

About 3Keys, Inc.

3Keys, Inc. (formerly Project Interconnections, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to develop and manage affordable permanent housing with on-site supportive services for adults facing the challenges of mental illness and homelessness. The innovative housing combines shelter, support and services for our residents. Our program enables the homeless to achieve dignity and self-sufficiency while living with and treating their mental illness. At 3Keys, we believe that, for the mentally-ill homeless among us, hope begins with housing. 3Keys currently houses 477 individuals in six residential communities located in Fulton and DeKalb counties.

3Keys was organized in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1988 by private citizens. It began with a mother's desire to provide housing and supportive services to help her son live with his mental illness, without living his life on the streets. Together with her friends, they appealed to top civic and business leaders whose lives and loved ones were affected by mental illness. Rosalynn Carter hosted the first gathering of these leaders at The Carter Center, and by the end of the evening, had committed herself to developing a model of excellence in Atlanta. Together they launched Project Interconnections, Inc.

The resident base is predominantly male and diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression and other mental illnesses. Each project serves a different level of need within the community to whom we offer housing - thus, each project offers a different level of service. Some offer on-site assistance while others offer referrals to off-site services. Each project is designed to meet specific needs of the residents with compassion and dignity.

In 1990 we opened our first facility, **Phoenix House**, consisting of 48 units. This project was expanded with an additional 21 units in 1998. Residents pay 30% of their personal income toward rent and Shelter Plus Care pays the difference. On site services are provided by Community Friendship Inc. ("CFI") whose work is supported by Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities ("DBHDD").

O'Hern House, a converted shoe factory, opened in 1993 as an SRO to house 76 residents with severe mental illness issues. The facility includes an industrial kitchen that is used to train residents in meal preparation and provides three meals a day. CFI is the service provider and receives funding from DBHDD. The residents are referred from hospitals and shelters and generally have no income and have not consistently received supportive services nor case management services in many years if ever. On site services include, but are not limited to, case management, employment assistance, medication monitoring and assistance with daily living skills. Combining funds from the Permanent Supportive Housing Program, through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, O'Hern House has undergone a \$3.0 million renovation. All 76 residents now enjoy completely updated, energy efficient rooms, dining area, library, common areas, office space and a renovated garden / outdoor area.

Presley Woods, a 40 unit apartment project, serves low income individuals most of whom have mentally illness and/ or addictive disease disorders. Residents' need for supportive services are less intense. They pay 30% of their income in rent and the balance is paid through Section 8 certificates and through the Shelter Plus Care program. CFI provides on site services funded by DBHDD. Thanks to a grant from The Federal Home Loan Bank, in 2012, 3Keys completed a \$1 million dollar rehabilitation of Presley Woods late last summer. 3Keys also received a grant from Invest Atlanta, which was used to purchase new furniture for all 40 units, as well as new furniture for the reading and TV room and lobby area.

Our most recently completed project, **Rosalynn Apartments** opened its doors in 2000. This project, named for our honorary chair - former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, contains 56 efficiency units. Funding for the project came from City of Atlanta HOPWA, State Department of Community Affairs HOME and Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless. Rental assistance is provided through Shelter Plus Care and DeKalb County Section 8. Supportive services on site are provided by CFI. The resident base is somewhat independent. Many have jobs and are able to drive.

With four facilities already under management and a strong track record in the permanent supporting housing field, Enterprise Community Investment and local leaders approached the organization to take over management of a fifth facility in downtown Atlanta – the 209-unit Welcome House. 3Keys has established a new relationship with Action Ministries Inc. to provide case management services and meet the needs of Welcome House residents.

3Keys' newest programs, Bridges to Housing and A Way Home, consists of 27 units of scattered site housing using the Housing First program that places chronically homeless men and women into permanent supportive housing regardless of their medication compliance or sobriety.

With the addition of Welcome House and the Bridges to Housing program, the organization now operates seven supportive housing facilities in the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County, for a total of **477 affordable housing units**.

3Keys is now one of the largest nonprofit providers of permanent supportive housing in the southeastern United States.