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HOPE Atlanta and Action Ministries announce intent to merge

Atlanta, GA — Two of Metro Atlanta’s most well-established nonprofits dedicated to fighting homelessness and food insecurity announced today that they intend to merge to create a comprehensive solution to address growing homelessness and hunger issues.

“At a time like this, we need bold action,” said HOPE Atlanta CEO Jeffrey Smythe. “Both of our agencies are uniquely positioned to serve the marginalized. When we combine our resources and networks, we’ll be able to expand our services and not just mobilize our staff, but entire communities, to create lasting change.”

Both HOPE Atlanta and Action Ministries have seen the need for services grow drastically since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March. HOPE Atlanta, which provides 1-1 support and resources to people experiencing homelessness across 28 counties, has seen a 300% increase in calls for help over the past seven months.

Action Ministries, which provides hunger relief and housing programs for underserved families, reports an 800% increase in the need for food assistance. Before COVID-19, an estimated 13% of Georgia families were already food insecure.

“Homelessness and hunger often go hand in hand. With affordable housing in short supply, families have to make impossible sacrifices to cover rent,” said Action Ministries Chairman Adam Ogburn. “Now that the situation has grown more desperate for so many lower-income families, it’s the right time to formally join hands and maximize our impact.”

“With more than 177 years of collective experience helping vulnerable people, our combined organization is positioned to help Georgians through the worst crises in recent memory,” said HOPE Atlanta Board Chair David Zanaty. “We are excited about the strategic blend of our teams and services that will improve efficiencies and delivery of our mission.”

The combined organization expects to have an operating budget of about \$16.5M annually, cover 31 Georgia counties, and reach more than 11,000 households per year. Additional details will be released in 2021. The merger is expected to close in January.

HOPE Atlanta (formerly Travelers Aid), founded in 1900, is a nonprofit agency dedicated to preventing and fighting homelessness. Its mission is to provide a comprehensive approach to address homelessness and provide solutions that promote lifelong stability.

Action Ministries, founded in 1963, mobilizes communities to address the challenges of poverty by focusing on hunger relief and housing for children and families across Georgia.

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