

GICH Junior Presentation

Volunteerism at the Local Level



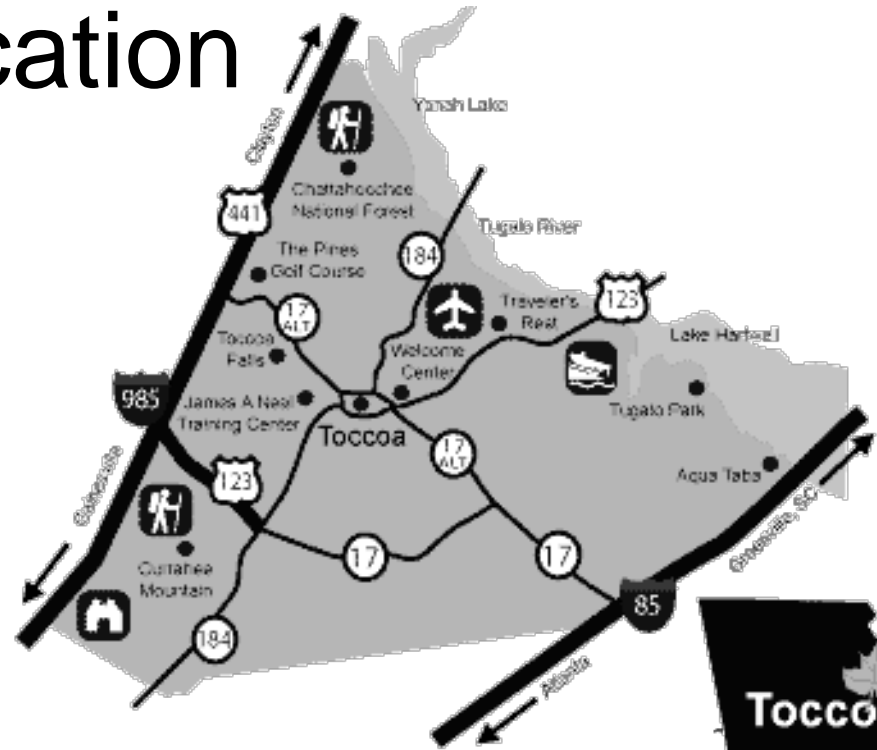


Toccoa Initiative for Community Housing

(TICH) - formed “to provide adequate, safe, and affordable housing to (Toccoa-Stephens County) citizens.”

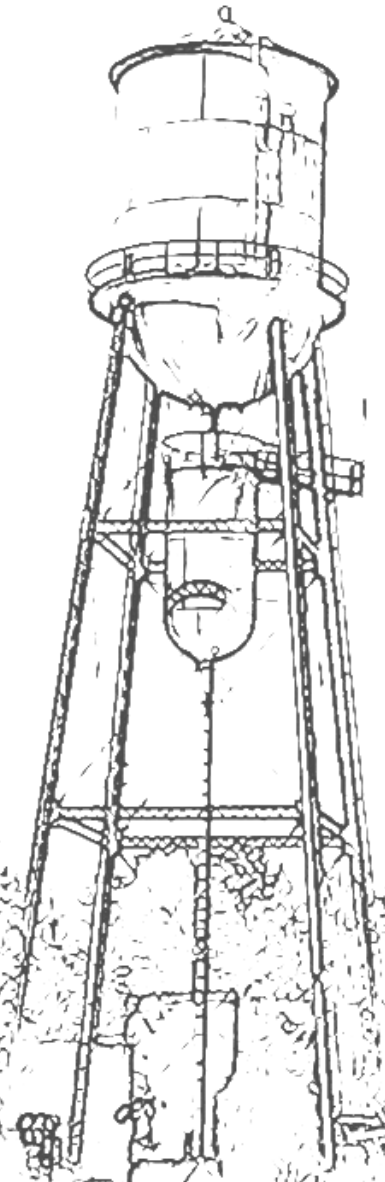
*Toccoa-Stephens County
Comprehensive Plan*

Location



Toccoa

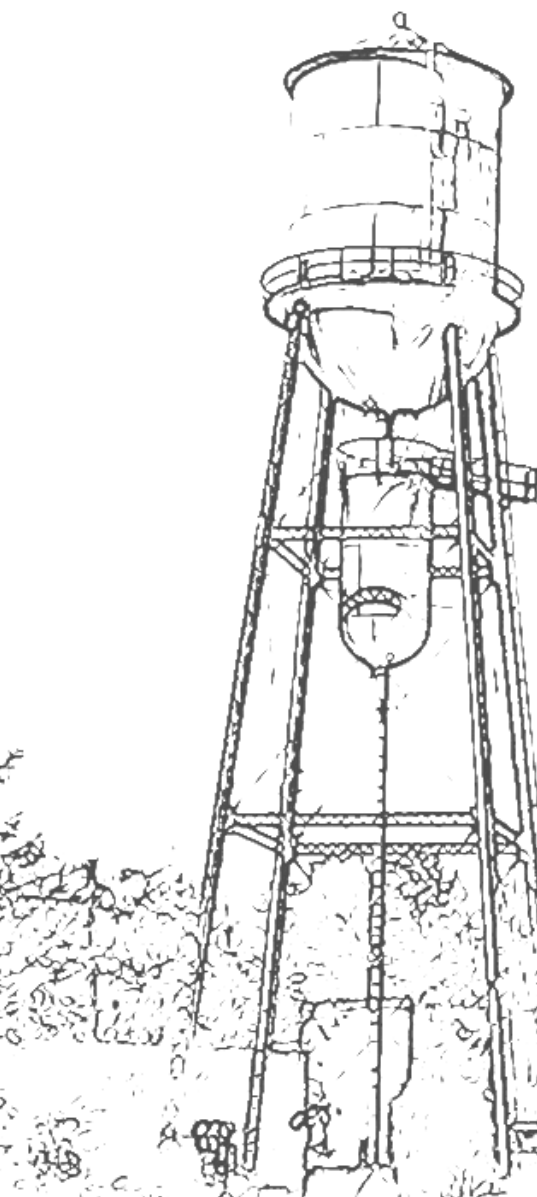
The heart of Northeast Georgia





Local Volunteer Groups

- TICH Team
- Community Housing Fair Regional and State Agencies
- Habitat New Construction
in target area: Broad St.
- Great American Cleanup
- Community Groups
- MERGE Clean-up 7th Year
- Private Property Owners: Two Brownfields Cleaned



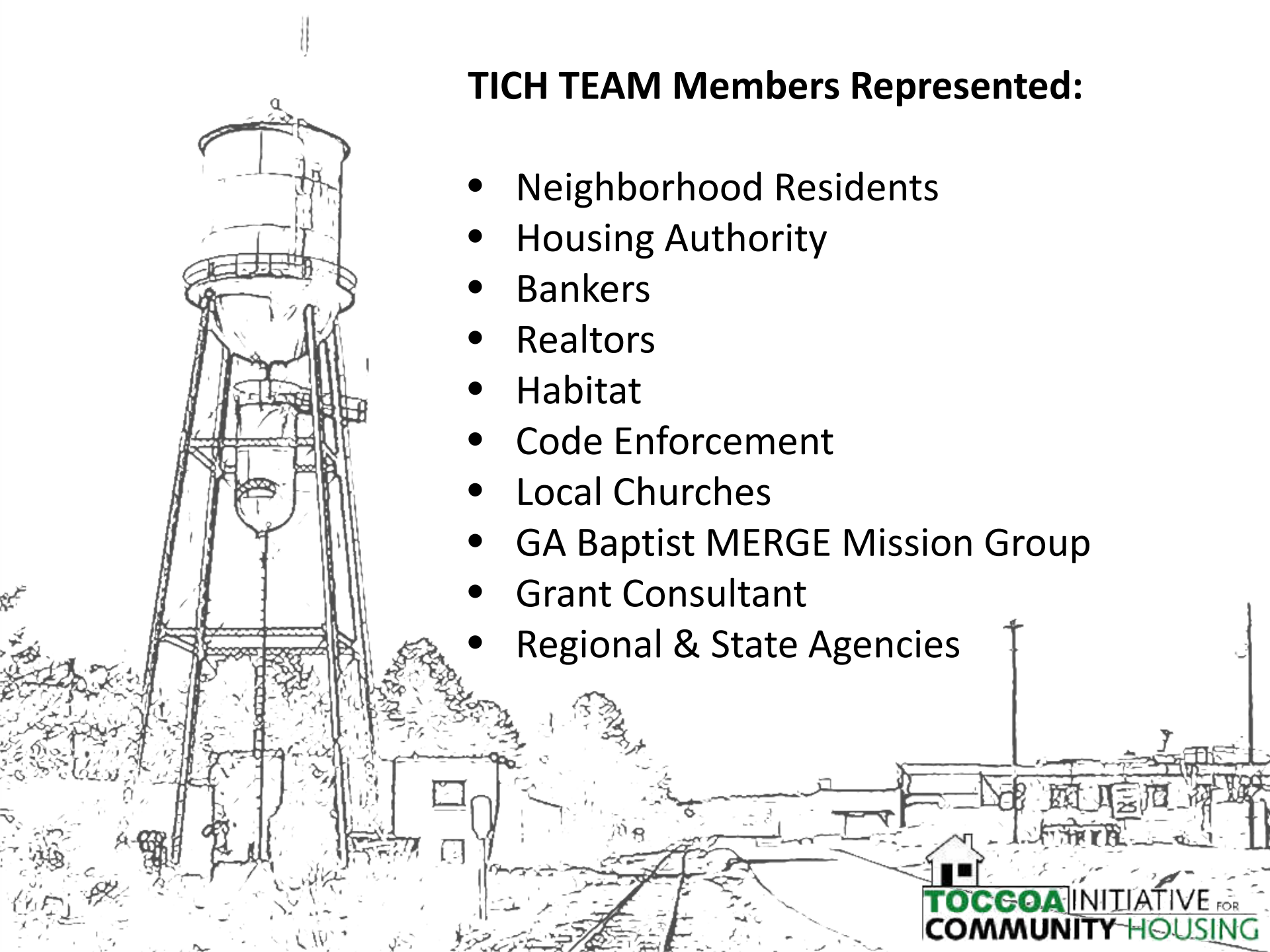
TICH Team

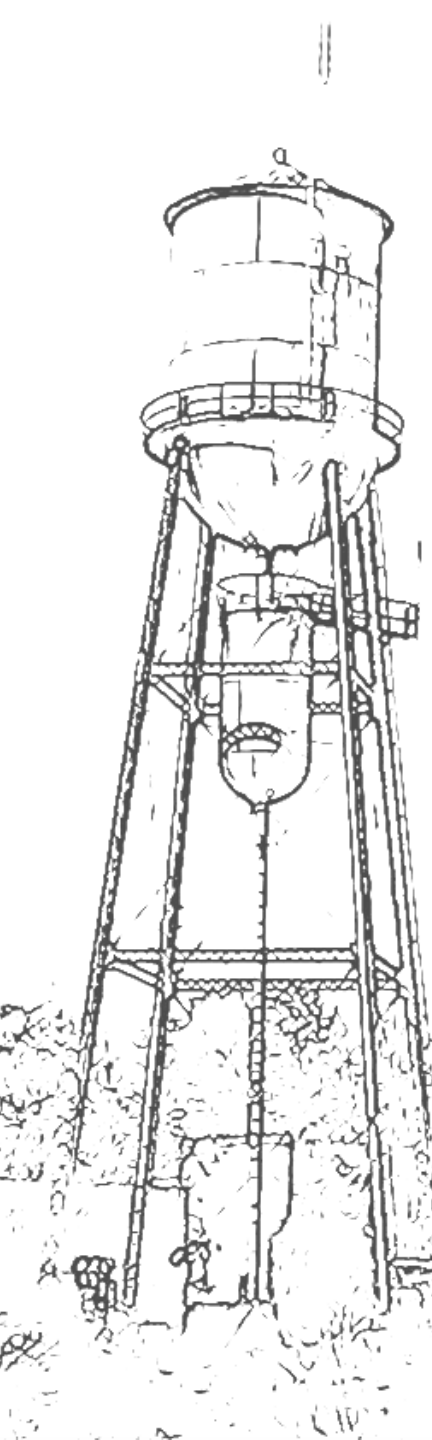


**TOCCOA** INITIATIVE FOR
COMMUNITY HOUSING

TICH TEAM Members Represented:


- Neighborhood Residents
- Housing Authority
- Bankers
- Realtors
- Habitat
- Code Enforcement
- Local Churches
- GA Baptist MERGE Mission Group
- Grant Consultant
- Regional & State Agencies





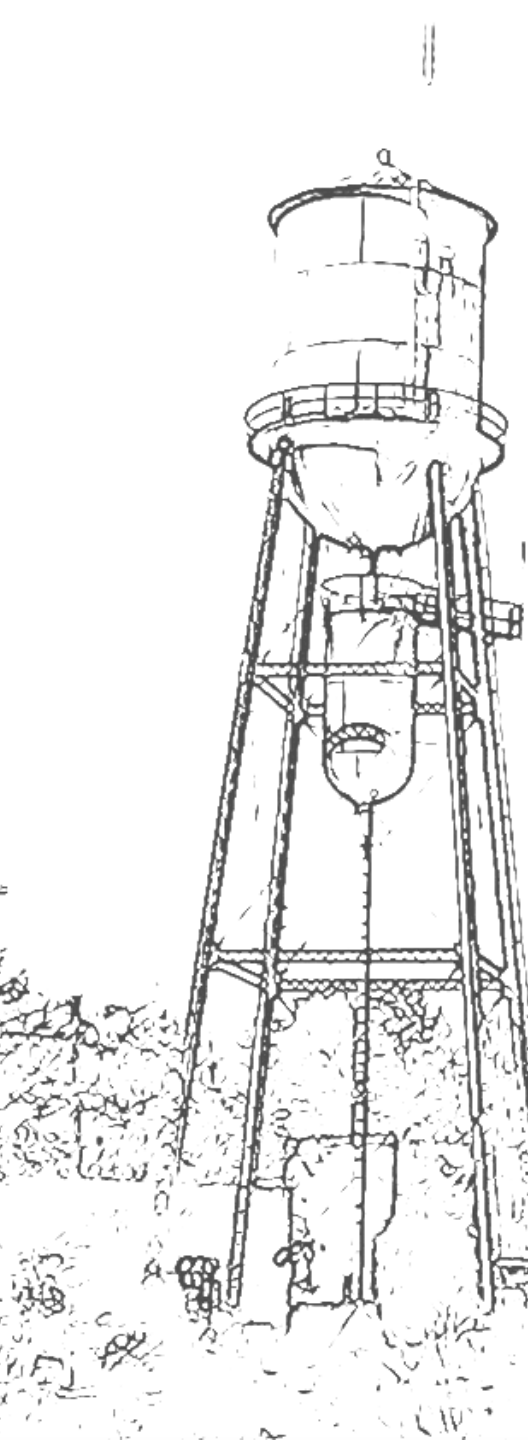
Volunteers Must be Trained and
Have a Clear Idea of their Job
Description





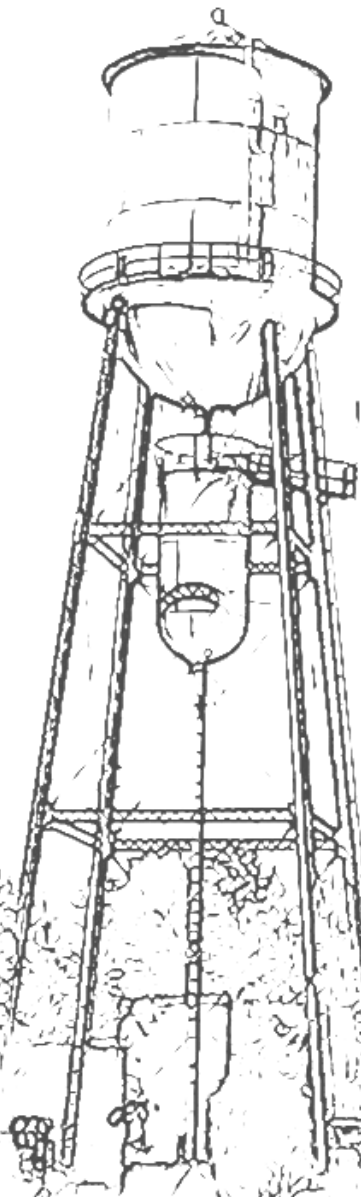
Why Choose Your Organization to Volunteer?

Retired, Passionate, Vested
Interest, Gain Experience,
Fill a Requirement



Network





Staff Support





Community Housing Fair

Involve Regional and State Agencies

Local Housing Authority

GA Dreams Program

Consumer Credit Counseling Service

USDA

GA Mountains Regional Commission

Habitat for Humanity

Ninth District Weatherization

Needs Survey

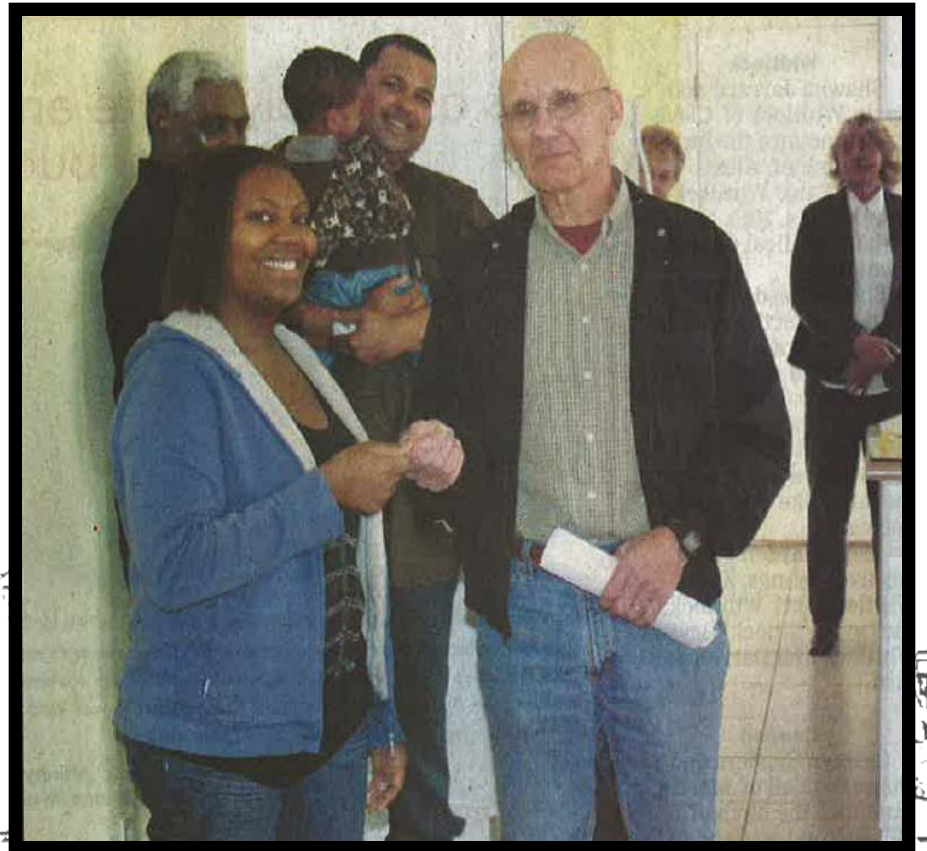
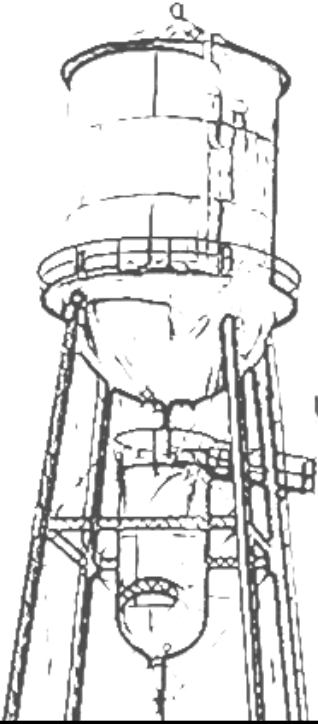


Partnerships: Habitat for Humanity





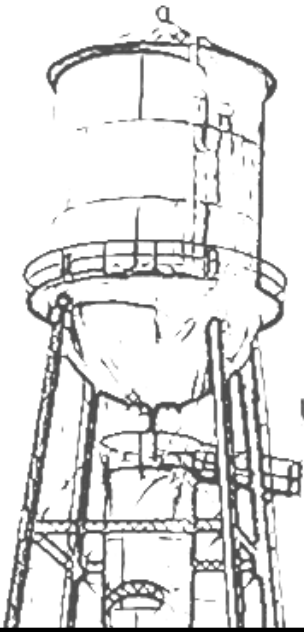
Habitat for Humanity Dedication Ceremony



Habitat for Humanity 520 Broad Street

- Target Area
- 1240 sf
- Cost \$50,000
- Land Donated

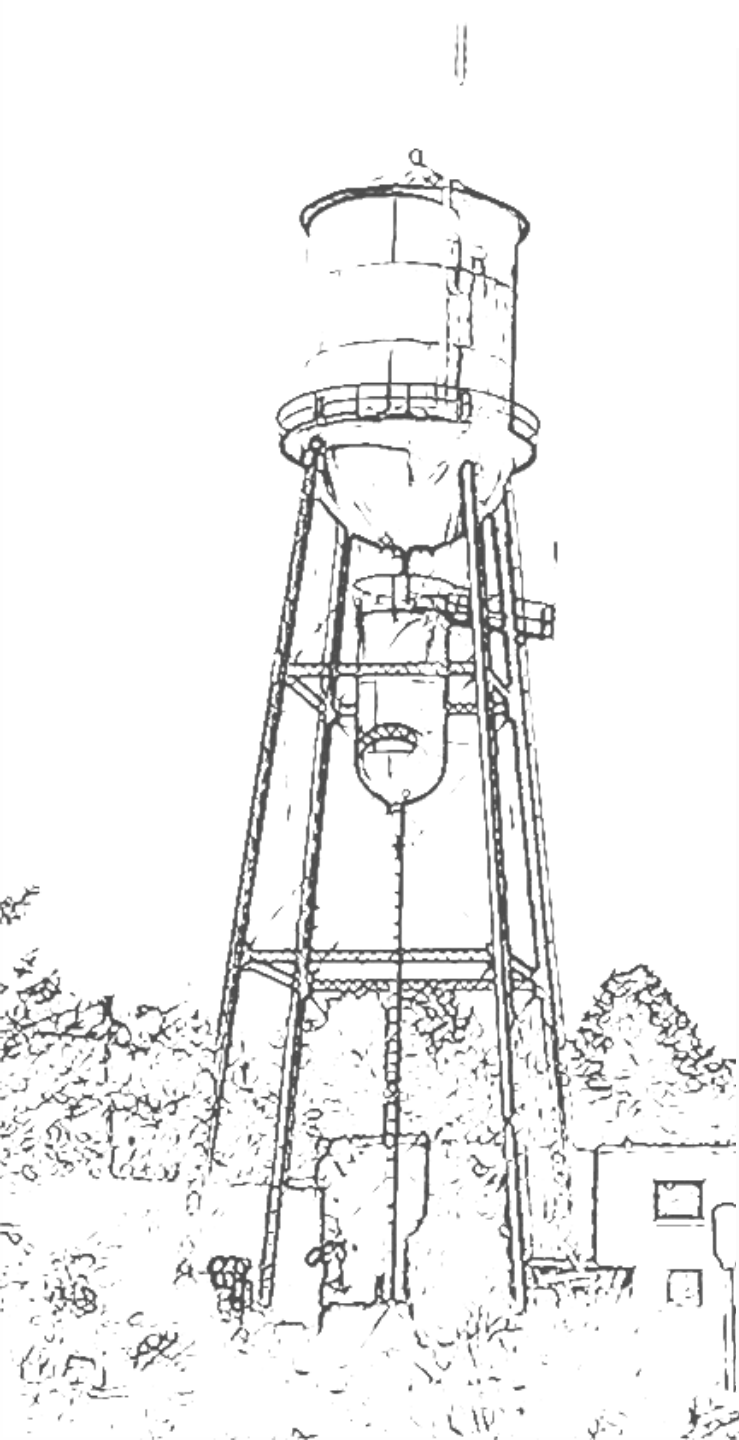




Habitat for Humanity 520 Broad Street

- Plans underway for construction of second home next door.

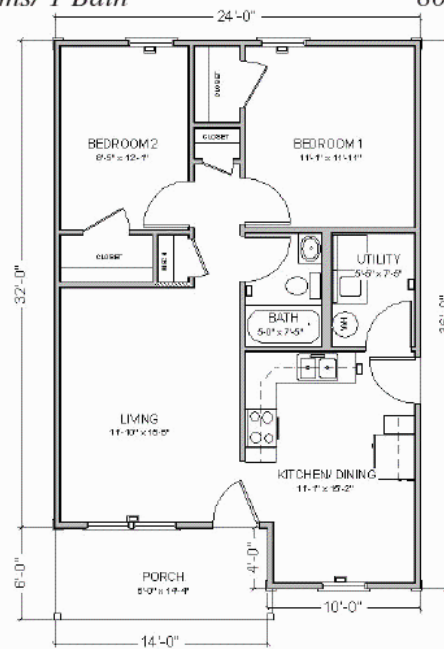




The Aspire II

2 Bedrooms/ 1 Bath

808 Square Feet

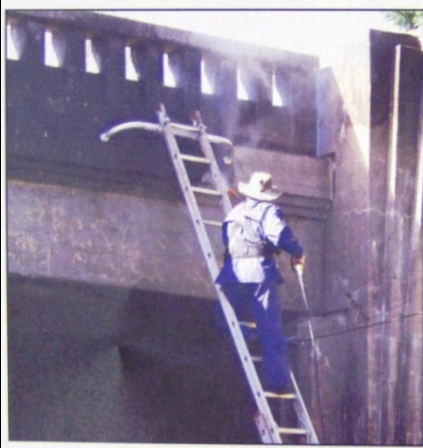


Great American Cleanup



Great American Cleanup

Tim Martin picks up roadside debris as part of Stephens County's participation in the Great American Cleanup Saturday, April 18. There were more than 100 local participants ranging in age from 18 months to 75 years. The volunteers picked up some 700 pounds of debris from 27 roads in the county. All this was accomplished in three hours of work. Volunteers included Cub Scout Troop 168, Seedsowers of Toccoa Falls College, the Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce, the SChS Anchor Club, Stephens County Development Authority, Toccoa Falls College, Stephens County 4-H, county commissioner Stanley London, city commissioner Bob Troup, Shawn Apostel of Main Street Toccoa, Evan Hellinga of the Stephens County Soil and Water Conservation District, Sheriff Randy Shirley, Stephens County High School Beta Club, Jerry Orris of the county solid waste program and Jonathan Neely of Power Force Pressure Washing.



Broad St. Underpass Cleanup Underway

Main Street Toccoa celebrated the Great American Cleanup this spring by focusing its efforts on the Broad Street railroad underpass.

This unique structure was covered with 50+ years of dirt and soot, but is being painstakingly cleaned by volunteer Jonathan Neely of POWER FORCE Pressure Washing.

Next on the list is repairing the lights and beautifying the landscape. To volunteer, call Main Street Toccoa.

OUR VIEW

Youthful projects benefit community

Two community-minded programs are spotlighted this week which should instill some pride and respect for the younger generation.

The first program of note is Project MERGE in which some 160-180 youths from a variety of communities, including 17 from Frankfort, Ky, are working throughout Toccoa in a spirit of service.

From re-roofing a house to painting and playing games with children at the Toccoa-Stephens County Boys & Girls Club, these teens are examples of pure community service.

MERGE, a program of the Georgia Baptist Convention, merges the resources of local churches, city government and students from across the state of Georgia and the southeast, project coordinator Doug Couch, a youth ministries specialist with the convention, said.

Some of the projects tackled in Toccoa this week include cleaning houses, painting, roofing and the construction of a wheelchair ramp.

Not only youths are involved in the effort which runs through Friday as numerous businesses in Toccoa-Stephens County volunteered time and materials for the project.

Couch summed of the program's purpose perfectly - "to challenge churches, cities and community to work together to improve the community." Project MERGE was certainly a good first step.

The second program of note is another exciting effort by community youths to help out and help someone.

Youths at Mount Zion, Trinity and Friendship churches have undertaken a community garden in Toccoa.

The garden features the usual items of homegrown produce - tomatoes, beans, corn, etc. The unique aspect of the garden is that the harvest is open to anyone in the community who needs some fresh food items.

The project is designed primarily to help those struggling in today's difficult economic climate, but no one will be turned away.

While at heart a Christian-minded community project, the community garden has other lasting benefits, too.

It has introduced several youths to the rapidly vanishing art of growing a garden. Two generations ago, virtually everyone in Toccoa-Stephens County - and throughout the southeast - had a backyard garden filled with squash, beans, potatoes and tomatoes. It was a cheaper way to put food on the table for many families.

In the last 25 years, however, the backyard garden has slowly begun to fade away as the tenders of those crops have grown older and died away. The knowledge of when and how to plant what hasn't necessarily been passed to the next generation.

Local youths are now acquiring that knowledge and, in the process, interacting with an older generation willing to pass on tips and advice.

Getting to know one's elders who possess a storehouse of knowledge on a variety of subjects is always a good thing.

Reaching out to help one's neighbors, cooperative efforts between churches, business and government and educating our youths on a variety of subjects - all of these have been accomplished through MERGE and the community garden.

Broad Street Partnerships



Devin Hunter learns the workings of Massey-Ferguson tractor from owner Markques Kells. Kells volunteered his time and tractor to help prepare the ground for the new community garden.

Multiplying in the garden

BY JESSICA WATERS
THE TOCCOA RECORD

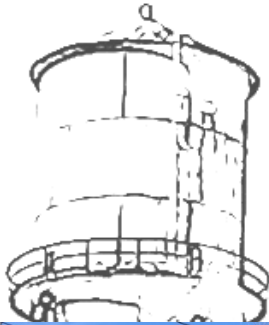
There is a new community garden, sprouting with tomatoes, okra, squash and beans, located across the street from the Boys & Girls Club, but project organizers hope to see much more than vegetables grow out of the small plot of land.

"We want to feed the hungry, but we also want to them (the kids) to learn, scripturally, about how God can multiply - how you can take one seed and see what come from that," said Willie Woodruff, who helped initiate the community garden early this summer.



Darryl Brown and his son, Hassan Brown, set a tomato plant into the newly-turned rows at the community garden.

SEE GARDEN A7



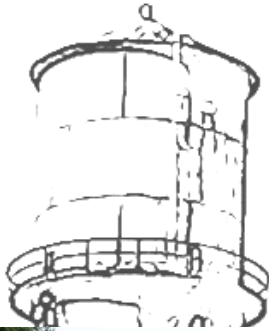
MERGE Project 152 Spring Street



Before

After





MERGE Project 53 Skyview Lane

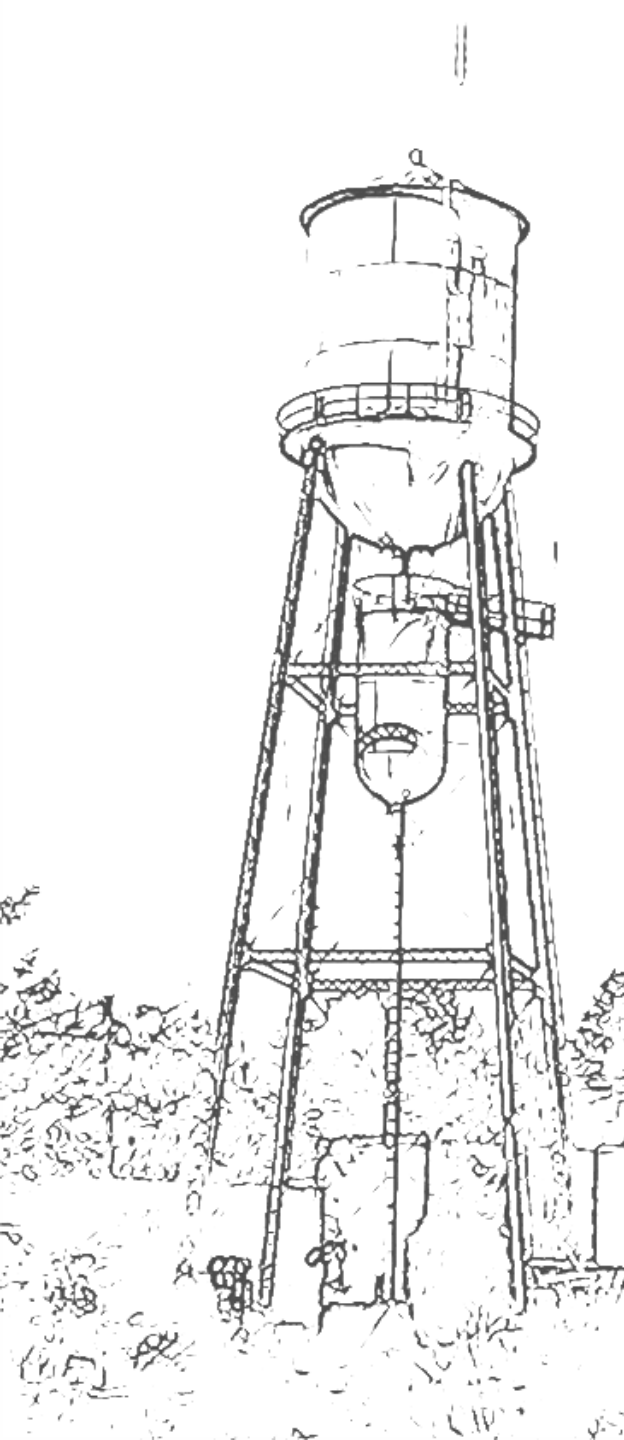


Before/During

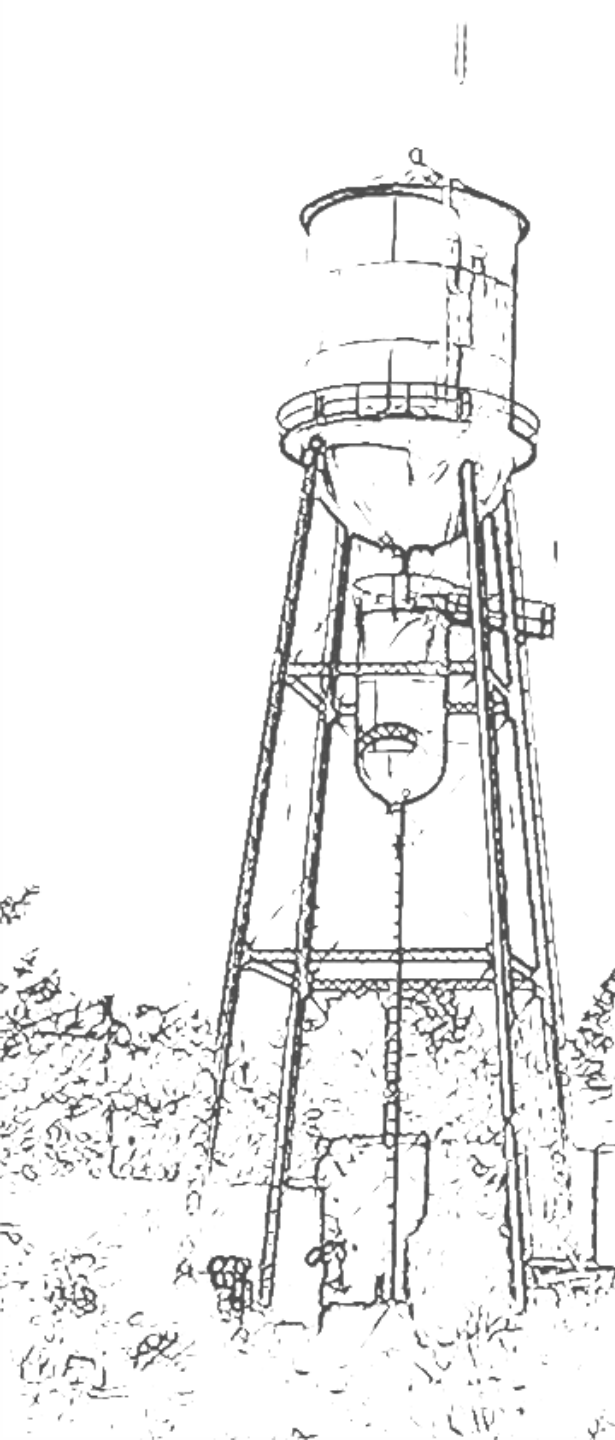
After



Local Church Volunteers Providing Meals to MERGE



MERGE Mission Group After Painting House





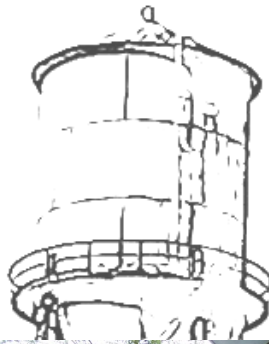
MERGE Project Before and After



MERGE Statistics for 2013

- 280 volunteers
- 29 partnering churches/17 partnering businesses
- 7,800 hours served
- 17 projects completed across the city
- Including 3 roofs, 5 ramps





Blue Ridge Concrete Elberton Street



13/07/2009

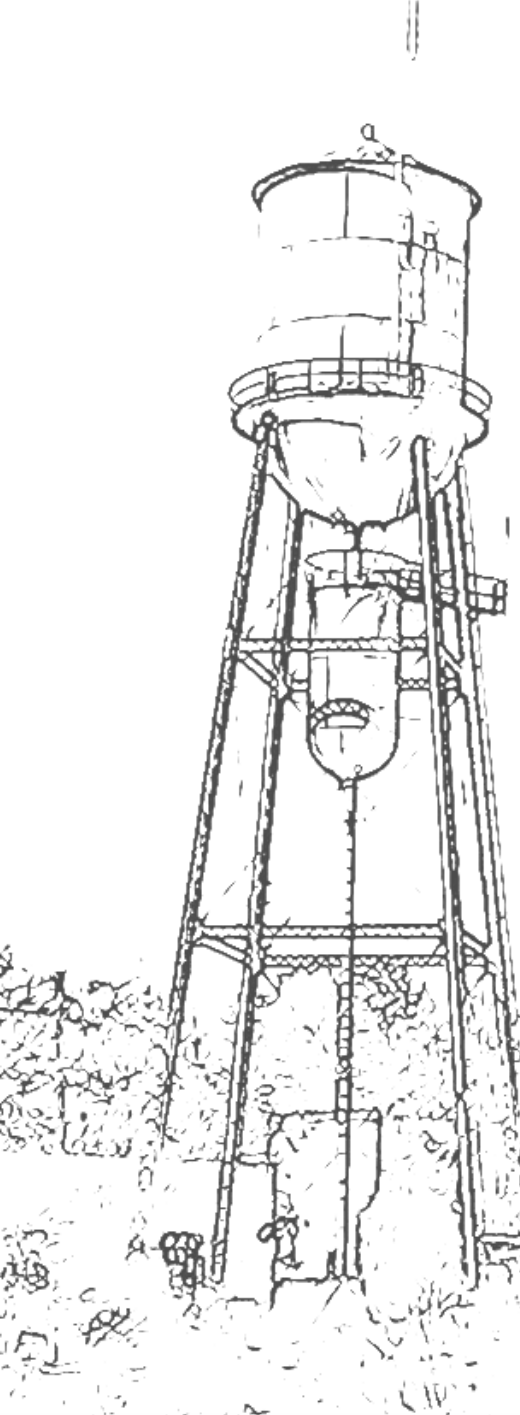


17/09/2009

Before

After





Work Plans A Must

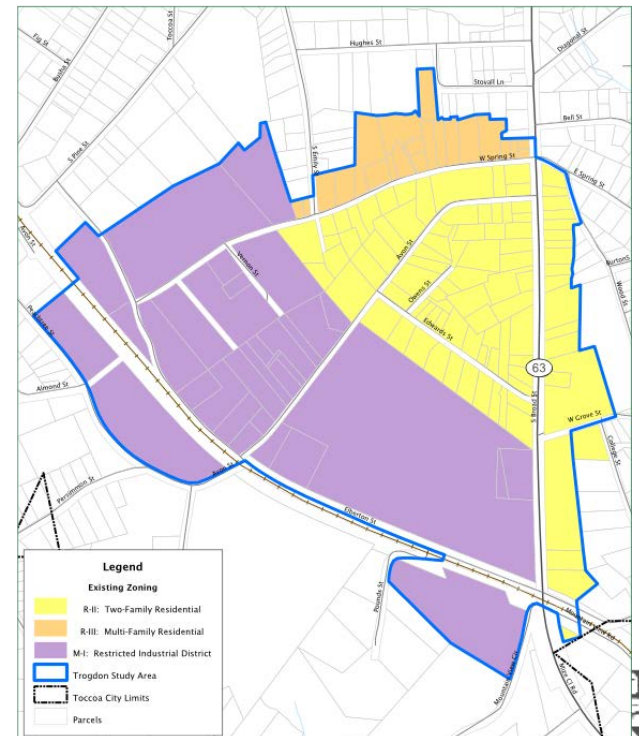
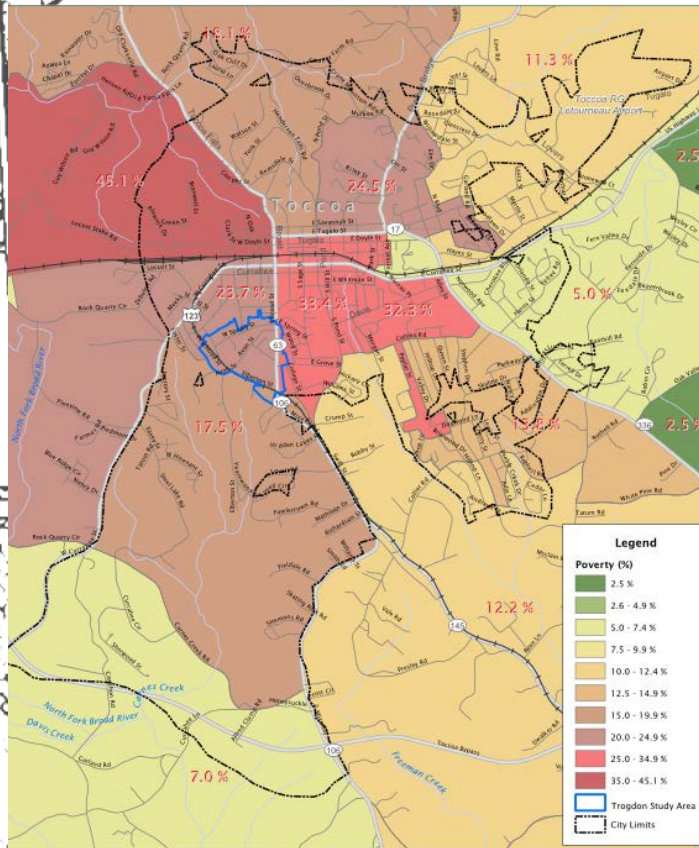


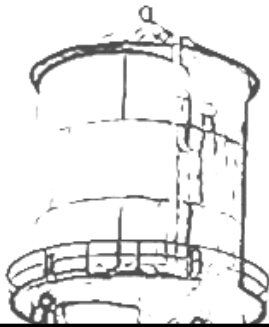


Additional Partnerships

- City of Toccoa, DDA: URP
- Hill Street Baptist Church
Mobile Food Pantry
Hill Street Boutique
- Volunteer Board Reception
- Regional Agencies
- DCA CDBG Award

TICH - concentrating efforts on the Trogon Heritage District.





Hill Street Baptist Church Community Outreach

Hill Street to dedicate boutique

The New Testament church, according to scripture, was formed to provide for the widows and orphans — those less fortunate than many of us today.

At Hill Street Baptist Church, this admonition has been adhered to for quite some time.

Over the decades, the church has operated a food pantry and a clothes closet to provide necessities for the poor and less fortunate. Recently the clothes closet ministry has undergone a massive transformation.

The newly-named Hill Street Boutique will officially be dedicated on Sunday Aug. 2.

This will mark the opening of a 'one-of-a-kind' experience for those needing clothes for themselves or their families.

The little house that is on Hill Place adjacent to the church was not the most attractive building in the neighborhood.

Additionally, the clothes were musty and

clothes closet had furnished many families with clothing for several decades, the building and the clothing had all seen better days.

In March of this year, Hill Street pastor, the Rev. Paul Garrison, asked Debbie Head to take over the renovations of the clothes closet.

Upon the initial inspection, the devastation was apparent. The roof was falling in and the floor had already rotted out in places. The need for attention was eminent.

Head began organizing volunteers to rebuild the little house from the ground up.

It soon became obvious that this was going to be a massive undertaking.

After repairing the damage and re-roofing the house, then the renovations could finally begin.

Many volunteers spent afternoons and Saturdays working hard on restoring the clothes ministry. Local businesses contributed necessary



The renovated clothes closet and food pantry at Hill Street Baptist Church is now the Hill Street Boutique. It will be formally dedicated on Sunday.

No longer will patrons be made to feel as though they are getting leftovers and handouts.

The clothes are still free to those in need, but the fixtures are shiny and new and the atmosphere is trendy and bright.

"There is no need for someone to feel like they are going into someone's attic to get old musty clothes. They need to be able to pick out their clothes with dignity," Head said.

"The new Hill Street Boutique continues to help Hill Street Baptist Church fulfill our mission of 'Reaching Toccoa and Beyond with the love of Jesus Christ,'" Garrison said.

Local businesses as well as many individuals have been instrumental in donating products and services to the comple-

Caudell Construction, Concrete Specialists, East State Plumbing, Edmonds Lawn Maintenance, Eubanks Heating and Air, Floor Coverings of Toccoa.

Also, Morgan Concrete, Pritchett Signs, Sherwin Williams, Smitty's Flooring, Sears, Stovall Building Supplies, The Home Depot, Toccoa Winlectric, Walmart, Walter Moore Towing and WNEG Radio.

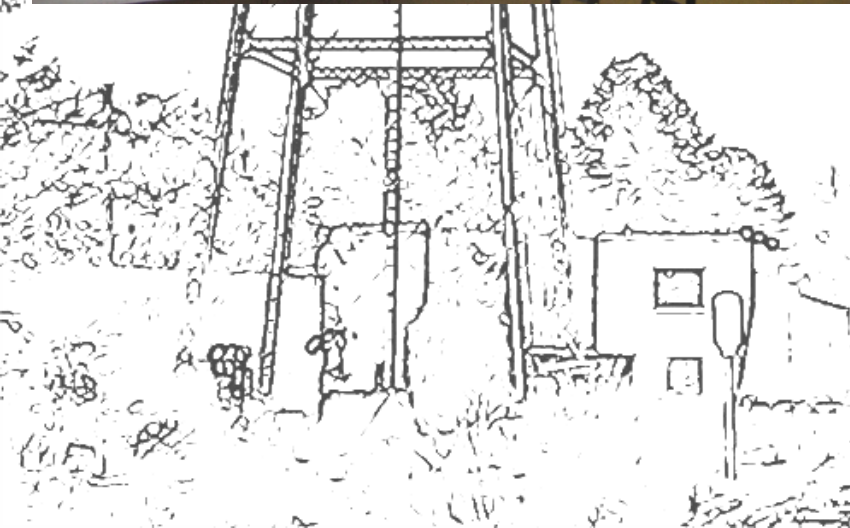
Hill Street Baptist Church is located on Hill Street two blocks off Currahee Street near Hayes Motor Company.

The dedication is scheduled for Sunday Aug. 2, from 12:15 - 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Clothes will be available to those in need beginning at 10 a.m. Monday Aug. 3.



MERGE Food Distribution at Hill Street Baptist Church

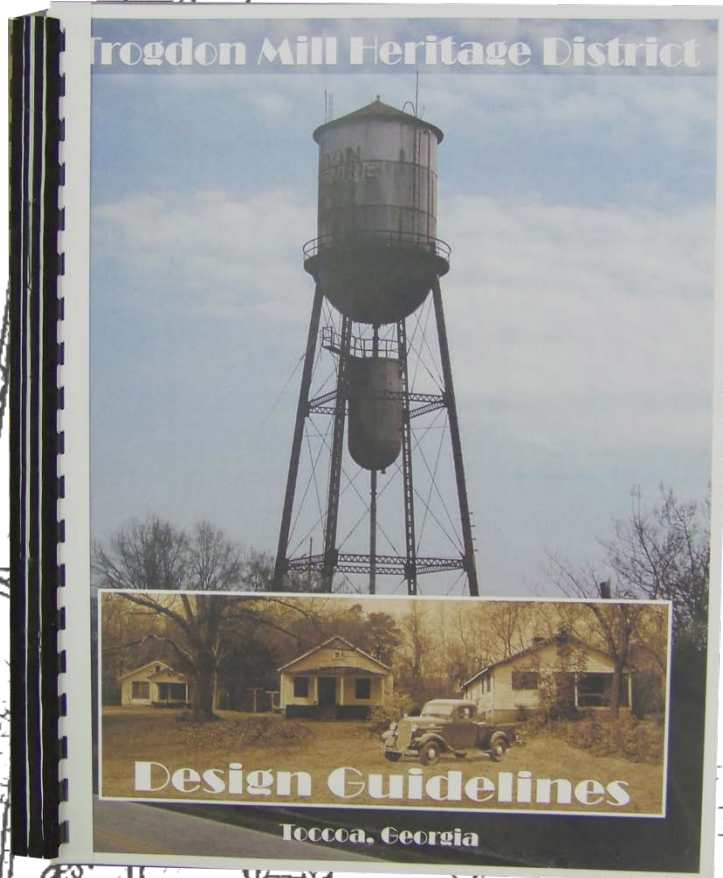


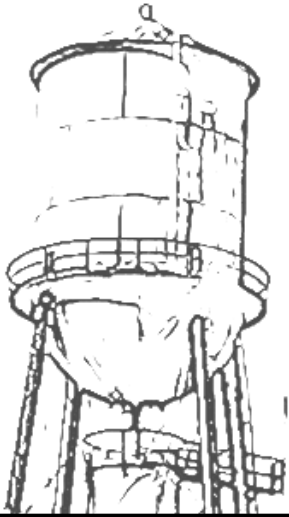
Volunteer Board Reception



GA Mtns. Regional Commission

Developed
Trogon Heritage
District Draft
Design Guidelines

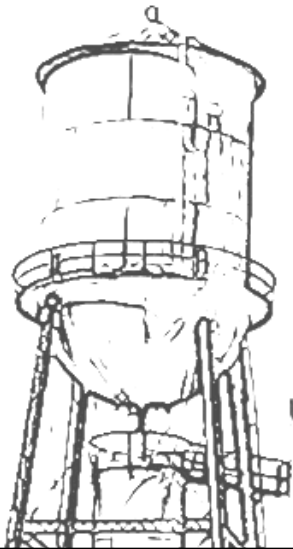




New Partnerships

- First Citizens Bank
- Home Depot
- Local Property Owners





New Volunteer Groups

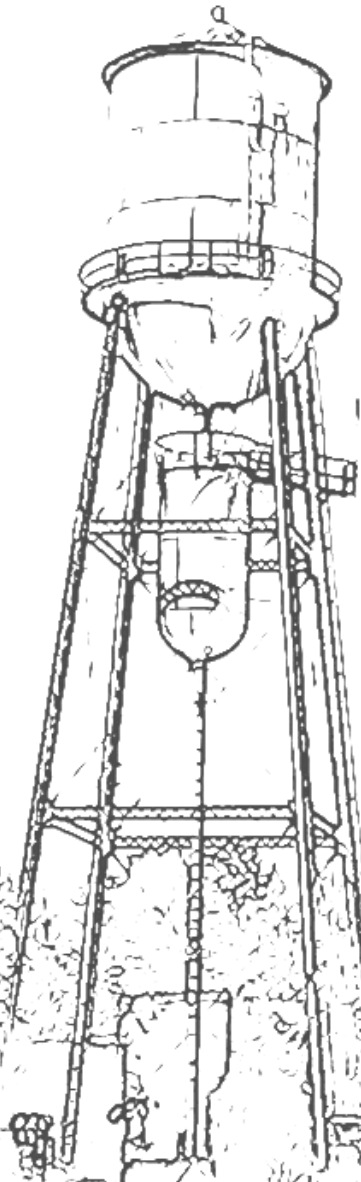
- TFC Student Government
- Keep Toccoa Stephens Co. Beautiful



CDBG

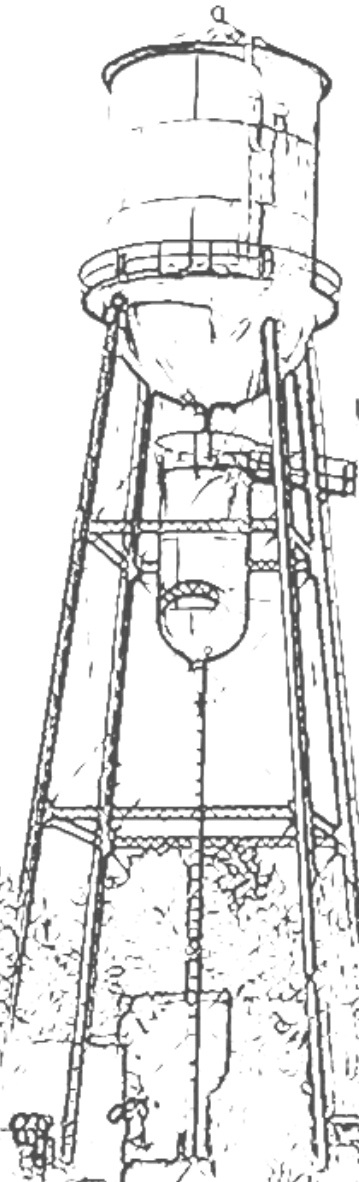
- Implement \$589,959 Grant
- Infrastructure & Housing Reconstruction





CDBG Award 346 A Spring Street

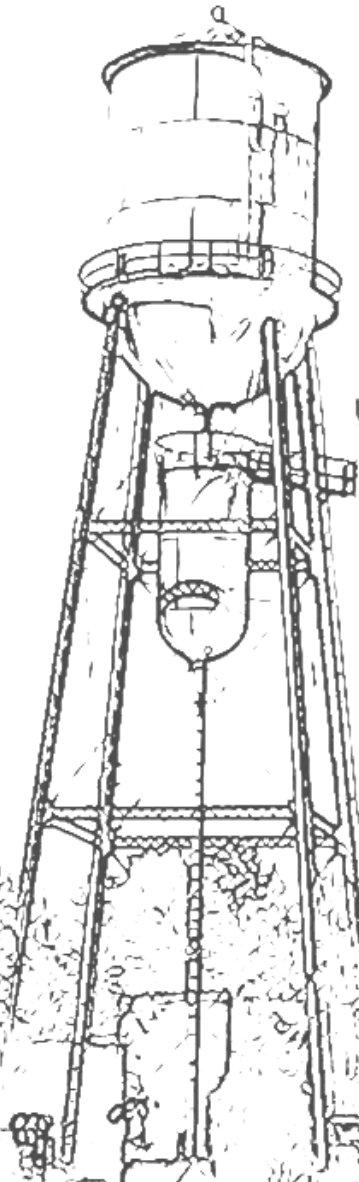




 **TOCCOA** INITIATIVE FOR
COMMUNITY HOUSING

MERGE Mission Group Provides Landscaping for CDBG House

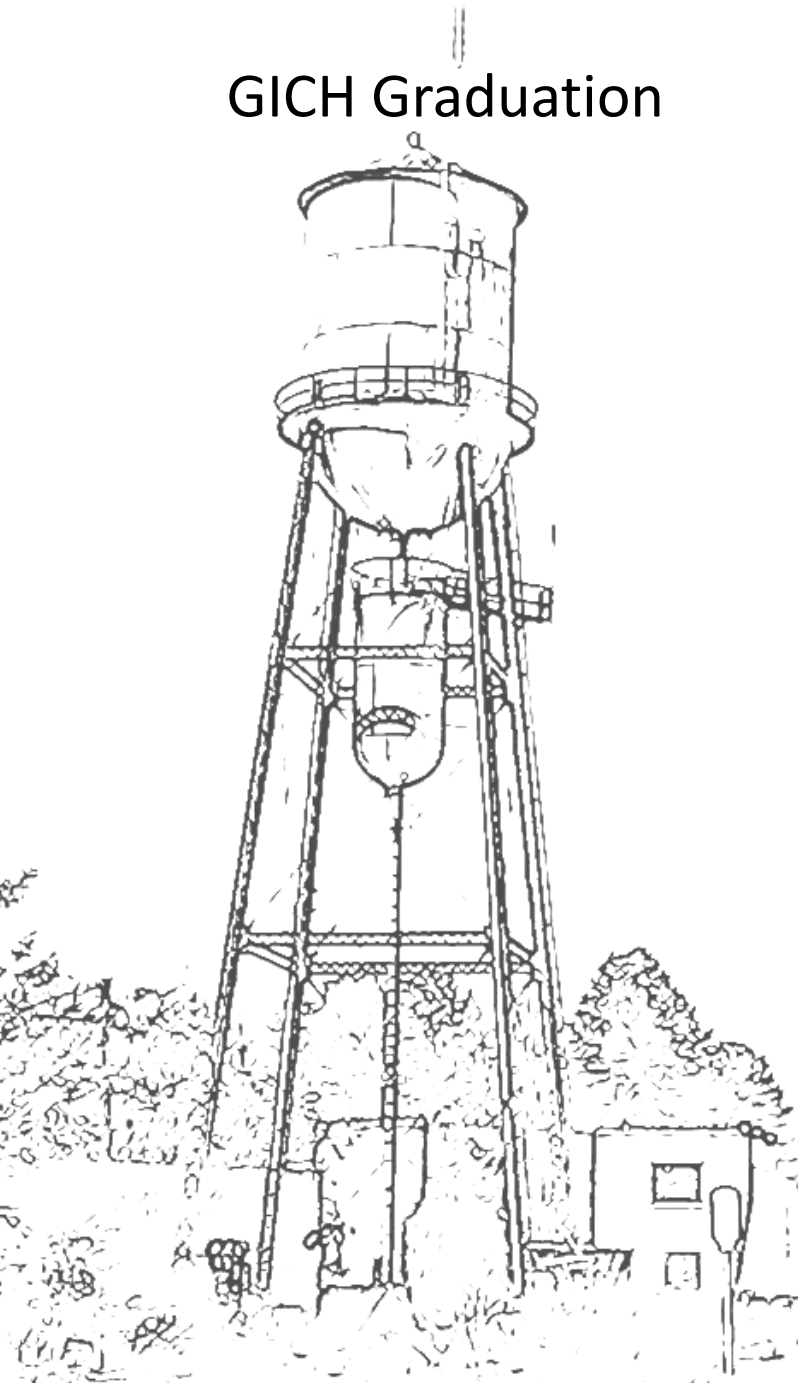


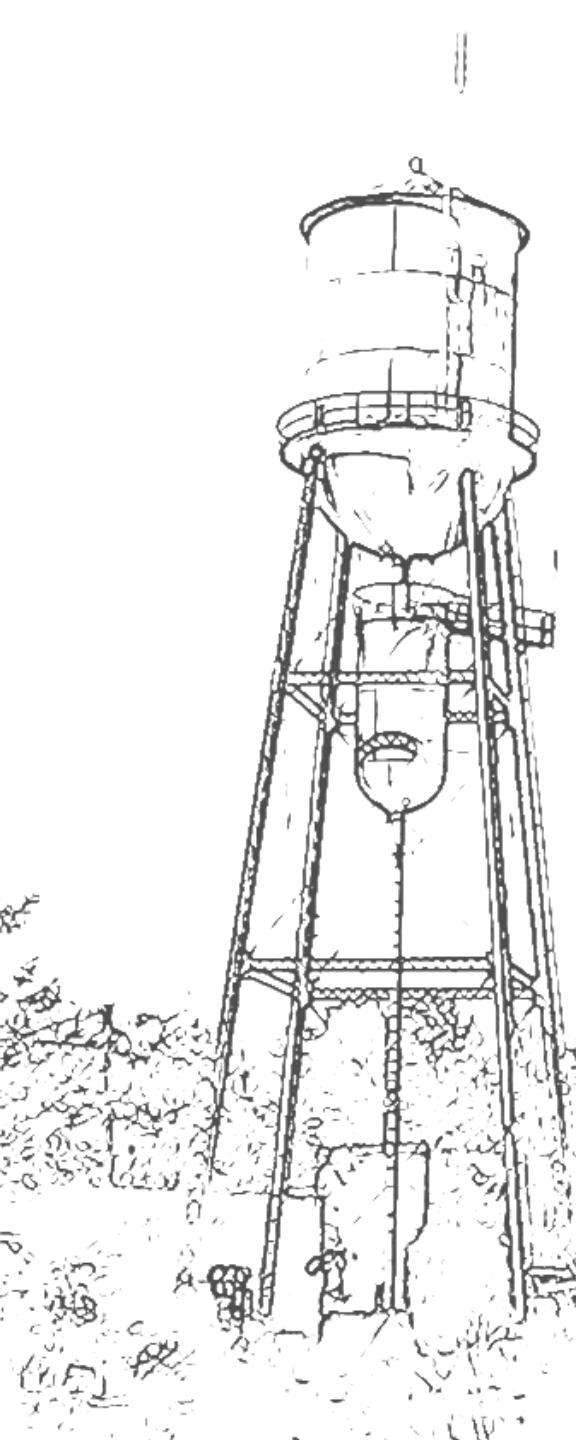


GICH Team Networking



GICH Graduation





Keep Selling the Housing Vision:
Volunteer!



TOGCOA INITIATIVE FOR
COMMUNITY HOUSING