



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Open Hand Celebrates 20 Millionth Atlanta Area Meal Delivery *Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed Visits Open Hand Kitchen, Presents Awards as Volunteers Prepare and Deliver Ceremonial Meal to Metro Atlanta Client*

ATLANTA – (Dec. 7, 2011) – Atlanta-based [Open Hand](#) today celebrated delivery of the organization’s 20 millionth meal, achieving a new milestone for the community-driven non-profit.

Open Hand is the largest provider of home-delivered, medically appropriate meals and nutrition education in the U.S., delivering more than 5,500 meals daily to those challenged by or looking to prevent chronic disease or disability.

Prepared at Open Hand’s kitchen at 176 Ottley Drive (on the cusp of Midtown and Buckhead), the meal was presented to an Open Hand client in Metro Atlanta, Ms. Carolyn Barber of the Summer Hill neighborhood. Both the meal preparation and delivery were executed by Open Hand volunteers aware of the landmark meal and the presence of a special guest, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

“Metropolitan Atlanta now has 20 million reasons to thank Open Hand and its thousands of volunteers for their many contributions to our city,” said Mayor Reed. “For more than 23 years, Open Hand has provided warm, nutritious meals residents in need of care and assistance. Open Hand and its volunteers reflect the best of Atlanta. I deeply appreciate the vital work they do in the community every day.”

Reed presented a Phoenix Award, the city’s highest honor, to the volunteers at Open Hand’s kitchen and thanked them for their years of dedication and service to the community. Then, Mayor Reed assisted a veteran Open Hand volunteer driver, Barbara Antley, as she delivered a ceremonial meal to Ms. Barber’s home.

“Celebrating the delivery of Open Hand’s 20 millionth meal is a remarkable milestone made possible by volunteers, community partners and donors who have supported us since our early days in Atlanta,” said Jacqueline Yeane, co-president of Open Hand’s board of directors.

By the numbers, Open Hand is powered by more than 25,000 volunteers, 100 to 125 of which are needed on a daily basis. Meal deliveries account for nearly 650,000 miles driven each year while providing about 1.7 million meals annually across 17 Georgia counties. The organization is closing in on its \$4.2 million capital campaign goals which will fund a much-needed expansion which will result in a completely renovated 17,000 square-foot facility in 2012, more than tripling Open Hand’s current workspace.

“Open Hand continues to operate with the same core values and guiding principles in place when we opened in 1988,” said Matt Pieper, senior director of resource development for Open Hand. “We greatly appreciate the opportunity to help each of our clients become active managers of their health while regaining a sense of independence taken away by a chronic condition.”

About Open Hand:

Open Hand, which recently commemorated its 23rd year of service to the community, has grown to become the nation's largest provider of home-delivered meals – preparing, packing and delivering more than 5,500 meals daily across 17 Georgia counties. Open Hand is the only community-based non-profit organization providing Comprehensive Nutrition Care™, which combines nutritious, medically appropriate meals with nutrition education, therapy and coaching for homebound seniors and underserved individuals struggling with chronic, critical or terminal illness. For more information, visit www.openhandatlanta.org.

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