



CHURCHES PARTNERING TOGETHER

www.UniteUs.org

Overview

6-23-11

1. **VISION:** *“Churches partnering together, through multi-sector collaboration, for community transformation”*
2. **COLLABORATION:** Unite! is not a para-church or a non-profit organization, but rather a collaboration of relationships among churches (and with non-profits, city governments, local businesses, etc.) to better enable “The Church” of Atlanta to further leverage our efforts of prayer, serving, and mission for maximum influence and impact throughout our city.
3. **DIVERSITY:** There are approximately 180 Unite! churches, throughout the city, that represent a wide variety of denominations, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
4. **LEADERSHIP:** Currently, there are 3 leadership teams in Gwinnett, Cobb, and South Fulton counties with additional teams developing in other counties around metro Atlanta. We’d love to connect your church to one of these teams.
5. **UNIQUENESS:** Unite! is unique because it is one of the only church mobilizing networks in the United States that is completely church led. Each of the Unite! Leadership Teams are made up of Sr. Pastors, Outreach pastors, and key lay leaders. The unique blessings of not being a non-profit (with financial needs) are: a) the community clearly understands that when Unite! is “at the table”, we’re there to give, not to take. b) Non-profit organizations know that Unite! is not competing with them for funding, but is often a supporter in helping them raise the funds they need for ministry and operations.
6. **3 IMPACT AREAS:** Unite! churches are focused on making an impact in 3 specific areas:
 - a. Justice (i.e. child sexual exploitation)
 - b. Education (i.e. mentoring and tutoring)
 - c. Family (i.e. fostering and adoption; supporting single parent and two parent households)

* *NOTE: Poverty is not listed as one of the impact areas because it runs through all of them.*
7. **GETTING INVOLVED:** Church involvement with Unite! can vary from low to high levels of commitment. Ideally, a church would identify at least one impact area that they want to engage in, and then begin by simply praying for God to give direction and raise up lay leadership, then start moving towards the goal of volunteer mobilization and engagement. There is no financial obligation to be a part of Unite!
8. **WEB PAGE / PROMO VIDEO:** www.UniteUs.org
9. **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:**
 - a. **The “Unite! Prayer Guide”** – in addition to strategic prayer focuses, the Unite! Prayer Guide also includes information about the vision, mission, and goals are included at the back of the guide.
 - b. **“A New Kind of Big” by Chip Sweney and Kitti Murray** – this book is a must read, as it contains, not only the Unite! story in Atlanta, but also important principles to city transformation and community outreach, as well as, stories of other U.S. cities also engaged in city transformation.
 - c. **“To Transform a City” by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams** – this book is a perfect complement to “A New Kind of Big” and is also a must read for anyone interested in impacting their community for the Kingdom.



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Ministry Plan

Vision: Churches partnering together through multi sector collaboration for community transformation.

Target: We will have a target of impact on Youth and the Next Generation.

Strategies:

1. **Kingdom Prayer**
2. **Church Partnering in 3 Impact Areas** – Family, Education, and Justice
3. **Kingdom Impact through the Channels of Cultural Influence** – Education, Government, Legal / Judicial, Healthcare, Business, Media, Arts & Entertainment, and Non-Profits

Values:

1. **Dependence on God:** We believe that only God can change the hearts of people. We want to create avenues for people to pray together from various churches and to help facilitate a prayer movement in our community and city.
2. **Local Church:** We believe that the local church is the primary vehicle for the expansion of His Kingdom. We want to help connect the people we minister to a local biblically based church – Unite! church.
3. **Holistic Ministry:** We believe that there is a Scriptural mandate to share the gospel as well as to live out the gospel by meeting the needs of those around us. Both word and deed are means to the building of the Kingdom.
4. **Multi Sector Collaboration:** We believe that the most effective means of making a kingdom impact in Atlanta is within the context of relationships and partnerships between churches and with organizations and the public and private sector.

Atlanta 2020

Measurable Impact Goals & Initiatives

Metro Atlanta	Impact Areas		
	Family	Education	Justice
Goal	All Foster children have a home	All students have opportunity to graduate	All children are safe
Measure		95% Graduation Rate & 3rd Grade CRCT	No children in sex slavery or exploitation

Metro Church Initiatives	Foster Care and Adoption Initiatives	Adopt a School and Other Public School Initiatives	Street Grace Initiatives



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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.
- **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.”
- **Street GRACE (www.StreetGRACE.org)**
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.

Unite! IMPACT (continued)

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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.
- **Cobb Churches and Schools Partnership** – In 2007, the Unite! Leadership Team in Cobb County began developing a relationship with the Cobb County Public Schools. Today, Unite! churches in Cobb are working closely with the Cobb County School Board to mobilize volunteers according to geographically by school districts.

Financial Contributions

- Unite! churches gave away \$350,000 in contributions to support non-profit organizations and ministries such as: The Gwinnett Children’s Shelter, Whirlwind Missions, World Relief, Innocence Atlanta, Samaritan House for Children, Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett, Norcross Cooperative Ministries, Duluth Hands of Christ, and more.
- In 2005, Unite! churches raised \$300,000 to support Hurricane Katrina families that were evacuated to Atlanta from the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Gwinnett Unite! Churches (84 Total)

Please let us know if your church needs to be added to this list. Please also let us know if there are other churches that you think would be interested in being a part of the Unite! network. For more information, contact Heidi Hooper at heidih@perimeter.org or 678-405-2164.

Buford (3)

Destiny Church
Kingdom Life International
Poplar Hill Baptist

Dacula (3)

GracePointe Church
Hope Associate Reformed Pres.
New Branch Community Church

Duluth / Johns Creek (17)

El Calvario Hispanic
Cross Pointe Church
Duluth First Baptist
Duluth First United Methodist
Epic Faith
Friendship Baptist Church
Johns Creek Christian
Johns Creek Presbyterian
Johns Creek United Methodist
Korean Church of Atlanta UMC
* New Beginnings Fellowship
Old Peachtree Presbyterian
* Perimeter Church
Process Church
Sugarloaf UMC
Vietnamese Sunrise Baptist
West Gwin. Christian Church

Lawrenceville (11)

* 12Stone Church
International House of Prayer
Christian City Church
Lawrenceville Church of God
* Lawrenceville First Baptist
* Lawrenceville UMC

* Meadow Baptist Church
McKendree UMC
New Gate International
North River Community
Sword of Truth Apostolic Ministries
* Trinity Life Church

Lilburn (10)

Berkmar United Methodist
Camp Creek Primitive Baptist
Central Baptist Church
City Harvest Worship Center
Community Church of Christ
Harmony Grove UMC
Harvest Community Church
* Lilburn Alliance Church
New Life AME Church
New Mercies Christian Church

Loganville (1)

* Bay Creek Community Church

Norcross (22)

Atlanta Chinese Christian N.
* Atlanta Vineyard
Christ Fellowship
Christ the King Lutheran
The Father's House
Full Circle Christian Ministries
Glover Baptist
Hopewell Missionary Baptist
Living Waters Fellowship
New Generation Missionary
Norcross First Baptist
* Norcross United Methodist
Northeast Community

Open Door Community Church
Peachtree Corners Baptist
Peachtree Corners Christian
Peachtree Corners Presbyterian
Restoration of Hope Ministries
Siloam Korean Church
Simpsonwood United Methodist
Solid Rock Church Atlanta
* Victory World Church

Snellville (4)

Annistown Road Baptist Church
Grace Fellowship Church
Snellville United Methodist
Westminster Presbyterian

Stone Mountain (2)

La Nouvelle Jerusalem Atlanta
Messiah's World Outreach

Sugar Hill (2)

* Rivers Edge Baptist
Sugar Hill Church

Suwanee (4)

Antioch Assemblies of God
ChristChurch Suwanee
Shadowbrook Baptist
Suwanee Parish UMC

Tucker (2)

* Atlanta Chinese Christian
Little Miller Baptist

** Denotes representation on the Gwinnett Unite! Pastor Leadership Team*