

# HOME SWEET HOME GWINNETT – PHASE I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A Project of: Unite! Churches,  
The United Way, and The Salvation Army**

**NEED ANALYSIS:** Media reports, agency program studies, a Needs study conducted by The Salvation Army in 2005, Continuous studies and educational work conducted by the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services, United Way Impact Studies, as well as numerous testimonies from Gwinnett Churches and Health and Human Service Agencies overwhelmingly conclude that the homeless population in Gwinnett county is grossly underserved. With no emergency assistance program that currently assists in moving homeless individuals to permanent housing, Gwinnett has a huge gap in its continuum of care for the vulnerable and underserved. This gap is most prominent, particularly in the area of service to homeless families.

**PROGRAM PROPOSAL:** It has been determined that the greatest need is for an emergency assistance program that will accept families without transportation or jobs and will help move them to self sufficiency. Such program would be operated through units of supported housing by contracting with apartment complexes in order to develop a scattered sites model of service. Once the family is in a stable housing situation through such supported housing, case managers would work closely with each family to develop a case plan to get them ready for transitional housing or onward to self sufficiency. This program would use the latest methodology and tools available to provide the necessary supportive services needed to meet the program objectives. It would also seek to improve the emotional, physical, social, and spiritual well-being of each client that comes into this program. This is to be achieved by a close collaboration involving community agencies and the Churches of Gwinnett County led by Unite! Churches.

**COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:** The proposal would be a project of Unite! Churches, The United Way of Gwinnett County, and The Salvation Army. This proposal would involve a strong collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding between these three groups, which would work together to involve other Health and Human Service agencies in collaborative partnerships.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** Phase I of the project would initially involve 6 units of housing with a stay of 3 months for each family. The director of the program can approve further stays as much as 9 months. Within that time frame the goal is to stabilize the family situation and address issues found in the assessment phase that have led to the homeless incidence and prepare each family for either transitional housing (through Rainbow Village) or onward to self sufficiency and even home ownership (partnering with IMPACT and/or Habitat for Humanity). The program objectives will be met by utilizing intense case management.

**PROGRAM COSTS:** The launching of Phase I will require an initial annual budget of \$197,683. The plan is to expand further, adding units and case managers after proven success and documentation of need. (See budget attached).