

# *Be Exceptional!*

THE EXCEPTIONAL FOUNDATION OF ATLANTA



THE  
**EXCEPTIONAL  
FOUNDATION**  
OF ATLANTA

A SPECIAL PLACE FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVE



The Corona Virus pandemic has forced many of us to learn routines of a new way of life for now. Where we once had the freedoms to travel about and meet up with others at our leisure that suddenly came to a screeching halt.

For now, we have become accustomed to a life sheltered in place in our homes. Unable to access places like restaurants, movie theaters, clothing stores, bowling alleys, salons, gyms and so many more. Although this has been a necessary, yet difficult transition for most, we are hopeful for the future when we can safely resume back to the normal routines that connect us with our friends, coworkers, and most importantly our community. However, for most with intellectual and developmental disabilities, they will continue to live on a path of social distancing and sheltering in place if not provided with the supports of a program like The Exceptional Foundation of Atlanta.

Once adults with disabilities leave the school system services, they lose access to many things. They lose access to transportation as they no longer have a bus that picks them up and connects them to a world outside of their home and in turn this causes them to lose contact with their peers, decrease in physical engagement and lose access to their local community. The reality for those with disabilities is how to avoid a shelter in place order that will last for the rest of their lifetime.



The Exceptional Foundation of Atlanta is a nonprofit, private day program that is the solution for adults with disabilities to seek social interaction, physical engagement and community access. Most importantly the EFATL program is a place that allows adults with disabilities a meaningful and engaging quality of life.

Although our program is not able to meet in person due to COVID 19 Restrictions, we knew the program services needed to continue in some capacity because our participants depended on it. The EFATL staff got creative to prepare each participant with a project bag to include items needed for weekly zoom meetings and we are proud to say the EXCEPTIONAL moments CONTINUE!

On behalf of The Exceptional Foundation of Atlanta staff and Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity to our mission. We want you to know that because of you, we were able to continue to pay our staff and supply the project bags all without bringing financial hardship to our families for services. We hope that our community of supporters stay healthy during this time and know our participants look forward to serving the community they love again soon.

For more information about our program and for ways to support it, email us at [info@atl.org](mailto:info@atl.org).

## EXCEPTIONAL PROJECT BAGS



Our participants were thrilled to see the new EFATL van stop by with staff to drop off project bags filled with a variety of supplies to keep them busy for the month of April. Each bag included supplies to play games during zoom meetings, create artwork (thank you Plaid Crafts for the donation of supplies), science experiments, and a homemade protective face mask made by our very own Ms. Gladys. The purpose of these bags was to create, excitement, stimulation, and to bring some PURPOSE to our participants days at home.

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## CLICK TO DONATE VIA VENMO

Please email us your contact information so we can mail you an end of the year tax letter.

## EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS



### EXCEPTIONAL DIVAS

Little did we know that we would be practicing relaxation for the months to come.



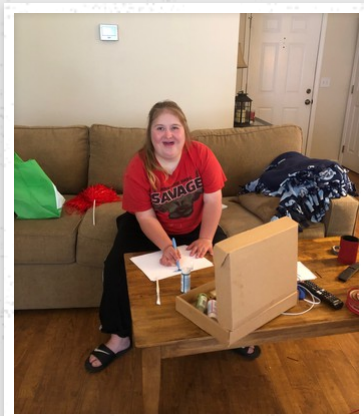
### DUDES DAY

Five guys chose to go to Five Guys so the ladies could have the run of the house.



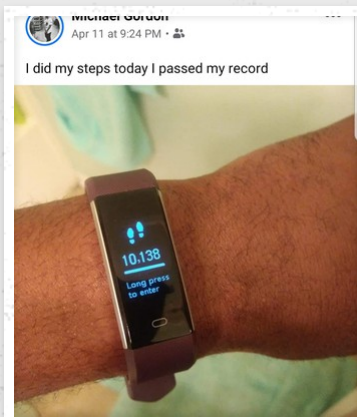
### CHANGE IN PLANS

We are now zooming along together twice a week! That Nasty Rona can't stop us from staying connected!



### GETTING CRAFTY

Leann is using supplies from her project bag to make her piece of our upcoming collaborative art project. We designed this project to encourage some special friends in our community. Stay tuned to see the results of our remote collaboration.



### EXCEPTIONAL 100

This unexpected time has allowed us extra time to work on our Exceptional 100 goals. Michael is making progress, are you? Thanks to our donor for providing participants with a fitness tracker!



### #EXCEPTIONALHOPE

We must remember that this is temporary and we still have EXCEPTIONAL HOPE for the future. We will meet again and we will enjoy great times together in the community. Follow us on Facebook as we share what participants are hoping to do in the future.

## QUOTES ABOUT WEEKLY ZOOMS



Each week EFATL staff and participants connect with regular zoom meetings. Each zoom meeting has as a planned activity. Pictured above the participants had to dress for their dream vacation. After some social time, Program Director Susan Keeney led a slideshow of pictures that participants had submitted of their favorite trip and the group then had to guess where the picture was taken. It was over an hour of fun, laughter, and EXCEPTIONAL moments even from afar!

The zooms allow participants to play games, share experiences, create artwork, celebrate birthdays, visit with surprise guests and more. Most importantly the zooms allow the participants to connect with one another and encourage each other through a difficult time.

Check out the parent quotes about the weekly zooms:

"AWESOME!"

"She loves seeing everyone!"

"He looks forward to seeing his friends."

"He loves listening."

"She will be excited!"

"He's ready!"

"He was so happy about this. You all are the bomb.com!"

Check out the participant quotes about the weekly zooms:

"Get on zoom I miss you!"



"I'm in a meeting."

"When do we zoom again?"

## SUPPORTER SHOUT OUTS



The Exceptional Foundation of Atlanta is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations to keep our day program running at a low cost to our participants. We are thankful for all donations big and small! Here's a shout out to our most recent top donors and community supporters!

**United Pump and Control**  
**DEYM \_Nails by Mari**

We would love for you to make our next Shout Out list. Click the link below to make a tax-deductible donation.

BE EXCEPTIONAL WITH US



[CLICK HERE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

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## THE EXCEPTIONAL FOUNDATION OF ATLANTA



A day program for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities that provides purposeful activities to increase social interactions, community involvement and healthier lifestyles.

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