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CHRIS 180 Launches Youth Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program

TREE House Program Now Based In North Fulton County, Serves Dangerous Hotspot

(JANUARY 9, 2019) ATLANTA, GA- [CHRIS 180](#), an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization, today announced the opening of the CHRIS Counseling Center's TREE House Program, launched to help youth struggling with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) at no cost for participants. The addition of the program expands CHRIS 180's mental health offerings across Metro Atlanta and surrounding counties.

The program, funded by a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), will serve youth and young adults ages 13-24 and their families. CHRIS 180 and its partner, the Summit Counseling Center, applied for the grant to serve one of the growing drug hotspots in Metro Atlanta. The area, known as *The Triangle*, includes North Fulton County, West Gwinnett County, South Forsyth County and Northwest Dekalb County, and has experienced a major surge in heroin and opioid use in recent years.

According to statistics provided by the Fulton County Government, the number of heroin and opioid related deaths in *The Triangle* has skyrocketed [4000 percent](#). CHRIS 180's TREE House program will address this growing problem of SUD and related mental health disorders and will meet the needs of those who lack insurance coverage for treatment.

Clients in the program can receive comprehensive assessments, treatment, early intervention, and recovery support services specialized for three groups: 13-17 year-olds, 18-24 year-olds and their family members. The TREE House program is an expansion of CHRIS 180's CHRIS Counseling Center services, located in Dekalb, Fulton and Gwinnett Counties. The nonprofit's licensed counselors provide individual, group, family and play therapy for clients of all ages who face mental health and substance use issues.

"Our mission is to heal children, build families and strengthen community. With the TREE House program, we will help young adults facing a critical crossroads and give youth and their families a hand up in the recovery process with the tools they need to lead lives free of substance use. And through this program, we are proud to help Fulton County further expand services to address a growing problem for its teens, young adults and families." said Kathy Colbenson, LMFT, President & CEO of CHRIS 180.

The TREE House program is based at Fulton County's North Annex facility in Sandy Springs. The public is invited to attend an open house event **Tuesday, January 15** from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at **7741 Roswell Road NE, Suite 101 Sandy Springs, GA 30350**. For more information on the TREE House program, call 770-522-9909 or email CHRIS 180's Program Manager, Laura Davis, at laura.davis@CHRIS180.org.

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About CHRIS 180

Since 1981, CHRIS 180 has transformed more than 70,000 lives. CHRIS 180 saves, serves and protects traumatized children, adults and families through trauma-informed, solution-focused programming that empowers them to change the direction of their lives. The name CHRIS 180 represents our core values: Creativity, Honesty, Respect, Integrity and Safety. CHRIS 180's ambition is to be Georgia's go-to place where every child, adult, and family who have experienced trauma can discover how to recover, become resilient, and pivot toward a new future of hope and confidence. For more information, visit CHRIS180.org