



TOGETHER, WE  
*THRIVE!*

2023 ANNUAL  
REPORT



CRADLE-TO-COLLEGE  
*Education*



**DREW CHARTER SCHOOL**

Serving nearly 2,000 students in Pre-K to 12th-grade using a STEAM-focused, Project-Based Learning method, all Drew Academies rank in the Top 10 of all Atlanta Public Schools—consistently ranking in Georgia's top 20%.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 98.4% Graduation rate in 2023
- \$15 Million+ in scholarships earned
- 98% Acceptance rate into colleges/universities
- 91 seniors participated in early college programming, the largest cohort to date
- 23 Scholarships sponsored by the East Lake Foundation

**EAST LAKE EARLY LEARNING**

Recognizing the importance of building a strong foundation for learning early in a child's life, the East Lake Foundation and Drew Charter School work closely with our early learning partners and the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy to ensure a seamless transition as students matriculate through our cradle-to-college education continuum.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 298 students, including more than 20% who reside at The Villages of East Lake
- Two Drew Alumnae were hired to serve in the inaugural Early Education fellowship at Drew's Cox Pre-K

**R.I.S.E. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

R.I.S.E. (Recreation. Innovation. STEAMulation. Education) is a comprehensive after school program for Pre-K through 5th grade students. Enrichment activities include creative movement, golf, soccer, science creation, sports and nutrition, and storytelling.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 400+ Participants, including nearly 40 from The Villages of East Lake, an increase of 18% over the 2022-2023 school year
- 30 STEAM-based enrichment opportunities



ECONOMIC  
*Vitality*



**START:ME PROGRAM**

Start:ME East Lake is a 14-session program in partnership with The Roberto C. Goizueta Business & Society Institute at Emory University that offers 17 micro-entrepreneurs the assistance needed to develop viable and sustainable microbusinesses.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 76% led by people of color
- 82% led by women
- 59% led by individuals from low-to-moderate income households
- Six participants are Villages of East Lake residents and four are Drew Charter School parents

**THE RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (RCSP)**

RCSP offers resources and support to residents of The Villages of East Lake mixed-income housing community, with an emphasis on economic stability, career development and community engagement.

RCSP teams up with several community partners to enhance employment readiness educational workshops, including financial education, entrepreneurship, homeowner education and career coaching. Residents also receive access to job resources, financial tools, small business startup assistance and much more.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1,326 residents participated in RCSP programming, 76% of whom identify as low-to moderate income
- Assisted 35 families at The Villages of East Lake with \$115,000 in rent and utility assistance
- 52 economic stability, mental health, and homeownership programs offered
- 69 individuals trained, upskilled and/or reskilled for job opportunities
- 93% of individuals who attended financial classes and/or coaching opened and maintained a savings account



COMMUNITY  
*Wellness*



**FIRST TEE – METRO ATLANTA**

This program is a year-round golf instruction and mentoring program that uses the principles of golf. Its core values are, discipline, hard work, sportsmanship, and integrity enhances academic achievement and life skills for youth participants at several program locations across Metro Atlanta, including the Charlie Yates Golf Course in East Lake.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1,609 Participants served; 203 at Charlie Yates Golf Course
- First Tee – Metro Atlanta awarded \$27,500 in scholastic aid to graduating seniors
- Several Drew Charter School golfers were selected to serve on the First Tee Leadership council

**EAST LAKE HEALTHY CONNECTIONS (ELHC)**

East Lake Healthy Connections (ELHC), a program in partnership with the East Lake Family YMCA, ensures all eligible families have access to health insurance, effectively utilize primary and preventive health care services, properly manage chronic diseases, and establish contact with accessible medical homes.

**2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 214 individuals connected with health/dental homes
- 7,900 grocery bags provided to residents in need
- 384 participated in programming
- A weekly average of 12 seniors participated in Wellness Wednesday

**EAST LAKE 5K & FUN RUN**

CREATING CONNECTIONS, BUILDING COMMUNITY

In August of 2023, the East Lake Foundation proudly hosted the Run for East Lake 5K & Fun Run.

This fun and exciting community event, presented by the East Lake Family YMCA, offered 400 participants an immersive tour of the East Lake neighborhood.

The route wound through iconic landmarks such as The Villages of East Lake, East Lake Family YMCA, and Charlie Yates Golf Course, and provided runners a unique opportunity to run on the back 9 holes of the historic East Lake Golf Club.



# NEIGHBORHOOD Stories

NEARLY 30 YEARS AFTER THE REVITALIZATION OF EAST LAKE BEGAN, RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THE EAST LAKE FOUNDATION'S HOLISTIC WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. HERE WE HIGHLIGHT JUST A FEW OF THE MANY EXPERIENCES FROM 2023.

## ALICIA DAWKINS THE RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM



Alicia Dawkins has been a pivotal figure in the East Lake community since 2005, starting as a Hands On Atlanta AmeriCorps volunteer before moving into the area in 2006 to immerse herself in its opportunities. For two decades, she has engaged in numerous East Lake Foundation and RCSP programs and events, significantly impacting the community.

Her career in East Lake spans roles at The Villages of East Lake, Sheltering Arms, and Charles R. Drew Charter School, where she currently oversees Strategic Partnerships. Her sons have progressed from early education at Sheltering Arms to becoming successful students at Drew Charter School.

Alicia will become a homeowner at the new Trust at East Lake, fulfilling her dream of establishing permanent roots in the community. This milestone marks a significant achievement, showcasing her deep connection and contribution to East Lake's growth and prosperity.

## AZANIA FLOYDE THE RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM



Azania Floyd has lived at The Villages of East Lake for nearly 3 years. She worked at a credit card company that provided funding to small business owners and entrepreneurs and unfortunately lost her job.

While unemployed, East Lake Foundation's RCSP helped by providing rental assistance and career and resume guidance to help her catapult her career. She was unemployed for 4 months before securing a new higher-paying position at an international car company.

She continues to work with the RCSP to reach her goal to become a homeowner. "With the help of the East Lake Foundation, I plan to become a homeowner through the partnership with the Atlanta Land Trust. In doing so, I joined the "700 Club" to help increase my credit score and help me on my way."

## NICOLE MCCLENDON VOEL RESIDENT & START:ME GRADUATE



Nicole McClendon and her children have lived in the Villages of East Lake since December 2020 (previously 2005-2010). Nicole enrolled her children at the East Lake Early Learning Center, and subsequently Drew Charter School, and became involved with the East Lake Foundation's RCSP at the Villages of East Lake to advance her career.

She was introduced to selected to participate in the Start:ME East Lake micro-entrepreneurship program that offers the assistance promising micro-entrepreneurs need to develop viable and sustainable microbusinesses. Her business, NCM Administrative Consulting provides administrative assistance to small businesses in the metro Atlanta area. "This program taught and exposed me to so much about starting a business, and now I'm ready to get my business up and running"

Since graduating from the program, Nicole has been appointed to the Drew Board of Directors and serves as a member of the East Lake Foundation's Outreach Team.

## CHRISTOPHER WITCHER DONOR HIGHLIGHT



Chris Witcher has had a front row seat to the remarkable transformation of the East Lake Community as a caddie at East Lake Golf Club starting in the 1990s where he worked for nearly a decade. He was the recipient of the Charlie Harrison Scholarship, which helped support him financially through college. Chris felt a strong desire to give back to the community that had given so much to him and others and has been a long-time donor to the East Lake Foundation.

"East Lake has been a huge part of my life and the person that I am today. While the Harrison Scholarship was a great benefit to me, the relationships that were built and the opportunities that were created, continue to impact me today and motivate me to continue to support the East Lake Foundation."



# MIXED-INCOME Housing



## THE TRUST AT EAST LAKE

### Groundbreaking Partnership: Creating Affordable Homeownership Opportunities

In partnership with the The Atlanta Land Trust (ALT), East Lake Foundation celebrated the start of construction on The Trust at East Lake, 40 new, permanently affordable townhomes in East Lake. The East Lake Foundation and ALT are working closely with the Foundation's Resident and Community Support Program at The Villages of East Lake to ensure current East Lake residents are prepared to take advantage of these homeownership opportunities in their community.

This project was possible through support from The CF Foundation, which donated the 2-acre site on which the project is being constructed, and the East Lake Foundation, which provided significant funding and programmatic support.

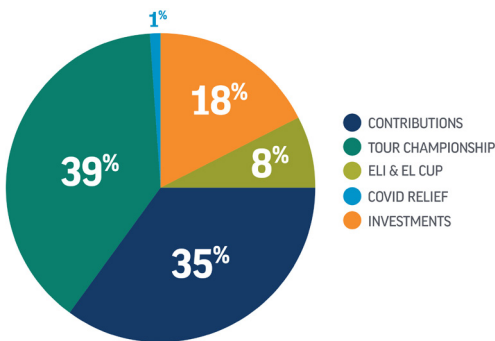
Financial support from Bank of America Foundation through its Neighborhood Builders Award, a generous grant from Chick-fil-A, as well as a generous contribution from the TOUR Championship allowed the Foundation to meet its philanthropic commitment to the ALT to ensure all forty townhomes would be offered at an affordable rate. The first eight homes are projected to be completed in the Fall of 2025.



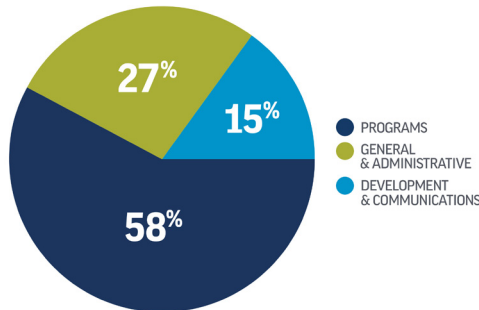
# FOUNDATION Financials

TRANSPARENCY WITH THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF THE FUNDING THAT SUPPORTS OUR WORK.

REVENUE:  
\$7,482,404\*



EXPENSES:  
\$4,007,810\*



\*These unaudited numbers reflect the revenue and expenses of the East Lake Foundation and its charitable contributions to its partners in the East Lake Initiative.



# FOUNDATION Support

The East Lake Foundation's work would not be possible without the generous support of the individuals, businesses and partners that believe in our mission and understand the value of giving back to the community. Scan the QR code, or visit [www.eastlakefoundation.org/annual-reports/2023/](http://www.eastlakefoundation.org/annual-reports/2023/) for more information about our Donors, Partners, and Board of Directors.

