



Westside  
Future Fund

# Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund  
Friday, September 6, 2019



# Agenda

7:15 – 7:20AM  
Welcome

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

7:20 – 7:35AM  
Opening Devotion

Dr. Leroy Wright, Jr.  
*Pastor*  
First Thessalonian Missionary  
Baptist Church

7:35 – 8:00AM  
Self Introductions

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

8:00 – 8:15AM  
Announcements

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

8:15 – 8:45AM  
Featured  
Presentation:  
Atlanta Area  
Council,  
Boy Scouts  
of America

Tracy Techau  
*Scout Executive/CEO*  
Atlanta Area Council

Deitra Crawley  
*Partner*  
Taylor English

Faye Hammond  
*Asst. Director of Field Service;  
Director of Scoutreach*  
Atlanta Area Council

Marcellus Walker  
*Ret. United States Air Force Officer  
Program Specialist*  
Scoutreach Program

Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk  
*Principal*  
M. Agnes Jones Elementary School

8:45 – 8:55AM  
Q&A

All

8:55 – 9:00AM  
Closing Remarks

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

9:00AM  
Meeting Adjourns

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# Our Speakers

## **Dr. Leroy Wright, Jr.**

*Pastor, First Thessalonian Missionary Baptist Church*

Dr. Leroy Wright, Jr. is the pastor of 1st Thessalonian Missionary Baptist Church whose vision is Empowered by God, to Embrace all people and Enhance the world. Dr. Leroy Wright, Jr., received his early education in Savannah, Georgia.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Morehouse College, and the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a psychoanalytic therapist, providing psychotherapy to individuals, couples and groups, certified Chaplain and a registered neutral (mediator) in the State of Georgia.

Dr. Wright served as Special Programs and Field Placement Coordinator and adjunct Professor at ITC. He has a wide variety of other work experiences. Previous capacities include Trinity Community Ministers as the Business Manager; Flair Vending Corporation as CEO; the Atlanta Police Department as a Patrolman; the United States Army as a Sergeant; Emory Center for Pastoral Services as a Chaplain; Georgia Association of Pastoral Care (currently Counseling, Care, Center of Georgia); Ben Hill United Methodist Church as a Pastoral Counselor; Wells of Wholeness as a Psychotherapist; and St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church as an Associate Minister.

Some of his organizational affiliations are: Member of the Fulton County Community Development Corporation Advisory Board; Past President, English Avenue/Vine City Ministerial Alliance; Former Member-American Association of Pastoral Counselors; Magic Toastmasters; and Charter Member, Afro-American Patrolman League, Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Wright is married (wife–Bettie) and is a father of two daughters (Erica & Andrea) and one son (David).

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## **Tracy Techau**

*Scout Executive/CEO, Atlanta Area Council*

Tracy Techau is the Scout Executive/CEO of the Atlanta Area Council; known for its high-quality programs, large summer camps and strong programs for youth. He is considered an expert within the Boy Scouts of America for the building of teams and partnerships. He is often asked to present on Board Recruiting and Development.

The Atlanta BSA staff is recognized as one of the very strongest in the BSA. Tracy has accumulated over 30 years in community leadership roles serving Scouting and career locations have included St. Paul, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Peoria, Cincinnati and now Atlanta, one of the largest BSA councils in the nation.

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## **Marcellus Walker**

*Ret. United States Air Force Officer Program Specialist, Scoutreach Program*

Marcellus Walker is a retired United States Air Force Officer who has been involved in Scouting for 15 years. His Scouting experience began when his grandson joined the Cub Scout program at his school. Marcellus became a fully trained and dedicated volunteer. He led den meetings and embraced the outdoor experience.

In 2012 Marcellus joined the Atlanta Area Council as a Program Specialist serving youth through the Scoutreach program. He is a skilled leader who engages both Scouts and parents to ensure the success of the program.

Marcellus has been married for forty-nine years. He and his wife Janice have five adult daughters and 3 grandsons. Xavier, the oldest grandson is an Eagle Scouts and the others are involved in Scouting, as well. In addition to working as a Program Specialist, he serves as the volunteer leader for their troop. He enjoys seeing the development and growth in Scouts and is proud of the fact that 6 of the 8 boys that started in Cub Scouts with his grandson achieved the rank of Eagle and are enrolled in college. He credits Scouting with developing and preparing them and emphatically states that “the scouting program works.”

# Our Speakers

## Deitra Crawley

*Partner, Taylor English*

Deitra Crawley represents corporate clients in regulatory matters, government contracts and other transactional issues in the U.S. and abroad. Ms. Crawley's regulatory practice includes corporate compliance, government contracts, international trade, data rights protections and certifications for small businesses and veteran-owned enterprises. She navigates Federal regulations, designs and implements custom-tailored compliance programs pursuant to various Federal compliance requirements including FCPA, OFAC, ITAR, EAR, and OFCCP, offers counsel to defense and other government contractors in all aspects of government contracting under FAR, DFARS, DCAA, and DCMA, advises clients in enforcement actions including FCPA, OFAC, U.S. Department of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforcement actions, performs compliance due diligence in mergers and acquisitions, and counsels foreign governments on domestic practices and laws.

Her practice focuses on domestic and foreign procurements, export controls, foreign military sales, foreign government regulations, bid protests, government audits and investigations, claims and appeals before administrative boards and agencies, and procurement fraud claims.

Prior to joining Taylor English, Ms. Crawley was general counsel for privately held corporations in the metro Washington, D.C., area where she managed compliance, advised in contract disputes, guided companies on a wide range of international trade matters and led negotiations with Lockheed Martin Corporation on behalf of her client resulting in a \$192 million merger.

Ms. Crawley then launched an international legal and business consulting firm in D.C., and later joined a government contracts and international trade boutique law firm in Huntsville, Alabama, that focused on defense industry clients. Her legal work encompassed matters in South Africa, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union and

Australia. Ms. Crawley's endeavors in South Africa, post-Apartheid, were particularly impactful in nation building and development. Sent by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), she trained South Africans on how to make progress in local democracy. Ms. Crawley was an integral part of a team that held training sessions for the men and women of South Africa, and managed peer exchanges with local governments, as well as city and county managers in the U.S.

Ms. Crawley builds teams consisting of U.S. business and investors and facilitates the in-country partnerships. In 2016, she organized a Cuba Opportunity Forum, where more than 50 Atlanta-area companies participated in dialogue on Cuba's needs and the opportunities for doing business in Cuba. She will lead an Atlanta-Cuba Direct Investment

Exchange, when key government officials in Cuba will continue the conversation with Atlanta-based businesses about cross-investment opportunities. A cornerstone of Ms. Crawley's practice is her ability to counsel businesses in the incubator phase in securing financing and obtaining U.S. and foreign government business partnerships.

Ms. Crawley has represented the environmental cleanup and liability interests of local governments and local communities before the Administration and Congress, particularly where base closures, nuclear sites closures and abandoned and Superfund sites exist. She has facilitated the convening of Local Redevelopment Authorities in EPA Regions 2, 4, and 6, and has served on a Local Redevelopment Authority in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Crawley has made presentations on government contracts, data rights protections and international trade to the National Contract Management Association, North Alabama International Trade Association, Global Ties Alabama, Auburn University College of Business and Alabama State University College of Business.

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## Faye Hammond

*Asst. Director of Field Service; Director of Scoutreach, Atlanta Area Council*

Faye Hammonds began her career with Boy Scouts in 2010 as a District Executive in the West Atlanta District. Previously she served in the United States Army for 8 years as a Military Intelligence Officer and in Corporate America for 14 years. Faye served as a volunteer in the West Atlanta District for over 14 years and has two Eagle Scout sons. In 2012 Faye was promoted to Scoutreach Director and in 2013 she assumed the additional responsibility of Field Director in the Atlanta Area Council. Faye currently serves as the Asst. Director of Field Service and Director of Scoutreach. In that role she manages 13 Program Specialists and provides oversight of the Scouting Outreach Program. She often states that she has had many career opportunities, but none as fulfilling and rewarding as her current role. She is committed to delivering quality programs to youth throughout the community and works diligently to ensure that she honors that commitment.

# Our Speakers

## Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk

*Principal, M. Agnes Jones Elementary School*

Margul Retha Woolfolk is the proud principal of the magnificent M. Agnes Jones Elementary School in the Atlanta Public Schools System. M. AGNES JONES is the FIRST and only GADOE STEM certified school in the Atlanta Public Schools System! AND NOW....the FIRST traditional GADOE STEAM certified school in the Atlanta Public Schools System!

She ensures high academic success for 580 Pre-K thru 5th grade urban students. Her mission is to provide a rigorous and high quality learning environment for students by affording scholars learning opportunities that promote critical thinking and the assurance of becoming college and career ready to successfully compete in a global society. She was awarded the Atlanta Public Schools Stellar Principal Award (May, 2016). Most recently, Dr. Woolfolk was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education for her visionary guidance and exceptional leadership in advancing STEM and STEAM education in Georgia Schools (October, 2018). Additionally, she serves on the board of directors for the Atlanta Girls on the Run.

Some of the initiatives Margul Retha has implemented while serving as the principal of M. Agnes Jones include:

- 1) Earning a Pre-K through fifth grade GADOE Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Certification as well as one in STE(A-arts)M for students who have traditionally been underserved and under exposed to the content areas and the arts in a practical and relevant way.
- 2) Earning several GADOE "Beating the Odds" awards for M. Agnes Jones.
- 3) Challenging Atlanta Public Schools' nutrition department to have a salad bar to expose students to healthy eating. M. Agnes was the first elementary school to obtain a salad bar and other schools followed this initiative.

- 4) Encouraging an Alpha Kappa Alpha Nu Lambda Omega asthma prevention program to help students who have chronic asthma to recognize the triggers and find ways to prevent asthma attacks.
- 5) Mentoring not only students at M. Agnes Jones but mentoring and providing professional development to students attending schools in the Atlanta University Center, including Spelman, Morehouse and Clark Atlanta University as well as Georgia State University.
- 6) Working tirelessly with West End Community groups to provide support and assistance to students and families, i.e. Choice Neighborhood, Atlanta Housing Authority, United Way, Atlanta Food Bank.
- 7) Serving as a part-time instructor at Georgia State University where real-world connections are embedded in teaching Literacy in the Content Areas.

Margul Retha is married to Ralph McKinley Woolfolk III. She has three adult sons and two granddaughters.

Margul Retha is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Nu Lambda Omega Chapter.

Margul Retha graduated with a B. A. in Economics from Spelman College and earned both a Masters and Specialist of Education degree with honors from Georgia State University. Additionally, she earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Language and Literacy at Georgia State University.



Transform Westside Summits are made possible through the generosity of the Chick-fil-A Foundation and The Gathering Spot



Westside  
Future Fund

## VISION

A community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

## MISSION

To advance a compassionate approach to neighborhood revitalization that creates a diverse, mixed-income community, improves the quality of life for current and future residents and elevates the Historic Westside's unique history and culture.

## VALUES

### **Do with the Community, not to the Community**

We know that residents are the real experts on the challenges in their community. Therefore, we learn from residents and involve them in all we do.

### **Be Compassionate**

We meet residents where they are in a spirit of empathy and respect.

### **Have Integrity in Everything**

We stand behind all we say and do. We are open, honest, and courageous.

### **Be Creative**

We bring high energy and fresh ideas to tackling the long-standing challenges on the Westside. We're dedicated to trying different approaches to get different results.

### **Deliver Results**

We're committed to driving transformation in the long term, with a focus on measurable outcomes today.



# Westside Future Fund

OUR VISION: A COMMUNITY DR. KING WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

Westside Future Fund is a nonprofit formed by Atlanta’s public, private and philanthropic partners who believe in the future of Atlanta’s Westside and are committed to helping Historic Westside neighborhoods revitalize and develop into a community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

English Avenue • Vine City • Ashview Heights\* • Atlanta University Center

## Community Retention

- We’re laser-focused on affordable housing.
- We risk losing residents as market forces take over as the area’s fortunes improve.
- We want current residents to remain in their beloved neighborhoods for years to come, even as market forces raise housing and rental prices as well as taxes.
- We’re raising funds as quickly as possible to buy real estate that will remain deeply affordable.
- So far, we have more than 300 units under control that will serve low-income residents, such as the working poor and seniors living on a fixed income, of which we are very proud.
- Much more is needed, we need everyone’s help.

## Role of the Westside Future Fund

With its grounding in community retention and its compassionate approach to revitalization, Westside Future Fund is focused on creating a diverse mixed-income community, improving quality of life, and elevating and celebrating the Historic Westside’s unique history and culture. We are driving a collective effort focused on our four impact strategies with many different impact partners.

## Impact Areas



SAFETY AND SECURITY



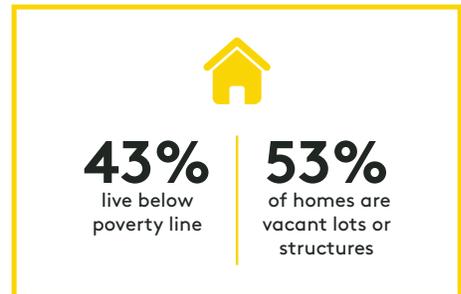
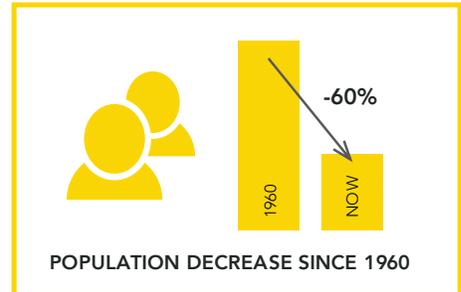
QUALITY, MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITIES (COMMUNITY RETENTION)



CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS



\* Just Us and Booker T. Washington

# Our Impact

In addition to amplifying and accelerating the work of our impact partners, we also advance our mission through the development and implementation of several plans, programs and initiatives, including:

### Anti-Displacement Tax Fund

An initiative that will pay qualifying homeowners' property tax increases in the English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center communities. The program is designed to help ensure that current homeowners are not displaced due to rising property taxes.

### Land-Use Framework Plan

A design and implementation strategy — created in partnership with the City's Department of Planning & Community Development — to revitalize the Westside, building on the good work and extensive community feedback put into previous plans by city officials, partners and community residents.

### Transform Westside Summit

Twice-monthly "town hall" meetings created to foster connection, collaboration and communication amongst community members around revitalization efforts.

### Westside Neighborhoods Beautification Project

Pilot job training and placement program designed to help Westside residents carve out career paths while cleaning up and beautifying our four target neighborhoods.

### Westside Volunteer Corps

Established to create opportunities for individuals from throughout Atlanta to join forces with Westside residents in the revitalization of the historic Westside. Through a variety of volunteer projects, the Corps works to strengthen community nonprofits and expand their impact with a consistent injection of human capital (i.e. volunteers).

### Westside Community Data Dashboard

Dedicated to identifying and understanding the needs and opportunities that exist in WFF's four target neighborhoods. Site offers a baseline of community conditions and trends over the past 15 years against which WFF will track future progress.

## How to Get Involved



### LEARN

Check out our website to learn more.

[westsidefuturefund.org](http://westsidefuturefund.org)



### ENGAGE

Attend a Transform Westside Summit or join our Westside Volunteer Corps.

[westsidefuturefund.org/volunteer-corps](http://westsidefuturefund.org/volunteer-corps)



### GIVE

Already convinced? Great! Donate to our efforts.

[westsidefuturefund.org/donate](http://westsidefuturefund.org/donate)



P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314  
(404) 793-2670  
[WestsideFutureFund.org](http://WestsideFutureFund.org)



[@westsidefuturefund](https://www.facebook.com/westsidefuturefund)



[@WFFAtlanta](https://twitter.com/WFFAtlanta)

# Progress from the Collective Effort

## RODNEY COOK, SR. PARK IN VINE CITY



Stone retaining walls shape three terraced pools at the corner of Thurmond St and Walnut St. The terraced pools will play an important role in managing and improving the stormwater that will be collected from the 150 acres around the 16-acre Cook Park site.



Granite walls under steel bridge over Cook Park's pond are currently being installed. When complete, park users will be able to walk in this area near the water.



Construction of Cook Park restroom building with viewing platform on roof is ongoing. Buildout of interior facilities is underway. Building is located adjacent to the playground and splash pad at Elm St and Joseph E. Boone Blvd.

## WESTSIDE VOLUNTEER CORPS CLEAN-UP IN ENGLISH AVENUE



On Saturday, August 24, forty-one students from Oglethorpe University volunteered with Westside Future Fund to participate in a community clean-up in English Avenue.

The clean-up was part of a university-wide day of service to kick-off the school year.

### SAVE THE DATE:

**Next Westside Volunteer Corps | Day of Service**

**Saturday, September 28th** – at Truly Living Well Farm to help the farm prepare for fall planting

For more information and additional volunteer opportunities, visit: [volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org](http://volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org)

# Progress from the Collective Effort



## PARK PRIDE

Park Pride, The Conservation Fund and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper are proud to announce that after nearly ten months of active construction, Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park is nearly complete! Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park is the latest addition to a series of parks we have built in partnership with the community throughout the Proctor Creek headwater neighborhoods over the past nine years. These parks reduce the impacts of severe stormwater flooding while transforming blighted lots into community assets. This park combines underground detention chambers, rain gardens and bioswales to capture an average of 3.5 million gallons of stormwater each year. Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park is transforming a vacant, fenced-off lot into an open, safe, and accessible greenspace for community use.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### MEALS ON WHEELS DOES HOME REPAIRS!

From small jobs to big projects, MOWA can help you live more comfortably and safely in your home.

*We have a program specifically for homeowners who reside within the Westside Tax Allocation District (English Avenue, Vine City and portions of Castleberry Hill).*

Contact us at [vcox@mowatl.org](mailto:vcox@mowatl.org) or 404-351-3889 to see if you are eligible.



## MEALS ON WHEELS ATLANTA (MOWA)

As we enter the fourth quarter of the year, Meals On Wheels Atlanta (MOWA) will continue to engage in home rehabilitation efforts on the Westside and surrounding neighborhoods. We will continually speak with our funding representatives about securing additional resources and collaborative opportunities to enhance the lives of seniors, veterans and other homeowners within the Westside community.

Recently an employee returned to MOWA from active duty in the Army, Joshua Rumohr. Prior to his deployment, Josh served as MOWA's Director of Neighborhood Senior Centers. In his new role as Senior Director of Veterans and Community Affairs, he will oversee all of MOWA's Veterans programs and engage with local community partners to expand current relationships and build new partnerships.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



The NETwork Georgia-Metro Atlanta Chapter presents the

## eSTEAM FAIR

For youth of all ages  
\*\*\*\*  
**Lunch provided!**  
**Giveaways while  
supplies last!**

**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

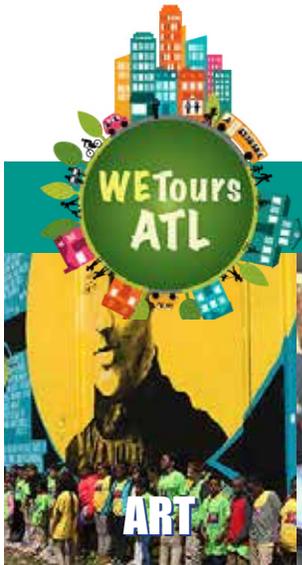
**10AM — 2PM**

Brown Middle School  
765 Peoples Street SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310



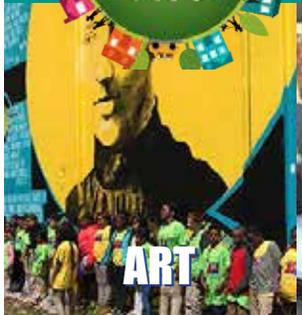
**REGISTER @ [HTTP://THENETWORKESTEAMFAIR-ATLANTA.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://thenetworkesteamfair-atlanta.eventbrite.com)**





# FREE Walking Tours

+ Plus Our Healthy Living Challenge



**Art Lives Here**  
Showcases rotating and permanent public art along the Atlanta BeltLine Westside Trail



**West End Lives Lived**  
Presents the rich history of people, places, and events that molded the West End



**Farms in Living Color**  
Visits urban gardens and the farmers market

**Access**  
To healthcare  
Health & wellness programming in partnership with



Take the WE3 Westside Walkers challenge FREE for qualifying individuals

- Assessment and consultation
- Monitoring wellness goals



Outdoor exercise events to achieve potential stress-free living

*To Book Online*

- FREE Tours Every Saturday
- FREE Customised Groups Tours for 10 or More People

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*Contact Us*  
We'd love to do a pre-tour presentation to your group!  
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# THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

-- Legacy Foundation --

## 1st Annual Bulldog Unity 5K/1Mile Race & Walk

### BULLDOG UNITY



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

### BENEFITS

- Provide Scholarships
- Educational Field Trips
- Uniforms
- College Visits
- SAT/ACT Test Prep

Your participation helps preserve the Booker T. Washington Legacy.

### THE RACE AND WALK

- USA Certified Track & Field Course
- Open to EVERYONE
- All Registrations are Final
- This is Rain or Shine Event

### BULLDOG UNITY



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(678) 743-1241 | WWW.BTWLEGACYFOUNDATION.ORG

# BULLDOG UNITY

CELEBRATING THE 95th ANNIVERSARY OF

# 95

September 21, 2019



5K/1 MILE RACE AND WALK

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Powered By:



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION  
PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE COMMUNITY

USATF Certified Course  
Chip Timing - Race T-Shirt  
Finisher Medal

REGISTER  
WWW.BTWLEGACYFOUNDATION.ORG



## SAVE THE DATE

OUR NEXT TEN YEARS...

HISTORIC WESTSIDE GARDEN CELEBRATES GROWING COMMUNITIES

IT TAKES GARDENS TO GROW A COMMUNITY!

OCTOBER 19, 2019, FROM 5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

HAGAR PALACE  
19 JOSEPH E. LOWERY BLVD NW 30314



ATL



When you shop @AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to Westside Future Fund!

GO TO

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-3015082>

OR

smile.amazon.com and SEARCH "Westside Future Fund"

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

*Thanks for your support and happy shopping!*



Westside Future Fund

### FREE SHUTTLE RIDES for TRANSFORM WESTSIDE SUMMIT ATTENDEES

Westside Future Fund is offering free transportation to and from the Transform Westside Summits via the Cute Shuttle.

The Cute Shuttle will make scheduled stops at these locations on every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month:

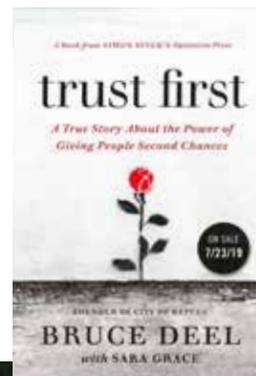
**At-Promise Center**  
740 Cameron Madison Alexander Blvd, NW

**Hollis Innovation Academy**  
225 James Brawley Drive, NW

Passenger pickups at these locations will occur every ten minutes between **6:50 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.**

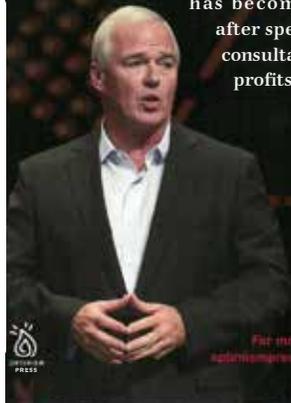
Passenger drop-offs from the Gathering Spot will occur every ten minutes between **9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

No registration is required to ride the shuttle. Simply show up at one of the two pickup locations for a ride. To contact Cute Shuttle, call: 470-231-9941



Over the past 20 years, Bruce Deel has helped over 20,000 people in the most dangerous zip code of Atlanta escape the cycle of homelessness, joblessness, and drug abuse. In these powerful true stories about the men and women who fell through the cracks in our social services system, he shows the power of radical trust to change lives.

Bruce Deel founded City of Refuge in 1997. He is the Senior Pastor of The Mission Church and a graduate of Lee University in Cleveland, TN. As a result of his experience and success, Bruce has become a highly sought after speaker and serves as a consultant to numerous non-profits around the country.



Bruce will donate a portion of his proceeds from **TRUST FIRST** to the charitable organization **City of Refuge**.

For more information, please contact [adam@cityofrefuge.com](mailto:adam@cityofrefuge.com)

### CONNECT WITH YOUR ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBER



**District 3 – Antonio Brown**  
Point of Contact: Thad Flowers  
tflowers  
@AtlantaGa.Gov

Phone #: (404) 330-6046



**District 4 – Cleta Winslow**  
Point of Contact: cwinslow  
@atlantaga.gov

Phone #: (404) 330-6047

# Creating the Beloved Community



The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

Martin Luther King, Jr. from "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," 1956

The coining of the term, "beloved community" is credited to Josiah Royce (1855–1916), a Harvard professor, theologian, and philosopher, who taught at Harvard from the 1880s to 1910s.

Josiah Royce deemed the beloved community the "principle of all principles" and spoke of the beloved community as an ideal, separate from ordinary life, a spiritual community where all those "fully dedicated to the cause of loyalty, truth, and reality itself" were joined. Speaking from a distinctly Christian perspective, he stated that religious communities at their core should embody "the mystery of loving membership in a community." This participation was enacted through deep loyalty to a personal cause that one serves with "all [one's] might and soul and strength."

Royce wrote, "Find your own cause, your interesting, fascinating, personally engrossing cause; serve it with all [one's] might and soul and strength; but so choose your cause and so serve it, that thereby you show forth your loyalty to loyalty, so that because of your choice and service to your cause, there is a maximum of increase of loyalty among your fellow [human beings]."

Since you cannot find the universal and beloved community, create it.

Josiah Royce (1913)

One of Royce's students in the 1890s was W.E.B. Du Bois, who arrived in Atlanta in 1897 to establish a sociology program at Atlanta University and develop the university's curriculum. It is possible W.E.B. Du Bois and others could have discussed the idea of the "beloved community" and its embodiment in the Atlanta University Center and Vine City neighborhoods as early as Du Bois' arrival in Atlanta. Since the late 1860s, white and black educators, black students, and working class white and black residents had been living in the historic Westside.

Dr. King's mentor, Howard Thurman, was also a student of Royce and colleague of W.E.B. Du Bois. He used the term "beloved community" as an inspirational lens "to perceive [in the world] a harmony that transcends all diversities and in which diversity finds its richness and significance." He broadened the concept from Royce's specifically Christian orientation and emphasized the importance of truly integrated communities beyond legal integration and emphasized the importance of a radically nonexclusionary community.

During Thurman's lifetime, the historic Westside served as a nerve center of civil rights activism even as the effects of legal segregation remained in the community.

Community cannot for long feed on itself. It can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters.

Howard Thurman 1971

Dr. King takes the thinking of Royce and Thurman forward with his belief that we can "actualize the Beloved Community." Walter Fluker writes that the "beloved community" is Dr. King's "single, organizing principle of [his] life and thought."

Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT  
IN MAKING THESE SUMMITS POSSIBLE:



P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314  
(404) 793-2670  
westsidefuturefund.org



*For bulletin ideas and comments, contact Elizabeth Wilkes at [elizabeth@westsidefuturefund.org](mailto:elizabeth@westsidefuturefund.org).*