

Unite! Impact

2003 – Present

New Ministries & Initiatives Launched

- **Apartment Ministry**

Unite! churches have partnered with Whirlwind Missions (www.WhirlwindMissions.org) to mobilize thousands of volunteers to serve in over 50 apartment complexes throughout metro Atlanta. Activities have included block parties, after school programs, ESL, and Bible Clubs.

- **Compassion in Action Weekend**

Historically held on the first full weekend of October and launched in 2003, CIA Weekend has mobilized approximately 30,000 volunteers from 100 or more churches throughout metro Atlanta. As a result Unite! churches have collected and given away: nearly 300,000 pounds of food, 5,000 Bibles, 2,250 “Encourage A Teacher” Gift Bags, 1,000 “Basic Needs” Foster Care Gift Bags, and more.

- **Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett (www.GoodSamGwinnett.org)**

In 2005, Unite! churches were the catalysts to the vision and birth of Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett which provides medical assistance to the poor in our community and has served thousands of people.

- **Home Repairs Ministries (www.HomeRepairs.org)**

Since the start of Unite!, volunteers from churches have been working together to assist single parents and elderly home owners with minor home repairs. As the ministry began to formalize and build momentum, Home Repairs Ministries was launched and, in 2007, became a 501c3 non-profit, in order to serve and assist churches in developing their own home repair teams to assist individuals and families in their communities.

- **Home Sweet Home (in partnership with The Salvation Army)**

Unite! churches partnered with The Salvation Army to fund and launch a ministry to assist families in crisis homeless situations. This “out of the box” initiative uses empty space in local apartment complexes to house homeless families for up to 6 months. We also wrap care, counseling, and support around the families, in an effort to help them move towards being self sufficient.

- **Movers and Shakers Furniture Ministry (www.ATLMoversNShakers.org)**

As a result of the first Compassion in Action Weekend in 2003, volunteers discovered the need of many families (especially single moms and refugees) for furniture. There were able to get food and clothing from local co-ops and other non-profits, but were not easily able to find beds, dressers, couches, kitchen tables, etc. As this lay led ministry took shape and gained volunteer support from multiple Unite! churches, Movers and Shakers Furniture Ministry became a 501c3 non-profit ministry in 2008.

- **Street GRACE (www.StreetGRACE.org) – Fighting Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**

In response to the fight against child sexual exploitation in Atlanta, 8 Unite! churches teamed up in 2009 to launch Street GRACE with the purpose of galvanizing resources and creating awareness to help end child sex exploitation.

- **Public Schools Partnerships, Mentoring Ministry and Kids Hope USA**
 Unite! has been mobilizing churches to serve in schools since 2006! This includes everything from prayer to landscape projects to assisting teachers to mentoring and tutoring students. The Church is seen by school administration as a primary partner across Metro Atlanta. In 2011, Unite! churches partnered together to search for an effective mentoring program to mobilize our members into elementary schools to positively impact graduation rates in Atlanta. We began a partnership with KidsHopeUSA, a national mentoring agency that equips the local church to send mentors into the local elementary schools to provide another caring adult in the life of a church who could use one. Since that time, we now have 25 church/school partnerships in the Atlanta area with over 400 children being mentored for an hour each week by one of our members. Read more about the program at <http://www.KidsHopeUSA.org>.

- **Promise 686 (www.Promise686.org)**
 Ever since 2002, Unite! churches have had a vision to address the incredible foster care and adoption needs across North Atlanta. In 2009, Promise 686 was birthed as a 501c3 non-profit ministry with the purpose of inspiring and equipping families and churches to foster and adopt with the goal of placing children in loving, permanent, Christian homes. Promise 686 gains it's vision from Isaiah 68:6 where it says that "God sets the lonely in families."

- **111 Project Georgia (<http://111project.org/georgia/>)**
 In 2013 Unite churches partnered with Promise 686 and others to launch 111 Project Georgia. The goal is for each church to raise one family that will foster and then surround that family with the support they need. If every church did this then all foster children would be in christian homes. One Church, One Family, One Purpose. It is launching with 11 churches in Gwinnett County and will quickly spread.

Additional Collaborative Work

- **Hurricane Katrina Relief** – In 2005, Unite! churches received and successfully served 1,000 evacuee families with temporary housing, furniture, food, transportation, and employment. In addition, Unite! churches raised \$300,000 to support Katrina evacuees and built 25 houses in devastated areas of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- **Hope Roswell** – In 2008, churches in Roswell, GA partnered together to bring "Convoy of Hope" to their community, which was a one day festival of serving people and sharing the love of Jesus. As relationships were developed among churches, they decided to formalize their partnership into what is known today as "Hope Roswell."

- **The "Churches Study Duluth" Research Project** - In 2008, 6 Duluth churches partnered together to study, research, and provide a comprehensive serving guidebook for the city of Duluth, churches and the community. In the process, key relationships were developed among churches and with school, principals, city government officials, and local business leaders. As a result of the relationships and research, churches are continuing to work together to invest in the local public schools, the Proctor Square Apt. Community, and other initiatives important to the city of Duluth.