

All About Agape

AGAPE COMMUNITY CENTER



Upcoming Events

Fashion Show

Monday, Oct. 16, 2006
7:00 p.m.
St. Anne's Episcopal Church
Contact: Nell Benn
(404) 367-3950

Thanksgiving Celebration & Basket Give-away

Friday, Nov. 17, 2006
Contact: Dedra Cochran
(404) 367-3947

Annual Fund Kickoff

Monday, Nov. 27, 2006
Contact: Nell Benn
(404) 367-3950

Inside this issue:

Message From The Executive Director	2
Agape Center History & Mission	2
The Meaning of Agape	2
Danielle Shareef Award	3
Profile: Keyonna Marshal	3
Woodruff Grant	3
2nd Annual Fashion Show	3
A+ Award Recipient	4

GoGirlGo! Agape Gets Girls Going



Outfitted in uniforms provided by the Bill Love Memorial Fund, the GoGirlGo! program is another way AGAPE is working to help young people feel loved and empowered.

In a time when obesity in young children is on the rise, it is a welcome change when a program comes along that actually addresses this problem. Locally, the Agape Community Center's GoGirlGo! program gets girls moving. For the second year, 35 young girls gathered at Trinity Presbyterian Church's gym for eight weeks. They got healthy,

got fit, and got educated about exercise and nutrition.

In 2006, the Agape Community Center received a grant from the Atlanta Women's Foundation in the amount of \$17,500. Agape is considered to be a model program for GoGirlGo.

The girls may have been tired

at the end of each day, but as the GoGirlGo! Program Coordinator, Renita Robertson said, "What a fantastic experience this has been for us. Our girls are having fun, learning new things and becoming physically fit. I can't think of a better way to spend the summer."

The Meaning of Agape

The Greek word *AGAPE* refers to the “love feast” held by early Christians — the Lord’s Supper. Hebrew scripture uses the word *agape* to describe love between human beings. Today, the word *agape* refers to love characterized by charity, respect, care, and concern. The Agape Center brings to life and embodies these ideas and fosters a community founded on love.

“...AGAPE refers to the ‘love feast’ held by early Christians — the Lord’s Supper.”



Agape’s GoGirlGo! program was acknowledged at the Women’s Sports Foundation breakfast. (Left to Right) Renita Roberterson, Agape’s GoGirlGo! Program Coordinator, Dominique Ashe; Dr. Beverly Tatum, President of Spelman College; Summer Crutcher; and Knoketta Miles.

A Message From The Executive Director



Nell Benn, Executive Director

We would like to welcome you to the first edition of *All About Agape*. We are excited about the developments at the Agape Community Center and look forward to sharing our stories and successes with you.

The momentum at the Center is great! We continue to expand and develop new and exciting opportunities for the residents in the Bolton Community. Our services for youth have increased tremendously over the last several years and we are now offering our after-school program 5 days a week for youth between the ages of 12-18.

We were also very fortunate to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Woodruff Foundation to reconfigure our current space to accommodate more students and to enhance our learning environment.

Please take a moment to look at a few of our highlights over the last year. I’m sure you will be touched by the wonderful things going on at the Agape Community Center.

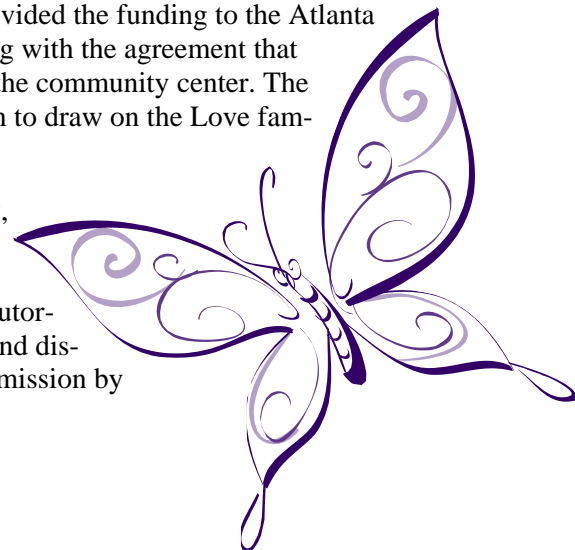
Agape Center’s History & Mission

In 1997, the Agape Community Center was a vision of Joanna Adams, who was at that time Trinity’s senior minister. During the Spring of 2007, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of this vision becoming a reality.

Agape’s mission statement is “Led by our faith to serve others, we seek to build community by strengthening families and empowering individuals.” Accordingly, Trinity set out to establish a community outreach ministry in a neighborhood near the Church where Trinity could share in the development of individuals and the community as well as establish relationships between the residents and members of the Trinity congregation.

Trinity’s Mission Council realized the Bolton Road Community was the perfect place for this mission. Gay Love and her family provided the funding to the Atlanta Union Mission for the purchase of the building with the agreement that Trinity be offered the ground-level space for the community center. The name *AGAPE*, which means love, was chosen to draw on the Love family name and God’s love for us all.

Trinity, under the leadership of Ginger Kaney, wanted the initiative to be a community and service-based effort. At a town meeting, the Bolton Road community indicated it needed tutoring for kids and activities for senior citizens and disabled residents. Agape continues to fulfill its mission by providing these services.



Danielle Shareef Award

Agape is proud to announce the recipient of the first annual Danielle Sharreef Award: Kan'Mesha Tucker. The Danielle Sharreef Award is given to the girl who best exemplifies the true meaning of the GoGirlGo! program and Honors Danielle Sharreef, who died in a car accident in May, 2006. Danielle was an Agape Program Assistant who was working on her PhD at Georgia State University and who planned to help with the GoGirlGo! program during the summer. She was a gifted athlete (she played professional basketball for the Missouri Mustangs and the River Queens) who was dedicated to promoting health, fitness and team spirit. Kan'Mesha, a 10th grader at North Atlanta High School, plays varsity basketball and hopes to play college basketball at Duke University. Kan'mesha excelled in all the sporting activities in the program and offered to work with other girls who needed help – a real team player. Go, girl, Go!



Kan'Mesha Tucker

Building Communities ♦ Strengthening Families Profile: Keyonna Marshall

Keyonna Marshall took charge of her life. She came to the Agape Community Center in September 2004, when she was an eighth grader at Sutton Middle School.

She continues to attend the Agape's After-School program on a regular basis and has also attended the Summer Enrichment Program. She has been an active member of the GOAL team support group and modeled in Agape's 2005 Fashion Show, giving back to the community center by helping to raise funds to support operations of the after-school program. In 2005, Keyonna danced, modeled, and sang in front of an audience of 200 for the Talent Show directed by Agape's Youth Programs Director.

Keyonna credits the tutors and community programs at Agape for helping her maintain a strong "B" average at Sutton Middle School. She took to heart one tutor's baseball analogy about starting the season in first place and staying in first place through hard work and a will to succeed.

Recently, Keyonna decided to take her aspirations even further by applying to the Upward Bound Program, a federal program designed to increase the success rates of young people preparing to enter post-secondary education.



Keyonna Marshall & Tutor Charlie Sides

Her Agape tutor, Mr. Charlie Sides, helped Keyonna prepare her application. She was accepted for the six-week program at the Upward Bound Math and Science Regional Center at Western Carolina University's Cullowhee campus. Keyonna said, "The Upward Bound Math and Science Program has been a wonderful experience for

me. It prepared me for college life. I also learned how to accept people for who they are and never say you can't do anything until you try."

A rising sophomore at North Atlanta High School, Keyonna lives at home with her grandmother, Ms. Delanie Walton, and her sisters Bianca and Briana, who are also participants in the Agape After-School Program.

Woodruff Grant

In the Spring of 2006, the Robert Woodruff Foundation awarded the Agape Community Center a \$20,000 grant to expand the After-School program facility. This grant allows Agape to enlarge and reconfigure its after-school program space. This expansion gives an additional 10-15 children the opportunity to receive individual tutoring weekly.

2nd Annual Fashion Show

The Agape Community Center is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Fashion Show fundraiser on Monday, October 16th at 7p.m. at St. Anne's Episcopal Church's Parish Hall.

Parisian at Phipps is the clothing sponsor for the event. Models will include Agape participants and volunteers from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, and Collins Memorial United Methodist Church.

This event, chaired by Cissy Smith of Trinity, will benefit the Agape's After-School programs. Tickets for the coffee and dessert are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, please contact Nell Benn at (404) 367-3950.

Board of Directors

- Berney Bridges
Board Chair
- Steve Brock
- Jack Calhoun
- David Coleman
- John Ferguson
- Frank Fuerst
- Gerta Gates
- Bonnie Harris
- Clara Jefferson
- Felicia Moore
- Allen Moseley
- Johnny Myers
- Janet Pierce
- Marilyn S. Taylor
- Willie Todd

Agape Staff

- Jeffrey Bell
Youth Program Assistant
- Nell Benn
Executive Director
- Aaron Alexander
Transportation
- Dedra Cochran
Community Organizer
- Sheree Holmes
Youth Program Assistant
- Darcy Hill
RAGTime Program Assistant
- Robert Lewis
Director of Youth Services
- Walter McCrary
Transportation
- Tanya McDuffie
Youth Program Assistant
- Shawna Moss
Youth Program Assistant
- Mimi Norman
Executive Assistant
- Renita Robertson
Program Coordinator

Special Thanks

A special thanks to the following who contributed to this newsletter:

- Lesley Carroll
- Lasley Gober
- Ginny Hobbs
- Mimi Norman
- David Scott, Photographer
- Capital Directions
- New London Communications

Agape & Bolton Academy Receive A+ Award



The Atlanta Partners for Education recognized Agape's tutoring program and awarded Agape & Bolton Academy the 2005 A+ Award. This award was established to recognize organizations that maintain high caliber and creative partnerships between individual schools and businesses, as well as nonprofit organizations in the Atlanta area.

(Left to Right) Nell Benn, Executive Director, Agape Community Center; Dr. Marilyn Taylor, Principal, Bolton Academy; Thuy Dang, Douglas High School; Curley Dossman, President, Georgia Pacific Foundation

Agape First Annual Community Festival



Friends and family from Bolton Road enjoyed the first annual community festival sponsored by the Agape Community Center and City Councilwoman Felicia Moore.

The Agape Community Center newsletter is published twice a year. Please direct any omissions or questions to its Executive Director.

AGAPE COMMUNITY CENTER

2353 Bolton Road, NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30318
Phone: (404) 355-1877
Fax: (404) 355-7442
www.agapecc.org

Address Correction Requested