



### The Program

Odyssey III has carefully crafted a complete program for addressing the needs and concerns of area homeless citizenry. Beginning with a competent staff of professionals, residents are offered the following services to assist them on "the journey" from homelessness to permanent housing and self sufficiency:

- ◆ Case Management and Referral Services
- ◆ Food Stamps through the Department Family and Children Service
- ◆ Safe Haven Transitional Housing
- ◆ Workforce Counseling, Placement, and Follow-up
- ◆ Job Training
- ◆ Job Placement
- ◆ Job Housing
- ◆ Access to area Social Service Agencies
- ◆ Substance Abuse Counseling
- ◆ Helping Hands Day Service Center
- ◆ Overnight Shelter
- ◆ Clothing Closet

**Odyssey III**  
276 Decatur Street,  
Atlanta, GA 30312

### Mission Statement

The mission of Community Concerns, Inc. is to provide a comprehensive, holistic approach to serving the needs of homeless people in metro Atlanta.

**Become a partner** in this effort by making a generous contribution to Community Concerns, Inc. for *Odyssey III*:

Please send me more information about your program.

I would like to volunteer my time; please contact me.

I am enclosing my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ticket Information for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ministry Celebration**

\$35 each ticket \_\_\_\_\_

\$350 for table of 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Please sent me sponsorship information \_\_\_\_\_

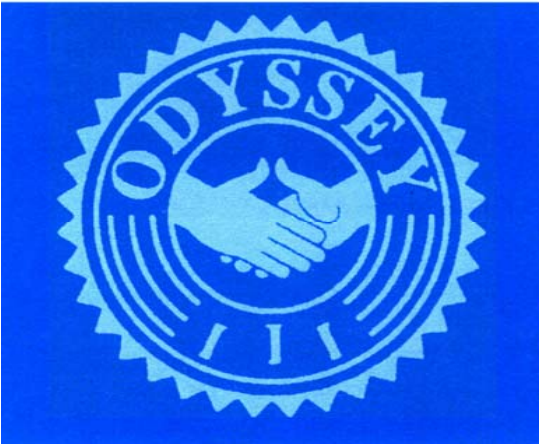
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES: Business ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and mail to: Odyssey III, 276 Decatur Street, Atlanta, GA 30312. Phone: (404) 659-3390 \* Fax (404) 659-2108



# ★ O D Y S S E Y ★ OUTLOOK

## J. ALLEN MILNER THIRTY-YEAR MINISTRY CELEBRATED WITH AWARDS LUNCHEON AND INSPIRATIONAL MUSICAL

### About Odyssey III *The journey toward a better life!*

*Odyssey III is one of the programs of Community Concerns, Inc. The organization's name is derived from the name of the Greek character Odysseus. Odysseus and his crew, according to Greek mythology, struggled and traveled for 10 years after the Trojan War before returning to the comfort and security of their homes. Their trials and adventures are recalled in the epic poem, "The Odyssey."*

*For homeless individuals, unfortunately, the struggle is hardly a myth - it is a reality in which everyday occurrences that most people take for granted are the real-life adventures. Eating a hot meal, sleeping in a safe, clean bed or finding understanding counselors, job training and employment are just a few of the trials facing homeless people daily. But, there is hope at Odyssey III with its holistic approach to homelessness.*

Community Concerns, Inc. (CCI) the parent organization of Odyssey III, which was birthed from the church ministry of Dr. J. Allen Milner, will recognize Dr. Milner's 30-year milestone of ministry and community leadership during a weekend of celebration to be held November 18-19, 2006. The Honorable Mayor Shirley Franklin and the Honorable Ambassador Andrew Young are serving as Co-Chairs.

On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., there will be a community-wide luncheon with presentations of the "Tedious Journey Award" to a distinguished group of recipients who have significantly impacted the development and success of Dr. Milner's ministry of service to the homeless in Atlanta through Odyssey III. The luncheon will be held at The Loudermilk Center, 40 Courtland Avenue, NE, Atlanta. Invited awardees will include: Mr. Terry Ball, former Special Assis-

tant to the Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs; The Reverend Joseph E. Boone (posthumous), civil rights organizer and community activist; The Reverend Doctor Joseph E. Lowery, president emeritus, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and chair of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda; the Honorable Michael L. Thurmond, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Labor; and Mr. S. Shariq Yosufzai, President of Global Marketing for ChevronTexaco. Mayor Shirley Franklin will also present an award to Dr. Milner for his years of community service to the homeless and his contributions to the City of Atlanta as Convener for the Mayor's Faith-Based Roundtable. Proceeds From the luncheon will benefit CCI. Then, on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., CCI will host its Seventh Annual Concert for Community Concerns, Inc. as the culminating tribute to Dr. Milner featuring recording artist *Soulace*, Tere'sa, and Terry Walker and Friends at



Dr. Joseph Lowery



Comm. Michael Thurmond



Mr. Shariq Yosufzai

the Chapel of Christian Love Baptist Church, 875 Cascade Avenue, SW, Atlanta. Luncheon tickets may be purchased for \$35 each through CCI at 276 Decatur Street, Atlanta (see page 4 for ticket information). The musical is free and open to the public. For additional information call 404-659-3390.

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### REV. BOONE TO RECEIVE POSTHUMOUS "TEDIOUS JOURNEY AWARD"

Rev. Joseph E. Boone will be remembered posthumously with the "Tedious Journey" Award on November 18, 2006 at The Loudermilk Center as Community Concerns hosts the celebration of Dr. J. Allen Milner's 30-Years in ministry. Dr. Milner commented, "Rev. Boone opened the doors of the P.J. Woods Center for the Blind in order for me to conduct worship services during the first year of existence for the Chapel of Christian Love Missionary Baptist Church. The Chapel has championed the cause of the poor and marginalized of our city for almost 31 years now. We are truly grateful for the life and legacy of Rev. Joseph E. Boone."

Colleagues and contemporaries remembered Rev. Joseph E. Boone in August 2006 at Jackson Memorial Baptist Church following his surrender to Alzheimer's disease at the age of 83. The unsung hero was remembered as a civil rights champion and as the central organizer of the Atlanta Civil Rights Movement of the early 1960s. In January 2006, Rev. Boone was among inductees to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the National Park Service's Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

## Board of Directors

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I take great joy in reporting to you the marvelous things that are going on at Odyssey III in our mission and service to the homeless citizens of Atlanta. Our programs are operating at optimum service; people are being fed, housed, clothed, counseled and encouraged in skill sets. They are also finding job placements and many of our clients are moving along the journey toward a better life.

Our accountants and auditors recently gave us a better than clean bill of health, which gives us reason to applaud the manner in which we have been stewards of the funding and donations from our mission partners and supporters in this enterprise. Of the 1.2 million dollars entrusted to us, the audit reflected the fact that approximately 90% of these dollars go to direct services and only 10% for administration.

I want to make a point of personal reference regarding my completion of the requirements that earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) on May 13, 2006. I am indeed grateful for that achievement, which represents many hours of study, application and commitment to enhancing our academic profile toward the delivery of greater services to those who suffer with chronic mental illnesses. The doctoral dissertation is entitled, *Intervening on Behalf of the Mentally Ill who are Experiencing Homelessness*.

We are soliciting your prayers for our efforts to develop permanent housing with supportive services. This will enable us to transition the chronically homeless to a more permanent living situation and attach supportive services at the level that is needed to keep those persons in housing that is stable and enduring.

As always, I thank you for all you do to insure the continued success of our mission at Odyssey III.



Rev. Dr. J. Allen Milner

Sincerely  
 Rev. Dr. J. Allen Milner

## CCI WEBSITE: A NEW RESOURCE

In an ongoing effort to create opportunity for you to know more about Community Concerns, Inc., our new user-friendly website is yet another means for you to get a comprehensive look at the services provided by CCI and Odyssey III.

It is as convenient as simply going to [www.communityconcernsinc.org](http://www.communityconcernsinc.org), you may browse through the pages and get to know the history of the organization, how it operates, and the programs that are offered; visit with our staff, know what volunteers are serving on our board, and even read the evidence of some of our work through the words of those who have been helped on the journey from homelessness to wholeness.

We invite you to view the photo gallery and consider how you too might get involved in some aspect of service at CCI. Volunteerism often proves to be its own reward as whatever you do promises to make a difference in the quality of life for those in need of a helping hand.



Our FAQ's page (frequently asked questions) is a ready source of general information. You are certain to be impressed by the scope of work that goes on at CCI. The success stories are true-life messages from those who have had the Odyssey III experience, which may spark a special interest in you to get involved.

Log on to the site and feel free to email us with your comments and helpful hints on how we can make this great resource even better. Write to Community Concerns at [info@communityconcernsinc.org](mailto:info@communityconcernsinc.org).

## OUR WISH LIST

Odyssey III is grateful for any and all contributions. However, listed below are items that we really could use throughout the year:

- ◆ Washers and dryers
- ◆ Bottled Water
- ◆ Personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, tampons, sanitary napkins, wash cloths)
- ◆ Socks
- ◆ T-shirts
- ◆ Gently worn clothing items for men, women, and children.

(Please note that our population usually is in need of x-large or xx-large sizes).

- ◆ Coats, gloves, caps, sweaters for cold weather.

You are invited to drop off items Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. or call our offices for additional instructions at 404-659-3390.

## Artie Cobb Gets Them Ready to Work: Job Prep and Placement at O'3

Artie Cobb is the first point of contact in the Workforce Development area for persons who come to Odyssey III - without a job and sometimes a home - having reached the point of no where else to turn.

After a highly successful career in the National Football League as a Crew Chief and Referee, going on to be a corporate marketing executive, and then a successful entrepreneur, Artie Cobb decided some 20 years ago to help some others who were minus many of the advantages he had. His commitment is to help them confront and overcome issues that lead to their displacement from a stable and productive lifestyle. Cobb's passion for people is apparent when he talks about how he meets each client wherever they are in the physical and emotional cycle of displacement. He even prefers to use the word "displacement" rather than "homelessness" relating to his client's condition. Even that promotes a measure of hope when talking to those whose troublesome road through Odyssey often winds around to measurably successful outcomes.

Cobb's official title is Career Facilitator and Workforce Development Counselor. He assesses the client's

circumstances and then determines where they are psychologically in the acceptance of their current status. "Many are in a state of denial - they are ages 25-45, may have been successfully employed for a long time and were in a comfort zone until things took a turn and they're out of work. They continue thinking they'll get a job, time passes with no prior planning - when you're in a comfort zone and those things go away, many lapse into a state of denial, followed by the Zone of Confusion, not accepting or understanding how or why it happened," says Cobb. He says his job is to process clients from denial and confusion into a Zone of Stability. That includes coaching about 70% in the procedure of applying for a job, getting familiar with new workplace terminology, acquainting them with current technology i.e. computers, internet, online applications, graphics, and email. "There are some computer applications that are time sensitive and designed to disqualify applications if not completed in a short timeframe. Most persons would not know this but don't want to admit it." He says many clients have skills that are transferable to other industries. The skills assessment identifies the skills and matches them with the companies for which the client has the right aptitude and attitude. "For many displaced persons, a job is the answer, for others it may be just a stepping stone

to full life. I've been on both sides of the fence and I understand the perils that people come through that bring them to the point of displacement, such as divorce, illness, and drug abuse."

However, Cobb says there are hundreds of success stories of people from other parts of the country who come to Atlanta with various family issues compounded by addictions, no money, no education, and no marketable skills. Cobb recounts several anonymous clients who have been patiently and consistently coached, moved through various temporary jobs by participating in the employment readiness program and transitional housing programs. He proudly recounts a client who completed the Fulton County GED program and now has her own apartment, is reunited with her children, and is stable in the workplace! "She moved from a state of denial and confusion to stability, joined a local church and is still working to get better. Another client moved beyond displacement to owning her own business! I am encouraged when I can help people who have had less, get more. It's one of my greatest thrills. I recognize that God put us here to serve and to help our fellow man," Cobb explained.

When asked where he would like to see Odyssey go from here, he said "We need to recognize and provide



ways to accommodate more women with children -- the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Secondly, young adults between 18-25 need more of our attention. There are so many young people with potential but without family, love or understanding, and no one to support them who are becoming more and more part of the homeless population."

"Homelessness is like cancer - it's an equal opportunity disease." Cobb says Odyssey III can't do it alone, it will take a whole community effort and a culture change to significantly attack the disease of homelessness - "it takes a village!"

## Editorial Committee

Jane Jelks Jones  
 Michelle Glennon  
 Terry F. Walker  
 Lena Weathers-Johnson

Odyssey III Program  
 276 Decatur Street  
 Atlanta, GA 30312

## THE FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

Living in the most powerful nation in the free world, in one of the most prosperous major cities in the nation, it is difficult for most and unthinkable to others that there are people who are homeless, jobless, substance dependent and perhaps all of the aforementioned. However, Community Concerns, Inc. Odyssey III Program was founded and exists to respond to such persons whose circumstances have rendered them void of self-esteem, little material means to subsist, and practically no hope of rising up and out of their current condition.

Atlanta is rapidly becoming the international melting-pot of the southeast, bustling with newcomers and urban sprawl each year that continue to populate the counties comprising the growing metropolitan landscape. Thousands come looking for better climate or following the corporate climb, while others come in search of a positive outcome to their negative circumstances.

Here are the facts:

- ▲ In metro Atlanta, an estimated 11,000 people are homeless on an average night; 40,000 individuals have experienced homelessness in the past year.
- ▲ Metro Atlanta has only approximately 2,000 emergency shelter beds.
- ▲ In the U.S., there is an average of 700,000 homeless individuals on any given night and close to 2 million experiencing homelessness in a given year.
- ▲ One in five (5) homeless persons is employed.
- ▲ An estimated 20 to 25% of adults experiencing homelessness suffer from some form of mental illness.
- ▲ An estimated 35 to 40% of the homeless are veterans.
- ▲ The fastest growing population of homeless clients are women and children.
- ▲ Families with children constitute approximately 40% of people that become homeless today.
- ▲ Children account for 25% of the homeless population.
- ▲ 40% of those living in poverty are children.

These are the facts that Odyssey III works to change everyday through programs that offer assistance, empowerment, and hope.