



Expressing God's unconditional love to Georgia's children in need by providing Christian foster and adoptive homes.

Agape Today

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Fostering HOPE / Changing LIVES



Adoption Made Possible at Georgia Agape

By Kim Tang, LCSW, Maternity and Adoption Counselor

The recent adoption of a baby by the Conley family was the culmination of a dream. It began with a call to Georgia Agape from a local hospital. The caller said she had received information about our agency from the hospital social worker and wanted to know if someone could come over to the hospital today to speak with her about adoption. She had given birth to a baby girl and wanted to choose adoption. She said the reason she chose adoption for her child is that she wanted to give her baby a chance to have a better life and time to better her own life.

She did not speak to anyone about adoption before the baby was born, but knew she could not parent another child at this time. She did not have support from family or the child's father. Adoption looked to be a good option for her situation.

At Georgia Agape, one of the services we provide to the birth family is transportation to and from the hospital if needed. Also, we can help with transportation to and from doctor visits during the pregnancy. Some of the best counseling time is on rides to and from appointments. We meet with birth parents in their homes if they so prefer. We do not just expect them to find transportation to our office. That flexibility offers more opportunities for comfortable discussions about adoption in a friendly environment for the birth parents because adoption is a tough subject to discuss. Having a friendly environment takes some of the edge off.

Many birth parents enjoy opportunities to meet adoptive parents. However, this birth mom trusted the agency to place her daughter with parents who would love her and provide for her as she wanted. Many women who meet the potential adoptive parents of their children feel a relief that these people are the right ones to care for their child. This does not relieve the potential grief that awaits them when they sign the papers surrendering their parental rights, but it gives them the hope they have made a good choice of who will raise their child.

God has blessed Georgia Agape with wonderful adoptive parents who will love and protect these children. They are also open to meeting with birth parents and making relationships last. Just the other day, I read where a family that adopted two children from Georgia Agape recently had contact with the birth siblings of their adopted children. They are taking it slow, but hope that in the long run these relationships will be a blessing to their adopted children.

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True Kingdom Work

By Ken Dowdy, Director of Development

There's a marvelous story involving children found in Luke 18.

Jesus was simultaneously teaching a crowd of listeners while deeply involved in his work of training and making disciples. While dealing with such important themes as prayer, humility, greed and riches, he foretells his own death and resurrection. Imagine the seriousness, the tone, of the event.

Right in the middle of all this, families started bringing their children to him to be touched by him.

I imagine the disciples, rolling their eyes and looking at each other as the children interrupted such important kingdom talk. The disciples, however well intended, viewed this as an unwanted interruption. They viewed it as a diversion from the important work of instruction and expanding the impact of the kingdom.

There was an attitude toward children and their relative importance prompting the disciples to attempt to send them away. The disciples could have missed the very lesson He was about to teach them. Apparently it was the farthest thing from their world's reality. In the end, the embracing of the children communicated an important teaching of Christ to both the children and to his disciples.

The message to the children: you are loved and welcomed. You are to be nurtured, defended, and blessed by God.

The message for disciples: become like children. Have an open heart. Accept that which is pure and good. Accept being loved. Love others in trusting relationships.

Jesus went a step beyond the request of touching the children – he blessed them. They were more than noticed. They were favored because of who they were: children created in the im-

age of God, sons and daughters of the King.

Most of the children who come to us have not experienced a childhood of love and trust. Agape works to restore that love and trust so they can realize there is a loving God who wants them to be his child. We are trying our best to lead them to the Master for his touch AND his blessing.

This fact brings power and significance to the mission of Agape. Through involvement with each child in our care we are saying "yes" to their receiving the blessing of Jesus just as the children in this story are blessed. Agape's work says yes to their significance, to their well-being, to their place in the Kingdom.

And when you support Agape's work you partner with us to bring these children close to the Master for his touch AND his blessing.



Habits – 'Muscle Memory'

By John McLain, LMFT, Director of Counseling

We all have many habits in our lives. There are many good ones that we exercise as well as negative ones. How did we establish our habits? Why are the negative habits so hard to break?

A good definition for habit is: a behavior pattern regularly followed until it has become almost involuntary. In other words, habits become like 'muscle memory.' For example, when we drive a car, we do things without even having to think about it.

Examples of good habits are: brushing our teeth, taking a bath, praying, and reading our bibles. These are done to provide health and well-being for ourselves and for the benefit of others. Some of these habits are our regular routine and others we make a conscious effort to practice.

When the habits harm us and/or others, that becomes a problem. We should evaluate our actions periodically to determine how our actions, our habits, are affecting us and others. Take that afternoon snack for example. Is it an appropriate snack? Why are you eating it? Is it hunger or just emotional eating?

Sometimes, habits can become so extreme that they become problematic or an addiction. This can be where we must seek other's help, including that of a professional. Almost any habit practiced in an extreme way will have negative results.

The Counseling Program at Georgia Agape is here to help serve people who may have these kinds of habits. We will first identify if the habits are extreme or addictive. Then effort is made to support the individual to change or use habits in a productive and beneficial way. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from discussing the habits in life, give us a call at (770) 452-9995. We are here to foster hope and change lives.



A Year after Accreditation. . . What's Next?

By LaQuisha White, M.S., LPC, CPCS, Director of Social Services

This July marks the one year anniversary of Georgia Agape receiving its accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. After a 2-year process to accomplish this task, we have now entered into the next phase of this process, the Maintenance of Accreditation (MOA). The MOA is a phase that allows us to delve deeper into our policies and procedures, as well as an opportunity to identify what's next for the agency. Our MOA report is due to COA on a yearly basis, then we will again have a site visit conducted to review our adherence to the many COA standards.

A major part of maintaining accreditation is ensuring that our goals coincide with our mission and vision. This also means that we, as an agency, are constantly reviewing how our policies and procedures support our strategic plan. Agape is currently identifying methods to collect data for outcomes and we'll be sure to address the health and safety of our children in care, foster parents and adoptive parents. In addition, we are also reviewing new methods to engage our stakeholders. Anyone reading this can have a tremendous impact on the agency's passion for working with children and families. Growth is the operative word and we are always seeking more who are just as passionate about making a difference in the life of a child.

As we enter into our second year of accreditation, I am reminded of all the hard work, sleepless nights and brain power that went into the accreditation process. I am also reminded of how far we have to go. One major concept of accreditation involves Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI). This concept looks at how we, as an agency, evaluate our performance and how we strive to improve our quality of services. We have described PQI as a fluid, adaptable process and we are constantly aware of how our performance is perceived with our stakeholders.

Earlier this year, I was accepted to become a Peer Reviewer with the Council on Accreditation. I had the opportunity to attend an intensive training at the COA offices and learn more about how to view the adherence to the standards from an auditor's perspective. One consistent theme of this training focused on how beneficial it is to view, hands-on, how other agencies tackle the goal of marrying COA standards to their mission and vision. It is expected that this opportunity will provide Agape with additional means of growth.

We thank you for being our partners on this journey and we look forward to continuing our work over the years.

Fulltime and Respite Foster Parents Needed!

We need families who can serve as fulltime and "respite" foster parents. Fulltime foster parents are the primary care givers of the children. Respite foster parents are those who help out our fulltime foster parents by serving children for short periods of time when there is a need for a break. For information, call LaQuisha White at Agape, (770) 452-9995.

Quality and Affordable Counseling Services Available

Georgia Agape is offering quality professional counseling services to help those struggling with life's issues in our supporting congregations and our community at-large. We offer a sliding scale fee for those who need help paying for the counseling. Our fees range from \$30 to \$125 per session. John McLain, LMFT is our Director of Counseling offering **Marriage, Family, Individual and Pre-marital counseling**. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an Approved Supervisor through AAMFT. Call our office for more information, (770) 452-9995.

Continued from Page 1

Thank you to all who donate and support Georgia Agape. I have been working here for almost 10 years and have been blessed to see many families increase because of adoption. It is a joy to be a part of these events. I have worked with many women who have chosen adoption for their children. Each of these women made a heartbreaking decision to not parent their beautiful babies. It is never easy to watch this process

unfold for them. Some comfort is had in meeting the adoptive parents and seeing pictures of the child as he or she grows. As the future looks bright for these children, many birth moms renew their efforts to finish school or work on goals they have put off for a long time. God's provision makes all things possible. Even to help those who are hurting (*God places the lonely in families Psalm 68:6*).



Fond farewell and God Bless Roger MacKenzie. He was one of the original participants in the founding of Georgia Agape in 1968 and served on the board for six years. He attended Riverbend Church of Christ in Dalton, GA. Rest in peace.



Children's Classic 2017

We had another great response to our Children's Golf Classic fundraising event this year. A total of **\$143,000** in gifts and pledges have been raised as of July 13th. This represents a lot of hard work by a group of dedicated golfers and their supporters!

Funds raised through this event will help us serve more children in foster care and help support our growing counseling program.

There were 24 teams representing 19 congregations who participated in our event. A total of 98 golfers were present for the fun day of golf on May 15th.

Children's Classic Team Captains

Many thanks to our Team Captains – leaders of this event!

Chad Allen — Buford	Charlie Minton — Avondale
Frank Allen — Grace Chapel	Steve Murdock — Oak Hill
Ross Anderson — Cedar Grove	Chris Nix — Atlanta Road
Bernard Barnes — Hillcrest	Ned O'Brien — Campus
Tony Bennett — West End	Tom Pernice — Grace Chapel
Jeff Bethel — Burnt Hickory	Don Redmon — East Cobb
Willie Bradford — Camp Creek	Charlie Roberts — Northlake
David Chisholm — Gwinnett	Jerry Spiceland — Campus
John Ehrhart — Snellville	Don Stanley — Blairsville
Ricky Gray — West Metro	Jeff Stiner — East Cobb
Chris Greenwald — Cedar Grove	Rob Stroud — South Cobb
Levi Hatcher — Oak Hill	Tommy Watson — Snellville
David Kemp — Bouldercrest	David White — East Cobb

First place in funds raised goes to the **Grace Chapel** team led by **Tom Pernice**. They raised \$32,608. The second highest amount was raised by the **Snellville** team led by **Tom Watson** at \$17,510. The third highest amount raised was by the **South Cobb** team at \$11,665 led by **Rob Stroud**. Fourth highest amount was **Campus** at \$11,220 led by **Ned O'Brien**. The fifth highest team was **East Cobb** at \$10,390 led by **David White, Don Redmon and Jeff Stiner**. The sixth place team was **Buford** at \$8,890 led by **Chad Allen**. We appreciate everyone who helped make this a great event all around! These funds will bless many lives!



Players, Staff, and Volunteers - Children's Classic 2017



Georgia Agape hosted its first **Annual Back to School** event on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at the Agape office. Thanks to the generous donations and sponsorship from Atlanta Road Church of Christ in Gainsville, Nick Ammons (backpacks) - Grace Chapel Church of Christ, Buford Church of Christ's Young Families class, Avondale Church of Christ, and Agape's Board of Directors. Our foster children will be celebrated and well-prepared to return to school. Agape would like to thank all of our amazing partners who made this event possible and overjoyed to be able to support our amazing foster families in this way.

We Appreciate Our Children's Classic Sponsors!!

Their Gifts of Cash, Goods and Services Helped Underwrite our Event

Event Sponsors	Golf Course Sponsors	
Allison Smith Company Coker Group Jim Ellis Automotive Group Burnette Insurance Smart Source IHOP Cable Depot Shellis Harrison Contracting Co. Northwest Exterminators Royal Lakes Golf & Country Club SkyView Atlanta Starblaze Jewelers World of Coca-Cola Urban Jungle Laser Tag Zoo Atlanta	Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa Butternut Creek Golf Course Chattahoochee Club Collins Hill Golf Club The Georgia Club	Laurel Springs Golf Club Royal Lakes Golf & Country Club Summit Chase Country Club West Pines Golf Club
Welcome New Board Members!	Hole Sponsors	
	AEE Alex Roush Architects, Inc. ALG – Agriculture Logistics of GA ALLIED Energy Services Berkel Betterton Construction Co. Binkley and Associates BRICCO Construction Co. Campus Church of Christ & Ned/Kellie O'Brien CashTrans Decatur Hearing Aid Service Dr. Andrea Savage Dr. Beth Wilson Engineered Flow, LCC Inception Electrical Consulting, LLC	(Nathan Johns) Ivey Mechanical Co., LLC JayTon Construction Johnston Climate Control KBD Group (Kajima Building & Design Group) Mark A. Skibiell, Attorney at Law NatureChem Richter, Head, Shinall, White & Slotkin LLP RRB Enterprise Shepherd Harvey and Assoc Southeastern Mortgage T.E.M. Productions (Bill Forsythe) Tebarco Mechanical Valentines Diabetic Supply

The Georgia Agape Board of Directors welcomes three new board members. We are so excited and overjoyed to have the additional expertise of members who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to an already dynamic group. We now have the fields of social service, counseling and development represented on our board and they are sure to add new insights and creative solutions.

Michelle Brechbuhl comes with a wealth of professional fundraising experience. She received her BA in Communications and Marketing from Texas A&M University and a MA in Psychology from Harvard University. She currently serves as a Trustee at Greater Atlanta Christian School as a member on numerous committees. Michelle is married to Ulrich, has three sons and is a member of North Atlanta Church of Christ.

Lisa Jamison is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of social work experience. She received her BS from Binghamton University and her MSW from Barry University. She is currently a school social worker with the Atlanta Public Schools where she has been for over 13 years. Lisa is married to Eric, has 2 children and attends West End Church of Christ.

Larry Simmons brings a wealth of community involvement, social services and advertising experience to the board. He received his BA in psychology from Florida A&M University and his MA from Nova Southeastern University. Larry retired in 2009 from AT&T as an Advertising Account Executive with over 15 years in that sector. Additionally, Larry has over 25 years of experience in behavior modification and social services working with private rehabilitative agencies in the Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area. Larry is married to Gloria, has two adult children and is a member of Cedar Grove Church of Christ.



Resource Development Coordinator

Georgia Agape is seeking an experienced social services professional to serve as our Resource Development Coordinator. This position is responsible for recruiting and training new foster families, completing foster home studies, conducting area-wide recruitment events at local churches and facilities and directing overall efforts to meet foster parent recruitment and retention goals. The individual in this position must be passionate about working with children and families and must be able to effectively communicate this passion to others. The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, creative and have excellent time management skills. This candidate must also be able to travel 60% of their time and work some evenings and weekends.

This is a full-time position with a competitive salary and benefits package. The candidate must possess a bachelor's degree in the social services field and have at least 2 years of experience working in children and family services, preferably child welfare. A master's degree is preferred. For those interested, please contact LaQuisha White, Director of Social Services, at (770) 452-9995 or by email at LaQuisha@GeorgiaAgape.org.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

April 16, 2017 through July 11, 2017

In Loving Memory

CAROL BANDY
Stewart & Cherie Smith

MILDRED BEASLEY
Jerry & Rita Porter

HELEN BLACK
Al & Ruth Bastin
Finis Herron

ROBERT "BOBBY" BROTHERS
Jerry & Rita Porter

WESLEY & MARY BURNETT
Irvin & Cassie Burnett

JACK COKER
Randy & Diane Zook

R.J. "BUDDY" ELROD, JR.
Odell & Patti Grissom
Terry & Reba Nichols
Butch & Hilda Nutt

FRITZ & TERRY EHRHART
Charles Ehrhart

JAMES FORRISTER
Dr. & Mrs. Toby Morgan

MICHELLE GAZZUOLO
Jerrie Moon

GARY GREENWALD
Cedar Grove Church of Christ

EDNA KNIGHT HENDRICKS
Jim & Jeanette Leben

DAVID HOLLAND
Al & Ruth Bastin
Patrick & Becky Cahill
Finis Herron
Suzanne Luck
Teresa Maddox
Jerry & Susan Poole
Jerry & Rita Porter
Brent & Kimbra Wiseman

BILL HOOTEN
Jan Hooten

LOIS HOUEY
Ron & Shelby Horn

JOYCE HUGHES
Melinda Flock

MR. & MRS. GEORGE HURT
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Hurt

LOU IRBY
Genee Crenshaw

BRYSON LEMOINE JAMES
Hartley Bridge Road Church Of Christ

MALCOLM WALLACE JAMES
Roy & Hazel Cox
Robert & Brenda Griggers
Hartley Bridge Road Church Of Christ

PAM KEESE
Jerry & Rita Porter

CARMEN KINSER
Jerry & Rita Porter

RICHARD W. KIRKMAN
Nancy Kirkman

FLORINE LEBEN
Jim & Jeanette Leben

FLOY DELL LINDESMITH
Roy & Hazel Cox

ANGELA LINEBERGER
Kerry Lineberger

JESSE LONG
Ron & Shelby Horn

FRANCES "LOVETA" LOVE
Howard & Joyce Julian

ROGER MACKENZIE
Christopher & Susan Bolden
Terry & Reba Nichols
Butch & Hilda Nutt

ANGELLA McFALL
Hartley Bridge Road Church of Christ

LORIE T. MOORE
Ritzy Stover

OUR MOTHERS
Richard & Sherri Rissman

THOMAS MURRAY
Emily Murray and the Murray Family

DOT NELEMS
John & Jenny Burnette

PETE OGREN
Sid & Loretta Allen

A.W. PADGETT
Butch & Hilda Nutt

WILBURN PALMER
John & Jenny Burnette

PEGGY PORTER
Patrick & Becky Cahill
Jerry & Rita Porter
Daoud & Shannon Shakkour

EDWARD SANDERS
Jerry & Rita Porter

SHEILA SCOTT
Bob & M.L. Williams

REAMER Y. SHERWOOD
Dick & Bess Sumner

DENNIS STOVER
Ritzy Stover

THERESA JACOBS

STRIPLING
Ron & Shelby Horn

BETTY TARPLEY
James & Jeanette Davis
Janice Davis Hager
Jan Hodgson
Ron & Louise Reeve

SAM THOMAS
Al & Ruth Bastin

JAMES & HELEN WHITE
Betty W. Lister

WILLIAM "BILL" JAMES WILLIAMS
Al & Ruth Bastin
Carole Demonbreun
Billy & Janice Guthrie
Jerry & Faye Hardiman
Finis Herron
Jerry & Susan Poole
Merwin Taylor
E.B. & Joyce Tomblin
Todd & Leslie Wilson
Brent & Kimbra Wiseman

LAWRENCE E. WINTER
Charles & Myra Hampton

In Honor
Libby Gray
Bo & Linda Gray

In Honor
Marci Gray
Bo & Linda Gray

In Honor
Stacy Gray
Bo & Linda Gray

In Honor
Jeff & Sherriann Hicks
Tim & Sheila Dunn

In Honor
Randall Jackson
Terry & Reba Nichols

In Honor
Marilyn Long
Terry & Reba Nichols

In Honor & Appreciation
Bill & Anne Lummus
Julie Altenbach

In Honor
Melanie McDaniel
Bo & Linda Gray

In Honor
Brody Mong
Daniel & Kandis Mong

In Honor & Appreciation
J. Pat & Patti Montgomery
Julie Altenbach

In Honor
Jo Ann Ralston
David & Lisa Crawford

In Honor & Appreciation
Glenis Scogin
Julie Altenbach

In Honor & Appreciation
David & Tonya Steele
Julie Altenbach

In Honor And Respect

In Honor & Appreciation
Thom & Gail Bogle
Julie Altenbach

In Honor & Appreciation
Cody Carlson
Julie Altenbach

In Honor & Appreciation
Jim Cheney
Julie Altenbach

In Honor & Appreciation
Leena & Jatin Chugh
Julie Altenbach

In Honor
Bernie Coker
Randy & Diane Zook

In Honor
Tina Gray Cunningham
Bo & Linda Gray

In Honor & Appreciation
Stu & Sandy Goff
Julie Altenbach

Celebration Banquet 2017

Thursday, September 28, 2017

We will be returning to the **Westin Atlanta Perimeter North** for our banquet again this year. This event is a highlight for us each year, filled with inspiration and good news regarding the work of Agape. Great food and fellowship are enjoyed by all. For tickets, call the Agape office or see one of our Board members. The ticket price will be the same as in years past, \$35 per person. The banquet begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends around 9:00 p.m.

As a special feature of our banquet this year, we will be highlighting Racquelle Grant, our new Executive Director at Agape. For many of you it will be the first time you will have a chance to meet her. You will see firsthand, her leadership will provide a promising future. Come enjoy an evening with Racquelle and the Georgia Agape family.

MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

The enclosed gift of \$_____ is given in Memory of:

in Honor of: _____

Gifts/donations can also be made on our website:
<https://www.georgiaagape.org/donate-now.htm>

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

For Memorials, Relationship to Deceased:

For Honor Gifts, Occasion: _____

**Georgia Agape, Inc. ♦ 3094 Mercer University Drive
Suite 200 ♦ Atlanta, Georgia 30341**

Attention Federal Employees!

Remember Agape in the Combined Federal Campaign

The 2017 Combined Federal Campaign is about to begin. Contributions can be designated to AGAPE by using our agency number, **64733**, on the form. Tell your friends and co-workers about Agape and the tremendous service we provide to the community!

New Partnership!



We are excited to partner with *Sacred Selections* to facilitate the plan of adoption for many more families. Sacred Selections, based out of Folsom, California, is a Christian organization founded by David and Dana Carrozza who tackle the financial barriers that often prevent couples from adopting. This organization has facilitated over 200 adoptions in just 10 short years and has the amazing vision of reaching many more.

Racquelle Grant and LaQuisha White had the pleasure, last month, to attend an amazing event for adoptive families, hosted by Sacred Selection. As story after story was shared by recent adoptive parents, the passion for finding forever homes for children was renewed with vigor and joy! During dinner, they were approached by an attendee with an interesting question. She asked, "Do they still get moved by these stories after being in this field for so many years"? Without hesitation, Racquelle and LaQuisha answered, definitively, YES!!

If adoption has been placed on your heart and your only hesitation was financial, consider again. Having attended two adoption finalizations in one day last month, please be reminded of the restoring power of love and family.

We believe and pray that our partnership with Sacred Selections will result in forever families for all of our children. Will you be a part of the vision??

Agape Staff complete over 400 hours of training!

Each year, certain Georgia Agape staff are required to complete 24 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). This includes training in a variety of topics including state policy changes, trauma informed care, childhood development and several other areas. Over the last fiscal year, Agape staff completed over 400 hours of training, an average of 67 hours each! This shows our commitment to learning new ways to serve children and families and our willingness to go above and beyond. Not only are we able to expand our knowledge base, we are able to share this knowledge with our foster and adoptive parents to help them be better prepared to care for children in their home.



Beautifying our office, Carol Stanley and the Tuesday Morning Ladies Ministry at the **Blairsville Church of Christ** made us a wall hanging that is in our break room.

Georgia Agape, Inc.
3094 Mercer University Drive, #200
Atlanta, GA 30341
770-452-9995

www.GeorgiaAgape.org

Georgia Agape Staff
Racquelle Grant, MSW
Executive Director

Charles Hampton, LCSW
Assistant to Executive Director

LaQuisha A. White, LPC
Director of Social Services

Ken Dowdy
Director of Development

John M. McLain, LMFT
Director of Counseling

Karen Anthony, MAOM
Director of Administration

Kehli Higdon, LMSW
Assistant Director of Social Services

Lynnette Chupp, BSW
Child Placement Case Manager

Kimberly Hardy-Johns
Social Services Secretary

Cheri Raines
Executive Assistant for Advancement

Dana Stanley
Accountant

Sharon Stubbs
Social Services Secretary

Kim Tang, LCSW
Maternity and Adoption Counselor

Erica Williams, BSW
Child Placement Case Manager

Board of Directors:

Allen Read, *Chair*, Greg Winnett, *Vice Chair*, Frank Allen, *Treasurer*, Rick McMaster, *Secretary*, Members: Jeff Bethel, Michelle Brechbuhl, Lisa Jamison, Will Melson, Steve Murdock, Julie Onstott, Charlie Roberts and Larry H. Simmons.

Our Mission

To provide professional social services as a compassionate Christian outreach to children, families and individuals in order to enhance their prospects for a better and brighter future.



3094 Mercer University Drive, Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30341



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From the Executive Director

Loving Christian Homes Needed



Racquelle Grant, MSW

Matthew 6:19-20:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website
www.GeorgiaAgape.org

As I am writing this article it is the middle of summer. School has been out now for a few months and vacation plans are in full swing or coming to a close. Busy family schedules and heavy traffic are gearing up.

Yet, by the time you are reading this article, the summer will be nearing an end, school supplies will have taken over store aisles, and open houses and back-to-school meetings will bombard your schedule. Time flies with each blink of an eye!

James 4:14 reminds us that life is like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Likewise, the windows of opportunity to truly affect change in the lives of children and families passes quickly. There is no time and gift like the present to be involved.

As the new school year approaches and we are in the final months of our calendar year, new ways to partner with Agape are ushering in. We have developed partnerships this year that will

propel us towards the future. Our ongoing support from area congregations continue to make our work possible. There is still more to do.

The state is anticipating an increase in children in care and there are currently over 13,000 children in state custody. The need for loving Christian foster families greatly outpaces the number of families currently approved. Consider being a blessing and part of the solution. Consider becoming a part of the Agape family.

Celebration Banquet 2017

Our Celebration Banquet will be held at the **Westin Atlanta Perimeter North** on **September 28th** at 7:00 p.m. See page 7 for more info.