

Community Outreach

Who are we?

Our Vision

To help transform communities in which individuals and families experience spiritual, personal, social, and economic well-being through the demonstration of Christ's love.

Our Mission

Providing volunteer resources and serving as an intercessor on behalf of organizations serving the poor and marginalized in our community.

Areas of Focus

- **Education** – tutoring, mentoring, homework clubs
- **Poverty** – food, shelter, transitional housing, life skills, education
- **Justice** – child trafficking, refugee ministry, sanctity of life
- **Family** – safe families, foster care, adoption, young adult mentoring

In all four of the areas of focus above, our ultimate goal is to bring the people we serve into a life transforming encounter with God through tangible expressions of His love, provision and grace.

Opioid Abuse: A National Emergency

Every day 142 Americans die from a drug overdose, and Georgia is one of the top 11 states with the most overdose deaths. These deaths leave in their wake grieving families, orphans, spouses and — without the hope of Christ — despair. The impact is so significant that it has reversed a trend that had the foster care system shrinking in size over the past decade. Georgia is one of three states seeing the biggest one-year increases to the number of children in the foster care system. That increase is directly attributable to the growing opioid abuse epidemic.

Babies born addicted to drugs obviously suffer unspeakably, and the long-term impact on their development and recovery is still being tested. The opioid crisis negatively all four of Community Outreach's four focus areas: Education, Poverty, Justice, and Family.

So what can we do? Drug abuse and overdose is a very private and personal issue. One of the most frequent drugs found in overdose deaths is commonly prescribed for anxiety. We can certainly continue to support our nonprofits, but we can also each invite the people around us into deeper relationships, undergirded with trust and unconditional love. We can love our neighbors by praying for them, talking to them, sharing a meal with them. Perhaps sharing the purpose, freedom, and assurance we have found in Jesus might free them and allow them to build a relationship with the One who gives a peace that surpasses understanding.

Education

Our goal is to positively impact graduation rates and remove barriers along the continuum from cradle to career.

Children in our community face many barriers to graduating. We know that if they are not able to read proficiently by **3rd grade** they are on track to not graduate. Children who do not graduate from high school are 80% more likely to live in poverty.

Some of our partners in education are:

- After School Matters
- Beaver Ridge Elementary School
- Corners Outreach
- KidsHope USA
- Next Generation Focus
- Path Project
- PAWKids
- Project Lift
- Summerour Middle School
- Robert D. Fowler YMCA

It is important to note that the nonprofits in the area of poverty are equally as important to the academic success of our children. Children living in poverty often underperform in school due to one or more of the following reasons:

- **Attendance issues** due to unstable housing or illness
- **Nutrient deficiencies** because of food insecurity
- **Sleep deprivation** which could be due to any number of reasons – overcrowding, domestic violence, hunger, fear, parental drug or alcohol addiction
- **No academic support** in the home (unable to complete homework because they do not have access to school supplies or technology, no one to help them with homework, no books in the home)
- **Additional responsibilities**, such as housework and caring for younger siblings while their parent(s) work shift jobs, which interfere in ability to complete school work
- **Need for additional income** which forces some children to drop out of school in order to work and contribute financially to support the family.

Poverty

Our goal is to provide immediate relief to those in crisis and move them to self-sufficiency.

Through the coordinated services of our nonprofits, individuals and families receive services that start by meeting their most immediate needs, thus opening the door to begin working on the complex issues underlying poverty.

Some of the nonprofits that work in this area with us are:

- Atlanta Mission
- Duluth Hands of Christ
- Fill Ministries
- Georgia Center for Opportunity
- Good Samaritan Health Center
- Home Repairs Ministry
- Hope, Inc.
- Movers & Shakers Furniture Ministry
- Norcross Cooperative Ministry
- North Fulton Community Charities
- North Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry
- Project Kids Eat
- Rainbow Village
- Salvation Army of Gwinnett

Justice

Our goal is to end the domestic minor sex trafficking of children and be a voice for the voiceless.

DMST (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking) — The common age of a child who enters sex trafficking is 14-16 years old. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, putting them at higher risk for being trafficked. The issue of child sex trafficking is complex and life-destroying. Perimeter Church leads the way among the faith community in providing volunteers, financial and in kind resources, as well as people who use their voices to speak out loudly on behalf of the children in our city. We have prayer warriors battling daily. Perimeter people have used their God-given gifts to make huge strides in passing stronger legislation, raising dollars, praying, teaching, discipling and more.

Some of the nonprofits that we work with in this area are:

- City of Refuge
- Eagle Ranch
- Haven Atlanta
- Operation Liberate
- Out of Darkness
- Street GRACE
- Victoria's Friends
- Wellspring Living

Refugee Ministry in Clarkston — Every year, more than 27 million people are forced to flee their homes because of persecution and conflict or a very present fear of it. Most of these people will spend the remainder of their lives in refugee camps around the world without the hope of ever returning to their homes. However, every year the U.S. invites up to 70,000 of these refugees to make a home and seek a new life through a process called resettlement. It is at this point in a refugee's journey that the people of Perimeter Church — through our nonprofits — begin sojourning alongside them. We have an extraordinary opportunity to serve and share life with people from around the world. We meet them when they arrive at the airport and help them explore the vast new opportunities in America.

We share our lives with these new friends through our nonprofits:

- Family Heritage Foundation
- Friends of Refugees
- Refuge Coffee Co.
- Tecton (formerly the Lantern Project)
- World Relief

Sanctity of Life — We believe that all life is sacred, and we are all created in the image of God. More than 26,000 babies were murdered in Georgia last year. In the state of Georgia, a baby can be aborted up until 23 weeks old and every 30 seconds a baby's life is taken. We are the voice for the voiceless and a circle of support, love, care and counsel for mothers through these partners:

- A Beacon of Hope
- City of Refuge
- Human Coalition

Family

Our goal is that all Georgia's children have a family.

Foster and Adoptive Families — Nationally there are an estimated 638,000 children who are the confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect each year. An estimated 4 children die every day from child abuse and neglect; 70% are under the age of 3. In Georgia there are more than 13,000 children in foster care. Due to the deficit of available foster homes, often children are placed in group homes or hotels until a foster placement can be found. The Perimeter family has opened their hearts and their homes to hundreds of these Georgia children utilizing placements through our nonprofit partners such as:

- Connections Homes
- Promise686
- SAFFT

Freedom Through Christ: Recovery, Reconciliation, Discipleship — Men, women and children are turning to drugs and alcohol to meet their needs. Families are being destroyed and people are dying at alarming rates. From 2014-2015, the most recent statistics available, overdose deaths in suburban Atlanta counties related to heroin and fentanyl rose from 61 to 134. Fulton County ranks among the highest with 104 heroin/fentanyl deaths in 2015. We know that through life-on-life relationships in recovery, the pain and brokenness can be replaced with grace, freedom, and assurance through a life-changing God. We believe this to be true of those incarcerated also. With more than 16,000 incarcerated persons in Georgia, there are great opportunities to bring the gospel into these otherwise dark places through Christian literature, Bibles, and discipleship. Some of the nonprofits we partner with in this area are:

- Atlanta Mission
- No Longer Bound
- Salvation Army
- Christian Library International

Norcross School Cluster — Community Outreach in partnership with five Unite! Church partners serve the more than 12,890 students enrolled in our school cluster. The coordination of efforts has been facilitated by Breakthrough Norcross which also brought businesses and local leaders to the table. Over the past 10 years we have been able to see children reach their God-given potential through the coordinated efforts of the community and the faithful prayers of God's people. To better support the needs of families in the Norcross community we also partner with:

- KidsHope USA
- Norcross Cooperative Ministry
- Corners Outreach
- After School Matters
- Project Kids Eat

Ministry Ventures: Training, Equipping, Coaching — We have also strategically partnered with Ministry Ventures, a nonprofit that trains, equips and coaches faith-based non-profits. Ministry Ventures offers best practices, knowledge and relationships to allow our nonprofits to learn, grow and become leaders in their ministry areas. In order to be good stewards of the incredible grant resources through Kingdom Investments, we have found this relationship with Ministry Ventures invaluable. We want our gospel-centered nonprofits to be the stand-out choice for donors because of their excellence (great boards, focused prayer, healthy funding, and godly leadership).

There are no words that can express our thanks. Your generous gifts allow us to show off a God who loves deeply, defends strongly, and radically transforms lives through with the gospel. – Debra Potter, Community Outreach

We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself. –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

