CRADLE-TO-COLLEGE

Education

DREW CHARTER SCHOOL
Serving 1,900+ students in Pre-K through 12th grade with an innovative approach centered around a STEAM curriculum, all Drew Academies rank in the Top 10 in all Atlanta Public Schools. The schools also consistently rank top 25% in Georgia.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 98.4% Graduation rate in 2022
• $8 Million+ in scholarships earned
• 99% Acceptance rate into colleges/universities
• Mental health clinicians supported caseloads averaging 35 students
• 12 Scholarships sponsored by the East Lake Foundation

EAST LAKE EARLY LEARNING
The East Lake Foundation and Drew Charter School work closely with our early learning partners (Cox Pre-K, East Lake Early Learning Academy and Sheltering Arms East Lake) to ensure a seamless transition as students matriculate through our cradle-to-college education pipeline.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 298 Students including 61 who reside at The Villages of East Lake
• 44 Students attending East Lake Early Learning Academy or Sheltering Arms East Lake are on scholarship

R.I.S.E. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
R.I.S.E. (Recreation. Innovation. STEAMulation. Education) is a comprehensive after school program for Pre-K through 7th grade students. Enrichment activities include creative movement, science, sports and nutrition, Chinese immersion, and storytelling, among many others.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 368 Participants, including 31 from The Villages of East Lake, an increase of 14% over 2021
• 30 STEAM-based enrichment opportunities

THE VILLAGES OF EAST LAKE (VOEL)
In 2022, VOEL completed a renovation to its 542 legacy housing units, originally constructed in the mid-late 90s. Upgrades included new exteriors, flooring, cabinets, a fitness center, and landscaping, among others.

The VOEL renovation is one of several initiatives led by the East Lake Foundation to broaden housing availability in the area. In March 2023, construction began for the Trust at East Lake, 40 for-sale affordable townhomes in East Lake prioritized for families who currently reside at VOEL.

THE RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (RCSP)
RCSP teams with community partners to enhance employment readiness through financial education workshops, including financial education, entrepreneurship, homeowner education and career coaching. Residents also receive access to job resources, financial tools, small business startup assistance and much more.

In 2022, the RCSP team continued its targeted work to support families in need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic coordinating and facilitating rent and utility assistance to keep families in their homes. RCSP also worked closely with the East Lake Family YMCA to provide thousands of boxes of groceries for families in need.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 776 Residents participated in RCSP programming
• 35 Families assisted at The Villages of East Lake with $115,000 in rent and utility assistance
• $3 Economic stability, mental health, and homeownership programs offered
• Hosted drive-thru back to school supply drive, Thanksgiving food distribution, and holiday gift event

THE FIRST TEE OF METRO ATLANTA
First Tee – Metro Atlanta built upon the post-pandemic gains of 2021 and continued to increase its program’s reach in 2022 by delivering programming to 30% more young people than in 2021.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 800 Total participants served; 270 Participants served at Charlie Yates Golf Course
• First Tee – Metro Atlanta awarded $63K in scholastic aid to graduating seniors
• 5 First Tee – Metro Atlanta alumni from Drew Charter School are on college golf team rosters

START:ME PROGRAM
Since its inception, Start:ME East Lake has graduated eight Cohorts with 145 total ventures. In the 2022 cohort, six of the participants were residents of The Villages of East Lake and four of the participants were Drew Charter School parents.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 18 entrepreneurs completed the program
• 52% of the participants were from low-to-moderate income households
• 76% of the businesses are minority-owned
• 67% of the businesses are woman-owned

EAST LAKE HEALTHY CONNECTIONS (ELHC)
In partnership with the East Lake Family YMCA, ELHC, ensures eligible families have access to health insurance, primary and preventive health care services, properly manage chronic diseases, and establish contact with accessible medical homes.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS
• 239 individuals were connected with health/ventilator homes
• 6,720 grocery bags provided to residents in need
• 57 individuals participated in mental health programming
• 28 individuals participated in one-on-one nutrition sessions on chronic disease management

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NEIGHBORHOOD Stories


KATRINA LEAKES
RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (RCSP) & SHelterING ARMS EAST LAKE

Katrina has been a resident at The Villages of East Lake (VOEL) for 10 years, regularly attending a variety of classes focused on career advancement and financial management. During her time at the Villages, she has worked several jobs, but couldn’t maintain steady employment because of the need to care for her small children. In 2022, Katrina was hired for an open receptionist position at Sheltering Arms East Lake. “This job is a perfect fit because I can bring my child to school and stay for work,” said Katrina. She continues to participate in financial classes with RCSP as she prepares to accomplish her next goal of home ownership.

ALBERT GRIFFITH
RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Albert Griffith, affectionately known as Mr. Carl, has lived in the Villages of East Lake for 17 years and loves his community. “What I love about the Resident & Community Support Program is the commitment of Jennifer and Tywonia. They do an outstanding job of keeping residents informed about events and opportunities in the community, and I enjoy participating in programs and going on field trips with my neighbors.”

ERIC MACK
START:ME EAST LAKE

Eric Mack’s East Lake residence is home to a sprawling nursery and pop-up shop with one of the city’s best selections of rare and unusual plants called the Kai Garden. For Mack, a renowned mixed-media artist, it started five years ago, when he planted a small patch of sweet potato vines and simple annuals like violas and petunias after the death of his stillborn son, Kai.

In 2021, his wife suggested he offload some plants to clear up space and cover the expenses of his new hobby, and his business took off. He recently finished Start:ME East Lake accelerator training and mentorship program and is upgrading his yard to keep up with demand. While his business is growing, “It’s not about the cash,” he says. “Just nurturing and taking care of plants, moving soil around and noticing what needs water or fertilizer that day reminds me that my son is here, that this garden is him.”

WILLIAM WESLEY
RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

William Wesley and family moved into VOEL in 2019. He and his wife thought it was the right place to reestablish themselves financially, get on stable footing, and enroll their two younger children in high-quality early learning programming. Wesley participated in the RCSP to prepare himself for employment opportunities and future home ownership.

Soon after, Wesley began working at Delta Community Credit Union, and his career took off. He expressed interest in leading their community development business and established a partnership with RCSP to bring new financial education resources to Villages residents. He was also able to allocate grant resources to the community. Recently, Wesley and his family purchased their first home.

Wesley says, “My life has come full circle. In just five years, I’ve gone from underemployed to teaching financial education. I have a beautiful home, stable income with health benefits, and my children are flourishing at Drew Charter School. Our family is not just surviving anymore, we’re thriving.”

THE EAST LAKE FOUNDATION
The Next Chapter

For nearly three decades, the Foundation has proven that working with residents and public and private partners, while providing equitable access to comprehensive programs and services, is transformative for the community.

In 2022, the Foundation brought back much of its cornerstone programming while continuing to provide critical assistance to our most vulnerable residents who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through powerful and impactful partnerships.

For the last three years, the world seemed to spin madly around us. The Foundation and its partners continue to rise to meet the demands of recent events and are looking forward to writing the Next Chapter of East Lake with you.

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.

Scan the QR code, or visit eastlakefoundation.org/annual-reports/2022/ for more information about our Donors, Partners, and Board of Directors.