

# PRESS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## The World Children's Center Announces Completion of Phase I

Atlanta, Georgia. The World Children's Center has successfully completed Phase I of the development of its 720-acre site in Haralson County, Georgia. Phase II development is slated to begin early 2017 and upon completion will lead to the opening of the Center.

The World Children's Center is a 720-acre master planned community 40 minutes outside Atlanta, Georgia. It is currently being developed to serve 800 homeless, orphaned and/or neglected children from Georgia, the United States and the world. Completion of Phase I included the land acquisition, securing all municipal land use and project plan approvals, installation of project infrastructure including roads and utilities, the construction of the community entrance and the completion of the initial children's home.



Grounds Entrance



World Children's Center Master Plan



First Completed Children's Home

Phase II development will include the construction of the first project neighborhood, including up to nine additional homes, a temporary modular school, the hiring of key staff to launch programming and fundraising efforts—all leading to the opening of the World Children's Center.

When complete, the Center will serve 800 children. It will consist of 100 homes, each with surrogate house parents and eight children per home. At the heart of the center, Educational Programs and Facilities will provide a comprehensive learning environment, supplemented by Recreational Facilities, an Art & Music Center, a Pediatric Clinic, an International Humanitarian Development & Training Center and a Food & Clothing Distribution Center, as well as Parks and Playgrounds—all of which will serve the Center and surrounding communities. Additional amenities will be developed to include an

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*The World Children's Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.*

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outdoor Performing Arts Theatre, non-denominational Worship Center and Welcome Center.

[Click to view an animated tour of the Center \(https://vimeo.com/194766578\)](https://vimeo.com/194766578)

“Phase I completion is a major milestone towards opening the Center,” explains Founder and President, Donald H. Whitney. “Now that the infrastructure is complete and we enter Phase II of construction, we are closer to opening our doors and beginning to service children who need and deserve a safe haven, unconditional love and the everyday support necessary for them to thrive as a part of our community.”

The project was developed through the careful study of the operations and best practices of the renowned Milton Hershey School in Hershey Pennsylvania to address immediate needs of at-risk children in Georgia, across the USA and throughout the world.

In Georgia alone, the extent of child trafficking and the almost doubling of children moving into the foster care system the past three years demonstrates the need for the World Children’s Center—because every child deserves a loving home and to be able to experience life in all of its fullness.

Current President and graduate of the Milton Hershey School and World Children’s Center Board Member, Peter Gurt, supports the efforts of the Center, stating “We are really excited about the partnership we have with the World Children’s Center. We have had executives provide counsel, have helped design program and curriculum and we are excited to continue that collaboration as we go forward. The Milton Hershey School is one-of-a-kind, but if there were places like Milton Hershey School in every state, we believe that more kids would be helped.”

Under the leadership of Atlanta businessman, philanthropist, and project visionary, Donald H. Whitney and experienced global non-profit leader, businessman and newly appointed Executive Director, John Clause, the development of the World Children’s Center will be advancing over the course of the next 10 years and beyond.

If you have an interest in learning more about the World Children’s Center and becoming a partner and supporter in this important project focused solely on the welfare of children, please contact John Clause at [jclause@worldchildrenscenter.org](mailto:jclause@worldchildrenscenter.org) or call at 770.405.0630 or 1.800.32.WORLD. [Click here for a tour of the property from Issa \(https://youtu.be/o3ZVdAi2z-E\)](https://youtu.be/o3ZVdAi2z-E)

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#### **ABOUT THE WORLD CHILDREN’S CENTER:**

The World Children’s Center mission is to build programs that foster education, provide housing and shelter, as well as ensure the safety of under-served children. The World Children’s Center believes that every child should have the opportunity to grow in a safe, stable environment, have equal access to education and quality health care, and experience meaningful and productive work throughout his or her life. When complete, the World Children’s Center Academy will educate, provide housing and enrichment/character-building programs, as well as food and clothing to an estimated 800 children.

