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## NEWS RELEASE

### Westside Future Fund Launches Westside Volunteer Corps in Partnership with United Way of Greater Atlanta and Chick-fil-A Foundation

*Program kicks off with “Day of Service” on August 26 to connect hundreds of volunteers to Westside service projects in support of community revitalization efforts*

**ATLANTA – August 9, 2017- The Westside Future Fund** has announced the launch of its newest initiative, the **Westside Volunteer Corps (Corps)**, a year-round program to attract and mobilize volunteers—residents and non-residents, individuals and corporate groups—who are inspired to be part of the revitalization of Atlanta’s Historic Westside.

To date, more than 60 Westside non-profit agencies—ranging in size and focus area—have joined as partners of the Corps, which will recruit, train, match and deploy volunteers based on their individual skill sets, interests and availability.

Many longtime Westside nonprofits, such as Raising Expectations, a youth development organization that has been servicing the community for more than 13 years, are encouraged by the potential impact of the program and are eager to introduce their work to a new audience of supporters.

“Through our partnership with the Westside Volunteer Corps, we are excited to build bridges and connections that will directly impact the experiences our young people and their families have on the Westside,” said **Maria Armstrong, co-founder of Raising Expectations**. “We firmly believe that relationships are what changes lives, and we look forward to giving our city’s volunteers a chance to become part of our mission to help children realize the greatest versions of themselves.”

The Corps will officially kick-off Saturday, August 26 with a “Day of Service,” connecting hundreds of volunteers to service projects throughout the community.

“The beauty is that so many are joining forces to support creating a better quality of life for residents in Atlanta’s four historic Westside neighborhoods. To quote Vine City resident Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘everybody can be great, because anybody can serve,’ said **John Ahmann, executive director of the Westside Future Fund**. “Such an enthusiastic response advances both the goals and the spirit of the Westside Volunteer Corps.”

#### **A collaborative approach “The United Way”**

The Westside Volunteer Corps is part of Westside Future Fund’s collaborative impact approach to community revitalization, which revolves around cross-sector coordination.

The Westside Future Fund created the Corps in partnership with **United Way of Greater Atlanta** and the **Chick-fil-A Foundation**, also a founding sponsor.

Much of the immediate focus of the Corps’ volunteer efforts will be in the areas of education, housing and health and wellness, addressing some of the community’s most immediate needs and coinciding with the Westside Future Fund’s four impact areas—“college-to-career” education, mixed-income communities, community health and wellness, and safety and security.



“We know that communities can’t thrive unless children thrive, and no one agency or entity can create thriving communities alone. Through the Corps, we will bring our convening power and expertise in developing and implementing successful volunteer programs to scale. This corps will add more muscle to the wonderful work that is already underway,” said **Milton J. Little, Jr., President and CEO of United Way of Greater Atlanta.**

The volunteer efforts are also in alignment with United Way’s Child Well Being Index, the set of measures used to assess how children, the families that support them and the community that surrounds them are doing.

“While our Child Well-Being Index scores tell us that Westside neighborhoods need support, zip codes are not destiny,” Little continued. “Through the Westside Future Fund’s volunteer corps, we will ensure that we have babies born healthy, kids who read proficiently by 3rd grade and teens who graduate from high school ready for college—and that they are growing up in communities where people are educated, employed, healthy and housed. If you are passionate about our city and about building great communities across our city, we need you to do your part and join the resident volunteers to transform the Westside.”

### **A partner for good**

The Chick-fil-A Foundation (Foundation) is actively involved in the revitalization efforts of Atlanta’s Westside, working as a partner to many non-profit and civic groups doing good in the community. As founding sponsor of the Corps, the Foundation—whose mission is to help every child become all they were created to be—hopes to broaden the Westside’s base of support by inspiring more Atlantans to engage.

“Bringing about lasting change requires a true community effort,” said **Rodney Bullard, Vice President of Community Affairs for Chick-fil-A, Inc., and Executive Director of the Chick-fil-A Foundation.** “Through the Corps, we have the opportunity to unite as an Atlanta community and serve side-by-side with our Westside neighbors—it’s the Atlanta way. I hope you’ll join us at one of the volunteer projects on August 26 and show the children and families who call the Westside home that they aren’t alone. Let’s show them that Atlanta cares.”

Registration for the Westside Volunteer Corps is open now. The Corps will officially kick-off Saturday, August 26, with a “Day of Service,” which will deploy hundreds of volunteers to service projects throughout the community. To learn more about the Westside Volunteer Corps and its Day of Service, including how to get involved, visit [www.westsidefuturefund.org](http://www.westsidefuturefund.org) or contact Corps program manager Em Clarke at [volunteer@westsidefuturefund.org](mailto:volunteer@westsidefuturefund.org) or by phone at 404-527-3557.

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### **About Westside Future Fund**

The Westside Future Fund is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to reinvigorate community growth by coordinating and accelerating efforts to elevate the quality of life in Atlanta’s historic Westside neighborhoods. We do this by connecting resources with needs; convening the right people around the table; collaborating on strategies; and coordinating all of these efforts, which are vital to the Westside’s long-term success. The WFF was established in December 2014 by the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP), a coalition of top CEOs and leaders from Atlanta’s private sector, universities and nonprofits in partnership with Mayor Kasim Reed. For more information, visit [www.westsidefuturefund.org](http://www.westsidefuturefund.org).

### **About United Way of Greater Atlanta**

United Way of Greater Atlanta is one of the largest in the nation, and we focus on ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. We have a vision for a Greater Atlanta where all children, individuals, families and communities can thrive, and have babies born healthy, kids who read proficiently by 3rd grade and teens who graduate from high school ready for college and careers. We invest in more than 200 programs in 13 counties through the United Way Impact Fund and work with them to help children succeed in school, improve financial stability of families, provide affordable and accessible healthcare and end homelessness. For more information, visit [unitedwayatlanta.org](http://unitedwayatlanta.org).



**About the Chick-fil-A® Foundation**

The Chick-fil-A® Foundation is the corporate foundation of Chick-fil-A, Inc. A not-for-profit organization, the Foundation's purpose is to lead the company's commitment to support youth and education in Chick-fil-A's local communities. The Foundation's work is focused on developing and educating young people so they can build a positive legacy and become all they were created to be. For more information, visit [www.chick-fil-a-foundation.org](http://www.chick-fil-a-foundation.org).