

The Faces of Urban Forestry



Kathy Thornton
Family Crisis Center
Operations Coordinator



Trees Provide Comfort and Healing for Children Recovering from Abuse

“Trees are central to the healing process for children recovering from domestic violence,” says Kathy Thornton, who oversees a temporary home for more than 20 children.

A suggestion from a Family Crisis Center volunteer prompted Kathy to successfully apply for a grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission. She then received assistance from state and local staff on getting new trees planted.

“They were great,” she said. “It really helped to have someone with knowledge of trees. The city donated time and equipment and made sure we had the right trees in the right place.”

Most importantly, the red maple, lacebark elm and zelkova trees give comfort to the children while outdoors, shading equipment and providing a calming space for play and activity.

“I can tell you the playground is a really big deal for the kids,” she said.

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A joint project of U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Arbor Day Foundation. For more information visit arborday.org/faces