



## Atlanta Regional Housing Forum

### ***HOW COMMUNITY MATTERS: The Nexus of Education, Communities & Housing***

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**(New Location)** St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 435 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA

- 9:00 a.m.      **Registration**
- 9:30 a.m.      **Welcome & Introductions**  
Bill Bolling, Atlanta Community Food Bank
- 9:35 a.m.      **Setting up the Discussion**  
**Dr. Cynthia Kuhlman**, Director of Educational Achievement, Cousins Foundation, Inc.  
With more than 30 years of experience with Atlanta Public Schools and her direct role in building successful community collaborations to support schools, Dr. Kuhlman will provide a frame of the larger issue for discussion.
- Margaret "Marjy" Stagmeier**, President, TI Asset Management  
Ms. Stagmeier is an industry leader with more than 25 years of experience in property and asset/portfolio management. She will provide an example of her direct partnership experience with a metro Atlanta elementary school.
- 10:00 a.m.      **Local Response** – The balance of the program will be dedicated to an interactive dialogue among keynote speakers and Forum attendees.
- 11:45 a.m.      **Adjourn**

The academic achievement gap between poor and non-poor students is well-known. Low-income children consistently fall behind their peers in test scores, graduation rates, college enrollment, and other measures of academic success. In many cases, low- and moderate-income families cannot afford to live near high-performing, high-scoring schools. A growing body of examples demonstrates that building partnerships between schools, families, affordable housing stakeholders and community organizations can reconnect schools to their communities and improve educational achievements for young people.

Increase in partnerships between schools, families, and community organizations help to develop targeted educational programs and supports and increase access to services and opportunities to ensure that children succeed in school and are prepared for adult success. Likewise, partnerships have the opportunity to change traditional paradigms and improve school systems; in tough neighborhoods, and especially in large urban areas, schools can become disconnected from other assets, isolated from community leadership and concerns, and fragmented in their approach to young people's development. Moreover, besides for directly affecting the lives of individuals and families, young people's educational success is important to the economic success of neighborhoods and cities.

The next Regional Housing Forum takes up the question of how these partnerships can improve educational success of our region's students and ultimately the long-term health and viability of our regional neighborhoods. What role do various community stakeholders have in fostering these partnership, including, apartment building owners, developers, school board officials, non-profit organizations, and many others. What are models that we can we look to in our region and other cities that have successfully used significant community partnership to improve education?

**Please bring canned or nonperishable food items for donation to Atlanta Community Food Bank!**  
**Register for the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum now: [www.AtlantaRegionalHousing.org/forum](http://www.AtlantaRegionalHousing.org/forum)**