

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nicholas House Hosts Sleep Out to Fight Family Homelessness

Event to Raise Awareness and Funds to Support Homeless Families in Metro Atlanta

Atlanta, GA, September 25, 2017— On October 13, Nicholas House, Inc., a nonprofit organization committed to ending family homelessness in and around Atlanta, will host its annual *Off the Street, On Their Feet: Sleep Out to Support Homeless Families*. The goal of the event is to raise awareness of and funds to support homeless families. Proceeds from the event will provide housing, case management, transportation, food, support services and quality after-school and summer programming for homeless children and parents.

Families represent an increasingly large proportion of the homeless population; 37% of Georgia's homeless are families with children, with numbers rising to 42% in Fulton County and 51% in DeKalb County. Nicholas House is working with community partners to end family homelessness in Atlanta by 2020, making it rare, brief and non-recurring. Nicholas House was appointed as the only family homeless service provider on the City of Atlanta's Strategic Planning Committee to Address Homelessness.

"Off the Street, On Their Feet will heighten awareness of the reality of family homelessness. This event is about so much more than spending one night sleeping on cardboard. For one night, participants experience the uncertainties that homeless families face daily by sleeping on the ground outside. Participants see the problem and are part of the solution. They are lending their voices, networks and resources to help. I am proud of the community's support for homeless families who are put at serious risk night after night," says Dennis Bowman, Executive Director of Nicholas House.

Each participant has committed to raising \$2,500 to help Nicholas House provide critical programs for homeless families and services.

About Nicholas House: The Nicholas House mission is to help homeless families become self-sufficient. For over 35 years, Nicholas House has provided comprehensive housing and case management services to more than 10,000 homeless parents and children. Nicholas House is unique by accepting any composition of family and has long-term successful outcomes—80% of families maintain their own permanent housing a year or more after leaving services. For more information about the *Off the Street, On Their Feet: Sleep Out to Support Homeless Families* event and details about programs and services provided by Nicholas House, please visit www.nicholashouse.org. *Dennis Bowman is available for interviews regarding Nicholas House's response to and impact with homeless families upon request.*

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