

CLIFTON SANCTUARY MINISTRIES, INC.

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Clifton 2010. The Numbers Tell Our Story

Number of guests we served: 186 men

Positive outcomes: 70% (The best we've ever done!)

Employment: 18%

Housing: 29%

Long-term programs: 13%

Other (family reunification, etc...): 10%

Age breakdown

Over 50 yrs old: 47%

Under 50 yrs old: 53%

Military veterans: 35%

Health issues (Guests can be in more than one category)

Substance abuse: 49%

Mental illness: 20%

Physical disability: 20%

Chronic illness: 10%

How did our guests get to Clifton?

Another shelter: 45%

Street or park: 20%

Friend/family: 10%

Own apartment/room: 10%

Hospital or psychiatric: 10%

Substance abuse treatment facility: 5%

Number of guests who were homeless for the first time: 16

Length of stay

1 week or less: 16%

2 weeks–1 month: 30%

1 month–2 months: 30%

2 months–3 months: 15%

Longer than 3 months: 11%

Number of nights of housing provided: 2,775

Number of meals served: 27,375

How Can I Make a Difference, You Ask?

1 Pray! Prayer works—pray for rebuilt lives, renewed relationships, patience, and courage for our staff, and guidance for our board and volunteers.

2 Share some of your time—you'll have a blast! Come volunteer to serve dinner and plan on staying a while. The guys love to talk and share their experiences of the day. Not many people stop and ask a homeless person how their day has been—you be that person! Contact Joel Gerber, our volunteer coordinator at 404-373-3253 for details. He can find a day that will fit your schedule.

3 Make a financial investment—the sense of satisfaction is awesome! That's just what it is—you're investing in the lives of our men who have found their way to Clifton in their journey to independent living. Can you think of a better use of your dollars than to help another person restore their life? We can't just all sit

around and say that God will provide and then do nothing. Yes, God provides and has so for years, but we're expected to do our part. The case management that the staff of Clifton provides and the services that are offered to our guests aren't free and we need your financial participation. *Use the enclosed envelope or else visit our website, www.cliftonsanctuary.com, and click the button in the top right that says "Donate now."*

4 Put Clifton on your shopping list—if you use it at your house, we use it at Clifton House. Yep, just think about how many rolls of toilet paper 30 men go through in a week. You get the drift. Next time you go to the store to fill up your pantry, buy a few extra items for the men at Clifton. You can stop by with your items to drop off at any time. Just ring the bell if the door is locked, or simply leave them at the door if you're in a hurry.

Last But Not Least—Our Needs for the Month

Nice dress shoes, preferably black. Lots of guys are going on interviews and the interview suit doesn't look quite as good with sneakers. T-shirts and underwear—we have both boxers and briefs guys. Toilet paper—remember we have 30 guys each night. Foot powder—makes for a better smelling place in the summer. Need we say more? Coffee—could you imagine starting your day without a couple of cups? PB&J—always good for lunch. Dinner napkins. Paper towels. Disposable razors.

Celebrating Clifton Living's First Year

In the fall of 2009, Clifton Living, our permanent housing program, was established. Through this program, we help program participants find an apartment and then pay their rent for six months, in addition to providing the needed case management that is so vital to the program participants. At the end of the six month period, the men should be able to pay their own rent and live completely independently. It's been wildly successful and the following is an excerpt of the end of the year report prepared by Mayme Grant, our Clifton Living Case Manager.

Program Statistics September 2009–December 2010

- 43% of Clifton Living men received promotions and/or raises while in the program or obtained a better job
- 62% of Clifton Living men saved two months of rental payments or greater before leaving the program
- 62% of Clifton Living men were able to pay down outstanding bills while in the program.
- 85% of Clifton Living men who were still in their apartments after six months.

Huge amounts of gratitude go to the David, Helen, and Marian Woodward Fund-Atlanta for providing \$25,000 in funds to furnish the new apartments! The apartments looked great and provided a true sense of home for our men. Nothing's better than moving into a stylish new apartment when you've not had any apartment in a very long time.

Special thanks to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation for providing a \$3,000 grant to fund the bedding purchases for our guests as they moved into new apartments. We were able to stretch this grant a little further as Mattress Barn provided the mattresses and box springs at wholesale cost.

A supplementary component of the Clifton living program was launched in April of 2010 that involved job development and computer literacy and was also made available to all guests of Clifton. This aspect of the

program was designed to assess the skills of our guest in determining appropriate job placement as well as crafting resumes that fully profiled their job experiences. Basic computer skills were tied to and reinforced with the job searching process.

Twenty-five men were served, many for several weeks, based on need. The results were positive as the guests gained mastery of basic computer skills which built self-confidence and self-sufficiency. More than half of the guests involved eventually were granted interviews and secured employment.

Clifton Living has been funded for the past 18 months through a grant from the HPRP part of the federal program that you and I know as the "stimulus plan." As these funds will expire this year, we will be aggressively searching for funding to keep our program in place.

The statistics are phenomenal and illustrate, once again, that the Clifton philosophy of goal-setting combined with intentional case management and lots of love works all the time!

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Gracias... Merci beaucoup... You're the best!
We love you... *You* make us smile!

However you say it, in whatever language, thank you to our wonderful friends, donors, and volunteers for making Christmas 2010 the best ever for the guests at Clifton. All 39 men (30 in Night Hospitality and nine at Joe's Place) received Christmas bags – and we mean the huge Christmas bags – full of fantastic gifts, candy, toiletries, and other special surprises. Some men even had gifts bought especially for them, making it an ultra-great Christmas.

For many of them, it was the first Christmas filled with gifts and Christmas cheer that they had experienced in many years and it was truly meaningful. To all of you who brought in gifts, gave money, or filled Christmas wishes in a myriad of ways, thank you. There's just no other way to say it.

Want to see how we did last year?

Just turn the page.

Want to see how you can help this year?

See the back page.



Scout Cameron McIntosh collected two truckloads of paper products for Clifton. Some of the Clifton guests posed with Cameron as they prepared to unload the truck.

Leave It to the Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts seem to always show up when you need a little help, and, once again, they've shown up at Clifton. Cameron McIntosh created a service project to fulfill one of his merit badge requirements and ended up collecting enough paper products to completely fill up two storage shelves at Clifton. Cameron made collection barrels and placed them at Haygood Methodist Church, Morningside Presbyterian Church, The Children's School, The Galloway School, and also solicited help from his fellow scouts in Troup 455 of the Atlanta Area Council of The Boy Scouts of America. We are always grateful for our scouting friends who think of Clifton for their service projects...it really helps stretch our budget just a little further.

Way to go, Cameron, and thanks again for your help!

Highlights from 2010...

As Clifton begins its 32nd year of service, we'd like to take a minute to share with you some of the great things that happened in our 31st year!

We raised the roof! We surpassed our goal of \$3,000 during a brief two-week online fund-raising campaign in November which enabled us to fix the roof leak over Prince's office. He and his computer are grateful to be dry during rainstorms! Thanks so much to all who participated and made that happen. Now on to the very old and drafty windows!

Five new congregations and/or groups began evening host volunteer service in 2010. They are: **Emory Presbyterian, Amazing Grace, John 3:18, DOOR Network, North Avenue Presbyterian.**

We expanded our relationship with **Mercer University School of Pharmacy.** Educational seminars are provided for the guests and their blood pressure is monitored on a continual basis by the students.

City Storage, located on Ponce de Leon Place (across from City Hall East) gave us a storage unit, allowing us to receive furniture and other items for which we didn't have a storage spot.

We received a \$1300 credit at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, thanks to great support during the 2011 **Hunger Walk** which allowed us to purchase that amount of food at no cost, further stretching our food budget. Thanks to Morningside Presbyterian's youth member Taylor Morton for raising the majority of the contribution.

Four new board members officially began service terms: **Harrington Witherspoon**, a member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church, has been a friend of Clifton for years and is now Peachtree's representative on the board. **Lynsley Tyler** has taken Leslie Prince's place as Morningside Presbyterian's representative on the board (Leslie rolled off after six years of service). **David Woodward** joins Mike Thurmond from Good Shepherd Presbyterian on the board. (Mike is threatening to roll off after many more years of service than Leslie). **Cherie King**, a neighbor in Candler Park, has joined the board as an at-large member.

BB&T—Buckhead Branch selected Clifton as their Lighthouse Project this year and provided lawn furniture for Joe's Place, a computer for Clifton, and other guest needs.

Lake Claire Neighborhood Association partnered with Clifton to use our facility for ticket sales during the neighborhood's Tour of Homes. We received a very generous contribution at the conclusion, as part of the ticket sale proceeds benefitted Clifton.

Candler Park Neighborhood Organization gave Clifton an additional grant to purchase the necessary equipment to establish our much-needed computer lab downstairs.

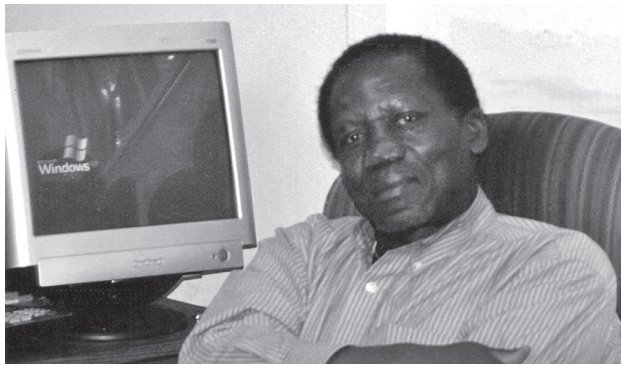
Clifton's Toastmasters chapter began its fourth year of twice-monthly meetings and lively presentations. The really awesome part is that many of our guests who have graduated still come back on the first and third Sundays for Toastmasters (and the cake and coffee that follows).

Clifton made great strides in our efforts to be eco-friendly by installing waterless urinals (paid for by a grant from the **Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**). This has really helped bring down our water bills.

A Blast from the Past...

Remember Gus? He was here in 2003 and, even after he graduated from Clifton, continued to be a part of the Clifton crew for years. Well, Gus moved to New York to be closer to family and get a new start away from Atlanta. Gus is now living on Long Island and, each month, sends a financial gift to Clifton, along with a picture of his latest adventures. He's doing well and we'll soon have a scrapbook full of Gus' pictures to prove it! Way to go, Gus! And thanks for your ongoing financial support. Check out www.cliftonsanctuary.org for pictures of Gus and more news from him.

**Prince Davies-Venn, CSM
Chaplain and
Case Manager,
strikes a pose.**



Finding Camelot...at Clifton?

Occasionally we ask our case managers to find out what the guests think about Clifton. Are they happy? Do they feel safe? Are we serving them as well as we should? This year, Alice Jenkins, our executive director, asked each staff member for an end of the year report. This excerpt is taken from the report written by Prince Davies-Venn, our chaplain and case manager.

One of the most amazing things said about the ministry of Night Hospitality is that it has created a place of peace and safety. In contrast to life in places not meant for human habitation, many guests say as soon as they walk through the door at Clifton a sense of peace, tranquility and safety descends on them. For others it took longer to achieve this peace but eventually their lives are also transformed. One guest said that Clifton had become a Holy place for him, healing happens and hope is restored. For others it is a place to begin a new phase of spiritual pursuit as a step towards reaching their overall goals. Clifton has become a Camelot for me said another Clifton guest.

Camelot...really? Stories like this only happen because of the dedicated and intentional case management provided by our staff, combined with lots of love from our volunteers. Sometimes a gentle nudge is all it takes... Alice's "I'm your big sister. Not your wife, not your mother, not your babysitter" comes to mind. Sometimes it takes a real kick in the backside. Prince's line, "you can stay here but you can't live here forever – your time limit is fast approaching" can do the trick.

And last year 70% of the guests who found their way to Clifton found success at the end of their journey. And some of them found Camelot in the process.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The photos for this newsletter were provided by Reginald Jones, Joe's Place Resident Manager. Jones took photography lessons and was able to purchase a camera as part of his self-development program that is part of the Joe's Ladder project.

Help from Afar...Very Afar

I asked Alice if there is anything going on with the guys that would be fun to put into the newsletter – I had no idea how good it would get.

Tom was a guest in 2010, referred by Central Presbyterian Outreach and Advocacy Center. He stayed a little longer than usual as he had lost his identification and passport, which he needed for his next career – serving in the United States Army.

When Tom left he promised that he would never forget Clifton, and like good soldiers, he has kept his word. Once every three months, a couple of boxes arrive filled with goodies, courtesy of Tom. Tom logs on to Amazon or other such website and orders cereal and toiletries to be sent to Clifton. Now that's good enough. With apologies to Paul Harvey, the rest of the story is that Tom is currently serving our country in Iraq. Yep, Tom still thinks of Clifton even while in harms way and helps the men who are following in his footsteps at Clifton. Tom's serving our country and serving Clifton from half a world away.

Help from Down the Street...

You may remember Mitchell. He was a guest at Night Hospitality and then moved on to Joe's Place, where he lived for two years. He recently cut the apron strings and moved out and into his own apartment. Fortunately, his apartment is just down the street in Candler Park.

Mitch still comes to Clifton every Saturday night and serves as the overnight host. He does the laundry – the sheets are done on Sunday morning, so that's not an easy task – and serves as a role model for the guests. Mitch also stops by Clifton at least once during the week to serve dinner, hang out with Reggie, check in with Alice, and be a part of the community.



**CSM graduate
Mitchell relaxes
with a current
Clifton guest.**