

SIMPLY buckhead

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Serving Buckhead, Brookhaven, Sandy Springs,
Chamblee, Dunwoody and Upper Westside

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING WELL IN ATLANTA



RISING STARS

7 STANDOUTS TO WATCH IN 2021 & BEYOND

PLUS

STARGIRL'S
TRAE ROMANO

VEGAN BEAUTY 101

CREATE THE
PERFECT PATIO

Audience Reach: 24,000



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

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 Associations, schools, clubs, faith groups, scouts, sports teams and individuals have supported the cause.

● For more information, contact thesandwichprojectatlanta@gmail.com.

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.



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, long-time 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 Chairman's Circle, got involved in 2008 as the anniversary of 9/11 approached. The Dunwoody resident was living in Los Angeles and feeling helpless about what he could do when he read an article about Tuesday's Chil-

dren. *The New York Times* bestselling author had the idea to pen something based on the survivor's experiences. The resulting book was *The Legacy Letters Messages of Life and Hope from 9/11 Families*, a collection from spouses, mothers, fathers and kids, published on the tragedy's 10th anniversary.

"I appreciate the way Tuesday's Children has gone out of their way to support military survivors," says Erika Mitchell, the widow of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Omoro Mitchell. "They inform me of programs I'm eligible for and have given me an opportunity to meet other young widows. My 9-year-old son, A.J., loves attending the Atlanta Braves and Falcons games."

● For more information, visit tuesdayschildren.org.

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 Douthat, 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, Douthat 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,"



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

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 Panfel 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.

● For more information, visit alsaga.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: editor@simplybuckhead.com