

# COMMUNITY HELP, INC.



**Senior citizen well being  
and food give away.**



**Roofing and Minor  
Construction.**



**Education,  
College Scholarship,  
Historic Preservation,  
Early College Program.**

## 2019-2020 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”.



A 501 (C)3 ORGANIZATION    Gifts are tax deductible  
912.228.3539  
[www.communityhelpinc.org](http://www.communityhelpinc.org)  
[info@communityhelpinc.org](mailto:info@communityhelpinc.org)

# From the President

Greetings to you.

Each year since we began in 2005, Community Help, Inc. has produced an annual report. This has been important to us because we believe in documentation and measurement of results. Our pathway toward the future stays on track and does not become skewed. We keep our stated mission in focus as we move forward, while taking the time to make adjustments to our steps.

Our Mission is: "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". We have had help in carrying out our mission. I want to thank you all for your encouragement and your support.

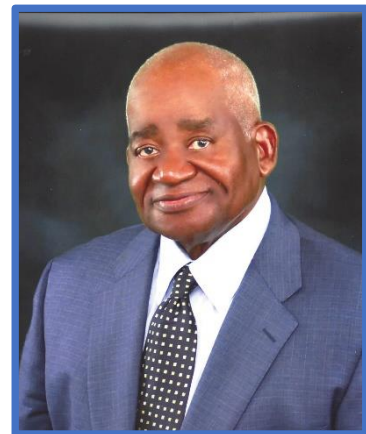
We finished 2019 with the wind at our back. We raised more money than ever before. We served increased numbers of meals to sick and shut-in seniors as we visited their homes weekly with prayer, conversation and food. We also conducted Spring and Fall Food Box Distributions throughout the city; with each box weighing eighty plus pounds. Our Annual Fall Gala was successful and considered our best yet.

Yes, we were all smiles as we approached the New Year. Then things changed. We were introduced to Covid-19, the Coronavirus that was wreaking havoc in China on the continent of Asia and would spread as a pandemic disease throughout the world. Millions of people have been infected and many of them have already died. To date, as of five months into this new year; the virus has taken the lives of 100,000 people in the United States of America. Our national and local leaders, including the Center for Disease Control have asked everyone to shelter in place and wear protective facial masks and gloves when you are out in the public and to step up our personal hygiene. We are to limit our contact with others. To that end, we expect to continue giving assistance to others, while insuring the health and safety of our families and fellow citizens.

Stay safe and may God continue to bless you and yours as we move through this difficult time.



Bernard Polite

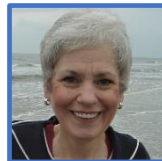


**Bernard Polite**  
President

# Board of Directors

- Mr. Bernard Polite – *President*
- Mrs. Claudia Clarke – *Treasurer*
- Mrs. Kimberly Thompson – *Secretary*
- Mrs. Ruby Lipscomb
- Atty. Bonzo Reddick
- Mr. George Bowen
- Dr. Frank Williams
- Mr. Keith Lord
- Mrs. Brenda Elmgren

She earned her BS in Business at age 60. Served as Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Development at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. Now retired for the second time.



- Ms. Stephanie Bock

Ms. Bock earned her Masters of Architecture from SCAD and is a practicing local architect and business owner. She is the mother of a sophomore at the Savannah Arts academy.



CHI is happy to have two additional board members. Mrs. Elmgren is returning, and Ms. Bock is a new member.

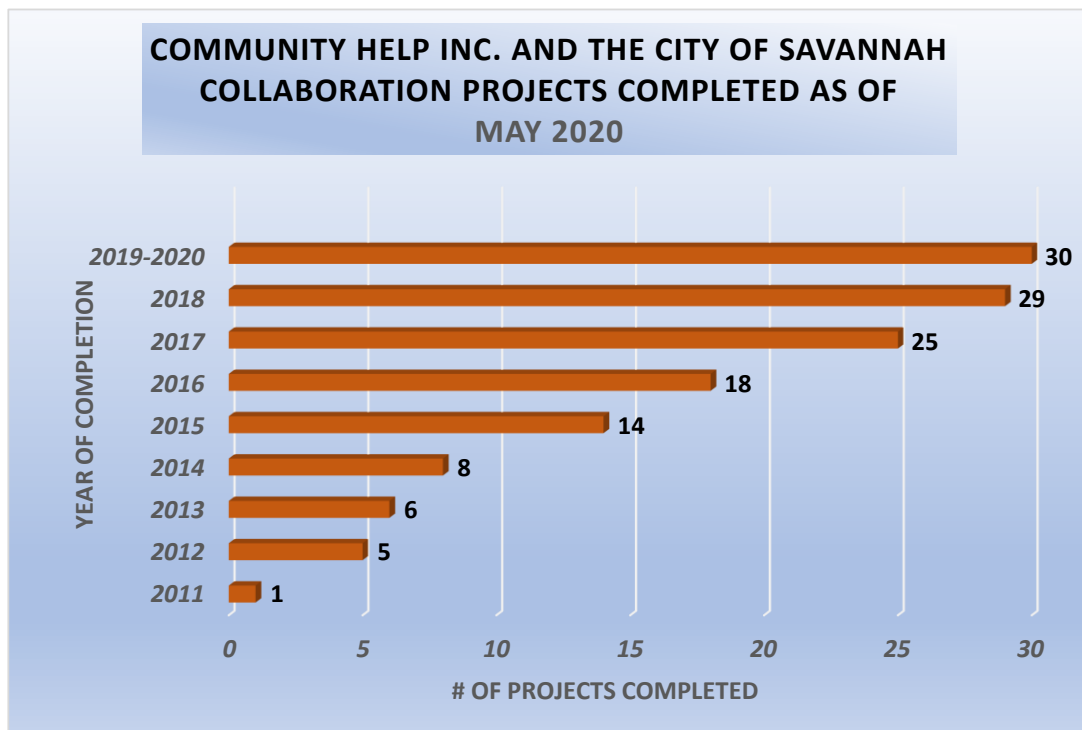
- Rev. Marsha Verdree – *Emeritus*



**A few Community Help, Inc. board members along with City of Savannah Housing Personnel and Savannah City Council Members, partners to make change happen.**

# 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, Inc. offers "Minor Home Repair & Paint Program" to "home owners" in need of assistance with home repairs and painting.**
- **Community Help's primary focus is “to foster improvements in low to moderate income communities and neighborhoods in Chatham County, Georgia.**
- **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.**



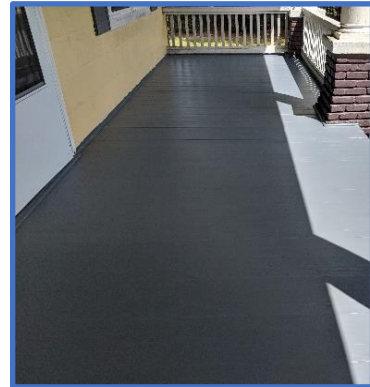


# Secure Homes

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



Homeowner and contractor discuss the selection of shingles for the replacement roof.



Completed project, consisting of exterior porch repair and paint. Homeowner, thanking contractor and Community Help, Inc. president Bernard Polite, for a job well done.





# Completed Roof Projects



**Thanks all around for satisfactory completion of project, by homeowner, contractor, and Community Help, Inc. President, Mr. Bernard Polite.**



# Youth Education



Office of the Principal

## SAVANNAH EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

400 Pennsylvania Avenue

Savannah, Georgia 31404

Office: (912) 395-2535 Fax: (912) 201-7585



Home of the Cobras

April 1, 2020

Mr. Bernard Polite  
Community Help, Incorporated  
P.O. Box 863  
Savannah, Georgia 31402  
912-228-3539  
[info@communityhelpinc.org](mailto:info@communityhelpinc.org)

Mr. Polite:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff at Savannah Early College High School, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the \$5,000 grant award from The 1772 Foundation. Grant funds issued via business check are payable to: *Savannah Early College High School*.

I affirm that all grant funds will be used to support the Historic Preservation Program (HPP) at Savannah Early College High School, including but not limited to, instructional supplies, instructional activities, other special HPP events, and field trips.

If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail ([caroline.gordon-jelks@sccpss.com](mailto:caroline.gordon-jelks@sccpss.com)) or via telephone at 912-395-2535.

Thank you so much!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Gordon-Jelks".

Mrs. Caroline Gordon-Jelks, Ed.S.  
Principal

*Our Mission: "To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels."*

*Our Vision: "From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures."*

*Our Motto: "Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow"*



**Community Help volunteers work during the year with students doing classroom activities. With this exposure, the students are able to select their career track as they take classes in the Early College program. We have continued our support to this program through classroom presentations and field trips for the students.**



*Savannah-Chatham County Public School System*

*208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.5600*

April 15, 2020

Mr. Bernie Polite  
Community Help Inc.  
10613 Dorchester Rd.  
Savannah, GA 31406-4405

Dear Mr. Polite:

Thank you so much for your commitment to Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, and specifically, our Historic Preservation Program at Savannah Early College High School. Your contributions and efforts for the district's students are paramount. We are most appreciative, as always, of the most recent monetary gift in the amount of **\$5000.00**, from Community Help Inc., and the 1772 Foundation.

Thank you for all that you do and the difference that you are making in the lives of our students, staff, parents and community.

Sincerely,

M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

*Mission - To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels*  
*Vision - From school to the world: ALL students prepared for productive futures*  
**"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"**

# Hour of Power

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.



Brainstorming the concerns confronting our Seniors.

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 four teams of volunteers who deliver the Wednesday lunches to sixty people. The need for support and care continues to grow.



A hearty meal is prepared for our Senior citizens to enjoy.

On an annual basis, a team that consists of trained food preparers and separate two person teams visit the homes of the elderly and shut-in persons to deliver over



three thousand hot meals. While in the home, team members offer prayer and engage in spirited conversation.

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.





# Hour of Power

## Hour of Power Meals

Delivered and Served on Site for **2019 - 2020**

Grand Total for Meals Delivered and Meals Served on Site

**4800**



Hour of Power Volunteers.



Volunteers who prepared boxes for bulk food distribution.



Volunteers are not too young.



Meal preparation.





# Share the Harvest Food Distribution

On Wednesdays, throughout 2019 and amid the COVID-19 pandemic, over twenty-five hundred meals have been provided along with clothes and blood pressure testing. St Philip Monumental AME Church provided the distribution point. *Community Help, Inc.*, distributed a total of approximately 350 boxes of food, to the community.



Planning meeting during Covid-19.



Food Distribution boxes from International Paper.



Volunteers building boxes for use at the food distribution location.



Boxes being packed with food goods for distribution program.



Volunteers arrange boxes for use at the food distribution location.



Box content being organized and sorted for ease in packing, for distribution to community.

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
- International Paper
- America's Second Harvest
- Savannah State University
- Savannah International Longshoremen
- Volunteers
- Community





# Share the Harvest Food Distribution



**Volunteers moving completed box to distribution area.**



**Greeting a member of the community and getting information prior to distributing food box.**



**Men volunteers, on the ready for loading vehicles and distributing food boxes to community.**



**Our volunteers even includes Pastor Bernard Clarke (Standing), along with dedicated volunteers waiting to serve the community.**



**Volunteers loading car trunk with food boxes.**





# Community Help, Inc 2019 Gala Held at Savannah State University



**Beautifully decorated tables at the 2019 Gala event.**



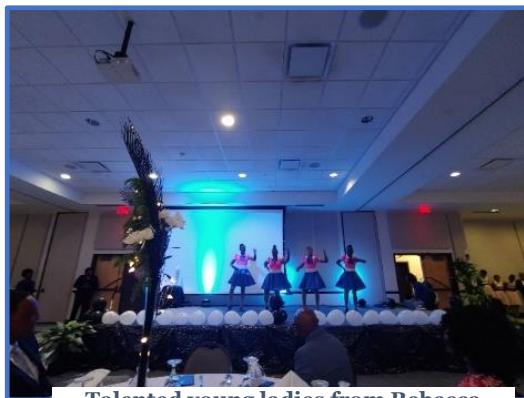
**Savannah State graduate with his daughter. They had a wonderful story to tell.**



**City of Savannah Housing Department members share a moment with Housing program participant. Mr. Polite joins them to document the moment.**



**2019 Gala Honorees for the Community Service award. Mr. Keith Lord, Charter Member Community Help, Inc.; Mr. Cornell McBride, McBride Research Laboratories; Rev. Dr. Bernard Clarke, Senior Pastor, St. Philip Monumental AME Church; Mr. Bernard Polite, President, Community Help, Inc.**



**Talented young ladies from Rebecca Padgett School of Performing Arts, entertain the Gala guests.**



**Young men, also from Rebecca Padgett School of Performing Arts, show their talents to Gala guests**



# **Thanks to Our Partners Who Helped Make A Very Successful Year**

**St. Philip Monumental A.M.E. Church**

**City of Savannah, Georgia**

**Savannah Chatham County Public School System**

**Savannah Early College High School:  
Historic Preservation Class**

**Savannah State University**

**America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia**

**International Paper Company**

**Carver State Bank**

**Oelschig Nursery**

**Nate Norris, Home Improvements**

**Ronald Bayfield Construction Company**



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## WE ARE COMMITTED TO OUR MISSION