

Living Past Christmas

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Living Past Christmas

A look into the challenges that youth experiencing homelessness or foster care face beyond the season of giving

Donating to a toy drive makes you feel good, but does it really help?

Eric Friedman, author of “Reinventing Philanthropy: A Framework for More Effective Giving,” said toy drives are a form of “emotional giving,” where donors give primarily to satisfy their own emotional needs instead of considering where their money would be the most effective.

While it is nice to donate to a toy drive – there is a greater impact to consider. Today, let's examine what's beyond Christmas?



— Should you —
donate toys?



Pros

- It makes kids smile
- Lets families focus on affording other needs
- Makes the donor feel good
- Can help connect recipients with other resources

Cons

- Does not address deeper poverty problems
- Can be “emotional giving,” that is focused making only donors feel good
- Recipients may feel helpless and embarrassed
- May increase donor’s “savior complex”



PARK PLACE OUTREACH, INC.



A House with a Heart

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HISTORY

Park Place Outreach, Inc., formerly Marshlands Foundation d.b.a. Savannah Runaway Home, is located at 514 East Henry Street in Savannah, Georgia. Park Place Outreach has served the Savannah community since 1984 providing emergency shelter, meals, and counseling to at-risk youth and their families. Park Place Outreach provides a safe, secure, and loving temporary home for children who are homeless, runaway, or victims of abuse, and also for youth in DFCS and DJJ custody as a preferable alternative to foster care or detention.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Park Place Outreach Youth Emergency Services is to provide services to at-risk youth and their families, increase functional level, and reunify families whenever possible.

4 PROGRAMS, 1 MISSION



The Park Place Outreach Youth Emergency Shelter provides temporary safe and secure housing, typically up to 3 weeks to youth ages 11-17. We serve youth who are runaways, homeless, victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and youth in crisis. We also receive referrals from the Division of Family and Children Services or the Department of Juvenile Justice.



Family Always Matters (F.A.M.) is a Family Preservation for Teens Program, located in the Dobransky Drop-in Center at Park Place Outreach. F.A.M. provides placement prevention services to youth between the ages of 11- 17. Our goal is for youth to remain safely in their homes to sustain and maintain family stability



The Mission: POSSIBLE Transitional Living Program at Park Place Outreach provides a stable and safe environment for homeless, runaway, and at-risk young men ages 16-21 while equipping them with tools for sustained independence and self-sufficiency.



The Street Outreach Program identifies and assists runaways, homeless, and street youth ages 11-21 in Chatham County. Our team works with the youth and local agencies to provide needed services



MISSION: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are volunteers appointed by the Chatham County Juvenile Court to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

VISION: Our vision is a community where every child who has experienced abuse or neglect is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

CHILDREN WITH A CASA ARE:

- **Twice as likely** to find a safe and permanent home
- **Half as likely** to re-enter foster care
- **More likely** to succeed in school
- **Receive more** services to address their family's needs
- **Less likely** to disrupt their foster placement

Today, there are
359 CHILDREN in foster care
in Chatham County.

82% are served by CASA

BECOMING A CASA



COMPLETE
30 hours
of training.



OBSERVE
10 hours
of court hearings.



BECOME
Sworn in
by our judges.

VISIT

[SAVANNAHCASA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://savannahcasa.org/volunteer)



Our goal is to move families from homelessness to independence and self-reliance. We believe that every person can effectively manage their own lives if given the appropriate community resources and support

Prevention - Homeless Assistance Prevention Program (HAP)

The best time to stop homelessness is BEFORE it happens. The Homeless Assistance Prevention program is a homeless prevention and diversion program. The goal of this program is to identify and coordinate a single point of entry for front-end homeless prevention. We work with households at-risk of becoming homeless. Implemented in January 2016 in collaboration with the City of Savannah, we have now expanded our program, with additional funding, to serve the tri-county area. This program helps change the future of at-risk households forever.

Emergency Shelter - Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Our "Interfaith Hospitality Network" Program offers shelter, meals, and support services to homeless families. Instead of sleeping on the streets, cars, or abandoned buildings, we provide warm, safe housing in local churches and congregations. This program is a cost-efficient, effective, and replicable community response to family homelessness. The seven basic components to a Network Program consist of: Host Congregations, Day Center, Intensive comprehensive case management, Transportation, Fundraising, Volunteers, and Community Partnerships

Stabilization - Promises Kept Aftercare Promise

We don't settle for just getting families off the street. Our mission is to make sure that families never have to experience homelessness again. Our stabilization programs are designed to grow, build and strengthen resilience, empower families and households, gain access to resources and build community trust. The Promises Kept is an aftercare housing stabilization which helps families obtain and maintain permanent housing. Through training and counseling, families build skills and assets to support self-sufficiency. Through empowerment and education, families are able to achieve the ultimate goal of not relapsing into homelessness. Housing stabilization is designed to help families exit homelessness and return to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

What is Poverty?

When you think about poverty, what do you imagine?



What is Poverty?



Poverty is more than homelessness.

- A large portion of those living in poverty are the working poor.
- Disproportionality single parent households – predominately women.
- Asset poverty – one paycheck away

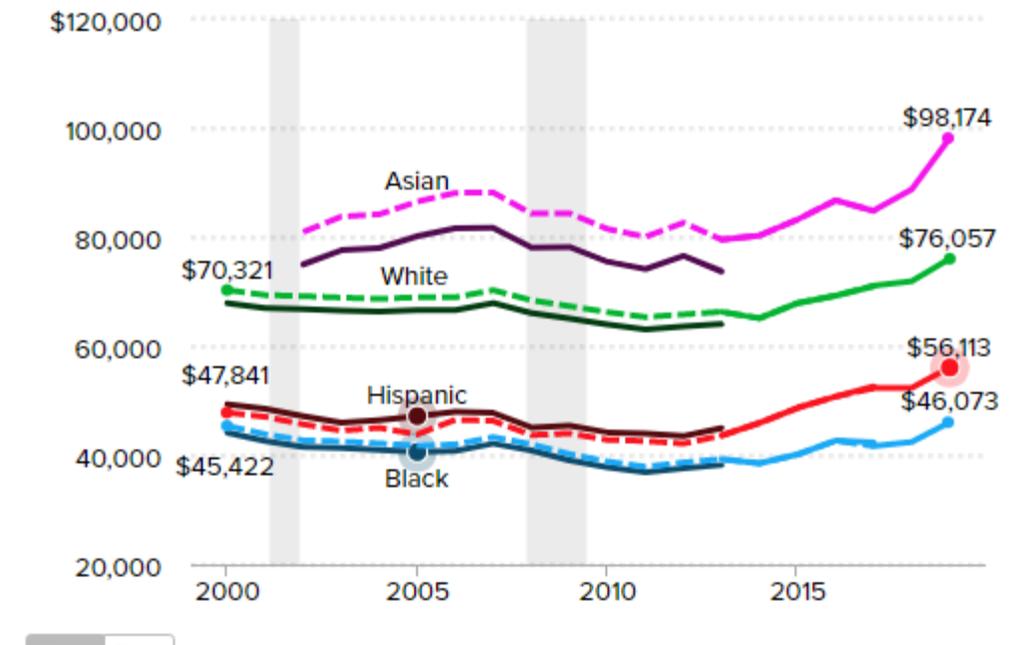
What is Poverty?

Causes of Poverty

- Systemic and structural racism
- Unbanked or underbanked
 - Predatory lending
- High housing costs
- Uninsured
- High unemployment rates
- Untreated mental health concerns
- Generational poverty
- High childcare costs
- Low wages

FIGURE A

Real median household income by race and ethnicity, 2000–2019



Poverty in Savannah

- 22.9% poverty rate
 - 31.9% of children under 5
 - 27.5% black, 33% Hispanic/Latino, 16.1% white
 - 31.8% no high school, 17% some college, 9% bachelor's degree
 - 25.6% female, 19.9% male

FIGURE B

Overall poverty rate and poverty rate of those under age 18, by race and ethnicity, 2013–2019

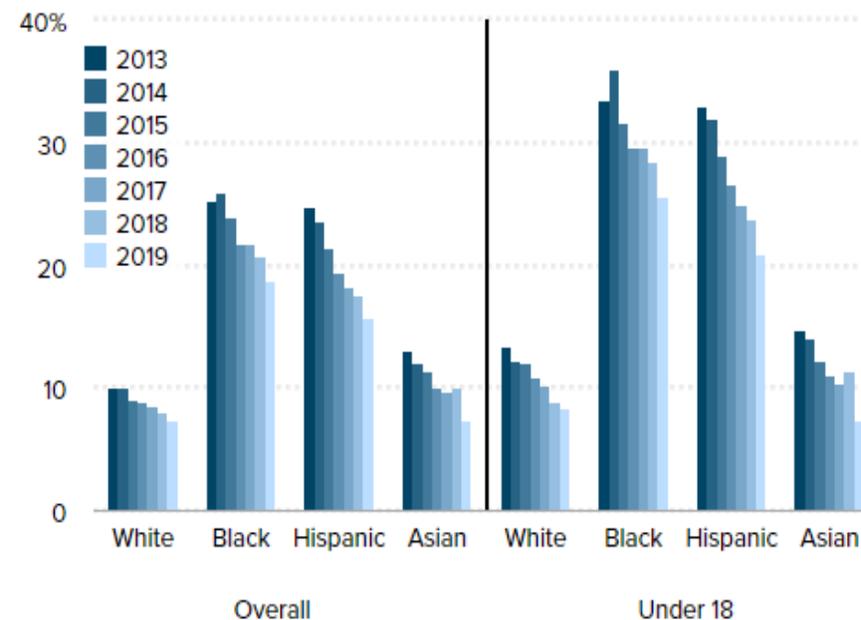


Chart Data

Note: White refers to non-Hispanic whites, black refers to blacks alone, Asian refers to Asians alone, and Hispanic refers to Hispanics of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement Historical Poverty Tables (Table 3)

Economic Policy Institute

* Unless otherwise noted, all statistics are pulled from the 5-year American Community Survey.

Poverty in Savannah

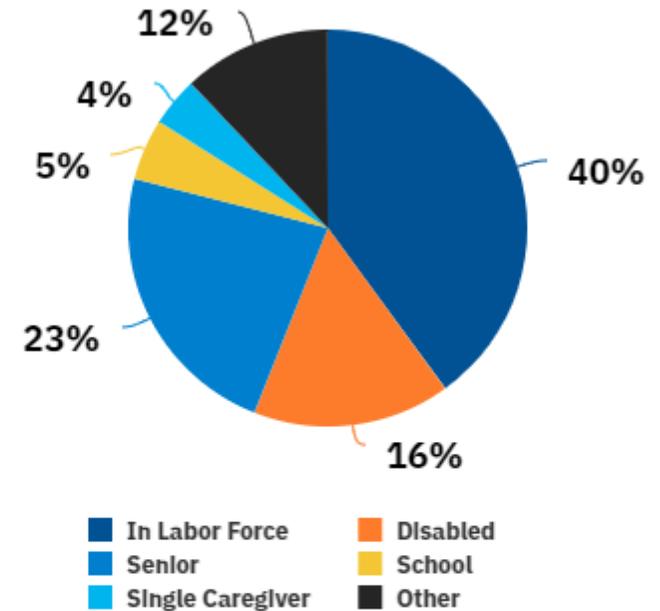
- Lack of savings

- 46.5% liquid asset poverty rate
- 35.5% asset poverty rate
- 22.8% underbanked

- Burdened by housing costs

- 57% of renters are spending more than 30% of their income on housing
 - 49.8% on state and national level
- 34.7% of home owners are spending more than 30% of their income on housing
 - 25% at state level, 27.7% at national level

EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Note: Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or a person with a disability, and other. Fifteen percent of extremely low income renter households include a single adult caregiver, more than half of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week. Eleven percent of extremely low-income renter households are enrolled in school, 48% of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week.

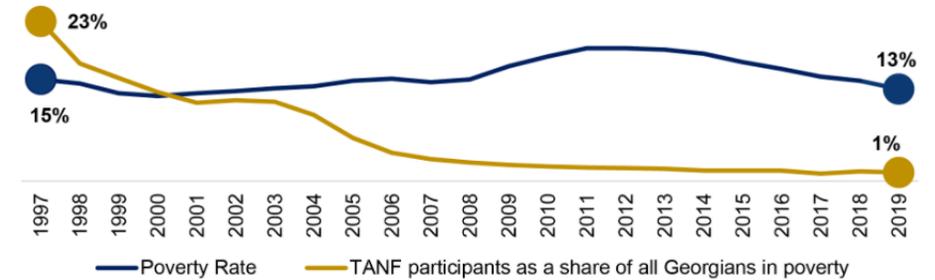
Source: 2018 ACS PUMS.

Public Assistance

- 19.7% households receiving food stamps/SNAP
 - 49.8% of female households (no spouse present)
 - 53.6% of those below poverty line
 - 46.4% of those at or above poverty line
 - 21.2% of no workers
 - 53% of those with 1 worker
 - 25.7% of those with 2 workers
 - Previously, those with drug felonies did not qualify
- Approximately 1% of families in Chatham County receive TANF.

Despite Stubborn Poverty Rates, TANF Does Not Meet the Need in Georgia

Poverty rates and TANF participants as a share of the entire population in poverty, 1997-2019



Source: GBPI analysis of data retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

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Fraud is Minimal.

- “The Welfare Queen” is rooted in racist ideology. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the labor force participation rate of Black mothers is 78 percent, surpassing that of mothers of other races, whose participation rates are at 66 percent.
- Although the term “welfare queen” has faced some criticism, the idea of rampant welfare fraud remains. In reality, fraud steadily decreased from about four cents on the dollar in 1993 to one cent by 2006.

Public Assistance

DFCS

- SNAP (food stamps)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child care subsidies (CAPS)
- Medicaid & Peachcare
- WIC
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Housing Authority <http://www.savannahpha.com/sect8.html>

- Public Housing (2 day opening on waiting list last time it opened.)
- Rental Assistance
 - Live in another State for at least 1 year, voucher then transfers



Poverty in a Pandemic

Black/Latinx parents disproportionately impacted by financial impact of the pandemic.

- 49.7% black parents and 62.2% Latinx parents lost jobs due to pandemic, compared with only 36.5% of non-Latinx white parents.

Referrals and reports of maltreatment and abuse of youth are down 40% compared with same period in 2019.

Policy Suggestions:

1. [Cash assistance to homeless youth without financial support of families](#)
2. Refine child maltreatment categories to distinguish and address poverty-related neglect from child endangerment or abuse.
3. Broaden the array of community-based supports and partner with families directly.
4. Create alternative pathways to enhance the ways in which mandated reporters can support families.
5. Expand the responsibility for child and family well-being beyond the child welfare system.
6. Expand sustainable solutions for homelessness prevention and increase federal and local funding.
7. Integrate best practices from virtual delivery to expand access to services, with a focus on racial and economic equity, as social needs providers and agencies transition back to in-person services.

Poverty in a Pandemic



What does it cost to live in Savannah?

- Median cost of rent is \$977

Child Care Costs are More than Half of Low-Income Family Budgets

The annual median family earnings of household headed by a single mom is \$27,655, or **\$2,304.58 monthly**



Source: GBPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau and Child Care Aware of America data.

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MONTHLY COSTS

1 adult *and* 2 children
Savannah metro area

1 adult *and* 3 children
Savannah metro area

🏠 HOUSING	\$1,063	\$1,453
🍽️ FOOD	\$586	\$782
👶 CHILD CARE	\$989	\$1,103
🚗 TRANSPORTATION	\$978	\$1,031
🏥 HEALTH CARE	\$639	\$802
🛒 OTHER NECESSITIES	\$665	\$902
🔄 TAXES	\$809	\$1,167
Monthly Total	\$5,729	\$7,239
Annual Total	<u>\$68,753</u>	<u>\$86,873</u>

<https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

Poverty at the Family Level

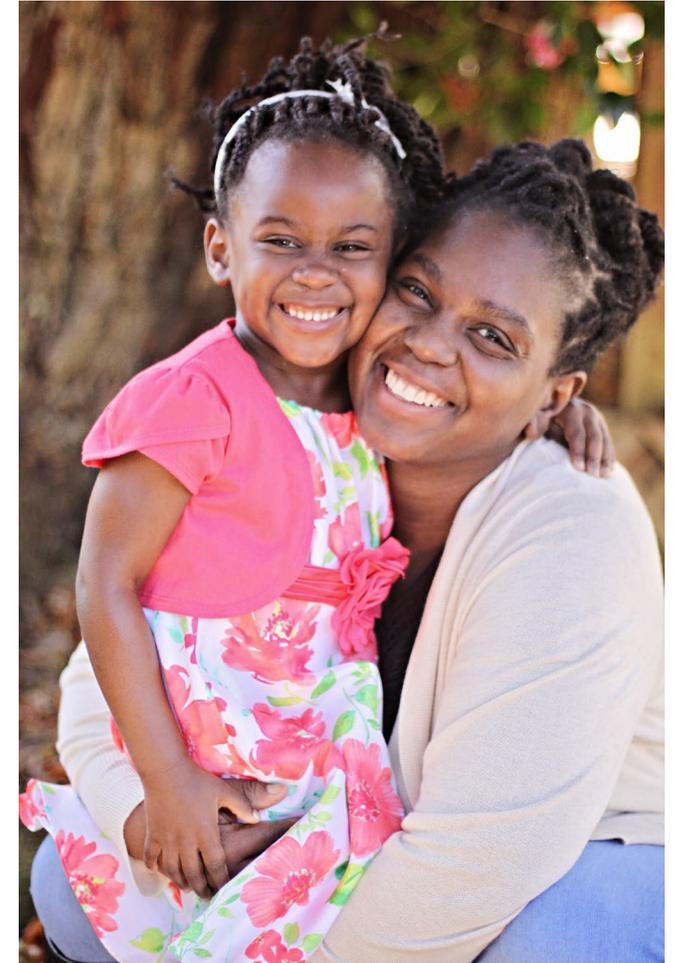
Case Study

- Doritha Greene
 - Grew up in foster care, no stable family (generational poverty) – No CASA 😞
 - Family of 5
 - High school graduate, some college
 - Domestic violence victim
 - Lack of insurance
 - Struggle

MONTHLY COSTS

1 adult *and* 4 children
Savannah metro area

🏠 HOUSING	\$1,453
🍽️ FOOD	\$957
👶 CHILD CARE	\$1,103
🚗 TRANSPORTATION	\$1,062
🏥 HEALTH CARE	\$964
💰 OTHER NECESSITIES	\$972
💵 TAXES	\$1,187
Monthly Total	\$7,700
Annual Total	<u>\$92,396</u>



Supporting Our Families Experiencing Poverty



What is it like trying to stay alive in a stormy sea?

- Educate yourself on the stresses of poverty
 - The “Bandwidth Tax”
 - An involuntary preoccupation with an unmet need, such as a shortage of money or time, can capture our attention and impede our ability to focus on other things.
 - A fixation on scarcity taxes our cognitive capacity and executive control, thus diminishing intelligence and impulse control, among other things.

Supporting Our Families Experiencing Poverty



- Educate yourself on the stresses of poverty
- Acknowledge the system is broken and work to change it through advocacy
- Fight any bias you have that look at poverty as an issue of morality
- Educate your family and friends on the cause of these issues
- Change the way you speak about poverty
- Donate unrestricted funds directly to organizations addressing the root causes of poverty

The 'My Child' Test



Learn More

- <https://gbpi.org/>
- <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/>
- <https://prosperitynow.org/>
- <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>
- <https://spotlightonpoverty.org/states/georgia/>
- <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>
- <https://www.amazon.com/ScarcityScienceHavingDefinesLives/dp/125005611X>
- <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/sendhil/files/scientificamericanmind011458.pdf>
- [Add some books](#)
- <https://chapinhall.org/impact-areas/>



Thank You.