

JUBILEE PARTNERS REPORT

Spring 2025

***“God does not show favoritism, but accepts from every nation
the one who fears him and does what is right.”***

Acts 10:34

Christians have to look at the things around us with a kind of dual vision, seeing both the realities of this world and also the kingdom of heaven that is aching to be born among us. With our eyes on this world, we see the borders between nations, we see differences in culture and the misunderstandings and mistrust that arise from them, we see the marginalization of people based on their immigration status. In the current moment, we are watching the borders of our nation get harder, the separation between citizens and non-citizens get wider, and the hostility of some citizens toward immigrants increase. For millions of people who came to this country looking for the opportunity to live, work, and raise a family in peace—or have been trying to come—these shifts have brought new hardship and new insecurity.

We think of one friend from Burundi, whose brother Henry (not his real name) has been waiting in a refugee camp in Tanzania to be resettled in Georgia. People usually must remain in refugee camps for many years waiting for the opportunity to settle in a new home. Henry had been accepted for resettlement in the U.S. and was in the final preparations for the move when the U.S. refugee resettlement program was suspended on January 20. He is now back to waiting, not knowing when he will be able to move from the camps to a permanent home.

We think of a father from Venezuela, who lives in the U.S. and had been working to bring his wife and three children here through a program set up in 2022 under the last presidential administration. When we first talked to Miguel more than two years ago, he was worried about the safety of his family, especially his fourteen-year-old daughter whom he saw as increasingly vulnerable in their home country. When the family finally received an appointment with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency in August 2024, they were elated,





believing that they would soon be able to reunite. Their authorization to travel was delayed, however, and then shortly after the presidential transition the humanitarian parole program for Venezuelans was cancelled, closing the door to their reunion.

Other immigrants, including many who have come through Jubilee, are in the United States with pending asylum cases. Asylum seekers are legally protected from deportation while their case is being heard, but the overall shift in immigration policy has brought a new sense of uncertainty and fear. Regardless of their legal status, many immigrants are worried about getting swept up in the chaos of an immigration raid. Parents becoming separated

from their children is a real and intense fear. Families that we know are now working to create plans and legal documents to ensure that their children will be cared for and that they can be reunited with them if they are separated by immigration enforcement.

These are the realities that we see and experience in the world. For many people, they are not new realities, though they have become more acute recently. There is another reality, though. Acts 10:34 reminds us that the distinction between people from different nations exists only in the human imagination. In the kingdom of God, a person's place does not depend on their language, culture, nationality, or immigration status; all of God's children are one family. If we fail to recognize our brothers and sisters, they are our brothers and sisters nonetheless. And Christ's love is continually working in the world to reconcile us to one another in God's kingdom.

Our task is to seek the kingdom of God, whatever may be going on in the society around us. Here at Jubilee, we continue to share life together as a community of people from different nations, to give hospitality to people who have fled violence, and to support the needs of immigrant families that we know. In recent weeks, that has involved Jubilee staff teaching English to Spanish-speaking neighbors while a Guatemala-born resident taught a Spanish lesson to kids in our neighborhood. We have fielded phone calls from people looking for ways to help and have been able to connect some of them with families in Atlanta who need help with transportation, people needing financial assistance for fees related to their immigration process, or parents who need a bed or a child's car seat. We welcomed a young woman from Central

**Above: Lots of fun and flavor—decorating Christmas cookies by the dozen. Yum!
Below: Eh Kaw, Pa Saw Paw and Aye Nway play and sing at Sunday worship.**



America into Jubilee’s hospitality program. During our Sunday worship service, we listened to friends from the Karen community share powerful testimonies of God’s work in their lives. Over the decades at Jubilee, we have often seen how faith has sustained people through very dark times. Jesus himself was born into a time of oppression, and the Christian church took shape during violent persecution. Our Lord is with us in all circumstances, and so there is nothing that we need to fear. The Word of God, as the gospel of John teaches us, was sent to be a light that shines in the darkness. **The darkness will not overcome it.**

from the people of Jubilee



Solar Power is coming...slowly but surely. We're getting used to the imposing structure in our "middle green" near the volleyball court. Above shows the giant crane when it came to raise the structure which holds and moves the panels.

Top: A flock of shepherds and villagers crowd around to see the new baby in the cow shed (Jonas James Willingham, just 3 weeks big). The admired family (Maggie, Chris and Emma) is solemnly viewed by a resident host of angels and some young travelers on their bicycles.
Above: Kashindi, Mwanaidi, Corne, Martha and Fifi experience their first US Christmas—painting tree ornaments amidst lots of Christmas lights and music, all while snacking on hot chocolate and Christmas cookies.



Clockwise:
 1) Cold dark evenings make for great reading times near the Khouse wood stove.
 2) Neighbor Angie imparts her birthday cake-baking wisdoms to Itzy.
 3) EunJung shows her carefully tended SWEET POTATO starts, growing ready for the garden in April.



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 4) Visiting "JP Kid" Emily Smith shows eager learners her sourdough bread-making techniques on a recent Saturday. Delicious results!

5) A local panda bear was recently sighted hanging out in Jubilee's Giant Timber Bamboo grove. We named him FELIX. Cute isn't he?



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Our Jubilee shop building is now home to a great work of art by our own resident muralist, Tracy Newton. Come by and see it!



It WAS a lovely snowy day in January.... Mud? No problem!



Volunteers! They make our world go 'round... This spring with 3 young families and 4 singles, lots of work is happening and lots of making and renewing friendships. Sadly, we've already said "so long" to the two who had to leave early for other commitments. We miss you, Daniel and Pat!

Who we are

Jubilee Partners is an intentional Christian service community in north Georgia. Our primary ministry is offering hospitality to newly arrived refugees. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; donations are thus tax-deductible. Your donations and support of our work are most appreciated.

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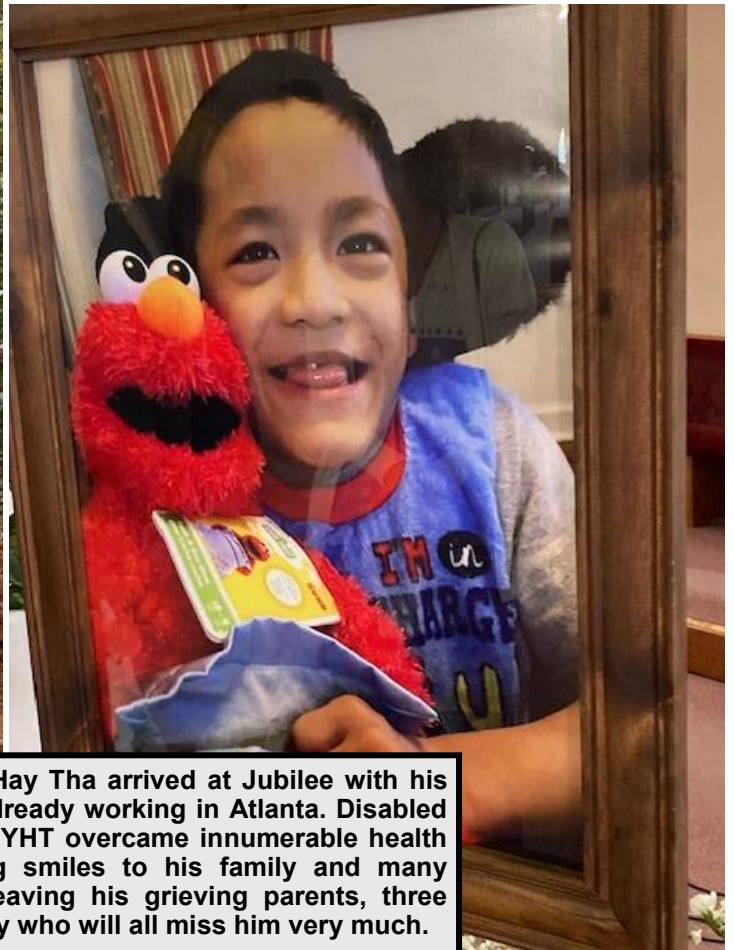
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Nine years ago, 3-year-old Ywa Hay Tha arrived at Jubilee with his mother, eager to join his father already working in Atlanta. Disabled by Cerebral Palsy since infancy, YHT overcame innumerable health crises while still giving winning smiles to his family and many friends. YHT died in October, leaving his grieving parents, three younger siblings and a community who will all miss him very much.