The East Lake Foundation continues its work to transform place and build promise in the East Lake neighborhood. We made great strides in 2019, and we are grateful to all the partners, supporters and residents who make our success possible.

The First Tee

In 2019, The First Tee® of East Lake and The First Tee® of Atlanta consolidated to become The First Tee® of Metro Atlanta, now serving youth in 8 Metro Atlanta counties.

This year-round golf instruction and mentoring program uses the principles of golf, including discipline, hard work, sportsmanship, and integrity to enhance academic achievement and life skills for participants ages 5-17. Golf instruction also provides access to college scholarships, business connections and employment.

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RISE After School Program

RISE After School—R.I.S.E. (Recreation, Innovation, STEAMulation, Education) is a comprehensive after school program for Pre-K through 7th grade students, operating from 4:00PM to 6:00PM daily to provide students opportunities to participate in enrichment activities with their peers.

Start:ME Program

Start:ME East Lake is a 14-session program in partnership with Social Enterprise @ Goizueta at Emory University that offers the assistance promising micro-entrepreneurs need to develop viable and sustainable microbusinesses. Since its inception, Start:ME East Lake has graduated five Cohorts with 77 ventures, 82% of which are still operational and 86% are female/minority-owned. Participants have received more than $80K in community capital funding.

The Resident and Community Support Program (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 with community partners to enhance employment readiness through financial education workshops. Residents also receive access to job resources, financial tools, small business start-up assistance, and much more.

A Model That Works

East Lake's successful transformation is the blueprint for building strong, healthy, and economically diverse communities across the country.

OUR NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

99% reduction in violent crime since 1995

$400 MILLION+ new private investment in East Lake and surrounding community

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Drew Charter School

Charles R. Drew Charter School serves 1,800+ students in Pre-K through 12th grade with an innovative Project-Based Learning approach centered around a STEAM curriculum.

Drew consistently ranks in the top 10% in APS and top 20% in the State of Georgia. Drew’s Elementary Academy is ranked in the top 3% in the State of Georgia according to the CCRPI.

Eligible East Lake 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.

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More than two decades after the revitalization of East Lake began, residents and students continue to thrive as a result of the East Lake Foundation’s holistic work in the neighborhood. Here we highlight just a few of the many wonderful experiences from 2019.

**Effie Davis**
*East Lake Healthy Connections*

Effie Davis, a resident of The Villages of East Lake, needed to meet weight loss goals for her primary care doctor to approve a knee surgery. When she joined East Lake Healthy Connections’ walking club, she could barely finish one lap on the indoor track. Encouraged by staff and walking club peers, she built up to 12 full laps. With help from a Healthy Connections Senior Cooking Class and healthier food choices, Effie ultimately lost 20 lbs., had her knee surgery, and made new friends along the way!

**Janike Ruginis Gross**
*Start:ME East Lake*

Janike Ruginis Gross, a member of the 2019 Start:ME East Lake cohort, co-founded Veoleo with her sister. Veoleo is a small press dedicated to Spanish books for children and was born out of a love for reading, Latin American culture, and an unconditional support for bilingual education through Spanish language immersion. Veoleo books celebrate the distinctiveness of Latin American and Caribbean geography, the diversity of its flora and fauna, and pairs them with narratives and lessons for young readers. She has launched two new books in 2020.

**Varsity Boys Golf Team**
*Drew Charter School*

Drew Charter’s Varsity Boys Golf Team won the Class A Public State Championship, becoming the first Atlanta Public Schools team and the first team of all African-American players and coaches to win a state golf title in Georgia. The team, all of whom are members of The First Tee® of Metro Atlanta, went on to the High School National Invitational in Orlando. The three graduating seniors—Solomon Dobbs, Christopher McCrary, and Treveon McCurty—now attend college on golf or academic scholarships.

**George Whittingham**
*RCSP Highlight*

George Whittingham, a long-time elderly resident of The Villages of East Lake, faced financial hardships after an unfortunate encounter with a company claiming to offer debt relief assistance that took advantage of George. After reading in The Villages’ Voices newsletter about the Tackle Your Debt workshop, George connected with Tywonia Orum with the Resident and Community Support Program. Together, they created a detailed budget to manage his bills on a fixed income and opened a savings account. Within one month, debt collector calls ceased and he finally felt financially comfortable.

**Our Donors**

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. Thanks to all of our Visionary, Innovator, Leader, Builder, Partner, and Friend-level donors.

LEARN MORE AT: 2019.eastlakefoundation.org