Audience Reach: 24,000
LOCAL SALUTE | by: Mickey Goodman

It Takes a Village
Grassroots group blossoms

The Sandwich Project has no corporate office, no board of directors, no obligations, no dues and not a single paid employee, but its volunteers have prepared 130,000 sandwiches for people experiencing food insecurity. Each week the number grows by more than 5,000.

The grassroots effort began in April 2020 when Dunwoody residents Marcy Louza and Lisa Hiles teamed up to make sandwiches for the outreach program at Hiles’ church. They asked friends and family to help spread the word. “Soon, we were collecting 2,000 sandwiches a week and needed to expand our reach,” says Louza. At the same time, CHRIS 180, a 40-year-old organization dedicated to strengthening families, had just started an outreach program and began distributing the sandwiches directly to people in need.

News of the project reached volunteers like Danielle Cohen of East Cobb who offered their homes as drop off locations. “We collect sandwiches every Wednesday and have expanded our reach to include non-perishable items that we deliver to CHRIS 180, Giving Grace and the Sandy Springs Community Assistance Center.” Cohen says.

Each host is autonomous, handles her own marketing and places coolers in or near her garage. Homeowners Association, schools, clubs, faith groups, scouts, sports teams and individuals have supported the cause.

For more information, contact thesandwichprojectatlanta@gmail.com.

Good Neighbors
When violence strikes

Founded in the wake of September 11, 2001, Tuesday’s Children began as a support group for families who were forever changed by the horrific event. Today, the mission has broadened to include families affected by terrorism, military conflict or mass violence. To further those efforts, longtime benefactor State Farm has awarded the group a $45,000 grant to expand the Career Resource Center and Youth Mentoring Programs in Georgia, the Carolinas, Texas and New York.

Brian Curtis, former board member and current member of the Tuesday’s Children Chairman’s Circle and Brooke Baldwin, formerly of CNN, at the 2019 gala. Baldwin emceed the 2020 virtual gala.

Dunwoody Sandwich Project volunteers Adrienne Lorto, Lisa Guggenheim, founders Marcy Louza and Lisa Hiles, Nancy Miller and Lexi Haynie.

Basic Needs
Providing essential equipment

The ALS Association is the only national nonprofit health organization dedicated solely to the fight against the progressive degenerative disease. To further its mission, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center has awarded the organization a $30,000 2020 High Impact Priority Quality of Life Grant.

To Dunwoody resident and Chairman of the Board Ned Douhat, the needs of patients with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, are personal. His father was diagnosed in 2006, the same year he graduated from the University of Texas. Instead of starting his career, Douhat returned home to help care for his dad until he passed away in 2007.

“One of the most pressing needs for the approximately 700 Georgia patients we serve is transportation,” he says. “Most can’t safely travel in regular vehicles, so without a specially outfitted van, they can’t go for medical treatment or even leave their homes. Our Paul B. Williams Transportation Program provides accessible van rentals, non-emergency transportation, van adaptations and van vouchers.”

Other services include the Sally Pantel ALS In-Home Care and Respite Program that pays for skilled personnel so caregivers can get a much-needed break, the Assistive Technology program that helps customize communication devices and trains families in their use and the Patient Services Program that offers support for survivors and medical equipment loans for items not covered by insurance.

To ALS Association Georgia chapter board chairman Ned Douhat, the needs of patients with Lou Gehrig’s disease are personal.

For more information, visit alsagga.org.

Want to nominate a volunteer, company or nonprofit that gives back to the community in Buckhead, Chamblee, Dunwoody Sandy Springs, Brookhaven or Upper Westside? Please contact editorsimplybuckhead.com