About the East Lake Foundation
Founded in 1995 on the belief that everyone deserves the chance to succeed, the East Lake Foundation was formed to spearhead the revitalization of East Lake Meadows – one of nation’s most violent public housing developments. Today, the East Lake Foundation along with community partners and residents work together to create and sustain a vibrant community by breaking the cycle of poverty and making East Lake a neighborhood of choice for people of all ages and incomes.

The New East Lake
The East Lake community includes The Villages of East Lake, a mixed-income apartment community offering half market rate and half subsidized apartment homes; the Charles R. Drew Charter School, Atlanta’s first charter school, serving students in Pre-K through grade 8; the East Lake Early Learning Academy that includes the birth to three-year-old programs; the East Lake Family YMCA, offering fitness and recreation; the East Lake Community Learning Garden for The Villages of East Lake, Drew Charter School and the broader East Lake community; and The First Tee® of East Lake, a year-round golf instruction and life skills program targeted to East Lake youth at the public, 18-hole Charlie Yates Golf Course.

Our Approach
The East Lake Foundation helps families build better lives and children reach their highest potential through its holistic approach to community revitalization incorporating Cradle-To-College Education, Mixed-Income Housing, and Community Wellness.
From *Cradle To College*, the East Lake Foundation is committed to academic success.

**Drew Charter School**  
The centerpiece of the East Lake community, **Drew Charter School** serves more than 800 students, in Pre-K through grade 8. Drew balances academic rigor with robust enrichment opportunities that rival those offered by many colleges. Drew is a place where children thrive and prepare for a lifetime of learning and success.

Drew students continue to advance. In 2010-11 school year, 99% of Drew students in grades 3 through 8 met or exceeded state standards for reading — surpassing city and state averages.

**Early Education**  
Research underscores the profound impact of quality early education, which is why the East Lake Foundation is proud to support its community’s stellar early education programs that enable Drew to deliver a seamless educational program to children in Pre-K through grade 8.

**East Lake Early Learning Academy** opened in 2011, expanding options residents in East Lake have for high quality early learning. At full operation, East Lake early learning programs will serve 270 children: 80 children in the Pre-K programs and 190 children in the birth to three-year-old preschool programs.

The East Lake Early Learning Academy is supported through partnerships between the **CF Foundation**, **Drew Charter School**, **East Lake Family YMCA**, **East Lake Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Center**, **Rollins Center for Language & Learning at the Atlanta Speech School** and **East Lake Foundation**. Thanks to generous East Lake Foundation donors, The Villages of East Lake children are eligible for scholarships to the **East Lake Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Center**.

**Drew Charter School’s Office of Extended Services**  
Drew’s Office of Extended Services, funded in part by the East Lake Foundation, encompasses Drew’s unique **After School Program**. The program integrates academic support with enrichment opportunities made possible through local community partnerships. Serving more than 280 students, the After School Program offers a wide array of resources that support academic development as well as activities that contribute to healthy bodies and creative minds. A student may receive math tutoring on Tuesday, then apply those lessons during cooking class on Wednesday. Thanks to donor-funded support from the Foundation, the program is available at a nominal cost.

**The CREW Teens™ Program**  
Over the course of a career, a college graduate will earn $1 million more than a high school graduate — underscoring the direct link between education and economic self-sufficiency.

The **CREW Teens** program helps Drew alumni and other East Lake teens succeed in high school, college and beyond. CREW (Creating Responsible, Educated, Working) Teens now serves more than 400 students, providing them with comprehensive academic support, leadership training and educational and career advisement.

Since 97% of CREW Teens participants will be the first in their families to attend college, the program is essential. And it works – In 2011, active CREW Teens participants had a high school graduation rate of 98%. In just the past two years, CREW Teens graduates have earned more than $2 million in scholarships and are now represented at more than 87 colleges and universities.
Mixed-Income Housing makes East Lake a neighborhood of choice for many families.

The Villages of East Lake
At the heart of the community are The Villages of East Lake, a mixed-income community that include townhomes, villas and garden apartment homes.

The Villages of East Lake offers community building activities that help residents create a stronger community and gain lasting financial strength through education, economic stability programs and community building opportunities.

Economic Development
In 2010, The East Lake Foundation in partnership with The Center for Working Families, Inc. provided a pilot job training and placement program for unemployed or underemployed residents at The Villages. The program helped participants develop interview skills, create resumes and ultimately helped residents secure jobs to support themselves and their families. Through training and coaching, participants gained life-long skills that support their economic stability and lend to a vibrant East Lake.

In the 2010 pilot, 54 households from The Villages of East Lake were first-time recipients of $390,000 in benefits including utility assistance, the earned income tax credit and other social services.
Thanks to East Lake Foundation donors, our neighbors have a growing array of options that contribute to total Community Wellness through initiatives that help families connect with each other and the broader community as well as provide access to health care services and active lifestyles.

The First Tee® of East Lake

The First Tee® of East Lake, a program of the East Lake Foundation, teaches children the fundamentals of golf along with a unique life skills curriculum to enhance achievement and build character. In 2010, The First Tee® of East Lake served nearly 545 young golfers, ages 5 through 17, and opens doors to colleges, scholarships and job opportunities. First Tee students are able to participate in after school programming, physical education classes at Drew Charter School, Saturday clinics, summer camp and tournament play, as well as golf outings with Atlanta’s corporate community and golf professionals.

East Lake Health Initiative

The East Lake Health Initiative is an outcome of a health assessment supported by the East Lake Foundation. Still in its early stages of development, the initiative is helping to identify gaps in access to primary and preventative health care coverage and services. The health initiative also encourages healthy eating and active living among East Lake residents and Drew Charter School Students.

The Healthy You, Healthy Drew program at Drew Charter School is focused on heightening nutritional awareness among students and their families, and faculty by offering healthy eating options, sharing informative articles and providing educational programs and physical fitness activities.

The East Lake Community Learning Garden

Established in 2010, the East Lake Community Learning Garden fosters healthier eating and living habits by providing a supportive environment where neighborhood residents can grow organic produce in a small urban farm and participate in interactive workshops while learning from each other and gardening experts. The Learning Garden serves as a gathering place, helping to build bridges among neighbors at The Villages of East Lake and the broader East Lake neighborhood. An active educational environment, the East Lake Community Learning Garden serves as an outdoor classroom for Drew Charter School students and East Lake children.
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