



Solomon's Temple

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matt 25:40 KJV

Winter 2016

WELCOME TO SOLOMON'S TEMPLE!

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Progress Point

By: Sarah Myles, *Editor*

Since our doors opened on May 1st, we have been steadfast in our mission to be a proactive solution in helping families who are homeless reach independence in Atlanta, GA. Since then we have provided services to over 175 homeless women with children.

Partnerships have been a major part of our success. Thanks to our partnership with the Georgia Works program we are able to keep our first floor in order. They have been instrumental in providing maintenance and security. Through our partnership with Atlanta Public Schools the children receive onsite daily homework help and tutoring.

Home Aid Atlanta recently remodeled the playground area for the children, set up garden boxes, installed blinds in all of the rooms and provided maintenance throughout the building.

We can feel it in the atmosphere!

Solomon's Temple completed a much needed HVAC overhaul. The guys at ESETS were hard at work for 3 weeks replacing the heating and air systems as well as thermostats. The children were in awe when

they were watching the large crane lift up the large AC systems unto the roof.

Thanksgiving: Let us give Thanks

The families enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Day sponsored by the staff and board members of Solomon's Temple. They were served a delicious brunch complete with choice meats, pastries and various drinks by our Executive Director Ms. Patricia Smith and her family. The dining room then became full of heart felt emotions as the children read their Thank You poems they had prepared in camp EMC to their mothers. Later that evening the families were greeted with a mouth-watering thanksgiving dinner prepared by our very own Mrs. Smallwood with desserts by Ms. P Cakes.

It has been an exciting journey and we look forward to providing more services to even more families in 2016.

We are pleased to report that we have served well over 175 homeless women and children in 2015.



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Christmas 2015

Ohh what a Merry Christmas it was!

The Temple was full of the Christmas spirit with festivities all season long. To kick off the holiday season, the Temple had its first tree lighting ceremony. With a real tree sponsored by Kroger, the children enjoyed Christmas tunes while decorating the tree, eating smores and hot chocolate. The families enjoyed a special treat when R&B Producer Court Love celebrated his birthday with the Temple. The families enjoyed dinner, gifts and a family photo shoot. Not to mention a special guest appearance by R&B recording artists Bobby V and Cheri Maree. All the teenagers received tablets, \$50 old navy gift cards and a perfume/cologne set. The mothers also received a gift basket full of toiletries and goodies. At Amy's holiday party there was something for everyone but it was ALL about the children. The children were assigned their own "elf" that escorted them around the different party rooms to gather gifts, take pictures with Santa, create art and crafts and to play video games. The mothers enjoyed a child free day filled with music,



pizza, jewelry making and an endless dessert bar. Solomon's Temple was the life of the party winning the dance contests and keeping the party lively. Atlanta Medical Center granted Christmas wishes for the children Temple. They sang Christmas carols and donated gift cards to ensure the Temple's first Christmas was very special indeed.

MENTORS NEEDED

Calling all mentors who desire to become a teacher, supporter or a friend to the children of Solomon's Temple.

CONTACT HAROLD LEFFALL
678-613-0553



From Patricia Smith, Executive Director

It is indeed my pleasure to serve as Executive Director here at Solomon's Temple Foundation, Inc. It is rewarding to make a daily positive impact in my community and be able to give to others. To see a change in a child, or to see a single mom regain hope, is a great motivation to do this work. For 2016 Solomon's Temple will increase in capacity to not only provide temporary housing to more families but also increase in services by gaining more financial and community partnerships. We look forward to helping stabilize more families and providing support services even after they transition to permanent housing. Most recently, we are moving toward a partnership to provide on-site counseling services along with a paraprofessional that will transition along with our families as they rebuild their lives. Although a young nonprofit, we anticipate 2016 to be a bright year for many families. Thank you for partnering with us as we serve our community.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE CARES



Half of school age homeless children experience problems with depression and anxiety and one in five homeless preschoolers have emotional problems that require professional care.



Homeless children lack stability in their lives with 97% having moved at least once on an annual basis, which leads to disruptions in schooling and negatively impacts academic achievement.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are vital to Solomon's Temple, they truly touch the lives of those who stay in the shelter. In return, often the lives of volunteers are also changed. To become a part of something great visit us online at:

www.Solomonstempleinc.org



Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. - Prov 22:6

Solomon's Kids

There has been approximately 109 children that have called Solomon's Temple home with 33 currently residing here. Many people who think homelessness think men, women and veterans but rarely see the silent children standing in the backdrop of homelessness. For this reason many cannot relate to the effect homelessness has on children. Being in transition or not having enough food to eat wears on a child and Solomon's Temple knows this, that is why we have implemented youth programs and mentors that allow children to be children.

"A boy needs a father to show him how to be in the world. He needs to be given swagger, taught how to read a map so that he can recognize the roads that lead to life and the paths that lead to death, how to know what love requires, and where to find steel in the heart when life makes demands on us that are greater than we think we can endure."

-Ian Morgan Cron

Boys to Men

Harold Leffall, VP of Solomon's Temple, has spent time mentoring and coaching the young male residents. In these mentoring sessions called Boys to Men, Mr. Leffall discussed topics these young men face in today's culture such as bullying, being comfortable with themselves and how to be young and gifted. With these conversations, the young men were able to envision a different perspective of who they are and what they can become.

Camp EMC

Students who are homeless face a variety of difficult challenges, not the least of which is finding a calm, quiet place to do homework. However, it isn't always the physical obstacles presented by poverty and homelessness that can be the most destructive.

Sometimes, the biggest obstacle to academic success can be the effects of toxic stress — the potentially lasting impact of the deprivation that can accompany poverty and homelessness.

Despite these obstacles, the children of Solomon's Temple are succeeding in school. This is due in part to Eboni Martin, Coordinator of Camp EMC being an advocate for the children and providing them with a level of consistent nurturing like no other. Things such as greeting them from school when they get off the school bus, inquiring about their day and assisting them with their homework. It is because of this that 90% of our children maintain passing grades. Ms. Martin has been instrumental in planning onsite camps for the children when they are out of school as well as coordinating activities for the children when the parents are attending meetings.



In the AJC

The AJC recently featured Solomon's Temple in an article entitled "Providing safe haven for women, children." Below is an excerpt from the article:

There are over 10,000 homeless individuals in Atlanta and 40 percent are women with children. There is a huge shortage of shelters to serve them.

Last year, to address this need, Solomon's Temple Inc. opened in Atlanta. A 144-bed residential facility for homeless women and their children...



Help make a Difference!



Donate Your Gently Used Brand Name Clothes!

THRIVE is opening soon! As Atlanta's premier non-profit boutique, THRIVE will sale donated gently used brand name women, men and children clothing and accessories. All revenue generated from sales at THRIVE will support the programs and services for the women with children residing at Solomon's Temple.

If you have any clothes you would like to donate or if you would be interested in hosting a THRIVE party, please contact Harold at (678) 613-0553 or email hleffall@solomonstempleinc.org



The Adopt-A-Room initiative offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women with children by sponsoring a room for one year.

By sponsoring a room you have the opportunity to impact the lives of at least two families. Upon entry of a family to your sponsored room, Solomon's Temple will send you a brief letter describing the family occupying the room. Families are able to stay in rooms for 6 months. Each room can comfortably house up to 4 individuals (mother and 3 children) and includes bunk beds and a dresser. Upon exiting the room, Solomon's Temple will send the sponsor a letter highlighting the family success story.

As a sponsor, you may have the room dedicated in your family name or in honor of someone or sponsoring organization which will be displayed on a placard outside the room door.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- ✓ Sponsor prominently featured on Solomon's Temple's website
- ✓ Door display with sponsors name and a message from sponsor (if desired)
- ✓ You will be helping to change the life of women with children

Please feel free to contact Harold Leffall at (678) 613-0553 or hleffall@solomonstempleinc.org for more information or to schedule a tour of the facility.



We have a Go Fund Me Account!

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to help fund our effort in helping homeless families become self-sufficient and Thrive in our community.

<https://www.gofundme.com/SolomonsTempleATL>

C.I.A - Community in Action

Volunteers - Bringing hope to families in need. Make a Difference & Change Lives!

Volunteering is the ultimate expression of human relationships – people acting on behalf of their communities, because of a desire to contribute and help. That is why volunteers are of huge value to Solomon's Temple. Not only do volunteers help us reduce costs of services, but they help us provide better services to our guests, increase contact with the greater community and increase social and relationship skills with our youth.

Here are some highlights of our Community in Action

Heather James and her friends over at Chick-fil-A (Cleveland Ave.) dropped in and blessed the families with chicken sandwiches and cookies! #eatmorchikin

****Fun at the Temple****

The children at Solomon's Temple enjoyed an evening full of fun, games and cotton candy sponsored by the wonderful folks of Restoration ATL and Mylescorp Virtual Solutions LLC.

Board member Ms. Trinity Stovall donated books for the young readers here at Solomon's Temple.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." ~ Margaret Fuller

Our very own Mrs. Tee and her beautiful family and friends sponsored a SOULFUL Sunday dinner! The families enjoyed everything from collard greens and potato salad to BBQ chicken and cornbread served with love and a smile. Our families went to bed full and happy due to the generosity of others.

Thanks to the Hill & Wygle family from Alpharetta the families enjoyed the Ultimate Taco Night! They enjoyed a full spread of tacos, nachos and burritos with all the fixings not to mention ice cream and cookies for dessert. They heard about Solomon's Temple through a neighbor who sponsored Lasagna night a few weeks ago.

Lawrence Boyd of Boys Scout troop 41 Stone Mountain needed to earn his eagle scout badge. To do this he and his family decorated the teen lounge with a complete makeover. Also, Michael of SCAD provided the FABULOUS art work and resident Joshua Myles also assisted. Because of the great work of the Boyd family the teens now have a cool place to hang out.

Celebrity Appearances



With Solomon's Temple being just shy of a year old we have been making great strides in getting the word out to the community about our programs and services. Solomon's Temple has even gotten the attention of some celebrities. Toya Bush-Harris of Married to Medicine and her family came to donate toys for all the children at Solomon's Temple in celebration of her oldest son's birthday. The children were filled with joy. Toya also provided the children with a special diary free cake that was simply delicious. Also, R&B sensation Bobby V melted the hearts of the ladies by being a surprise guest at our 1st Annual Christmas party.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION



Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
Atlanta Chapter

Jack & Jill of America

Jack and Jill of America, facilitated activities with our families in celebration of MLK Day. We enjoyed a day filled of learning and reflecting on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. It is organizations such as this who keep the legacy of service alive!



Gama Sigma Rho

Through their organization Project Cradle Care, the mothers with infants and toddlers were blessed with a "Baby Shower" where they received gift baskets full of baby necessities, pampers, and toiletries. The mothers were very grateful for these gifts of love.



UNCG

These beautiful ladies spent the week volunteering and mentoring with the families and brought the gift of Love and Friendship that left a lasting impression on the hearts and mind of EVERYONE at Solomon's Temple.

From the Frontline of Service...



Mrs. Cholongria Morris, R.S.A

Our RSA's (Residential Service Advocate) is an essential part of the service we provide. Mrs. Cholongria Morris, a.k.a Ms. Lammie has been with Solomon's since its doors opened in May and was also part of the former Shelter Springdale Place. Ms. Lammie is well loved by the families at the Temple simply because she brings a spirit to serve like no other. I had a chance to sit down with Ms. Lammie to get an understanding of what it is like to be on the front line of service.

Sarah: What is your position and duties here at Solomon's Temple?

Ms. Lammie: My position title is RSA and my primary duties are to supervise and monitor the day to day activities of the residents, but my main goal and what I get the most joy out of is interacting with the residents.

Sarah: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job as an RSA?

Ms. Lammie: Coming in and seeing the smiles on the children's faces. There are times when I come into work and my spirits are low but when I see the children it brightens my day.

Sarah: Ms. Lammie tell me the reason you chose to work for Solomon's Temple?

Ms. Lammie: I believe the closest thing to serving God is through social service and what better way to serve than here with the ones society deems as less fortunate and homeless.

Sarah: How do the residents take your constructive criticism?

Ms. Lammie: The residents know I love them but I have to be honest with them and what I like about the residents is that they receive that. They do not take negatively to it, well some do but even then they understand that what I say comes from the heart. In Ephesians it says to serve wholeheartedly so we have to give it our all and I do.

We Are Online!

Be sure to visit our new website and follow us on Social Media:



@SolomonsATL



Solomon's Temple Inc.



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[WWW.SOLOMONSTEMPLEINC.ORG](http://www.solomonstempleinc.org)

Thank you to our Partners!

