

OUR MISSION is to provide permanent, affordable housing to homeless and low-income families. Initiative is also committed to the provision of necessary supportive services to empower families to reach their personal goals and achieve independence.

WHO WE ARE: Initiative for Affordable Housing, Inc., is a private non-profit agency that serves homeless and low-income families. Founded in 1990 by two churches with long histories of social involvement in the local community, Initiative operates with the belief that safe, stable housing is essential, and that housing is most successful when additional resources are provided to strengthen and stabilize families.

WHAT WE DO: Initiative provides homeless women and children with a holistic program of housing and long-term intensive social services to help them attain financial independence, household management skills, and permanent affordable housing. Since 1996, Initiative has also owned and operated affordable multifamily rental housing in DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta. Families who work in low-wage jobs are able to live realistically on the wages they earn in safe and decent housing by renting one of Initiative's 355 apartments. Our job training and employment program, re:loom, provides a stable income, benefits, and job skills training for homeless and low-income adults in weaving, sales, customer service, problem solving and decision making. The weavers recycle used clothing into handwoven gift products for sale.

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Be sure to visit our websites at
affordablehousingatl.org and reloom.org



Initiative for Affordable Housing, Inc.
PO Box 885
Scottdale, Georgia 30079

INITIATIVE STAFF

Administrative Offices	(404)299-9979
Lisa Wise	Executive Director
Claire Sellers-Sneed	Social Worker
Jessica McFarland	Director of Development
Property Management	
Frieda Dent, Asset Manager	
Donna Rose, Magnolia Circle & Kirkwood Gardens Apts.	(404)243-1553
Linda Langford, Sol Luna Park Apartments	(404)288-5633
Ronda Anthony, Prince Avondale Apartments	(404)501-0556
re:loom	(404)247-4134
3032 N. Decatur Rd, Scottdale, GA 30079	
Tammy Carden, Operations Manager	

INITIATIVE HOUSING SITES

Prince Avondale	(404)501-0556
965 Nottingham Drive, Avondale Estates, GA 30002	
Sol Luna Park	(404)288-5633
3850 Memorial Drive, Decatur GA 30032	
Magnolia Circle	(404)243-1553
100 Dash Lewis Drive, Decatur, GA 30034	
Kirkwood Gardens	(404)378-6563
1929 Hosea Williams Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30317	



COMING HOME

Initiative rebuilds lives and renews hope for homeless families

When families arrive at Initiative seeking services, they are invariably at their wit's end. Days, weeks, and in many cases months of housing insecurity have taken a dramatic toll on the family's finances, mental health, and relationships. These last efforts at maintaining independence have often involved living sporadically with friends and relatives, spending precious dollars on motels, and sleeping in cars. Parents and children reach our doors exhausted from fighting to survive. Initiative offers refuge and hope for families in need of rest, emotional support, and help accessing social services.

Regina and her two young daughters came to Initiative after an extended stay with a relative, who has three young children of her own, became unsustainable. Regina had a steady full-time job for almost eight years, but her income was not enough to access housing in the increasingly expensive rental market. Then her youngest daughter began having seizures, requiring Regina to leave work early to pick her up from daycare or to miss days altogether for doctor's appointments. Although she was a dedicated and valued employee,

Regina's service job did not have the paid time off required for her to care for a sick child so frequently, and her employer had to seek other candidates. After receiving as much help as she could from family and friends who were also struggling with finances, Regina came to Initiative for help restoring her life and her family.

Regina and her children were immediately placed in Initiative housing and provided with rent and utility assistance. The program also provided temporary food and transportation assistance while Regina prepared for her job search. Over the next two months, Regina's Initiative case worker helped her access food stamps, the CAPS program for childcare funding, and job search resources. The program also served as an additional employment reference. Within a matter of weeks, Regina had secured a job at the Atlanta airport and was again working full time with her children in reliable childcare.

Regina's days now are long and challenging as she works to provide for her family. She and her girls leave their apartment at 4:30 in the morning to make the first train to the

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Thanks to donors like you, Mariah now has a place to call home.

Initiative for Affordable Housing, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of recurrent homelessness and preserving housing affordability for low-income families in metro Atlanta. Our service model includes:

- transitional housing and social service assistance for homeless families,
- high-quality affordable housing properties for residents at or below 80% AMI, and
- innovative job skills training in our re:loom weavehouse.



HELPING FAMILIES

(cont. from page 1)

children's daycare facility across town so that Regina can be early to work and put her best foot forward. The family frequently does not arrive home until 7:00pm. "It's hard," Regina says, "and the girls are sometimes very tired. I have to work hard to keep them cheerful and entertained on the long train rides. With all the changes, I thought it was important to keep them in the same daycare, even if it means extra time away from home. But now at least we have a home. I can bring my girls back in the evening to our own place where they have their own beds. There is nothing more important than that."

Through intensive work with her case manager, the proper medication for her daughter's seizures, and some additional work history, Regina now has the prospect of returning to her previous job, with some loss of seniority but the opportunity for advancement. A friend of Initiative has also generously donated a car for Regina, which will reduce her family's current travel time by hours a day. "I don't know where we would be without Initiative," Regina says. "I am not sure we would even be together as a family."

Like most of Initiative's families, Regina just needed some support getting through the difficulties of life that affluent families can more easily weather. Banesha, who graduated from the Initiative program several years ago and now lives in a

home in Atlanta with her three children, has a similar story. As a young mother, Banesha was also caring for her aging mother in the family home, which made it impossible for her to begin a career that would allow her to support her family independently. When her mother passed away, there were no resources for Banesha and her children. She came to Initiative needing a bridge to self-sufficiency. "Working with my case manager showed me that I could be a successful single mother, that I could take care of my girls and have a good life. I had so little confidence when I came into the program. But my case worker showed me that I can manage my life and make a better future for my children."

After several months in Initiative's program, Banesha moved on to full time employment with the US Postal Service. She works reasonable hours, has benefits, and can spend time with her family. Banesha's older daughter, who was just starting middle school when the family came to Initiative, is now finishing her first year of college. Looking back, Banesha particularly remembers the Initiative holiday party, where donated gifts are given to parents so that they have something for their children for the holidays. "I was just so overwhelmed that people cared enough about us to help make Christmas happen for our family. I would not have been able to do it myself then, but it gave me hope that someday I could. And here we are. Now I can."

Put Your Donated Dollars to Work for Homeless Families

Initiative depends entirely on private donations to support our work with homeless families. Your donation to Initiative's Homeless Services Program will have an immediate impact on the lives of families in need:

\$50...one week of utilities for a formerly homeless family

\$60...new clothing for an Initiative client for job interviews

\$100...school supplies and school clothes for a child

\$150...winter coats for a family of four

\$300...a month of housing for a single person

\$1000...a month of housing and supportive services for a family of three

....and any amount can help provide a family with an "extra wish" for unbudgeted expenses such as afterschool enrichment programs, sports gear and uniforms, or family outings.

Donate now at affordablehousingatl.org/donate



Providing safe, affordable housing for working families

Initiative began in 1990 with one single family home and one family in need. In the decades that have followed, Initiative has continued to respond to our neighbors struggling with economic and educational disadvantages. For a number of years, Initiative acquired individual homes to support homeless families while they received desperately needed social services. As our program expanded, we began to acquire and redevelop multifamily properties to house more families. Initiative now owns and operates four multifamily residential complexes with a total of 355 units, including one property dedicated for low-income senior residents.

As access to safe, well-maintained housing resources for the most vulnerable Metro Atlanta area residents has diminished, Initiative has worked to preserve affordability in unincorporated DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta with rehabilitation and new construction projects. Our rental properties serve families at or below 80% of area median income with high-quality housing units in low-rise complexes with easy access to public transportation, area schools, and local services.

Generous donors and volunteers make it possible for Initiative to provide community enhancements and services at our properties, including community gardens, common areas, technology access and training, and even holiday gifts for struggling families. Initiative's residents also have access to emergency resources, such as food assistance, transportation vouchers, furniture and housewares, personal care items, and winter coats and clothing.



Sol Luna Park, 143 Units, 1,2,3 BR
Community/Computer Center, Rose Garden



Kirkwood Gardens, 43 Units, 1,2 BR
Community/Computer Center,
Courtyard with Fountain, Energy Efficient



Prince Avondale, 85 Units, 1,2 BR
Community/Computer Center



Magnolia Circle, 84 Units
New Construction, 62+ Independent Living
Energy Efficient, Designated Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary

Initiative would like to thank the following supporters for their valued generosity:

ADM Associates
Amity Home
Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport – Department of Aviation
Church Women United of DeKalb
CultureVore/Institute for Venture Philanthropy
Decaturish
Delta Air Lines
Enterprise Community Partners
Emory University
Focus Brands
Frances Hollis Brain Foundation
Gay Construction
Georgia Power
Georgia World Congress Center
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Shaw Industries
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Trinity Mercantile Design Co.
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U.S. Bank
Weswood Foundation
West Elm

A special thanks to the Initiative Board of Directors and the neighborhood groups, businesses and individuals for their contributions of funds, pro bono services, and furniture/household items.



Carolyn Gorman, Volunteer Extraordinaire

For almost 10 years, Carolyn Gorman has been donating her time and talent nearly every week of the year to support Initiative's work with homeless and low-income families. Like most nonprofits, Initiative operates with minimal staff to ensure that resources are spent in direct service of our clients. Through her dedication to Initiative's cause, Carolyn fills the gaps in our administrative needs.

"For me, volunteering is to help out others who are doing good work in the community," Carolyn says. "It is not about my needs, but the needs of the organization. When I show up each week, I might not know what work needs to be done, but I know there will always be plenty to keep me busy. I organize donations, run errands, shop for supplies, and assist with special events. Helping Initiative has now become a part of my life, because I believe in the work they are

doing and know that I am contributing to a better life for others." We at Initiative are grateful for the gift of Carolyn's friendship and hard work.



Each year, with Carolyn's help, Initiative's Angel Tree makes holiday wishes come true for local families.

Support re:loom with your donations

re:loom accepts a variety of clean clothing and materials from the community for use in our handwoven products. Our goal is generate little to no waste in the upcycling process. Buttons, zippers, velcro, and other extra elements can often be used in new products, in addition to textile material itself. We gratefully accept ongoing donations of the following:

- Clothing, any kind
- Surplus material, any texture
- Sheets, towels, curtains, tablecloths, napkins, and blankets
- Buttons and belts

All donated textiles must be clean, but can be torn or stained. We also welcome donations of assembly tools, such as:

- Heavy scissors
- Rotary cutters
- Storage bins

Donations may be brought to the re:loom weavehouse, 3032 North Decatur Road, Scottdale GA 30079 during the hours of 7:30am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

Repairing the world: re:loom at the Golivesky-Bloom B'nai Mitzvah

On September 14, 2019, re:loom had the honor of celebrating a traditional rite of passage with the Golivesky-Bloom family. At age 13, Jewish children are welcomed into the privileges and responsibilities of religious community through a reading of the Torah in the presence of family and friends. It is a practice that connects them to the Jewish people and culture--past, present, and future.

Elyssa and David Golivesky-Bloom celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah at Congregation Bet Haverim in Atlanta. As part of their preparation, Elyssa and David were asked to choose a service project known as *tikkun olam*, which translates to “repairing the world.” Through this tradition, Jewish children enter the religious community in a spirit of service.

re:loom was delighted that Elyssa and David chose to volunteer with us on several Saturday mornings, receiving, sorting, and preparing fabric for our weavers. In addition, the twins and their parents chose to commission custom *yarmulkes/kippot* sewn from excess textiles hand-selected by they family. The head coverings were used as part of the ceremony and offered to all of the guests as mementos of this special occasion.

By reclaiming discarded textiles and helping families achieve financial independence, re:loom is indeed “repairing the world,” one woven product at a time.



re:loom made custom kippot, which are special head coverings, for guests of the Golivesky-Bloom family in September 2019 with fabric chosen by Elyssa and David.

Meet Our Weavehouse Manager: Tammy Carden

In 2012, Tammy Carden came to re:loom on what she thought would be a short term assignment. With 20 years of experience in staff supervision, Tammy knew she could help the organization through the transition to a new manager, but didn't dream she would still be training and supporting the weavehouse staff 7 years later. What keeps her coming back?

“It’s helping people that brings me back to the weavehouse every day,” Tammy says. “I help our employees not just with creating re:loom products and with job skills, but also with everyday life skills and decisionmaking. I get to be part of making their lives better for themselves and their children.”

Tammy also enjoys the creativity of problem-solving at re:loom. Every day in the weavehouse brings new challenges: working with unusual materials, creating custom products for new customers, and managing large projects for our corporate partners.



“It’s all about making things work,” Tammy says. “No matter what off-the-wall project comes in the door, there’s always a way to create something interesting. I love working with the weavers to make something new with old materials.”



Retail Locations

re:loom Showroom
3032 N. Decatur Road
Scottdale GA 30079

Custom Crafts by You
4292 Railroad Avenue
Tucker GA 30084

Delta Flight Museum
1060 Delta Boulevard,
B-914
Atlanta GA 30354

Ecologie Vintage
2615 George Busbee
Parkway NW, #12
Kennesaw GA 30144

Furry Tails Pet Shop
1100 Hammond Drive
Suite 150
Sandy Springs GA 30328

Habitat for Humanity
ReStore
271 Chester Avenue SE
Atlanta GA 30316

Homegrown
412 Church Street
Decatur GA 30030

the Hug Box
13 W. Washington Street
Newnan GA 30260

Made Anew
@Antiques & Collectibles
35 East Main Street
Booth #70
Dahlonega GA 30533

Marguerites on Dresden
1430 Dresden Drive
Suite 100
Atlanta GA 30319

San Francisco Coffee
Roasting Company
676 North Highland
1192 North Highland
1660 DeKalb Avenue
Atlanta GA

The Summer House
2089 Dillard Road
Highlands, NC 28741

Viola's
St. Simons Island, GA

re:loom partners with Georgia Power for upcycle and community investment

Atlanta-based Georgia Power's Environmental Stewardship team is empowering communities one waste uniform at a time. Through its partnership with re:loom, Georgia Power is donating uniforms with obsolete branding for weaving into new products, including fashion bags, rugs, keychains, bracelets, and more.

Prior to partnering with re:loom, Georgia Power sent its waste uniforms from the company's Investment Recovery facility through an Environmental Compliance Center several miles away, then to Chemical Waste Management, where they were incinerated--all at a substantial cost to the company.

Companies providing public services often need to destroy uniforms during brand transitions or when items no longer meet appearance standards. re:loom's shredding process prior to the creation of new products offers companies a way to protect branding and badging without costly and environmentally destructive methods of disposal.

“Upcycling Georgia Power uniforms not only represents a significant cost savings to the company, but also allows us to continue to divert waste from landfills,” said ChiQuita George, Environmental Specialist at Georgia Power and a Board member at Initiative/re:loom.

Further demonstrating its commitment to partnership with re:loom, the company also encourages representatives of its Citizens of Georgia Power program to volunteer in the re:loom weavehouse. This fall, six members of the Citizens' team spent three hours at re:loom sorting and preparing donated materials for the weavers.

re:loom at the Sustainable Brands Member Meeting



Initiative and re:loom Executive Director Lisa Wise demonstrates the life cycle of textiles for Shaw Industries employees.

In September 2019, re:loom staff participated in the Sustainable Brands Corporate Member Meeting at the new Shaw Industries Create Centre in Cartersville, Georgia. re:loom staff introduced sustainability executives from over two dozen major national corporations to re:loom's unique upcycling process with a textile life cycle exhibit, a loom weaving demonstration, and a hand weaving activity. re:loom's corporate partnerships offer large organizations already engaged in sustainable building, energy use, and transportation activities with the additional opportunity to dramatically reduce textile waste.



re:loom brings new life to Peachtree Road Race textiles

By partnering with re:loom, the Atlanta Track Club was able to reuse hard-to-recycle vinyl banners and windscreens. re:loom created beautiful limited edition commemorative market totes bearing the Peachtree Road Race 50th Anniversary logo.



This fall, re:loom partnered with the Atlanta Track Club to produce innovative products for Peachtree Road Race devotees from excess t-shirts, banners, and windscreens. With a membership of over 30,000, the Track Club has an enormous impact on the greater Atlanta community. In its ongoing commitment to sustainability, the Track Club reached out to re:loom for an alternative to sending its vinyl banners and miles of windscreens to the landfill.

In September and October, over 150 pounds of the hard-to-recycle material was delivered to the re:loom weavehouse and transformed into beautiful and durable beach/market totes bearing the iconic peach image, Atlanta Track Club color scheme, and 50th anniversary celebratory graphics. re:loom produced 316 limited-edition bags commemorating the momentous race, which will be given to donors pledging \$100 or more to the Track Club this year.

Because Peachtree Road Race t-shirts are distributed exclusively to runners, excess shirts were previously subject to traditional disposal methods to protect the Road Race franchise. In the coming months, re:loom will be producing new items including shoe bags, sling bags, and woven products in its ongoing effort to help the Track Club become textile waste-free.

Recognizing re:loom's Corporate Partners

Corporate partnerships are vital to re:loom's ongoing success providing unique job training opportunities for homeless and low-income women in the Atlanta area. Our corporate partners contribute to the visibility of re:loom's mission, provide sustaining income for weavehouse operations, and take active leadership in innovative sustainability practices in the Atlanta area. We gratefully recognize our current corporate partners:

City of Atlanta Department of Aviation

Atlanta Track Club

Cinnabon

Decatur Marriott

Delta Air Lines

Emory University

Focus Brands

Georgia Power

Georgia World Congress Center

Kennesaw State University

NFL Green

Shaw Industries

United Parcel Service

US Bank



re:loom and KSU

This year, re:loom has also partnered with Kennesaw State University through a student-led sustainability effort, to upcycle its obsolete branded textiles into new products for sale to students, alumni, and University departments.