

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Nicholas House and Presenting Sponsor Monarch Private Capital - Sleep Out to Fight Family Homelessness

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

Atlanta, GA, August 8, 2018— On October 5, **Nicholas House, Inc.**, will host its annual ***Off the Street, On Their Feet: Sleep Out to Support Homeless Families***. The event is a movement of individuals who accept the challenge to sleep outside for one night in solidarity with homeless families. Participants raise funds and awareness for Nicholas House, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. *The event is not about pretending to be homeless.* It's a demonstration to homeless families that the community *cares* – deciding that they can't stay *indoors* while so many families remain *outside*. On this night, power meets purpose! Hundreds of families, friends and colleagues forge bonds while engaging in an immersive experience in solidarity for homeless families. Proceeds from the event provides access to housing, transportation, food, after-school care, job readiness and placement, health care, case management and other supportive services for homeless parents and their children.

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. The event is about so much more than spending one-night sleeping on cardboard. 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.**

"As a Sleep Out participant last year, I learned that homelessness can occur to anyone at any time. I was especially moved by the large number of homeless families in metro Atlanta. On any given night, 350 families (1,219 people and 800 children) are homeless. They sleep in cars, allies and various public places. Monarch Private Capital is proud to support the community work of Nicholas House. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of families and strengthening the community," says **Kady DeWees, Associate Director of Acquisitions, Monarch Private Capital**

Event participants (students, adults, couples and groups) have committed to raising \$250-\$2,500 to help Nicholas House provide critical programs and services for homeless families.

About Nicholas House: For over 35 years, Nicholas House has provided comprehensive housing and case management services to more than 10,000 homeless parents and children. Each night, Nicholas House serves over 250 homeless children and their parents. We help homeless families improve skills and education to earn a living wage, maintain a healthy home environment and sustain their own housing. We accept any family composition and size. We hold families accountable with specific goals, action steps and evaluations. We focus on long-term outcomes – following families for 2 years after they leave programs to ensure long-term impact.

As a result, 80% of families served maintain their own permanent housing a year or more after leaving the program. 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 and impact with homeless families upon request.*