



A Monthly Publication of  
**Trinity Community Ministries**

## ***Courage to Care—A Collaboration of Caring***

In October, we celebrated *Courage to Care*, with the Atlanta community. Over 2,500 guests joined TCM at the Georgia World Congress Center to hear the heartwarming story of an art broker, Ron Hall and his friendship with a street-hardened, homeless man, Denver Moore. Ron and Denver co-authored *Same Kind of Different as Me*, a book which describes their lives and how they grew to be lifelong friends.

The event was the catalyst of a more amazing story – the story of how one book, and one non-profit agency brought together an entire community to better understand and address the needs of the homeless in Atlanta. The Courage to Care event also brought together a consortium of

organizations that work daily with the homeless, chronic homeless, and the hungry. Courage to Care raised nearly \$750,000.00 – received national news coverage and helped build a strong collaboration of organizations that have begun to work closely together towards funding and other resource coordination opportunities.

Trinity Community Ministries could not have produced this event without the support of David P. Smith and his family, Jackson Spalding, and the many wonderful donors who provided the financial support that made this event possible.

***Thanks to everyone for having the Courage to Care.***

(Please see list of supporters on p.3 and collaborators on p. 2)



**Denver Moore and Ron Hall—on one of their visits to Trinity House– Big Bethel**

## ***Senior Appreciation***



**April is Volunteer Appreciation Month.**

Trinity Community Ministries will honor over 25 Senior High

School students and parents along with their school's Community Service Coordinators. Students at the following high schools and coordinators will be recognized at an Appreciation

Dinner at Trinity House-Big Bethel, and at their respective schools for their ongoing volunteer efforts with TCM:

- |                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>The Westminster Schools</b> | Stan Moor          |
| <b>Wesleyan School</b>         | Julie Pack         |
| <b>Pace Academy</b>            | Tricia C. Anderson |
| <b>Marist School</b>           | Karen Shanahan     |
| <b>The Lovett School</b>       | Rev. Steve Allen   |

*For more information on how your youth organization can participate, call 404-577-6651.*

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**COURAGE TO CARE  
COLLABORATING PARTNERS**



ATLANTA CHILDREN'S SHELTER  
ATLANTA DAY SHELTER FOR WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN  
ATLANTA ENTERPRISE CENTER  
ATLANTA UNION MISSION  
CITY OF REFUGE  
COVENANT HOUSE  
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FAMILIES FIRST  
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OF ATLANTA  
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HOSEA FEED THE HUNGRY  
THE IMPACT GROUP  
INTERFAITH OUTREACH  
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LIVING ROOM  
LOVE THY NEIGHBOR IN SERVICE  
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ATLANTA  
SAFE HOUSE OUTREACH  
SAINT JOSEPH'S MERCY  
CARE SERVICES  
SAMARITAN HOUSE OF ATLANTA  
SOUL CHANGERS  
STAND UP FOR KIDS  
THE SULLIVAN CENTER, INC.  
THREADS

## Real TEAM Players

Nearly 8 years ago, John Shingler (yet another amazing volunteer and TCM Board Member) spoke to a Sunday School class at his church, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, about his relationship with Trinity Community Ministries. His commitment and love for TCM impressed many but especially Neal Creech and Darren Short. Neal was the first to become active with the TEAM Dinner program and soon got Darren involved. Neal and Darren have been doing a monthly TEAM Dinner together for over 2 years.

**So what is it about Trinity House-Big Bethel** that makes these two men come back each month? Neal replied, "the love of the guys, and the men of the Trinity House-Big Bethel are so genuine." Darren says, "from the very first time I ever stepped foot into Trinity House I was literally awestruck by the honesty and integrity of the brothers. It represents such a stark contrast to the outside world where so many of us live a life hiding behind a mask in an attempt to hide our hurt and our brokenness. TH-BB is a breath of fresh air where people can let down their guard, be honest about who they are, the mistakes they've made, and realize that we're all not that different from one another."

TH-BB loves Neal and Darren too. Ed Womack, a recent graduate and former leader of TH-BB explained his love for Darren Short, "his smile, warmth, positive energy, concern and definitely the bow ties always seemed to give me that extra inspiration to continue down my path of recovery." A'Sheerah Walker, TEAM Hostess, replied "Neal always has a special kindness and warmth for the men. He shows true love and concern for everyone, and we all enjoy the parables he shares to inspire the men at each TEAM Dinner."

Both Neal Creech and Darren Short support the organization, along with their young families, by volunteering. They also are members of the TCM Honorary Board, are great financial supporters and are always generous with ongoing in-kind gifts.

Recently, Darren was surprised at his company, Barclays Capital, with a special nomination for the Barclays Chairman's Award for 2009. This award celebrates the exceptional contribution of Barclays' employees in their support of their local communities through volunteering and fundraising activities. Barclays provides each nominee with 1,000 £ to go to their favorite charity (approximately \$1,465.00) – not bad for being nominated...

Thank you Neal and Darren – our lives have been transformed by your love and support.



**Darren Short**



**Neal Creech**

## Special thanks to our supporters for having the



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Eddie W. Turner  
Vickey and Edward Wile  
Dillon Winship

## TH-BB Welcomes New Assistant Program Director Wardell Jones, CAC II



**Wardell Jones**

Trinity Community Ministries welcomes Wardell Jones as the new Assistant Program Director of Trinity House-Big Bethel. Mr. Jones has over 20 years of experience in addiction counseling and is a Certified Addiction Counselor II. His combination of training and education has afforded him the opportunity to work for both private and government entities that provide mental health care.

Wardell also has a long history of community service and collaboration; he initially served as a volunteer National Trainer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Wings of Hope Anti-drug Program. Wardell's growing dedication and commitment to community service earned a Commendation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and recognition as a Point of Light in the area of community service by former President George H. Bush. Wardell takes great pride in mentoring both young and mature men.

Trinity Community Ministries looks forward to working with Mr. Jones as we strive to address the needs of those struggling to overcome homelessness and addiction in metro Atlanta.

### TRINITY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES Board of Directors

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## From the Desk of the Executive Director

*Tom E. Garner, Jr.*

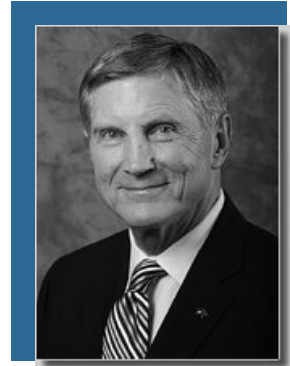
April marks my first full year as Executive Director at Trinity Community Ministries. Truly, it is a privilege to be associated with an organization that enjoys such a compassionate staff, Board, and supporters—both financial and volunteer. The clients we serve represent an inspiration to us all, every day, and we look forward to continuing to serve and grow our program. While most non-profit organizations are facing tightening budgets and increased demand, we believe that by continuing to focus on efficient use of the limited resources and enhancing collaborative relationships with other agencies, we will continue to meet the needs of the clients who are so dependent on Trinity Community Ministries. We appreciate each of you and your continuing support and prayers. Thank you!



# Bi-Annual Honorary Board Networking Breakfast

In the spring of 2006, Trinity Community Ministries embarked on a philanthropic networking program which brings together individuals from the community twice a year, to support the work of TCM, enjoy an interesting speaker, provide an opportunity for members to introduce friends and colleagues to TCM, meet the residents of TH-BB and learn more about how Trinity House-Big Bethel works to transform the lives and bring hope and opportunities for homeless individuals. Today, this philanthropic network is known as the TCM Honorary Board-now 104 members strong and growing.

This year's Spring Networking Breakfast will be held on April 21st at 7:00 a.m. at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Our guest speaker will be Bill Curry, coach for inaugural Georgia State University Panthers football team.



Bill Curry

Due to the significant growth of our Honorary Board, we have added a few new member benefits: installation of a plaque at TH-BB with members' names and corporate affiliation and a Drug Prevention and community service event for teenage family members of Honorary Board members. For more information on how you can become an Honorary Board member, please call TCM at 404-577-6651. Current members of the TCM Honorary Board are displayed below.

## Trinity Community Ministries Honorary Board

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Jet Anderson  
William M. Arnold, Jr  
Angela V. Averett  
Paul D Beckham  
Andrew M. Been  
Ken Bell  
Stan Brading  
Gilbert Benjamin  
Mitchell V. Brannen  
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Leslie G. Callahan, III  
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Arthur Edge, V  
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Eric Ross  
Willie Russell  
Fritz Rybert  
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John Shingler  
Robert Shingler  
Darren Short  
Patricia C. Sibley  
David P. Smith  
John Snodgrass  
Ken Stevens  
Kenneth L. Thrasher  
Eddie Turner  
Will Underwood  
Leslie Watters, MD  
Larry Webb, DMD  
Ernie Williams  
Dan H. Willoughby, Jr.  
Wayne Wilson  
Oran D. Woodall  
Jim Wright  
Nancy Yarnell  
Shelley and H. Mason Zimmerman

*We apologize for any omission of information or incorrect listing of individuals. Please contact Pat Reagan at [tcmpat@bellsouth.net](mailto:tcmpat@bellsouth.net) if you have questions or concerns.*

## Trinity Table – Transforming lives through service

For over 14 years, Youlonda and Erly Robinson from Ben Hill United Methodist Church (Ben Hill) have been volunteering at the Trinity Table. Youlonda and Erly started in a new member program of their church – and soon fell in love with the service to Trinity Table. Soon after their first experience, the Robinsons’ took over the volunteer coordination of Trinity Table for Ben Hill and have enjoyed that position every since.

Ben Hill’s members believe that they truly are their brother’s keepers – they have a lot of love to give and are motivated by the opportunity to treat others as if they were family. Although they started out serving soup, as most of the volunteers groups do at Trinity Table, they were called to provide more.



After only serving two years at the table, Ben Hill members began serving hot meals – meals they would serve at their own homes. The idea behind serving a full hot meal was that many of their guests were not getting the nutrition they needed, and Ben Hill felt that they could do more to help.

At one time, Ben Hill volunteers were serving hot meals five times a year. Mrs. Robinson says, “we are looking forward to returning to Trinity Table on a more frequent basis – we love our experience with the guests and feel we are providing a needed service with our ministry.” Tom Garner, TCM Executive Director concurs, “we found that our Table guests were looking forward to Ben Hill’s visits at the Table – the serving of a full hot meal is a welcomed change for many of our guests and we are so appreciative of Ben Hill’s efforts.”

## We really do listen!



Many of our volunteers and volunteer organizations have been asking for more ways they can become involved. More so, they also wanted to learn about the organization as a whole. In many cases, some organizations and company volunteers only know about 1 of our 2 programs, Trinity House-Big Bethel or Trinity Table...but there is *much more* ...

Consequently, we have implemented a new **Volunteer Outreach Lunch & Learn Program**. On the last Tuesday of each month, we will invite a group of volunteer coordinators, outreach ministers, corporate volunteer leaders and others that have a vested interest in TCM. TCM staff will share with this group current program activity, program enhancements, new and current volunteer opportunities followed by a Q&A session. Lunch will be served at 11:30am by our own chef extraordinaire, Mawasi Griffin. Tours of Trinity House-Big Bethel will be available following the program, for first time visitors to TCM. Our first **Lunch and Learn** is scheduled for April 28, 2009. For more information, please call (404) 577-6651.

## A transformed life

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Ed Johnson did not start his adulthood as a homeless drug addict. Ed began his career as a High School English teacher in Chicago— working with kids that had learning disabilities and teaching tenth grade creative writing. What sent Ed on a downward spiral was a casual experience with drugs. Five years ago, he was offered pot, which was laced with cocaine. Three months later, Ed found himself addicted and fired from his job. In an attempt to get away from the influences that drove him to his addiction, he decided to take a job in Tampa, Florida but before reaching Tampa, Ed stopped in Atlanta to see a family member. He liked Atlanta so much that he decided to stay.

Although he left Chicago and what he thought was his problems with drugs – he soon found out that his drug problem followed him. Within three months of living in Atlanta, Ed was faced with being kicked out of his friend’s home and living on the streets.

A friend told Ed about Trinity House-Big Bethel (TH-BB); immediately he took the steps necessary to join the program. Ed says, “the program worked for me because it is steeped in discipline and structure, something that I desperately needed in my life. No other program could have worked for me. I loved the camaraderie and brotherhood...I always wanted brothers and with TH-BB, I had 36!” Ed reflected upon one of his best memories of his time at TH-BB, “When the tornado hit Atlanta last year, we were all very much aware that TH-BB was completely missed in the destruction. Everywhere around TH-BB was hit. Once the tornado blew through, all of the brothers got together and helped clean up the neighborhood and the experience drew us even closer together.”

As with many successful graduates, Ed Johnson continues to return weekly to TH-BB to support his brothers. Kenneth Zakee, Program Director at TH-BB says, “Ed continues to be a positive role model– his sobriety, will benefit more people than himself.”

So what is in the future for Ed Johnson, besides a lifetime of sobriety? He plans to wed in October, return to teaching in the fall, and continue being a positive influence on his brothers at TH-BB. Reflecting on his transformation, Ed says, “I try to take pieces of what has made others successful, in life, sobriety and in their life challenges and use those references in my own life.”



Ed Johnson

Ed will be the guest alum speaker at TCM’s Spring Honorary Board Networking Breakfast on April 21, 2009.

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### TCM has gone **GREEN**

Not putting a donation card or envelope in this newsletter **saves valuable resources** and provides you with the opportunity to make your donation directly online. Please go to our website at [www.tcmatlanta.org](http://www.tcmatlanta.org) and make your donation today. Just click on the

**Make a Donation Now icon** and follow directions.

# Volunteer Opportunities at TCM

**W**e could never fulfill the needs of those we serve without the generous support of *time and talent* from our amazing volunteers. Our volunteers are so great that they have consistently come to us for more opportunities to support the work and mission of Trinity Community Ministries. In an effort meet our volunteers' requests ,we have enhanced our volunteer program by adding some *new opportunities*. Those opportunities include:

## Trinity House-Big Bethel (TH-BB)

**Mentorship Program** - connects our residents with volunteers in the community in a one-on-one relationship monitored by the counseling staff

**Literacy Program** - supports the residents with reading and writing education enrichment

**Book Club** - Book Club Facilitators lead group discussion based on books for different reading levels

**Computer Skills Program** - basic computer skills, including filling out applications on-line, writing resumes, email, and job searches  
**Flowering and Edible Landscaping** - building raised gardens and providing instruction on various gardening techniques and maintenance

**Birthday Club** - a monthly event celebrating the birthdays of the residents of TH-BB.

**Job Readiness** - supports the residents in job preparation and job stabilization skills

**Night-Out Program** – joins families with individuals or a small groups of residents from TH-BB for a night out of wholesome entertainment: bowling, movies or just family fun

## Trinity Table

**Relationship Building Opportunities** - an opportunity for Trinity Table volunteers to better engage the guests of the Trinity Table by sharing inspirational stories, information and support to the guests at the Trinity Table

**Distribution Room** - volunteers collect, organize and distribute clothes, toiletries, blankets, and hygiene supplies, upon request, to the guests of Trinity Table from this designated location inside Trinity United Methodist Church

## Administrative Volunteers

Support the administrative work of TCM by assisting with daily office support, doing research, working on newsletters and answering phones.

## Volunteer Outreach

**Speaker's Bureau** - help to maintain a calendar of events and speaking engagements that offer transformational opportunities for people who are homeless and for volunteers



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Atlanta, GA 30312  
(404)577-6651

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