

Official press release from the
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Young adults serve local community while attending religious convention

ATLANTA – While many of their elders sit in the Georgia Dome at a world religion convention, about 50 young adults are volunteering their time to sort clothes and pack school bags for underprivileged community members.

The participants in the Impact Atlanta program are also cleaning residential bathrooms and spreading awareness about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's campaign to end violence against women, called End It Now. The group is in town for the Adventists Church's 59th General Conference Session, the business meeting of the world-wide church held every five years.

Some of the Impact Atlanta participants will sort school supplies Monday and Thursday afternoons at Hosea Feed the Hungry for the annual Back to School Jamboree, said Persida Ambarus, coordinator of the community projects. Others will be assigned to project sites such as My Sister's House, operated by the Atlanta Union Mission, and Salvation Army.

"This kind of activity resonates with the hearts of our young people," said Allan Martin, coordinator of Impact Atlanta. The youth and young adults, from ages 18 to 35, attend worship services and seminars on servant leadership in the mornings before rolling up their sleeves to work on service projects each afternoon.

Ambarus commented on the positive reactions of local residents whose homes are being cleaned by the young adults. "They are really impressed that people from around the world would come here and clean their bathrooms," she said.

Participants will promote a signing ceremony in Centennial Park Tuesday at 11 a.m. for the anti-violence against women and girls petition the church will submit to the United Nations. During that event, youth pastor and street art minister Milton Coronado, from Chicago, is scheduled to spray-paint a graffiti-style mural reflecting the anti-violence theme.

About General Conference Session:

The 59th General Conference Session is a business meeting of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church from June 24 to July 3, 2010 in Atlanta. Occurring every five years, General Conference Session gathers representatives from the church around the world to elect leadership and determine the focus of mission. The Seventh-day Adventist Church

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is a mainline protestant denomination with over 16.3 million members in 206 nations around the world. The church's headquarters is in Silver Spring, Maryland.

If you are interested in this story, please call George Johnson Jr., at 240-338-2219.

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