



History of the Atlanta Day Shelter 1984 – 2004

The Mission:

The Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children was opened in 1984 to serve as a home and resource center for homeless women and children. It is a Christian organization whose basis and foundation is the love of God. This is an ecumenical ministry supported by many different churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals. The Atlanta Day Shelter offers a secure place where the anonymous are called by name and are loved and respected. Through the dedicated efforts of professional counselors, staff, and volunteers thousands of women and children annually have been assisted in some manner towards more independent and productive lifestyles. Over 6,500 were served in 2003.

The Problem:

Women and children seek refuge at this shelter for a variety of reasons: lost jobs, eviction, estrangement from family, escape from abusive relationships, and many other tragic circumstances. Once homeless, women find it especially difficult to care for their children and escape the cycle of poverty and violence that awaits them on the streets.

Impact of Service:

In 2003:

- > 150 to 225 women and children daily served meals, shelter and assistance 7 days a week. Over 6,500 were assisted; more than 100,000 meals were served.**
- > 454 women placed in full-time positions**
- > 350 women placed in part-time positions or in job-training programs**
- 455 completed on-site computer training**
- 3,000 volunteers helped serve meals, care for children, provide training sessions, and various other important services**

Since 1984:

The Day Shelter has not only provided a daytime home and resource center for thousands of homeless women and children, but it has helped women rebuild their lives and become independent from shelter living. Hundreds of women and children have addresses to call their own as opposed to that of a shelter. Women and children have benefited in positive and far-reaching ways through the Day Shelter's programs. The Day Shelter has help motivate, enable, encourage and inspire women and children in their climb from homelessness to stability. Our clients have gained the tools to become productive members of society through our various self-help programs including our computer training and on-site readiness programs. They have been empowered toward better-paying jobs. For the past many years, over 850 women annually have been assisted in finding full-time or part-time jobs, with more than 1,500 receiving various assistance by our Job Placement Office each year. Hundreds have been provided the clothing, transportation, and identification and other essentials in the employment process.

Boys and girls have received special enrichment and training , great camp programs, and numerous other manners of help along with lots of love and nurturing.

Through the efforts of the Day Shelter's great Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff the Day Shelter has assisted, motivated, inspired, and encouraged women and children in their climb from homelessness to stability. As a result of resources that flow through this ministry, many women and their children now have self-sufficient and productive lifestyles...they occupy their own homes, are on jobs, and in schools instead of living in the shelters. God has richly blessed the efforts of the Day Shelter and miraculous changes have come about for many. The Day Shelter truly is a place of hope.