



# Catching Up With Clifton

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*Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Inc.*

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## Annual Graduation & Honors Dinner



Clifton Sanctuary Ministries 2011 Graduates

A fun time was had by all..... The 2011 Annual Graduation and Honors Dinner proved to be one of the best dinners ever. North Avenue Presbyterian Church hosted our dinner and we certainly appreciated their warmth and hospitality. Special thanks to the Youth at North Avenue who provided table service for our guests.

The evening featured reflections by Tom McWhiter, a North Avenue member and long-time supporter of Clifton and by former guest Kevin Stewart. However,

the highlight of the evening was definitely the large number of current and past graduates that were able to attend. It was so wonderful to catch up with the men who spent time at Clifton at some point in the last few years and have gone on to independent living, great careers, and advanced education. The evening certainly warmed our hearts and proved once again that the work that goes on each day at Clifton is transformational, worthwhile, and very necessary.



North Avenue Presbyterian members Phil Cobb, Tom McWhirter & Sara Anne Johnson, Volunteer Church of the Year

## Clifton Graduates Pay it Back – Moving Forward with Life

If you stop by Clifton on a Monday night, you're very likely to run into Harold hanging out with the guys and making sure that the laundry is done. Harold came through Clifton about a year ago and achieved his goals of stabilizing his health issues and finding long-term housing. Now he's set his sights on living a full life, going back to school and giving back. And that includes Clifton.

I met Harold earlier this month while chatting with Alice to get an update on some of the guys who had moved on to independent living. While I was there, Harold came in to pick up the keys to the laundry room and catch up with Alice. I quickly learned that Harold is a fun guy who has his master's degree in psychology and was working professionally until health issues derailed his career and, not long after, he found himself

homeless and trying to navigate the waters of being homeless. Fortunately, he found way to Clifton.

Once at Clifton, he realized that things were looking up and he made the most of his time, working closely with Brenda Gales, Clifton's healthcare case manager, to find the most appropriate healthcare. He received good treatment, got his medications stabilized and then set about the business of finding housing, which he did through Community Friendship, a collaborative agency partner of Clifton.

Harold is just one of many of the guys who continue to come back after graduation to make a difference in the lives of the current guests. Harold mentioned that when he was a guest at Clifton, it was important for him to know that he could make it and see former guests come back for things like Toastmasters. He is definitely providing a great example of what can happen when you work hard and keep focused. Harold, we're thrilled that you're enjoying life now and it surely is great to see you each week in your new role as a Clifton mentor and volunteer!

Gregory Ellis graduated in 2008 from CSM and began working through Hands On Atlanta tutoring children at



Gideon Elementary in Southeast Atlanta. Greg liked being a teacher so much that he stuck with the tutoring through May 2010. "Those were really good years", Greg said.

The following August, Greg was awarded a

scholarship to attend Georgia Perimeter College, where he is in majoring in Early Childhood Education. Greg has finished two semesters with a 3.0 grade point average!! He even brought in a copy of his grades to show Mrs. Jenkins. Greg hopes to finish his bachelor's degree at Georgia State and teach in an elementary school in Atlanta and his ultimate goal is to be an elementary school principal.

We are so proud of you, Greg, and look forward to watching you continue your great progress as you matriculate through your higher education.

## CLIFTON SANCTUARY MINISTRIES 2010-2011 ANNUAL STATISTICS

Our best year ever.....

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED.....186

Positive Outcomes:

Employment.....34

Housing.....54

Programs.....25

Other.....17

TOTAL SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.....130

**70% Positive Outcome Rate**

Special Needs:

Chronically Homeless.....66

Alcoholism.....33

Drug Addiction.....17

Physical Disability.....36

Mental Illness.....37

Chronic Illness.....11

HIV/AIDS.....7

Other considerations:

Veterans.....65

First Time Homeless.....16

Illiterate.....15

Domestic Violence.....4

# Clifton Men Go Surfing ...

Thanks to a very generous donation by Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, the men of Clifton now have access to a fabulous computer lab.

Computers are a very regular part of everyday life for most Americans, however, many men arrive at Clifton with no idea how to turn on a computer. In order for our guests to do simple things like complete a job application, we had to find a resource for teaching computer skills. Former guest Donald Long made this his mission and applied to the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization for a grant to purchase 4 computers and all necessities. Our neighbors in Candler Park thought it was a good idea as well, giving CSM a gift of almost \$3,000 to establish the computer lab.

CSM board members David Woodward and Mike Thurmond and David's son Rob (seen in the photo); assembled the computer lab and got us hooked up. We are also very appreciative of the folks at Honey Baked Ham's corporate office who donated a great multi-station workspace that is just perfect to serve as a desk for our lab, as well as office chairs for the lab and the board room.

Enter CSM graduate Ronald Perry. Charles saw the great need for teaching computer lessons and volunteered his time and knowledge and now is teaching computer lessons three nights each week. The list for his class is long and our Clifton guests are gaining the skills necessary to broaden their horizons and are now able to complete their own online job applications, communicate with friends and family, and feel a real sense of pride in their new skills.



Thanks so much to Candler Park Neighborhood Organization for this much-needed gift; please stop by the board room and check it out ...surf's up!



During the month of December the Peachtree Center community is sponsoring "Dare to Care" a charity drive for living needs. They will be accepting donations of new or gently worn shoes, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, gloves and personal needs such as shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. A collection bin will be located next to the Information Booth in the Food Court.

The items collected will go to support the work of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Safe House Outreach Program and Retreat on the Street; three Atlanta based ministries that work with the people who are homeless.

On each Thursday in December (the 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd) these organizations will have representatives at information tables in the Food Court from 7:30 AM until 2:30 PM. If you are in the area be sure to stop by and learn more about each ministry. Also on the 22nd the Clifton Singers will make a special appearance at about 11:45 to Carol with all the mall goers. So be sure to drop by for some lively Christmas music.

We would like to thank Parkway Realty Services, the management company for Peachtree Center for sponsoring and promoting "Dare to Care".

# New Funding Partners for 2011

CSM was recently awarded several foundation grant awards and we're so grateful.

The **Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation** included Clifton in their grant awards this spring and we recently received \$10,000 to be used for our case management programming. The **Atlanta Foundation** also made a generous grant to Clifton this summer for our healthcare and life skills programming. The one-on-one counseling which is made possible by these grants is the hallmark of Clifton's programming and the successes achieved by the graduates that were honored in September.

The **David, Helen, and Marian Woodward Fund** awarded our Clifton Living program \$25,000 allowing us

to handsomely furnish the apartments that were being set up for our program participants. What a great way to say, "Welcome Home" to our Clifton men, many of whom were establishing their first home!

In addition, we thank the **Cecil B. Day Foundation** for its support and **Publix Super Markets** for its in-kind contribution of food.

We are so thrilled to be considered a worthy funding partner for these outstanding foundations and we are honored by their acknowledgement of the great work that goes on each day in the little quiet corner of the world that we all call Clifton.

## Merry Christmas

As we approach Christmas and remember the birth of our Savior, the Board of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, our staff and the guest we serve would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Without the spiritual, financial support and hours of volunteer service we could not continue our ministry. Please know that we value your support now and throughout the year. **We love you, We bless you, We appreciate you, We thank God for you!**

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

**Luke 2:4-14**

**Sharing the love of God we are a sanctuary to men seeking to overcome homelessness.**

**Clifton Sanctuary Ministries**



Funding for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is provided by the City of Atlanta, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, HUD, local communities, churches and many individuals. We love you, We bless you, We appreciate you, We thank God for you!