

# GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learn

Serve

Grow



## Spotlight: Value of Landscaping

In 2009, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) in Central Fulton partnered with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity (AHH). AHH realized that its house leaders (the people who lead volunteers in the construction the houses) did not possess the skills to complete the landscapes. Therefore, AHH approached MGEVs to lead this project, recognizing that MGEVs are skilled educators and supervisors.

Each AHH home has landscaping installed as part of the house construction, and MGEVs oversee this process. MGEV responsibilities include conducting a site analysis and selecting plants appropriate for the site. On the workday, MGEVs educate and direct volunteers by explaining appropriate methods of planting trees, shrubs, perennials, and sod. They also teach the new homeowner to properly maintain the landscape surrounding their new home.

With MGEV help, this project fully benefits the new homeowner and family. MGEVs make sure that the homeowner knows how and when to water the plants, trees, and sod. A sketch of the landscape that identifies all the plants, trees, and type of grass is left with homeowner. MGEVs also provide written material on the care of the landscape, including a link to the UGA CAES website for access to more information. Finally, MGEVs offer follow-up visits to provide further support.

Fulton County Commissioner Joan Garner presented a plaque to Central Fulton MGEVs at the completion of house #100, and AHH presented a plaque at house #200. One MGEV has been inducted five times into AHH's Century Club that recognizes more than 100 hours of service and is recognized at AHH's annual award event.

Through participation in Habitat for Humanity, MGEVs have improved their skills in planning and supervision. Most importantly, MGEVs witness the joy of the homeowner accepting keys to a brand-new house.

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity  
Atlanta, GA  
East Point, GA  
Served by MGEVs from Fulton County



### 2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 695  
Landscape installations at 230  
houses since 2009

*Special thanks to MGEVs working with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity!*

As a result of MGEV involvement, new homeowners have an attractive landscape and are equipped with the knowledge to maintain it. MGEVs have made a valuable contribution to the improvement and greening of neighborhoods in Atlanta and East Point.



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.