

Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency (ACSS) FAQ's

Q: Why the merger between AEC and SH to become ACSS?

A: The [Atlanta Enterprise Center](#) and [Samaritan House of Atlanta](#) organizations merged to become the Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency (ACSS) to deliver a bigger, stronger and more sustainable impact to the people we serve in the Atlanta community. By combining the resources and the talents of both organizations, the merger benefits include:

- Enhanced services and delivery systems
- Advanced programming and educational training
- Reduced costs and duplication of services, streamlined operations
- Attracting more financial and community support for growth

Q: When will the merger be finalized?

A: The merger was legally formed on May 1, 2010. However, we expect the transition process to take several months to complete.

Q: What is the vision for the new ACSS organization?

A: By 2015, the Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency will be recognized as the go-to resource for enabling homeless and near-homeless people to transform their lives through sustainable employment and income. ACSS programs will deliver measurable, sustainable results, through best practices and strong partnerships spanning the corporate sector, government and the community. Our Board and volunteers will be committed community leaders who build strong relationships and influence policy; our staff will mission-driven and outstanding. We will be financially strong and sustainable, with diverse philanthropic and earned income sources.

Q: What will the new ACSS organization look like?

A: The new ACSS organization is still under development at this time. We will share information with you as the plans are finalized through the process over the next few months.

Q: How will the merger affect me?

A: The merger will not change the core mission of our work – to transform lives by helping homeless men and women achieve self sufficiency. As with any new organization, there will be changes. We will share changes as plans are finalized through the process over the next few months.

Q: How will the merger affect others?

- the ones we serve – the homeless and near homeless
- community
- business

- donors, et al.

A: The goal of the merger is to provide better and more effective programs and services for the ones we serve in Atlanta – the homeless and near homeless. We also expect that community, business and financial support will be even stronger with the merger.

Q: Who are the key team members of ACSS?

A: The President/CEO of ACSS is [Charles R. Edwards](#). As a strong business leader in the Atlanta community, Mr. Edwards previously served as assistant dean for corporate relations at Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business, as well as chief marketing officer of the 1996 Paralympics Organizing Committee.

Other ACSS key staff include Dana Inman Johnson (former Director of Development & Marketing, SH), Otis Hillsman (former Associate Director, AEC), and Harold Leffall (General Manager, Clean Street Team).

Q: How will the programs and services change with the ACSS merger?

A: The new ACSS organization will take the best of both the AEC and SH organizations and enhance programs and services for the people we serve in the Atlanta community. For example, you will see larger and more comprehensive employment services...to include robust assessments, education/career oriented training, entrepreneurship, and long-term case management.

Q: How will I find out more about what's going on with the ACSS merger?

A: We will provide e-mail updates as new information becomes available. [Click here to sign up to receive our e-communications.](#)

Q: How can I help?

A: Get involved, share your ideas, volunteer, provide financial support, and donate your time and in-kind products and services.

Q: How can I get more information?

A: You can contact us via email at info@samhouse.org or by phone at (404) 523-1239 or (404) 874-8001.