

Atlanta Chapter Newsletter

February 2026



This time of year, we are surrounded by hearts and declarations of "love." For many of the youth we serve, that word is complicated.

For a child who has experienced trauma, the word hasn't always meant safety. Often, it was paired with volatility, disappointment, or strings attached.

To a young person building a life from the ground up, consistency is the greatest gift you can provide. While the world celebrates "love" as a feeling, our mission focuses on love as a **verb**:

- It is a mentor showing up exactly when they said they would—again and again.
- It is a volunteer listening without judgment, creating a space where a young person's voice is the loudest one in the room.
- It is a supporter providing resources that create a foundation of stability, not just a temporary fix.
- It is advocacy and encouragement that proves to a child they matter, regardless of their circumstances.

Because of your support, our students aren't just hearing words—they are experiencing safety . They are learning that there are adults who stay, who help, and who don't ask for anything in return.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Thank you for showing up, giving generously, and providing our kids with the steady, reliable presence they truly count on.

With appreciation,
Kelly Fields, Executive Director



New Year, New Intern!



Please join us in welcoming Yabkal Degafe to the Atlanta team! A 2023 graduate of Georgia State University, Yabkal earned her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and recently spent the last two years working abroad as an English Teaching Assistant. She is now preparing to return to GSU to pursue her graduate degree! We are excited to have her join our team and look forward to the contributions she will make during her time with us.



Her favorite quote?
“Be the change you wish to see in the world”



Synchrony Showing Up



We were thrilled to be included in Synchrony’s Day of Caring event! Synchrony employees rolled up their sleeves and worked assembly-line style to pack care bags for our students, filled with blankets, water bottles, games, and snacks. Their time and teamwork will make a meaningful difference for the youth we serve, and we’re always grateful for their support.



The Cold Never Bothered Us Anyway ❄️

We took the plunge for a purpose! This month, our team participated in the Polar Bear Plunge with the Alpharetta Rotary to raise funds and awareness for the students we serve. Thank you to everyone who supported us – your donations help provide mentoring, resources, and opportunities that make a lasting impact.



Campus Visits & Big Visions



Our upperclassmen have been hitting the road and stepping onto college campuses as they begin planning for life beyond high school. These college tours give students the opportunity to see themselves in new environments, ask important questions, and start imagining what their future could look like. Beyond the visits, we're also working alongside them to explore career pathways, discuss next steps, and prepare for the transition after graduation.





Community Partner Highlight



We are incredibly grateful to Jennifer Lee at Georgia State University for her ongoing support and partnership.



Through her leadership and coordination, our organization has been able to strengthen its relationship with the Panther Pantry, ensuring GSU students have access to essential resources when they need them most. Jennifer has also helped maintain our connection to the Atlanta North Metro Alumnae Association of Alpha Xi Delta. We are thankful for her dedication to our mission.



Volunteer Partner Recognition



We are deeply thankful for Dana Gardner at Federal Home Loan Bank for her continued partnership and advocacy on behalf of our organization. Dana has been a dedicated volunteer partner, supporting our work in multiple ways – from recommending us for grant opportunities to helping coordinate Angel Tree gifts that bring joy and support to our students during the holiday season. We are grateful for her ongoing support and commitment.



Support the Class of 2026!



The countdown to graduation has begun, and our seniors are preparing for a major life transition. We're asking our community to help us rally around them during this important milestone. Whether through a financial donation or by purchasing items from our Amazon wishlist, your support helps provide the essentials and encouragement they need as they move forward with confidence.



Support Opportunities All Year Long

Make a difference all year long! Through donations, fundraisers, or simply spreading the word. Go to our website to learn more!



Help us set students up for success with essential supplies and gear



In April, we celebrate milestones and prep students for summer with packs of useful items

Here's how you can help. Share our story, please forward this newsletter to *one* friend or colleague. That's how we will grow and in turn will have the ability to serve more kids in more schools.

Ending the Cycle of Youth Homelessness Starts with Keeping Kids in School

THANK YOU!