East Lake Foundation
Community Vision
WINTER 2025

Celebrating 30 Years of Impact, Planning for 30 More

For 30 years, the East Lake Foundation has worked alongside partners, neighbors, volunteers, and donors like you to make East Lake a place where every person has the tools and supports needed to thrive.

With your help, a few of our achievements this year include:

- **98% graduation rate** for Charles R. Drew Charter School students;
- **630+ Drew Charter School students received College Savings Accounts** seeded with $500 through our new Wealth Builds Atlanta program;
- **$60,000+ in rent assistance** provided to keep families safely and stably housed in The Villages of East Lake, our 650-unit mixed-income housing complex;
- **Relaunched the East Lake Junior Golf Academy** to empower and equip young athletes with advanced training, mentorship, and resources to excel on and off the golf course in partnership with East Lake Golf Club, Drew Charter School, and the Charlie Yates Golf Course;
- **1,500+ Villages of East Lake residents** participated in economic vitality, community engagement, and career development programming.

As we look ahead to the East Lake Foundation's next 30 years, we ask you to join us as a changemaker, illuminating the needs of our community, innovating new solutions, and igniting a future full of promise for generations to come.

During this season of thanks, we are grateful for every supporter who helps ensure children have access to top-tier education, families have safe and stable homes where their needs are met, and every East Lake neighbor is part of a community where they can achieve their dreams.

Will you invest in the next chapter of innovation and a future where even more East Lake children and families flourish with a year-end gift to the East Lake Foundation?

Make your tax-deductible gift to the East Lake Foundation here. ■

Gifting *Hope* for the Holidays

Are you looking for that last-minute holiday gift for a friend, family member, or loved one?

Please consider making a donation to the East Lake Foundation in their honor. They will receive a notification of your generous gift and be listed in our Annual Report.

In a time when many things feel uncertain, you can have confidence that your gift will help East Lake children and families reach their full potential. Your holiday gift can provide:

- Safe, stable, and affordable housing for seniors and families;
- Early childhood education scholarships for East Lake vulnerable families;
- Intensive financial literacy and career readiness supports;
- …and so much more!

Click here to make your gift! ■

East Lake Foundation

Party on the Green-Off Course Edition Raises More Than $1,050,000 for East Lake's Cradle-to-College and Career Continuum

In honor of the East Lake Foundation's 30th anniversary, we came together with more than 400 guests at The Eastern for *Party on the Green - Off Course Edition*, our signature fundraising event. With the support of our community, we raised more than a record-breaking $1,050,000 to support our Cradle-to-College and Career Continuum providing access to high-quality education for East Lake students from birth –12th grade and equipping them with the tools to succeed in school and beyond.

During the event, the Foundation paid tribute to the life and legacy of our founder, Tom Cousins, and honored the late Josie and Julian Robertson and the Robertson Family for their philanthropic leadership and steadfast commitment to the families of East Lake and the Drew Charter School community.

Shannon Heath-Longino, granddaughter of Eva Davis, presented the inaugural Eva Davis Community Advocate award to Vivian Moore, Health Advocate at the East Lake Family YMCA, for her above-and-beyond commitment and advocacy on behalf of the seniors, youth, and families of East Lake.

Highlights of the evening included dancing the night away with music from Party on the Moon and an incredible testimonial from Alexis Gaines, who shared her journey from being a student at Drew Charter School to a professional now working at the same school that poured so much into her.

Our special thanks to our partners, Golf Channel and East Lake Cup, emcee Linda Stouffer from WSB-TV, our Board of Directors, Host Committee, Honorary Co-Chairs Shan and Eddie Cooper, Beth and Tommy Holder, Ray Robinson and Shane Robinson, and every sponsor, donor, and volunteer for making the event a resounding success.

An event photo gallery and full sponsor listing are available here. ■

Spotlight: Vivian Moore, 2025 Eva Davis Community Advocate Award Winner

Since 2014, Vivian Moore has worked as the Health Advocate at the East Lake Family YMCA Healthy Connections program, bringing vital health resources, chronic disease prevention, connection to health insurance and primary care providers, and support to East Lake seniors and families.

Her commitment to community service runs deep, with a focus on advocating for seniors and underserved communities. She serves as a member of the DeKalb NAACP Executive Committee, coordinating food and housing assistance for our unhoused neighbors, the Partnership for Community Action to assist seniors with utilities, and is actively involved in voter registration civic engagement, vaccination, and health insurance access efforts.

We are deeply grateful to Vivian for her longtime support of the seniors and youth of East Lake. Join us in congratulating her for receiving the well-deserved award! ■

11th Annual East Lake Cup Comes to Exciting Conclusion

The East Lake Cup, a three-day NCAA collegiate tournament taking place at East Lake Golf Club, featured top-performing men's and women's golf teams from across the country. In partnership with the Golf Channel, the tournament helps raise awareness and funds for the East Lake Foundation's Cradle-to-College and Career Continuum with contributions of more than $2.5M over the last decade.

- 2025 East Lake Cup Women's Teams: Florida State University, Northwestern University, University of Oregon, University of Southern California
- 2025 East Lake Cup Men's Teams: Arizona State University, University of Florida, University of Mississippi, University of Virginia

Despite the rainy conditions, competing golfers played a great tournament. Our congratulations to the winners – the women's team from the University of Oregon and the men's team from the University of Florida, as well as individual winners Dianna Lee from Northwestern University and Michael Lee from the University of Virginia.

We would also like to congratulate the winners of the Tom Cousins Award, which recognizes one male and one female golfer for excelling in both academics and community engagement: Connor Williams from Arizona State University and Bailey Shoemaker from the University of Southern California.

We thank the Golf Channel and East Lake Cup for their longstanding partnership with the East Lake Foundation, a true demonstration of the East Lake Golf Club's motto, '*Golf with a Purpose*'. ■

Annual Thanksgiving Distribution Shows the *Power* of Teamwork

Everyone deserves to enjoy a holiday meal with their loved ones. The East Lake Foundation was proud to partner again with The Marcell Anderson Foundation, Charles R. Drew Charter School, and the East Lake Family YMCA to provide boxes filled with Thanksgiving supplies to 550 East Lake seniors and families. Each box included fresh produce and the ingredients to make a delicious Thanksgiving feast. Additionally, hundreds of residents received a gift card to purchase a turkey or other main dish.

Because of inflation, increased grocery costs, and cuts to SNAP, many East Lake families were worried that they might not be able to afford a Thanksgiving celebration this year. We are so grateful for the team of community partners and volunteers who made it possible for us to meet the significant need this year, providing ingredients for hundreds of families to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. ■

Celebrating Milestones

25 Years of Service: Sharon Hall-Thomas

If you have ever visited the East Lake Foundation office, you have probably met Sharon Hall-Thomas, our Operations and Special Initiatives Manager. For 25 years, she has worked with the Foundation, always leading with care for the community.

Join us as we applaud her years of service, her kind spirit, and her deep commitment to the families of East Lake.

Click here or scan the QR code to view her 30 Voices video reflecting on her experience with East Lake. ■

Happy Anniversary to our East Lake Initiative Partners!

This is a truly special year for East Lake. Not only is the East Lake Foundation celebrating our 30th anniversary, several of our community partners are also marking significant milestones.

Happy anniversary to early learning partner Sheltering Arms East Lake, which is also celebrating 30 years of serving families in the community, and both Charles R. Drew Charter School and the East Lake Family YMCA, which are celebrating 25 years in East Lake.

We are so glad to have these incredible organizations as part of our village! ■

Proclamations Recognize East Lake Foundation's Impact

In recognition of the Foundation's 30-year anniversary and the countless partners who have made this work possible, we are delighted to have been honored with several proclamations:

Commissioner Nicole Massiah, a former resident of The Villages of East Lake, presented a proclamation on behalf of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners honoring the East Lake Foundation and TOUR Championship for their partnership and 30 years of impact.

Representative Omari Crawford joined us at a rodeo-themed Wellness Wednesday Resident and Community Support Program event to present a proclamation from the Georgia House of Representatives recognizing East Lake Foundation Day.

Sponsored by Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari, the Atlanta City Council issued a proclamation recognizing the East Lake Foundation's 30th anniversary and transformative impact in the community.

The Office of the Governor issued a commendation declaring December 7, the birthday of our founder, Tom Cousins, as East Lake Foundation Day in Georgia. ■

East Lake Women's Alliance Awards $30,000 to Support Housing Stability

The East Lake Women's Alliance (ELWA) wrapped up 2025 with Grant Night at East Lake Golf Club, voting to grant their collective annual contributions of $30,000 to support housing stability through rent assistance for families living in The Villages of East Lake.

Inflation has increased the cost of food, utilities, rent, childcare, and other necessities while wages have remained stagnant. Cuts to social services, along with widespread layoffs and the shutdown of the federal government, present additional challenges.

The grant will enable the Foundation to support more people by providing rental assistance to an estimated 22 of the most financially vulnerable families in The Villages of East Lake, ensuring they remain safe and stably housed through the coldest months of the year.

If you are interested in learning more about the East Lake Women's Alliance, a group of committed Atlanta women who support the East Lake Foundation's programs through philanthropy and volunteerism, please email Kivatah Castilla at kcastilla@eastlakefoundation.org. ■

First Cox Pre-K Teacher Fellows Graduate

Congratulations to the first two graduates of the Cox Pre-K Teachers Fellowship program, Ayvion Jackson and Genesis Thomas!

Supported by the James M. Cox Foundation, the two-year fellowship places recent graduates of Charles R. Drew Charter School interested in pursuing early childhood education with a paid teaching fellowship at Drew's Cox Pre-K. This offers young graduates the opportunity to gain work experience and on-the-job training while developing early education curricula and creating a pipeline of qualified early childhood educators.

Our graduating Fellows earned their Child Development Associate credential through a partnership with the United Way of Greater Atlanta and Sheltering Arms. In addition, both acquired early childhood education job placements with partners, Ayvion as a pre-k paraprofessional in Fulton County Schools and Genesis at Georgia State University's Capitol Hill Enrichment Center. Ayvion has enrolled in GSU's School of Education and Genesis will be enrolling shortly once she is eligible for a scholarship through campus employment.

"The growth of these two young women into confident, effective teachers is a testament to the power of the Cox Pre-K Fellowship. Wherever they go next, their classrooms will be better for the skills, leadership, and heart they bring," said Nicole Tuttle, Director of Cox Pre-K.

We are thrilled that both Ayvion and Genesis are pursuing careers in education and cannot wait to see where their journey takes them! ■

Run for East Lake 5K & Fun Run Brings Community Together

On August 2, 2025, the East Lake Foundation hosted more than 400 runners, walkers, and strollers for a fun-filled Run for East Lake 5K & Fun Run. Participants of all ages began the race at Charles R. Drew Charter School, running past the Charlie Yates Golf Course, through The Villages of East Lake, and through the back nine of the beautifully restored East Lake Golf Club.

The race raised over $27,000 to support our community-based work thanks to participants and event sponsors: The East Lake Family YMCA (Presenting), Columbia Residential, Delta Community Credit Union, Ashley Derrick Realty, East Lake Neighbors Development Corporation, Purpose Built Communities, Sovereign Realty & Management, Vela Park Apartments & Townhomes, Zach Cravens State Farm, Kirkwood Pediatrics, Oakhurst Market/Universal Joint, Coca-Cola Bottling, and My Coffee Shop at East Lake.

Our 5K top finishers:

5K Men

Brett Vogt - 17:47.48 (His second consecutive win!)
Bastiaan Gorts - 17:48.76
Bing Lu - 18:45.34

5K Women

Chelsea Kallen - 23:05.13
Kaitlin Sinclair - 23:05.16
Hailey Rizza - 23:21.67

Click here for the full race results and here for race photos. ■

Morehouse Interns Bring Energy to East Lake

Every fall, the East Lake Foundation welcomes two interns from Morehouse College's Andrew Young Social Justice Scholars program, which provides students with hands-on experience in relevant fields. Interns learn the history of the East Lake community and work on projects benefiting both the Foundation and community partners.

Chase Cunningham is a sophomore political science major born in Decatur, Georgia. He is passionate about advocating for better public education and public transportation systems in Metro Atlanta. As a work-study employee at Morehouse's recreational center and a member of Morehouse's Sociology Association and the Atlanta University Center's United Nations Association, Chase is extremely active on campus. He most enjoys service work dedicated to and by his local Black community. This led Chase to joining the Zeta Male Network, an auxiliary organization of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., and the Morehouse College NAACP Chapter.

Cauvin "Tiko" Morris-Louis is a sophomore psychology major committed to leveraging education, community engagement, and research to drive meaningful change. As an intern with the Foundation, Tiko's work focuses on ensuring that East Lake's programs, history, and impact are communicated in an accessible and compelling way. He also contributes to special projects, such as developing "East Lake University," a new learning initiative designed to teach residents and partners about East Lake's history and its programs. At Morehouse, Tiko is deeply involved in service and leadership. He serves as a liaison for LovingStone Nonprofit, organizing weekly service opportunities at Woodruff Park through Feed the Streets Fridays. He is an active board member of the Morehouse Association for Black Psychologists. His academic work examines racial inequality, Black economic empowerment, and the social structures that shape opportunities. ■

East Lake Works to Keep Atlanta *Beautiful*

The East Lake Foundation is committed to keeping the East Lake community clean!

We have adopted two streets, Eva Davis Way and Green Street. In addition to keeping these streets clear of debris, we work collectively with neighbors and partners to keep our streets clean with regular trash pickups throughout the neighborhood. This year, we were honored to be recognized as a strategic partner with the city of Atlanta's Keep Atlanta Beautiful initiative. We also participated in the second Annual Atlanta Trash Bash, collecting the second-most trash citywide during the event. ■

The East Lake Foundation is the originator of a holistic approach to community revitalization that focuses on four pillars: **cradle-to-college education, mixed-income housing, community wellness** and **economic vitality**. The Foundation serves as the lead organization working closely with its partners to benefit our youth and their families. To make a donation visit **eastlakefoundation.org**.