

Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church Opening Their Doors to the Community

Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church, located in Cuyler Brownville at 1622 Ogeechee Road, has sold an empty lot next to the church to Savannah Historic Initiatives (SHI), affiliated with the Civis Foundation.

CHSA provided technical assistance for the property sale, which will result in four single family homes for sale to households with modest incomes. The terms of the sale also include the creation of a parking lot for the historic church, funded by SHI. Smith-Dixon says, "As a CDFI, we were delighted to bring together two entities with similar visions of community improvement. This is a perfect example of how CHSA brings housing opportunities to neighbors."



Rev. Brenda Allen and her husband, Deacon Arthur Allen, pose at the church.

Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1911, and celebrates their 114th Anniversary this weekend. (The [Savannah Tribune has details.](#)) The church (**not included in the sale**) will remain as an important landmark and community center in Cuyler Brownville.

Rev. Brenda H. Allen was installed as Senior Pastor in 2020, and has forged strong ties with both church members and neighbors. She says, "I felt the Lord's calling to re-engage and connect with the community. Having new homeowners located right next to our Church will be an extension of our open doors to the whole community's restoration."

Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church is a member of the Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association, as well as the Berean Missionary Baptist Association. "Once we talked through the details with CHSA, it was easy to envision the way to connect the trustees and leadership of our Church with a developer who shared their commitment to making use of their resources to glorify God and build up the neighborhood," added Pastor Allen.



Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church is NOT included in the sale of the adjoining parcel of land to the Savannah Historic Initiative, which will build four single family homes for households with modest incomes at that location.

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CHSA 2024 Annual Report 35 Years of Housing Opportunities

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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

35

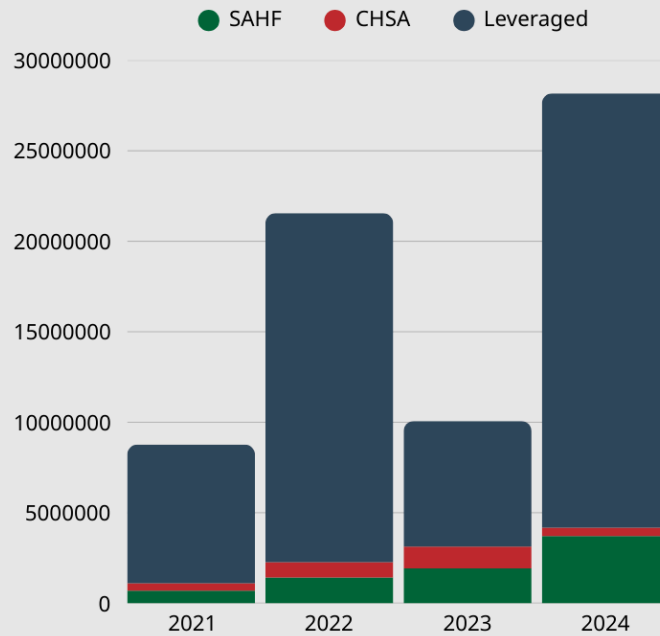
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Overall Housing Investments



Meet the Trolley Tour Drivers! Elite Savannah Travel



When you join a Trolley Tour of Housing Opportunities with Anita Smith-Dixon, you will be driven across Savannah by expert drivers from [Elite Savannah Travel](#), a transportation company formerly known as Old Savannah Tours. Sonia Oglesby, Director of Group Services, says, "We are so honored to be the tour provider for CHSA! These tours provide our fellow neighbors with an inside view of our beautiful city - and how it can be even more beautiful."

Jason Kenny shares the CHSA tour driving duties with his colleague, Nina Paul. Both drivers are exceptionally good at navigating downtown and smaller streets where the tour takes people to see past, present, and future housing successes.

Mr. Kenny says, "My favorite part of the tour is hearing how CHSA helped families like mine. I come from a single-parent family and my dad dedicated his life to his family. I follow CHSA on Facebook, and was all excited to hear about a single mother signing the deed to her house."

He also noted that many residents are unaware of the challenges. "I was surprised at how some neighborhoods have changed."

Both drivers report that the trolley tour has shown them a wider view of the housing crisis in Savannah. "What I've learned is, CHSA is making a difference. There's always more that can be done," says Kenny.



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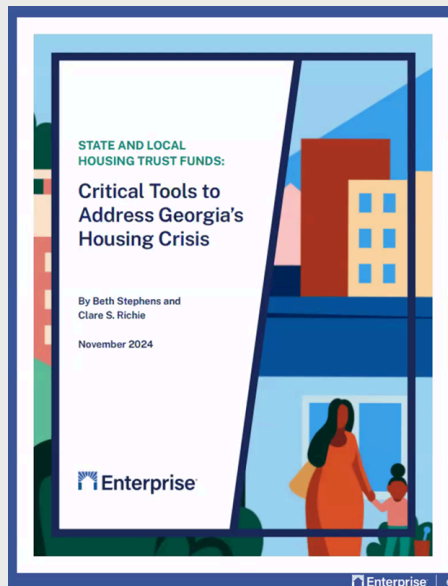
CHSA is dedicated to transforming lives by providing safe, quality, and affordable homes to those in need. To continue this vital mission, we invite you to consider making a significant gift through a bequest. A bequest is a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy that will help sustain our work for generations to come. Not only does it provide the opportunity to make a meaningful impact, but it also offers financial flexibility for you and your loved ones. By including CHSA in your will, you can ensure that future generations benefit from the same opportunity for stability and growth that we are proud to provide today. Together with our partners, we are continuing to build stronger, healthier communities, and your support will play a pivotal role in advancing this important work. To learn more about how your bequest can make a difference, and to see how CHSA is changing lives across the community, please reach out. Together, we can create lasting change for all our neighbors.

[CREATE A WILL](#)

CHSA has teamed with the U.S. Will Registry to provide a FREE service to create a will for anyone. By investing in estate planning services, CHSA hopes to preserve family wealth and provide housing opportunities for persons of all income levels.

Perhaps you have considered the possibility of leaving a gift in your will to CHSA? Visit our website for an easy way to make that gift a reality. Together, we can create lasting change for all our neighbors.

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State and Local Housing Trust Funds: Critical Tools to Address Georgia's Housing Crisis!

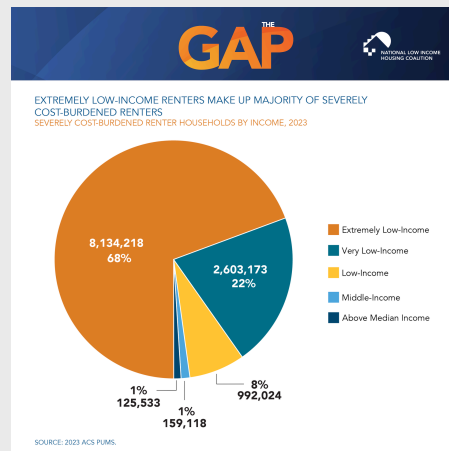
This November 2024 report from Enterprise Community Partners shares key information on the housing crisis, alongside solutions that are working in other locations. A recent webinar on this topic featured Martin Fretty, Director of the City of Savannah Housing Services Department, focused on the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund.

[Download the Report](#)

National Low Income Housing Coalition releases 2025 Gap Report

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released its 2025 annual report, [*The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*](#). *The Gap* report details the severe shortage of affordable rental homes available to families and individuals. The solutions to this crisis will require investments from both public and private sources.

[Download the Gap Report](#)



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