



Dear Friends and Potential Supporters of The Clarkston Community Center,

The Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA) believes that the Clarkston Community Center is a unique and valuable resource to our agencies and to the community as a whole. The Clarkston Community Center plays an important role in the lives of many resettled refugees and is an asset worthy of support. We support the Clarkston Community Center in its efforts to raise funds for continuing operations and to expand its outreach and assistance to the community.

In 2016 alone, The Clarkston Community Center served more than 58,000 people through a wide variety of programs, classes, sports, arts, and special events. The current schedule includes:

- Classes for senior citizens, a population forgotten by many. Programming for seniors includes English as a second language, TaiChi, art instruction and the newest addition will be dance lessons.
- Summer camp serving over 82 children and after school programs. The new Dare2BAware program for high school students focuses on teaching about issues such as self-worth and bullying.
- A Food Pantry which serves anyone in need, a Food Co-op and a community garden. Many refugee families are able to raise their own vegetables and fruits at the Community gardens.
- Large meeting rooms where individuals, agencies, the City government, and CRSA are able to hold larger community meetings and activities which are too large for their own spaces. The Center hosted our vital class on teaching refugees how to advocate for themselves. The class reached over 100 people in 7 languages.
- Uhuru Drumming and Dancing classes every Saturday morning and Contra Dancing every Friday evening.

The 14 agencies which form the CRSA, including the Community Center, depend on each other to be able to offer more programs and support more refugees and immigrants. Without the services of the Clarkston Community Center we would not be able to offer as much to the refugees and immigrants we all serve. We all envision a future where every person who calls Georgia home is valued, respected, and able to build a successful life. The Community Center plays a large role in realizing this vision.



Sincerely,

Frances McBrayer, CRSA Chair and Sr. Director of Refugee Services, Catholic Charities Atlanta

Emily Laney, CRSA Vice-Chair and Director of Refugee & Immigration, Lutheran Services of GA

Paedia Mixon, CEO, New American Pathways

Brian Bollinger, Executive Director, Friends of Refugees

Luke Keller, Board of Directors, Lantern Project

Amy Pelissero, Head of School, Global Village Project

Victoria Huynh, Vice President, Center for Pan Asian Community Services

Joshua Sieweke, Atlanta Office Director, World Relief

Roberta Malavenda, Executive Director, CDF Action

Zane Blechner, Jewish Family and Career Services of Atlanta

Omar Shekhey, Executive Director, Somali American Community Center

J.D. McCrary, Executive Director, International Rescue Committee

David Schaefer, Director of Advocacy, Latin American Association