

East Atlanta Kids Club Opens Doors to New Wellness Space Thanks to Heart of America and FedEx Partnership

[Atlanta, GA] [08/23/24] - Last Friday marked a heartwarming milestone for the East Atlanta Kids Club (EAKC) as they celebrated the grand opening of a newly transformed wellness space. This project, brought to life through a dynamic collaboration between Heart of America (HOA) and FedEx, has turned a cluttered storage room into a serene sanctuary for club members' individual and group therapy sessions.

The day kicked off with a volunteer effort, as community members tackled different tasks—clearing out the old storage room, setting up new furniture, and decking the walls with fresh artwork. Meanwhile, others focused on packaging donated food, ensuring that contributions were boxed and delivered by the end of the day.

The event culminated in a ribbon cutting ceremony, where key representatives of the club spoke to their excitement to launch the new space.

“The furniture is beautiful, and the kids will be excited to use it,” says Ryan Downey, EAKC Executive Director. “It’s a clean, professional place that looks like it was meant for them. And that’s important.”

The East Atlanta Kids Club will soon begin using the newly renovated wellness space for group and private therapy sessions, designed to support its 161 young members who are predominantly aged between 5 and 10. Partnering with Root and Blossom Counseling, a trusted community mental health partner, the club will provide essential mental health services in the new space. This setup will provide an elevated level of care, offering support and resources previously out of reach.

“We advocate and strive for education equity,” says Jill Hardy Heath, CEO of Heart of America. “Mental health is a huge component of that. It’s hard for kids to stay focused and do their best in class if they're not feeling supported emotionally. Wellness Rooms are thoughtfully designed to be safe havens where students and administrators can find the resources and support they need to show up and shine.”

Heart of America leads the way in creating vibrant, purpose-driven spaces where kids are empowered to feel and do their best. Kay Johnson, Associate Director of Operations and Development at EAKC, spoke to the value of working alongside mission-driven partners to make an impact on children’s lives.

“Our mission is to build a promising future for the kids in southeast Atlanta. And those are words, but what you all did today was put feet to those words. We do this work day in and day out, so to have community partners come along and walk alongside of us on this journey is really tremendous.”

To learn more about Heart of America’s work to transform and uplift community spaces, visit: heartofamerica.org

To learn more about FedEx’s Drive Forward Give Back scheme, visit: fedexcares.com/community-engagement