



AgapeToday

Trusting God & Pouring INTO Lives



Gene Proctor



Kyle Coker

*"From the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is
to be praised."*

Psalm 113:3 (NIV)



Psalm 113:3 tells us from the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised. We praise him because he is good. Not that everything is perfect. Not that there are no challenges. But that He is good.

We faced many challenges at Agape this year. Almost every expense line item increased in cost. Families continued to struggle. Neglect and abuse continued as more children entered into foster care. Access to services for children decreased significantly in 2026 while the need continued to grow.

Still, we witnessed families being safely reunited. Forever families were created through adoption. Children in our homes were introduced to Christ and baptized. There is still so much good.

Internally, we welcomed two new board members to our Agape family. Gene Proctor and Kyle Coker joined an already passionate and committed board ready to face every obstacle while furthering the mission of our agency. Tiffany Dillard joined our Development Team; she will take the reins from Ken Dowdy who is set to retire in late 2026. (Read a message from Tiffany on page 6.) We have so much to be thankful for.

Gene Proctor joins the Agape Board of Directors with over 40 years of experience in Public Safety. After retiring in 2017 as Battalion Chief of the Rome-Floyd County Fire Department, he now serves as the Chief Coroner of Floyd County. A member at Oak Hill Church of Christ with his wife of 48 years, Gene brings faith, public servant experience and a passion for family that will serve the board well.

Kyle Coker comes to the board with both critical expertise and an intimate knowledge of foster care and adoption. In his professional role, Kyle leads an IT escalated support team at Chick-fil-A. Personally, Kyle and his wife of 33 years, Natalie, are parents to two biological children and four children adopted through Georgia Agape. For six years, the Cokers served as foster parents before answering the call to adopt and thus bring firsthand knowledge of our work that is sure to assist in continuing our commitment to best practices.

On a personal note, my oldest daughter is now a college freshman. She is my first to leave the nest. It is bittersweet. I am reminded that our job in this world, and in this work, is to pour into the lives of our children while simultaneously trusting God. He is good.

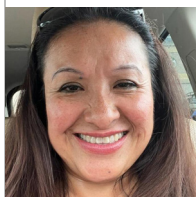
This year saw new partnerships with even more plans in the works for 2027. Our many supporters made our work possible and have helped us answer the call of James 1:27. We are so very grateful.

There is more to do. There are 11,000 children in foster care in Georgia today and a national foster parent shortage. Both God's command to and the need for caring for orphans remains. Georgia Agape stands committed to serving families. Will you help us answer the call? 🍌

Racquelle Grant, Executive Director

Could You Be a Foster Parent?

Will you?



If your heart is pulling you toward serving families via foster care, there is a great need.

Please contact Sondra Colbert, Social Services Director, at sondra@georgiaagape.org or via phone at (770) 452-9995.

You Might Be More Qualified Than You Think

Have you ever thought about becoming a foster parent but quickly decided you probably wouldn't qualify?

I'm single. I rent. I work full-time. I don't have children. I'm not wealthy.

You may be surprised to learn that none of these things automatically prevents you from becoming a foster parent.

Foster families come in many different forms. You don't have to be married, own your home, have children of your own, or be wealthy. Many foster parents also work full-time. What matters is having a safe and stable home, being financially able to meet your own needs, and having the time, patience, and commitment to care for a child.

Teens Need Families, Too

When people think about fostering, they often picture babies and young children. But there is also a great need for families willing to consider teenagers.

Teenagers may be becoming more independent, but they still need adults in their corner. They need someone to teach them to drive, help with a first job application, attend a school event, celebrate a birthday, talk about plans after graduation, offer advice after a difficult day, and remind them that they matter. Turning 16 doesn't mean you stop needing someone to come home to.

Teens in foster care are not defined by being in foster care. They are individuals with different personalities, interests, talents, challenges, hopes, and dreams. Some may need additional time to trust and build relationships, but sometimes making a difference simply means being the adult who consistently shows up.

Could That Be You?

You don't need to have all the answers, and learning about foster care doesn't mean you're making a commitment. Maybe you're single. Maybe you're an empty nester. Maybe you've never parented before. Maybe you work full-time. Or maybe you've thought about fostering but assumed you weren't the "typical" foster parent.

There is no single picture of what a foster family looks like. What children and teenagers need are caring adults willing to provide stability, encouragement, guidance, and a safe place where they can belong while they need it most.

Maybe it's worth a conversation.

Contact Georgia Agape to learn more about becoming a foster parent. You may discover that you have more to offer than you ever realized. 🌟

Sondra Colbert, MSW, Director of Social Services

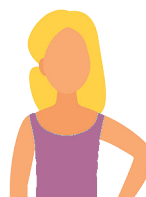
I'm single.

I rent.

I work full-time.

I'm not wealthy.

I don't have children.





At Georgia Agape, the work has always been about more than meeting an immediate need. Through foster care, adoption, and maternity support services, we come alongside children and families during some of the most difficult and uncertain seasons of their lives. Our goal is not simply to respond to a crisis, but to help create the conditions in which children can be safe, families can become healthier, and hope can begin to take root.

We are grateful to say Georgia Agape is financially strong. That strength allows us to plan ahead carefully, use our resources wisely, and look for opportunities to serve more families in the months and years ahead. Good stewardship means preparing not only for today's needs, but for the needs we know are coming.

The work itself is demanding. Make no mistake, this is not work for the faint of heart. Our staff and foster families often walk beside people carrying trauma, disappointment, fear, and uncertainty. We stay present because the wellbeing of a child cannot be separated from the health and stability of the family surrounding that child. Whenever possible, we seek not only safety for children, but healing, growth, and a stronger family unit.

Again and again, we hear stories of God at work in those difficult places giving families courage, giving children strength, and providing wisdom to make different choices. We see moments when peace begins to replace fear, when trust slowly returns, and when a child or parent learns that love can be carried even into life's hardest struggles.

That is where your partnership matters.

Financial support allows Georgia Agape to continue this work and to grow our capacity to serve more children and families. Your year-end gift helps us finish the current year strong while preparing thoughtfully for the year ahead: recruiting and supporting foster families, serving adoptive families, assisting mothers in difficult circumstances, and remaining ready when a child needs a safe place to land.

The need for this work will not diminish in the coming months. In many ways, we expect it to grow. We invite you to stand with us as we care for children and families who can too easily be overlooked by the larger community.

Will you partner with Georgia Agape this year-end, helping us carry hope, stability, and love into the lives of those we are called to serve? You can give by using an enclosed envelope to send a check or go online at GeorgiaAgape.org/donate. Use the QR code on the back cover for an even easier way to give.

From our entire Agape family to yours, thank you for your partnership. 🍌

Ken Dowdy, Director of Development

A STRONG *Foundation* FOR THE WORK AHEAD

*"Defend the poor and fatherless:
do justice to the afflicted
and needy."*

Psalm 82:3 (KJV)



Gifts Received

Nov. 1, 2025—Aug. 25, 2026



IN LOVING MEMORY

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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
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For honor gifts, occasion _____

Georgia Agape, Inc.
3094 Mercer University Dr., Suite 200
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Connecting People TO Purpose

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10



Tiffany C. Dillard, Development Officer

It is a privilege to join Georgia Agape’s development team as its newest member and to contribute to the broader mission of serving children and families. My career has spanned communications, higher education leadership, workforce development, recruitment, strategic partnerships, and community engagement. Through it all, building relationships and connecting people to purpose have remained central to my work.

At Auburn University, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with a concentration in Radio, Television, Film, and Media Studies. That gave me a foundation I have used ever since in public relations, media relations, and executive communications. Early in my career, I served as a Senior Communications Specialist in the City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office, where my work included speechwriting for the Honorable Shirley Franklin, former Mayor of Atlanta.

One of my fondest memories from my time at Auburn was working as a Pre-K teacher. Seeing firsthand how consistency, encouragement, and

support can add stability during a child’s formative years made that experience especially meaningful.

Service was also an important part of my college experience. I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, incorporated in March 2005, and have remained active for more than 20 years. As undergraduate chapter president at Auburn, I helped lead fundraising and service initiatives benefiting local charitable causes across the southeastern region.

My career expanded into higher education leadership, including several years at Grand Canyon University, a Christian institution. My faith has been an important part of my life since childhood. Becoming part of Georgia Agape gives me the chance to bring faith and professional service together again. 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us to use our gifts to serve others. That principle has guided me throughout my career.

Workforce development introduced another dimension of service. I worked with people facing barriers to employment, including veterans who had experienced housing instability. Watching people rebuild their footing, one job and one skill at a time, showed me another side of what relationships and access can do. That belief carries into how I think about development. It is more than raising funds. It is about building trust, sharing the mission, and helping people understand how their support makes a tangible difference in the lives of our children and families.

I also believe in the power of a good story. A well-told story can bring people closer to a cause in a way numbers alone never do. In development, those stories can help donors, supporters, and community partners understand the people and purpose behind a mission.

Professional growth remains important to me as well. I hold a master’s degree in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Argosy University. I am currently completing my second master’s degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Data Analytics at Southern New Hampshire University. I am also pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations.

I am an Atlanta native and a graduate of Decatur High School. It means a great deal to watch my daughter, Taylor, attend my alma mater. She is a sophomore who balances AP and Honors coursework with cheerleading and other extracurricular activities. Watching her grow into her own path at Decatur High School has meant more than I can say.

As an avid sports fan, I root for all the local home teams, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Braves, Atlanta Hawks, and Atlanta United, and I remain a proud Auburn University alumna and fan of our athletic programs. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, going to concerts, reading and writing, trying great cuisine at new restaurants, attending major sporting events, and spending time with my daughter, family, and friends.

My professional experiences have strengthened my commitment to service and taught me the value of building meaningful relationships. Bringing that experience to Georgia Agape means a great deal to me, and most importantly, it is an honor to support its mission of fostering hope and changing lives. 🍌

Tiffany C. Dillard, Development Officer

How You Can Support Our Mission

Partner with us in fostering hope and changing lives!

JOIN US AT THE 2026 CELEBRATION BANQUET

Georgia Agape's Celebration Banquet will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24, at The Opal Event Hall located at 1848 Old Norcross Road, Lawrenceville, GA.

Our guest speaker this year will be Susan Paa, a licensed clinical social worker, with over 15 years of experience in the field of social work. Her career has primarily focused on addiction and child welfare, including as a DFCS caseworker, forensic interviewer, and serving child victims in the criminal court system. Susan will share her very personal story of foster care and adoption that you don't want to miss.

GIVE TO THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING APPEAL

You can provide a gift for the Thanksgiving Appeal starting now through the end of December. Your gift during this time allows the children we serve an opportunity to enjoy a genuine Christian-family experience. Use the QR code on the back cover to make your gift.

RUN IN THE AGAPE 5K FOR KIDS

Agape 5K For Kids is scheduled for Sunday, April 4, 2027. Make your plans now to come run and support the great work of Georgia Agape. It will be a fun day for the whole family! Registration details are coming soon.

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.

To donate your used 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 vehicle donation.

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

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

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GEORGIA AGAPE

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.



Hear our guest speaker, Susan Paa



Run at the Agape 5K for Kids



Leave a legacy for Agape



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, LMSW, *Executive Director*
Sondra Colbert, MSW, *Director of Social Services*
Karen Anthony, MAOM, *Director of Administration*
Ken Dowdy, *Director of Development*
Kristi Buce, *Administrative Assistant*
Tiffany C. Dillard, MAEd, *Development Officer*
Fran George, *Adoption Coordinator*
Jocelin Hicks, *Child Placement Case Manager*
Jennifer Thomas, *Child Placement Case Manager*
Erica Williams, BSW, *Social Services Supervisor*

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2026 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.