East Lake Foundation Welcomes Three New Members to its Board of Directors

On June 19th, the East Lake Foundation Board of Directors elected three new board members: Omone Okoro, Sanne Rayen and Jordan Stringfellow. These three leaders in the community bring tremendous experience in business, technology and strategic thinking with them that will be beneficial to the Foundation’s work and contribute to the diversity of the Foundation’s Board.

"We are very excited to have Omone, Sanne and Jordan join the East Lake Foundation Board," said Chair of the East Lake Foundation Board, "Their diverse expertise will help us accomplish our mission and ensure that we work collaboratively with our other Atlanta-based Black Communities’ partner organizations over the next few years."

Sanne Rayen is the owner of the Coda Clothing Company and Chick-fil-A, two companies that are committed to bringing community revitalization and have been generous supporters of our work in the East Lake and Grove Park neighborhoods respectively.

The East Lake Foundation is well known for its integrated approach to community revitalization that focuses on three pillars: cradle-to-college education, mixed-income housing and community wellness. The Foundation serves as the lead organization working closely with its partners to address these three areas to benefit our youth and their families. To make a donation, call 404.373.4331 or visit eastlakefoundation.org.

East Lake Foundation
2648 Auburn Drive # Atlanta, GA 30317
eastlakefoundation.org | 404.373.4331

Community Vision

Help us reach our annual goal! Your support today goes to programs in the East Lake Neighborhood that provide our families with the changing opportunities.
The East Lake Foundation is a foundation that makes a difference. We aim to ensure our community can see a sustainable, thriving, and prosperous future.

WINTER 2018

Atlanta Housing Vests to Approve the Villages of East Lake Refinancing

In June 2018, after months of negotiations and public hearings, Atlanta Housing voted to approve the refinancing of The Villages of East Lake. The refinancing process was the result of a collaboration between Atlanta Housing and the East Lake Foundation.

The refinancing will allow Atlanta Housing to refinance the debt for The Villages of East Lake. The debt will be refinanced over a period of several years, allowing the community to continue to provide affordable housing to residents.

The refinancing will also provide Atlanta Housing with the opportunity to invest in the long-term sustainability of The Villages of East Lake.

The refinancing process was a testament to the partnership between Atlanta Housing and the East Lake Foundation. The two organizations worked closely together to ensure that the refinancing was in the best interest of the community.

Give the Gift of Giving

Looking for the perfect gift for the person who has everything? We have the perfect gift idea for you. Take a donation to the East Lake Foundation in their names. The lucky recipient will be notified of your gift and recognized in our 2018 Annual Report.
Tiger Woods Wins Historic TOUR Championship

This year’s TOUR Championship’s spectator and national media are getting down as part of the four-month-long moments in the History of the TOUR Championship and East Lake Golf Club. The eyes of the world were on Atlanta as Tiger Woods approached the green on No 18 and prepared to go win his 80th PGA TOUR tournament and third TOUR Championship. In addition to the tournament’s outcome, this year’s focus is on providing an enhanced fan experience, the 1904 Club, localized food and drink offerings and an expanded philanthropic effort, all aimed at making the Atlanta community embracing the TOUR Championship be never before. For the second time, Drew Charter School senior, Solomon Dobbs won the annual Student of the Year Program. The program includes academic, recreational and athletic activities that are designed to supplement and enrich students’ learning during the day time. The East Lake Women’s Alliance, a philanthropic group of Atlanta women who have committed to focusing their time and financial support in the East Lake neighborhood. They are interested in learning more about the East Lake Women’s Alliance, please contact Jeanne Bialek at jdbialek@eastlakefoundation.org.

University of Southern California Women and Auburn University Men Win 4th Annual East Lake Cup

On October 29 – 30, The Golf Channel, East Lake Golf Club and the East Lake Foundation hosted the 4th Annual East Lake Cup. The three day NCAA collegiate tournament produced the top converging needy men’s golf teams from across the country. University of Kentucky, University of Arkansas, Auburn University and University of Southern California.

After three intense days of competition, the university of Southern California women and Auburn University men claimed the 2016 East Lake Cup, closing out their 2016 fall season schedule with a victory to complete a historic sweep for the University of Southern California. Women’s golf team finished on the fourth day of the tournament, securing their third East Lake Cup title in four years since the event’s inception. Auburn’s dominance went on the men’s side, with a top score of 220, clinching their fourth East Lake Cup title in four years. Maxon, the University of Kentucky, finished with a score of 337 to finish second, 16 strokes behind, from Georgia. The 2016 East Lake Cup hosted the representation of the Tom Cousins’ Award, a recognition to an outstanding golfer who exemplifies the values of the East Lake Foundation’s mission. The Tom Cousins’ Award was sponsored by Tom Cousins, CEO of Cousins Properties, who contributed $250,000 to support the East Lake Cup.

Drew Charter School Junior Academy Earns Georgia STEAM Certification

Drew Charter School Junior Academy has received STEAM certification, making it the only Title I middle school to be certified in the State of Georgia. As a result of this year’s recognition, Drew Charter also becomes the only school in Georgia to have 4 STEAM certification. Congratulations to all the students and faculty for this special recognition.

One of the projects that was highlighted was the Pumpkin Patch that a 7th grade class created for a visiting Kindergarten class. The students developed plans that the class could cultivate through and learn about the depths of the fall season.

East Lake Boulevard Renamed Eva Davis Way

On October 15, 2016, the Atlanta City Council unanimously passed a resolution authored by Council member Keisha Lance Bottoms to honor the contributions of Mrs. Eva Davis by renaming East Lake Boulevard to Eva Davis Way.

Mrs. Davis and her family were the second set of residents to move into East Lake Meadows housing development in 1971. Ms. Davis founded and served as the president of the tenants association for more than 25 years. She was an ardent advocate for her neighbors and was the voice of the community through very turbulent times. During the mid-1990s, Ms. Davis worked closely with entrepreneurs and philanthropist Tom Cousins, fellow resident, the Atlanta Housing Authority and the city of Atlanta to re-energize East Lake Meadows and to develop the Village of East Lake, a mixed-income apartment complex. Their work together substantially increased the scope of her vision and the resources to implement it, creating a comprehensive East Lake campus. Ms. Davis was also a strong force behind the development of Charles B. Drew Charter School, a school that has provided high-quality education for generations of her family, including currently her local great-great-grandchildren and great-great-grandnephew.

In the later years, Ms. Davis became a fierce advocate for the East Lake Foundation’s holistic model of community revitalization, speaking of national and international audiences as one of the most eminent voices from a transformed East Lake neighborhood. Her advocacy and vision for a more promising future for economically-challenged communities has inspired positive change in affordable housing and economic development policies throughout the country. She became known not only as a champion for East Lake, but also as a nationally recognized voice for tenant rights and high quality growth policies.

Ms. Davis passed away in 2012 at her home in the Village of East Lake, which is a tribute to her leadership. The dedication ceremony and event unveiling was held November 3rd of the Village of East Lake. Numerous dignitaries, family and friends were in attendance. Please note: Drew Charter School is a public charter school in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. It is located in the East Lake neighborhood and was founded in 2005. The school is named after Dr. Charles B. Drew, a prominent African-American physician and surgeon.

Start: ME East Lake is Recruiting Mentors

January 2019 will mark the 8th year of Start ME East Lake, a 14-session program that often intensive skills-based business training. Mentors are sought and needed to develop and sustain valuable micro-businesses in partnership, with Deverioux Professional Services, a business mentorship group with expertise in providing support to professional mentorship. Mentors provide coaching and feedback to participating young adults and are the driving force behind the program’s success. To join our network of mentors or for more information, please contact us at StartMEEastLake@gmail.com.