



SUMMER
2018

IMPACTreport

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE CHANGING LIVES

inside ↪

VOLUNTEER COUPLE
serves homeless neighbors

**MORE FAMILIES
NEED SHELTER NOW**

Summer Lunch
feeds 7,200
children a day

New website
makes MUST
more accessible



This is a gift from above

For many generations, the Ojibwa Indian people lived independent lives in the western woodlands of North America's Great Lakes. When they were conquered by European immigrants in the 1850s, however, the Ojibwa way of life was destroyed. The wave of devastation continues to sweep through their descendants.

Doug Bedell found himself a thousand miles from his tribe – homeless and addicted in Atlanta.

"I was sleeping under bridges and in cardboard boxes," Doug says. "My problem with alcohol was out of control. I drank my personal problems and anger with the U.S. government every day. I didn't have love in my life."

Doug finally found his way to MUST Ministries, where he was accepted into Permanent Supportive Housing and referred to the Good Samaritan Health Center for help with his serious medical issues.

More importantly, Doug met people who cared about him personally.

"MUST Ministries took me in off the streets and let me know that people do care for the homeless after all," Doug says. "I thank God for everything he has blessed me with: shelter, love, forgiveness and freedom. Every night is like a dream come true. I climb into bed and say, 'This is a gift from above!'"

"Thank you, MUST Ministries, for a transformation of life for this child of God!"

MUST Ministries is a nonprofit, faith-based organization helping people in your community break the cycle of poverty. MUST provides basic needs such as groceries, hot meals, housing, emergency shelter, employment services and clothing. All services are free and provided without regard to income, race or religious beliefs.

YOUR IMPACT *by the numbers*



1000

ALMOST 1,000
PIECES OF CLOTHING
DISTRIBUTED DAILY



219,450

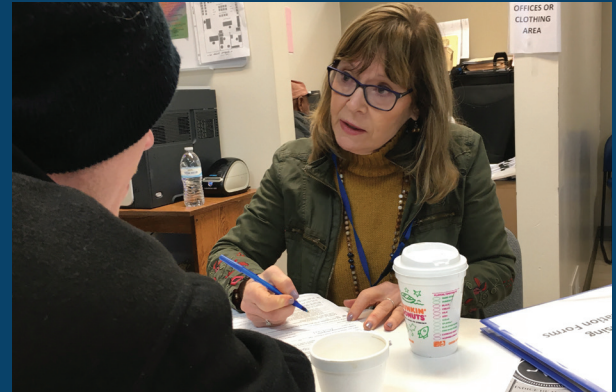
APPROXIMATELY 219,450
VOLUNTEER HOURS,
INCLUDING 63,000 AT THE
DONATION CENTER LAST
FISCAL YEAR

AN ESTIMATED 3,700
CLIENT JOBS
TOTALING A \$55
MILLION ECONOMIC
IMPACT SINCE 2012



3700

**Your own life-changing
experience is waiting
for you at
mustministries.org/be-help**



Volunteer couple serves homeless neighbors

It's been almost 30 years since Sandy Klingler saw the newspaper article on homelessness in Marietta – but it still moves her deeply. “People in Cobb County don’t realize how many people here are experiencing homelessness – or maybe people just don’t want to see it,” she says.

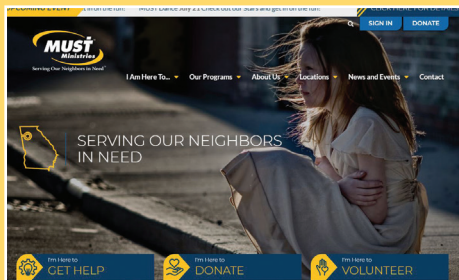
At the time, Sandy was a young mother who had a little free time to volunteer once her children started school. Now, as a retiree from a local church staff, she has even more freedom to serve her neighbors in need.

Her husband, John, shares her heart for others, and both have found a perfect outlet for their compassion at MUST’s Elizabeth Inn campus. John, who retired after 35 years with IBM, volunteers in Employment Services, helping MUST clients create resumes and search online for jobs. As an intake coordinator, Sandy helps new clients with the paperwork needed to access MUST’s housing services.

The personal interaction with people who are hurting and struggling means a lot to them. “You look someone in the eye and realize they are just like you and me,” Sandy says. John adds: We have made a lot of friends here. It’s important that we can call them by their first names, and they can do the same with us.”

Helping their neighbors in need find better lives also has changed Sandy and John’s lives. John jokes, “I wonder, if I enjoy it this much, am I really doing for others?” His wife adds: “This is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. It’s such a heart-warming experience, even if you just give someone a little hug.”





New website makes MUST more accessible

Better graphics, easier wayfinding, more client stories and clear messages all add up to information getting to you in a meaningful and concise way. The new MUST website is mobile friendly and full of inspiring testimonials and accomplishments. Don't miss it at www.mustministries.org!



MUST honored again for efficient financial management

MUST Ministries has received the top ranking four years in a row from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates MUST because it has been highly rated for "executing their missions in a fiscally responsible way while adhering to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities".

MORE FAMILIES

need shelter now.

When my fiancé lost his job, we lost our housing and I was pregnant with my fourth child. We came to MUST, but it was full. It was cold outside and the MUST winter weather shelter was open, so we stayed there for a few days," explained former client Faberge Williams.



"When we finally got in the shelter, we had to be split up because the one large family room was already taken," she said. Brandon, her fiancé, slept upstairs in the men's dorm and the family met for meals. It was a difficult time because it was cold outside and there was no place for the family to gather.

MUST is working hard to try to serve more families and hopes to have more family rooms in the future, but Faberge's story serves to underline the growing need. MUST is turning away 200-300 people a month because the shelter is full and 74 percent of them are women and children.

"For the first time ever, children are now our largest population unable to get into the shelter," according to Ike Reighard, President and CEO. "Nothing is more heartbreaking than telling children there is no place for them."

Like Faberge, many clients are working and doing everything to make a better life. They just need some help. She was in nursing school and working full time. Brandon had found a fulltime job and MUST found her childcare. Things began to get better.

"The staff never judged me because of my situation," she said. "They worked with us and even extended our stay a few days when we found an apartment available after our planned exit date."

Today, the family is together in an apartment. "We are current on our rent and utilities," she says proudly. Now with a baby boy, a little girl and two sons in elementary school, this family is stably housed and moving forward.



1407 Cobb Parkway North
P.O. Box 1717
Marietta, GA 30061
770-427-9862

For more information,
volunteer application
and a lists of needs:

www.mustministries.org

ARE YOU CONNECTED?



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARIETTA, GA
30061
PERMIT NO. 93



FOX 5 BROUGHT THE STORM CHASER VEHICLE AND ON AIR PERSONALITIES TO A CAMP FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN WHERE SUMMER LUNCH WAS SERVED. FOX 5 MADE AND DISTRIBUTED THE LUNCHES!



Meaningful stories from volunteers....

"One little girl ran to her house with her lunch and came right back with half of her sandwich. I asked her where she went and she told me she put the other half on her bed so she would have dinner. It broke my heart."

"As a child took the lunch from me, she told me she would save half for her mother so when she came home from work, she would have something to eat. How can this be happening in my community?"

"The children are always so thrilled to get a book on Fridays. They run to a shady tree and huddle around to read to the younger ones. It's so sweet. They can't believe they get to keep the books."

"Once I was on a delivery route and we were short one lunch. I felt horrible for the last child in the line and my heart sank. Suddenly, a child ran up with an extra sack lunch and said he had gotten one for his brother, but he already had one. Suddenly, we had just enough. Those God moments happen all of the time in this program."

"The children run to the van to get their meals every day and sometimes I get a flower or a note or even a colored picture. It always touches my heart."