

Annual Report

2023-2024



CENTRAL OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY CENTER

MISSION:

We open doors to
overcome and prevent
homelessness.

Greetings from Kimberly Parker, Executive Director



This past year was a solid year! We assisted guests with identification documents, job searches, and housing placements. We had Friday events for our guests that brought about smiles, laughter, and maybe a sense of “normalcy” for some. Some of the events were ice cream social, movie day, barbershop, yoga/meditation, advocacy education, and pumpkin painting. The Friday events allowed our staff to connect with our guests in a different way than through providing services.

I think our biggest highlight of the year was bringing on a part-time Advocacy Coordinator, Sarah Zimbardi in January. Sarah is no stranger to Central OAC. She originally connected with us as a Young Adult Volunteer and then while working on her law degree she spent another summer with us as an Advocacy Intern. Part of our current strategic plan was to bring an advocacy staff member back on our team. It was a breath of fresh air to have this staff position filled after not doing advocacy on the broader level in several years.

The following are some of the areas that Sarah focused on this past year and if you want to read more, please visit our website: centraloac.org/programs/advocacy:

Addressing barriers in the daily services we provide

- Creativity in ordering birth certificates from states that require identification that our guests do not have by having Sarah order on their behalf. This doesn't work for all states, but it does for some.
- Started uploading documents into Client Track, the secure online system that many Atlanta agencies utilize. This way if someone needs a document, it is saved and can be printed out, reducing the amount of time a guest has to wait to receive certain services.

Addressing barriers beyond our door

- Conducted research on the lack of public restrooms and began establishing partnerships to address this issue.
- Began research on cooling centers in the Atlanta area and strategizing how to advocate for an increase in cooling centers.
- Establishing new partnerships in order to increase the advocacy work that we can do.

Addressing statewide barriers

- We followed bills that had to do with employment, housing, Medicaid, and identification, all areas that directly affect the people we serve.

Advocacy comes in many forms and it was good to have a staff member back on our team to focus on county, city, and state issues. We are a unique organization who provides direct service and does the advocacy work based on what we learn from our guests.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS



WE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

621 Birth Certificates
1,817 State IDs (includes ID access)
759 Assists with Social Security Numbers
736 Homeless Verification Letters
326 Pairs of Reading Glasses
48 Medical Referrals
1,268 Hygiene Kits
98 Document Storage (new guests)
18,512 Snacks

THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES, WE ASSISTED WITH:

1,668 Food Stamp Applications
32 Mental Health referrals
49 Vision assists
481 TB tests
109 SSI/SSDI Assistances
420 Homeless Shelter Referrals
15 Permanent Housing Placements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

We ended our fiscal year in a positive financial position with a net gain of \$53,550. Foundations provided \$146,250 and we are grateful that individuals contributed \$118,450 to our mission, including 100% participation from our Board of Directors. The 10 Mile Challenge event raised over \$113,900 and United Way contributed \$400. Audited income was \$634,850, and including in-kind donations totaled \$884,600.

2024 Highlights

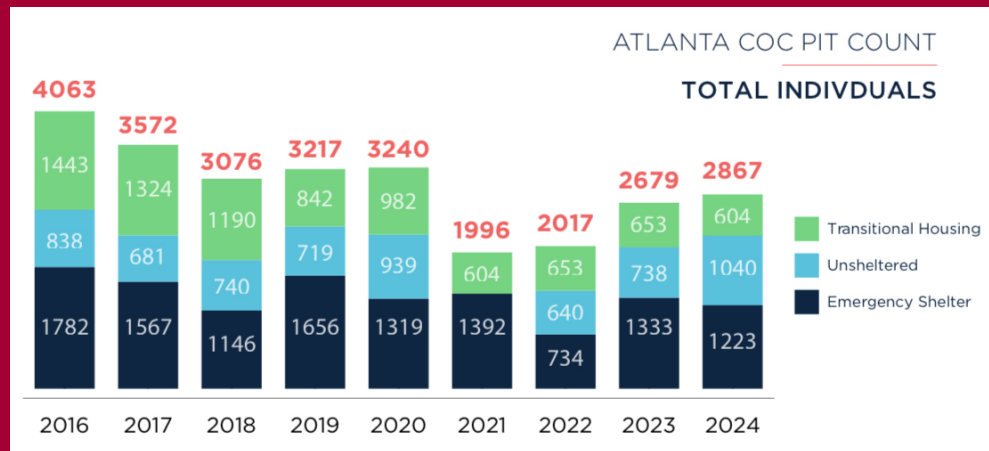
We provided 9,632 different services to 3,571 unduplicated guests. We were able to achieve these numbers due to our small, but dedicated staff and the wonderful volunteers who show up on a weekly basis to help. We documented 3,620 volunteer hours this past year, which is definitely an increase from the past couple of years.

The Main Frame Resource Lab is doing what we hoped it would do: connect guests with employment opportunities. Sonja Hodges assisted 28 guests with employment which is a large increase from the previous year. We had 88 guests “shop” for clothing in Alison’s Boutique.

Through our partnership with Intown Cares and Lilian King’s work with our chronically homeless guests, 15 guests were placed in permanent housing.

POINT IN TIME COUNT

Since 2015, Partners for HOME has served as the Atlanta Continuum of Care’s lead agency in developing and implementing strategies to end homelessness in the City of Atlanta. As a best-practice city, Partners for HOME conducts the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count in the City of Atlanta. The PIT Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated and carried out locally.



Reflecting on our Impact through the Lens of our Guests

"This makes me feel special, you making this for me!" - Anonymous (In reference to cocoa during a Friday event)

"Praise God I can see. I didn't realize what I was not seeing." - O. Patterson (Guest picking up his glasses from one of our eye clinics)

"I love the OAC. Without your understanding and caring for those who can't care for themselves, you helped save my life!" - G. Lamb

"I love it! I feel better too!" - Anonymous (In reference to his haircut at our 2nd Barbershop event)

"Thank you for making me feel human." - Angelica (After stopping by Alison's Boutique to pick out some items for work).

Giving at Central OAC

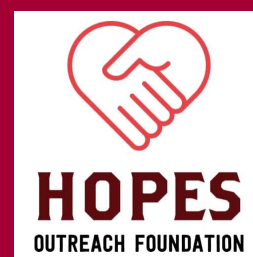
We continue to be grateful to our community of supporters who help us each year to open doors to overcome and prevent homelessness.

Our fourth annual "In Their Shoes: 10 Mile Challenge" brought in \$113,900 which was an increase over last year's event. This was due to generous sponsors, walkers/runners, and donors. We held the in person segment again with an increase in participants. During this event, we walked one mile together as a group and saw several different places that our guests visit and/or live.

We had a very successful end of the year giving campaign with the theme of "20K for 20 Years" to celebrate Kimberly Parker's 20 years at Central OAC. We raised over \$25K.

Another part of our giving was in kind donations of hygiene and snack items which is extremely helpful to us. We like to give guests a snack when they come for services and mail check and also have hygiene items available for those who request them. Central United Church of Christ and the Hopes Outreach Foundation were very generous once again in making sack lunches to donate several times throughout the year.

Every type of giving is important in the work we do on a daily basis and we are grateful for all of it!



OUR TEAM



Executive Director

Kimberly Parker (20 years)

Supportive Services Coordinator

Camille Frink (Began 2/3/2025; not pictured)

Employment Specialist

Sonja Hodges (2.75 years)

Administrative Assistant

Amy Kirkland (3 years)

Communications Coordinator

O.J. Flowers (3 years)

Advocacy Coordinator

Sarah Zimbardi (1 year)

We are excited to have an Advocacy staff member now on our team!

Vision

Our vision is to be passionate advocates and invested partners for those experiencing homelessness.

www.centraloac.org