



Agape Today

Responding WITH Gratitude



Rory McKendrick



Dr. Patrick Bradshaw



Jon Robinson



There is so much uncertainty in the world right now. The government shutdown has paused crucial resources to vulnerable families. Job security is far from a given. Inflation is causing prices of everything from groceries to utilities to skyrocket. Many are starting to panic.

Do you know who remains the same? Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He will continue to provide for us, guide us, and instruct us. One of those instructions calls for us to care for orphans and widows. Even in the uncertainty of current times, we must answer.

Our response is to focus on Philippians 4:8 and the things that are pure and lovely. With these words, we are reminded that there is always something to be grateful for. Even today, even if you must look a bit harder, there is so much good in the world.

This year, Agape served 60 kids in our foster care program. Our foster parents cared for children with higher levels of needs than ever before. Many of our children were safely and successfully reunified with their birth families. Others continue to be cared for in loving Christian foster homes until permanency can be achieved.

Our Agape family continues to grow. We welcome our newest board member, **Rory McKendrick**, who brings years of experience as a financial advisor. A native of Detroit, he and his wife, Tara, are the parents of seven children. With a heart for our mission and a foster parent himself, he is God-prepared to partner with us in our work. Rory and his family worship at the East Cobb Church of Christ.

Dr. Patrick Bradshaw comes to Agape with a background in Human Resources, Strategic Planning and Organizational Effectiveness. He currently leads the Quality Assurance team at Shipt (Target Corporation) where he displays his passion for affecting organizational efficiency. He brings that same intensity to our board and currently chairs the committee on strategic planning. Patrick also serves as an elder at Northlake Church of Christ where he and his wife, Monica, and their two children worship.

Jon Robinson rounds out our board by adding years of accounting expertise. Currently serving as the Finance Division Manager for Cobb County Water System, his extensive knowledge of budgeting and financial planning is already proving an asset to Agape. A Georgia native with deep roots and ties to local Churches of Christ, he truly has Georgia on his mind. Jon and his wife, Monica, have three beautiful children.

There is always something to be thankful for, and this time of year reminds us to count our blessings one by one. At the top of that list are our many valued partners. Your time, prayers, and financial support make the work of Agape possible. During our Thanksgiving Appeal and end-of-year giving campaign, we ask you to financially support our answer to James 1:27. Help us to continue to increase the good in our world.

Wishing you a very safe, joyful, and family-filled holiday season. 🍌

Racquelle Grant, Executive Director



At far left, top: Jackie Bradford (left) receives the Barnabas Servant Leader Award from Agape Board Chairperson Fernando Nasmyth.



At far left, bottom: James Hutcheson III (left) receives The Dot Landers Service Award from Agape Executive Director Racquelle Grant.



At left: Michael and Elise White, parents of five biological and foster children, are honored with The Good Samaritan Award. Pictured with them are their sons, Lincoln and Shepard.

2025 Banquet Celebrates Agape Mission

Our annual celebration banquet in late September was a success with over 120 supporters in attendance. Our guests participated in an interactive experience of foster care and heard inspiring stories of resilience after trauma.

Emmy-award-winning journalist and current Director of Marketing and Communications for the Gwinnett County Library, **Duffie Dixon** once again served as Agape's host for the night of celebration, bringing focus and energy to the evening.

Guest speaker **Josh Thames**, a Licensed Professional Counselor, former teacher and coach, reminded us of how the stories Jesus told tie into the stories of our lives. He shared how, though there have been times of fierce loss, the adoption of a child has brought a season of redemption and joy. He inspired us to continue the work of fostering hope and changing lives.

This year, the recipients of our annual awards were:

Jackie Bradford: The Barnabas Servant Leader Award. This award was created in 2018 by the Agape Board and is the highest award given for lifetime service. It can be awarded to anyone in our community.

Michael and Elise White: The Good Samaritan Award. This award recognizes parents who have gone above and beyond for children placed in their home during the year. They have shown selflessness in parenting, relationship-building with birth families, working with community partners and, overall, living as examples of Agape love.

James Hutcheson III: The Dot Landers Service Award. This award honors individuals who have significantly contributed to forwarding Agape's mission, while being an example of faith and service to the community. Honorees are selected from Agape's base of strong supporters, volunteers, staff, and foster families. 🍌



From left: Duffie Dixon; Racquelle Grant; Josh Thames

Party
WITH A
Purpose

Hope THAT Lasts

Join Us in Changing Lives This Season



As the year draws to a close and we gather with family and friends, many of us pause to reflect on the blessings in our lives. At Georgia Agape, we're deeply grateful for the many ways our supporters have helped children and families find hope, healing, and belonging this year.

Each gift you give, every prayer, every dollar, every act of kindness, helps us live out our mission: to serve children and families through foster care, adoption, and birth parent counseling, motivated by the love of Christ.

This year, your generosity has already made a profound difference. You've helped provide safe, loving homes for children who needed them most. You've supported adoptive families walking the joyful, and sometimes challenging, journey of forming forever families. And you've helped us care for parents and children working toward restoration and stability.

But as the holidays approach, we're reminded that many children in Georgia are still waiting ... waiting for safety, for stability, and for someone to believe in them.

One of those children was *Eli*. When *Eli* came into care, he was shy, withdrawn, and unsure of what the future held. Through the patient love of his foster family, the guidance of his Agape caseworker, and the prayers of many, *Eli* began to open up. Today, he's thriving, laughing easily, and doing well in school. Stories like *Eli's* are only possible because people like you choose to partner with us.

As we look toward the new year, we're asking you to prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to Georgia Agape. Your support helps us:

- Recruit and train more Christian foster families.
- Support children and parents with counseling and spiritual care.
- Facilitate adoptions that bring lifelong belonging.
- Provide practical and emotional support to families in crisis.

Every dollar counts, every dollar makes an impact. Your gift can help provide essential items for a child entering care, help cover counseling sessions for a struggling family, and support foster parent training and licensing. Through your gifts, you make it possible to open a home to a child who desperately needs one.

When you give, you're not just donating, you're joining a community that believes every child deserves love, safety, and hope. You're saying to children like *Eli*, "You matter. You are loved. You are not alone."

This Christmas season, will you join us in writing more stories of hope? Together, we can make sure that fewer children have to wait for the love and stability they deserve.

Visit georgiaagape.org/donate to make your year-end gift today or return your gift in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for partnering with us in the important work of fostering hope and changing lives. 🍂

Ken Dowdy, Director of Development





Gifts Received

Nov. 21, 2024—Oct. 31, 2025



In Loving Memory

Connie Abele

Gary & Shannon Crane

James Adams

Steve & Betty Pintur

Loretta Allen

Anonymous

Anne Barron

Jackie Bradford

George & Gayle Brown

Kenneth & Beverly Dowdy

Ronnie & Charlotte Herring

Walker & Ann Kendrick

John & Glenda Liddle

Johnny & Kathy Lightsey

Allen & Debbie Nichols

Diane Pack Jelf

Alvin & Roseann Pilkinton

Don & Kelli Price

Buddy & Brenda White

Charles Michael Anderson

Jane Anderson

Carlynn Anguish

David Anguish

Susan Mercer Arnold

Carole DeMonbreun

Mattie Pearl Babble

Bernard & Bobbie Bable

Gary Baker

Dennis Goss

Verbal Ballard

Vesta Brown

Cindy Balser

Steve & Betty Pintur

Gene Barrow

Vesta Brown

Lee Bartlett

Michael & Linda Glenn

Brent Bass

Vesta Brown

Bonnie Batte

Buford Church of Christ

Steve & Betty Pintur

Roger Beauchamp

Michael & Linda Glenn

Phil & Denise Helms

Jerry & Rita Porter

Gail Bergin

Phil & Denise Helms

Charles Bethel

Candice Bracewell

Vesta Brown

Burnt Hickory Church of Christ

Julia Day

Maureen Ellis

Laurie Scales

Jack & Jan Turk

Michael David Birchmore, Sr.

Ron L. Horn

William "Sonny" Bogus

Charles & Myra Hampton

Phil Bowers

Sherry Bick

Cindy Bowers

Robert Daniel Brown, Jr.

Jeremy & Alesia Ano

Lorreta Brown

Cindy Bowers

Rex Brown

Nancy Brown

Rob Browne

Butch & Hilda Nutt

Traci Browne

Michael & Angie Ballenger

Phil & Denise Helms

Jerry & Rita Porter

Mary Bruce

Steve & Betty Pintur

Dot Bryan

Steve & Betty Pintur

Tom & Ruth Byerley

Daniel & Corine Jackson

Lucy Byrd

Louise Blackburn

Shirley Ann Camp

Vesta Brown

Virginia Carpenter

Brent & Kimbra Wiseman

Dianne Carroll

Vesta Brown

Ray Carson

Dennis & Ann Gerdes

Charlotte Cherry

Cindy Bowers

John & Julie Clinebell

Gary & Shannon Crane

Steve & Patty Daniel

Michael & Linda Glenn

Daniel & Corine Jackson

Shane & Crystal O'Neal

Stewart & Cherie Smith

Dob & Korky Waites

Brent & Kimbra Wiseman

Ellenor Clark

Avondale Church of Christ

Linda Clovis

Anonymous

Barney & Kathy Atwater

Jackie Bradford

Kenneth & Beverly Dowdy

Charles & Myra Hampton

Walker & Ann Kendrick

John & Glenda Liddle

Lee & Teresa Maddox

Robert McMahan

Alvin & Roseann Pilkinton

Bob Reinhart

Dennis & Claudia Womack

Claude Collins

Marion & Sandra Baggett

Michael & Linda Glenn

Jerry Martin

Mary Ann Sellers

Jane Treece

Dennis & Claudia Womack

Marvin C. Cox

Barby Cox

Jan Craig

Archie & Genee Crenshaw

Brent & Kimbra Wiseman

Bruce Curry

Ira & Judy Griffith

Carl Daniels

Dennis Goss

Ernest A. Davis, Jr.

Josephine Davis

Bob Demonbreun

Carole DeMonbreun

Kathy Dennington

Roger Dennington

Sharon Doscher

Charles & Myra Hampton

Terissa Duke

Steve & Betty Pintur

Alvin Duncan

Steve & Betty Pintur

Barbara Duncan

Steve & Betty Pintur

Gerald Duncan

Kenneth & Beverly Dowdy

Robert E. Elliott

Carol Elliott

Clinton & Barbara Hardin

Cheryl McGuire

Cless & Linda Overly

Charlena Embry

David & Terry Embry

Gary Etheridge

Vesta Brown

Jean Finney

Cindy Bowers

John & Julie Clinebell

Archie & Genee Crenshaw

Clark & Susan Miller

Bob Reinhart

Gene & Nancy Westbrooks

Laura Fowler

Buford Church of Christ

James Fulmer

East Brainerd Church of Christ

David Holbrook

Judy Kelly

Amy Rains

Carlton Ricketson

Bob & Charlotte White

Joe Glenn

Michael & Angie Ballenger

Carole DeMonbreun

Phil & Denise Helms

Jeffrey & Cathy Hendrick

Jerry & Rita Porter

Margaret Goodman

Buford Church of Christ

Steve & Betty Pintur

Myrtle Rose Goss*Dennis Goss***Faye Grindley***Vesta Brown***Gene & June Harber***Michael & Angie Ballenger**Phil & Denise Helms***Donnie Faye Harper***Keith & Janet Lawson***Ray Harris***Phil & Denise Helms***JoAnne Hartline***Mary Pat Hartline***Frances Helms***Michael & Angie Ballenger**Phil & Denise Helms***John & June Hemby***Scott & Susan Stutzman***Clover Henry***Steve & Betty Pintur***Mike Hester***Hester & Associates, Inc.***Fred Hill***Steve & Betty Pintur***Mike Hill***Vesta Brown**Dunk & Julia Hale***Harold Hodnett***Steve & Betty Pintur***Barbara & Jerry Hofferbert***Steve & Betty Pintur***Ronald L. Horn***Celia Belitz**Buford Church of Christ**Bill & Linda Burton**William & Marie Dill**Robert & Mariam Dittmann**Michael & Linda Glenn**Marshall & Mollie Guthrie**Heartland Church**David Jacobs**Sean & Susan Jones**Walker & Ann Kendrick**James Norris**Butch & Hilda Nutt**Steve & Betty Pintur**Fred Selby**Sony Mobile Communications, Inc.**Robert & Mary Louise Williams**Dennis & Claudia Womack**Maria Wright***Joyce Hughes***Melinda Flock***Joy Janke***Pamela Jones***Marcia Jaynes***Tim & Nelda Demirtas***Ken Kellum***Charles & Myra Hampton***Al Kennedy***Vesta Brown***Vernon Kidd***Vesta Brown***Keith Knight***Ed & Lynne O'Brien***James Donny Latham***Billy & Hollie Akins**Michael & Angie Ballenger**Bettline Church of Christ**Ray & Terri Butler**Dwaine Clarke**Wayne & Donna Collins**Dale & Jane Cunningham**Frances Davidson**Kenneth & Beverly Dowdy**Michael & Linda Glenn**Charles & Myra Hampton**Phil & Denise Helms**John & Brenda Hewett**Randall & Nancy Jackson**Frank Johnson**Walker & Ann Kendrick**Butch & Hilda Nutt**Jamie Parker**Jerry & Rita Porter**Ron Rushing**Ron & Jackie Swann**Ronald & Clydean Wood***Steve Ledbetter***Charles & Myra Hampton***J. Paul Littrell, Sr.***Libby Littrell***Pam Locker***Southside Church of Christ**Teresa Walker***Rocky Long***Ruby Long***Kenneth Love***Opal Taylor***Stacey Lusk***Janet Hicks**Wayne & Frances Mitsch***Lamar Lussi***Steve & Betty Pintur***Theo Lussi***Steve & Betty Pintur***Johnny Mackey***Eddie & Donna Morris***Joice Maddox***Vesta Brown***Jackie Manley Martin***Phil & Denise Helms***Michelle McElroy***Phil & Denise Helms***Lamar & Eleanor Melson***Michael & Linda Glenn**Phil & Denise Helms***Elizabeth Mercier***John & Barbara Mercier***Taw Ywa Moo***Gary & Shannon Crane***Cecil Moses***Steve & Betty Pintur***Geraldine Nease***Steve & Betty Pintur***Gerald Newman***Butch & Hilda Nutt***Jaylin Newson***Charles & Myra Hampton***Terry Nichols***John & Kathy Stroop***Murray Dale Norman***Charles & Myra Hampton***Jolene Nutt***Phil & Denise Helms***Joe Page***Anne Page***Loretta Pigg***Michael & Linda Glenn***Walter & Eunice Pluim***Robert & Edna Southard***Mary Louise Poole***Jerry & Susy Poole***Jerry Porter***Gary & Shannon Crane***Buford Henry Price***Judy Copeland**Steve & Betty Pintur***Raymond & Susie Putman***Steven & Cheryl Putman***David & Patricia Raines***Renee Cooley***Rodger Raines***Renee Cooley**Michael & Linda Glenn***Robert Ralston***Jack Stanley***Bob Reinhart***Kenneth & Beverly Dowdy***Margie Renahan***James & Jennifer Warren***David Richardson***Michael & Angie Ballenger**Carole DeMonbreun**Phil & Denise Helms**Butch & Hilda Nutt**Steve & Betty Pintur***Charlie Roberts***Michael & Linda Glenn**Neal & JoAnne Stubblefield***Hazel Roberts***Matt & Heather Roberts***Myrtis Johnson Robinson***Opal Taylor***Peggy Rogers***Craig & Lorie Joyner***Christopher Schneider***Michael & Angie Ballenger***Jackson Smith***Michael & Angie Ballenger***Mike Smith***Vesta Brown***Sonny Stewart***Vesta Brown***Marjorie Sumner***Phil & Denise Helms***Tripp Sutter***Renee Cooley***Terry Tabor***Avondale Church of Christ***Jere Tate***Buford Church of Christ**Steve & Betty Pintur***Rosetta Thomas***Steve & Betty Pintur***Janice Mallard Thompson***Betty Colston***Grace Thompson***Mary Ann Thompson***Peggy Calvit Tinsley***Buford Church of Christ***Paul Towler***Michael & Linda Glenn***Tadd Trueb***Thomas & Pam Trueb***James Tucker, Jr.***Patrick & Doris Graham**Phil & Denise Helms**Jerry & Rita Porter**Neal & JoAnne Stubblefield***Jane Uptagrafft***Butch & Hilda Nutt**Steve & Betty Pintur***Hallie Vore***Steve & Betty Pintur***Ed Wagner***Gary & Shannon Crane***Peggy Walker***Pamela Jones***Hannah Walmsey***Charles & Myra Hampton***Joy Waters***Buford Church of Christ***Joanne Webb***Vesta Brown***Kathy Brown Whaley***Nancy Brown***Carlton Wheeler***Michael & Linda Glenn**Butch & Hilda Nutt**Steve & Betty Pintur***Bruce White***Bruce & Ann Stroud***James & Helen White***Betty Lister***James L. Williams***Dennis & Ann Gerdes***Ruby Williams***Steve & Betty Pintur***Wanda Maye Wilson***Vesta Brown***Carole Wolaver***George Beech**Jeff Beech**Buford Church of Christ**Melissa Doherty**Darrell McWaters**Todd & Pam Newman**Cless & Linda Overly**Emily Phillips**Bryan & Robin Vaughn***Peggy Woods***Faye Holland**Daniel & Corine Jackson**Mary Ann Thompson***Leo Wright***Steve & Betty Pintur***Nelda Wright***Buford Church of Christ**(Continued on next page)*

Gifts Received

(Continued from previous page)

In Honor & Respect

Karen Anthony

Dave & Camille Warren

**Buford Church of Christ Elders,
Preacher & Deacons**

Steve & Betty Pintur

JP, Lucy, Mary Grace & Hank Coker

Kyle & Natalie Coker

Steve Curlee

Lynn Sims

Chad & Reagan Dollahite

Robert & Cheryl Edwards

Abigail Kenna Gibson

Ken & Kim Gibson

Tristan Kade Gibson

Ken & Kim Gibson

Charles Hampton

Doug & Nancy Mead

Michael Johnson, Jr.

Wayne & Virginia Johnson

Virginia Johnson

Wayne & Virginia Johnson

Michael Kingsley

Curtis & Shirley Kingsley

Richard & Linda Kohl

Julie Altenbach

Stacey Lusk

Wayne & Frances Mitsch

The Bryan Matheny Family

Ed & Annette Prince

Brody Mong

Daniel & Kandis Mong

Jerry Porter

Michael & Angie Ballenger

Avalynn Rose Rivers

Wayne & Virginia Johnson

Lauren Rivers

Wayne & Virginia Johnson

Kyle & Sara Rye

Wayne & Virginia Johnson

Clark & Geraldine Sharpe

Jimmy & Corlis Ellis

Jason Shelnuitt

Anonymous

Clif & Kristy Shelton

Michael & Angie Ballenger

Marcia Strong

James L. Luckey III

Bruce & Ann Stroud

Doug & Darlene Pirtle

Judy Tenney

Michael & Angie Ballenger

The Villers Family

Brian & Ruth Wingfield

Julie Williams

Ken & Amy Wilber

Memorial or Honor Gift

1) Give online! Visit www.GeorgiaAgape.org/donate, and use the dropdown box for Memorial and Honors.

2) Give by mail! The enclosed gift of \$_____ is given in

☐ Memory of or ☐ Honor of _____.

Please notify:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address _____

For memorials, relationship to the deceased _____

For honor gifts, occasion _____

Georgia Agape, Inc.

3094 Mercer University Dr., Suite 200

Atlanta, Ga. 30341



Living Our Values

Dedication. Commitment. Loyalty.

Georgia Agape continues to thrive over the years because of its dedicated employees. More than half of Agape's staff have been with the agency for nine years or longer—a testament to their commitment, loyalty, and passion for serving children and their families.



One shining example is **Erica Williams**, Social Services Supervisor, who truly embodies these qualities. Having served Georgia Agape for 18 years, Erica is a cornerstone of the agency. Her unwavering determination and positive spirit have remained constant through many changes, reflecting her deep commitment to Agape's mission.

We are truly blessed to have so many employees who demonstrate their dedication by remaining with the agency long-term and helping to fulfill its purpose.

Our Values

- Uphold Christian and professional ethical standards
- Every child deserves a family
- Sincere care and compassion for all
- Strive for excellence in all we do
- The best interests of our clients is preeminent
- Financial integrity and good stewardship of resources 🍌

Help Us Manage Costs

Sign-up for E-Delivery

Have you noticed that the cost of living has increased drastically over the past few years? We are sure you have. Everything from the price of groceries and gas to everyday essentials has been affected. Well, that fact is also true when it comes to caring for our communities' most vulnerable. Still, we must meet the need.

We have a partial solution. Starting in the fall 2026, Agape will shift to distributing one of our annual newsletters to an electronic delivery. We will still share our agency news, highlight exceptional partnerships, and celebrate agency milestones, but you will receive this issue conveniently in your email inbox. In addition, the newsletter will be available on our website for your reading pleasure.

How can you help? We are asking you to subscribe to electronic delivery of our newsletter by March 1, 2026. To subscribe, please send an email to us at admin@GeorgiaAgape.org to ensure that you always receive the latest communications from Agape. Electronic delivery will also allow us to redirect printing costs to meeting the needs of our children and families. You see, when we work together, we can do so much more. 🍌

More Giving Options



Leave a Legacy

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit us after your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that lets you provide for your family and support Agape. A few options are: **Wills and Living Trusts; Beneficiary Designations; and Charitable Remainder Trust.**

Contact your legal or financial advisor to prepare the proper documents and learn which kinds of gifts will have the best tax benefit for you.



Donate Your Used Vehicle

You can donate your car, truck, boat, RV, or motor home to Georgia Agape. By using the donation services of CARS, you will receive a tax deduction for the gross proceeds. All donations require a clear title to the vehicle.

Navigate to the donation page on the Georgia Agape website. Just below "Donate Your Vehicle to Charity," you'll find the blue **DONATE** button to begin your donation.

You can also contact CARS by phone at 855-500-7433. Tell our agent you want the proceeds to go to Agape.

Thanks to so many of you who have donated your used vehicle!

Our Mission is 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.

Georgia Agape Staff

Racquelle Grant, MSW, *Executive Director*
Sondra Colbert, MSW, *Director of Social Services*
Karen Anthony, MAOM, *Director of Administration*
Ken Dowdy, *Director of Development*
Kristi Buce, *Administrative Assistant*
Fran George, *Adoption Coordinator*
Amanda Jones, *Compliance Specialist*
Dana Stanley, *Accountant*
Erica Williams, BSW, *Social Services Supervisor*

Board of Directors

Fernando Nasmyth, *Chairperson*
Jon Robinson, *Vice President*
Renard Anthony, *Treasurer*
Ivelisse Matos, *Secretary*
Patrick Bradshaw
Brenda Hunter
Rory McKendrick



3094 Mercer University Drive, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30341

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Atlanta, Georgia
Permit No. 3821



2025 Thanksgiving Appeal

We believe every child deserves a seat at the table of a loving, Christian family. Your gift allows the children we serve this opportunity. We pray you will continue to partner with us through our Thanksgiving Appeal. You can provide a gift until the end of December online at GeorgiaAgape.org/donate or text to give at 1-888-364-4483. You also may simply



use this QR code on your smart phone.