 1857. This was a stage play dramatizing the impact of Fredrick Douglass' speeches on the abolition of American slavery, performed during Black History Month, at First Congregational Church.



Historic Presentation Class students watching a reenactment at Historic First Congregational Church



Mr. Brent Armstrong, instructor for the Historic Preservation Progrsam, keeps track of Historic Preservation students boarding bus for a feild trip



Mr. Brent Armstrong, instructor for the Historic Preservation Program, conducts lesson to Historic Preservation students in classroom



Hour of Power



Our visits with the sick and shut-ins are always filled with conversation and prayer. People want to talk about the things that matter to them and are important in their daily lives. We listen, we share, we learn. There are now three teams of volunteers who deliver the Wednesday lunch to fifty-six people. The need for support and care continues to grow.



Volunteer delivers meals and receive joyous conversation.



"Hour of Power" cooks in training.

There does not seem to be enough resources focused on our seniors and the issues that they must overcome. Foremost among their concerns is that the dollar does not buy as much as it used to and then comes the need for caregivers. The challenge for us is to find ways to solve these problems that the seniors within our community are talking about.

Again, through the aide of partnerships, Community Help, Inc. joined with St. Philip Monumental A. M. E. Church, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, Savannah State University and International Paper Company, to deliver hot meals each Wednesday afternoon.

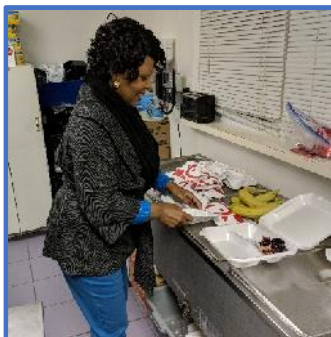


Volunteers preparing the meals that are sent to senior citizens



On an annual basis, a team that consist of trained food preparers and separate two person teams who visit the homes of the elderly and shut-in persons to deliver over forty-five hundred hot meals. While in the home, team members offer prayer and engage in spirited conversation.

Volunteers getting ready to load up and deliver meals to seniors



2017 Hour of Power Meals Delivered and Served on Site			
<u>Month</u>	<u>Sick</u>	<u>Atten.</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	264*	130*	394*
February	264*	130*	394*
March	264*	130*	394*
April	264*	130*	394*
May	280	140	420
June	305	152	457
July	208	112	320
August	216	136	352
September	248	112	360
October	228	124	352
November	300	108	408
December	325	156	481
Grand Total	3,166	1,560	4,726
* represents an average of monthly totals			



Share the Harvest Food Distribution



Throughout 2017, on Wednesdays at Noon, over twenty-five hundred meals have been provided to persons who visit St. Philip Monumental A.M.E. Church. They are also given clothes should they want them.



Boxes being brought to food distribution location



Savannah State University volunteers building boxes



Savannah State University students fill boxes for distribution

Twice a year, our partners join in support of seniors and economically challenged families to prepare and distribute over 8,000 pounds of bulk food boxes, that weigh an average of seventy pounds each.

Community Help, Inc. is in Partnership with:

- St. Philip Monumental A.M.E. Church
- City of Savannah, Georgia
- Sav. Chatham County Public School System
- Early College Program: Historic Preservation Class
- Savannah State University
- America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia
- International Paper Company
- Nate Norris, Home Improvements: Specializing in Basic Home Repairs
- Ronald Bayfield Construction Company: General Construction
- Carver State Bank



Volunteers organizing can- goods for the food distribution program boxes



Student Volunteers assist in the preparation of food boxes



Members of the community, wait patiently for food distribution box give-away

2017 Community Help, Inc. Gala

Just a few snapshots ...



Beautiful centerpiece flowers donated by Oelschig's Nursery.



Ms. Claudia Clarke and Mr. Bernie Polite confirm attendance tickets at the Gala.



Mr. John Weatherbee was the Master of Ceremonies.



Prof. Jacqueline Hamilton and Ms. Angela Small-Blalock brought beautiful music to the event.



Comedian Akintunde entertained guests.



The Rev. Morris Brown asked for God's blessings on the meal.



Guest enjoy the fellowship at the Gala.



Ms. Dennise Campbell, City of Savannah; Ms. Rosa Conyers, CHI assistance recipient; Mr. Bernie Polite



Mr. Polite receives a Community Commendation from Ms. Anita Smith-Dixon, City of Savannah Representative.

Thanks to Our Partners

Who Helped Make 2017 A Very Successful Year

St. Philip Monumental A.M.E. Church

City of Savannah, Georgia

Sav. Chatham County Public School System

Early College Program: Historic Preservation Class

Savannah State University

America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

International Paper Company

Nate Norris, Home Improvements: Specializing in Basic Home Repairs

Ronald Bayfield Construction Company: General Construction

Carver State Bank





CHI Board members attend annual training for non-profits.



Historic Preservations class on a field trip through Savannah.



CHI Board of Directors member Dr. Frank Williams, Savannah State University.



CHI Board of Directors with members from the Savannah City Council.



Workers replace a roof at a CHI project.

Support Community Help, Inc.

Our community is only as strong as our neighborhoods. And our neighborhoods are only as strong as those who live there.

MISSION: To improve the quality of life of economically challenged families in the city of Savannah and Chatham County, Georgia through assistance to youth and senior citizens by focusing on education, economic development and safe secure housing.

Community Help seeks to provide the support necessary for individuals to live fulfilling, self-sufficient, and complete lives. We believe that as we have been given, so are we to give. We do not offer charity. We offer: Love. Support. Knowledge. Power.

By partnering with other organizations and programs, Community Help aids individuals to reach their full potential. Whether children, or adults, parents or single, elders or youth, other-abled or able bodied, healthy or hurting, Community Help reaches all in our community through programs grown from within by those being served. Community Help knows we are only as strong as the bonds that unite us in love, trust, respect, and understanding. Community Help, Inc. is a community development corporation with a 501 {c} {3} tax exempt status.

Help support this much needed mission. Donate online at www.communityhelpinc.org. Look for the yellow “DONATE” button at the bottom of the home page.

Or you can mail donations to P.O. 863, Savannah, GA 31402. Your donations are tax deductible.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

**You are cordially invited to attend the
2018 Annual Community Help Gala**

Saturday, October 13, 2018
Savannah State University
Student Union Ballroom

Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Silent Auction preceding the meal.
Preview items at 6:30 p.m.

**If you have items that you can donate to the Silent
Auction contact us at info@communityhelpinc.org
Or call Brenda Elmgren at 912-667-6787.**

