

THE CARTER CENTER



NEWS

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Sudan, Uganda Agree to Restore Diplomatic Ties

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni and Sudan President Omar al-Bashir agreed Dec. 8 to begin re-establishing diplomatic relations and promote peace in the region.

The two leaders signed an agreement at the state house in Nairobi, Kenya, following discussions mediated by former President Jimmy Carter and organized by The Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program. President Moi joined President Carter to witness the signing.

Among their pledges in the 11-point document (see *The Carter Center Web site at www.cartercenter.org for details*), President Museveni and President al-Bashir agreed to:

- Renounce the use of force to resolve differences
- Disband and disarm terrorist groups
- Respect each country's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- Cease support to any rebel groups
- Return all prisoners of war to their

respective nations

- Locate and return abductees to their families
- Offer amnesty and reintegration assistance to all former combatants who renounce the use of force.

The agreement also calls for formation of a Joint Ministerial Committee and technical support teams to establish

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Center Receives Lions' Share and More



Two recent grants totaling nearly \$30 million will help The Carter Center expand its campaign against preventable

blindness in the developing world.
Details on Page 5.

Observers Witness Strife in East Timor

Carter Center monitors played a key behind-the-scenes role as the international spotlight focused on East Timor's vote for independence from Indonesia last August.

Eight of the 15 Center observers arrived in the territory nearly two months before the Aug. 30 vote to investigate reports of intimidation and violence perpetrated by anti-independence militia. During the run-up to the election and

in the aftermath of the vote, armed militias incited a mass exodus of refugees, terrorized and murdered civilians, and destroyed many East Timor homes, businesses, and public buildings.

"As soon as our observers arrived, they heard reports and saw strong evidence indicating Indonesian military and police were supporting the militias,"

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Waving registration papers, hundreds of East Timorese descend from the hills to line up at polling centers in August. Most voted for independence from Indonesia.



Kirk Wadsworth

Sudan, Uganda Diplomacy

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a timetable of specific steps to implement the agreement.

The Carter Center and President Carter have worked for many years to promote peace and health in Africa, with a strong focus on East Africa.

President al-Bashir and President Museveni invited President Carter last spring to facilitate their discussions on improving bilateral relations between their two countries.

Subsequently, the Center's Conflict Resolution Program worked for several months with high-level representatives of each government to begin defining an agenda for discussions in December.


The Conflict Resolution Program

President Carter witnesses the peace deal between Sudan President Omar al-Bashir (seated left) and Uganda President Yoweri Museveni (seated right). Next to him is Kenya President Daniel arap Moi who hosted the event.



Vince Farley

also has been instrumental in advancing peace processes in Bosnia, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Liberia, North Korea, and Sudan. Most recently, the Center

sent a 50-person team to observe Mozambique's national elections (see story below). 

Peaceful Polling Marks Mozambique Elections in December

After the elections, we want to have a big party to dance in the streets right here," said Colleta Mucavela, a 62-year-old street vendor in Maputo, Mozambique, pointing to the sidewalk.

Fellow Mozambicans mirrored her excitement, for nearly 75 percent of the 7 million registered voters cast ballots in Mozambique's second democratic general elections Dec. 3-5.

The elections, originally scheduled for two days, extended an extra day to allow voters time to get to the polls due to heavy rains and logistical problems in some areas.

Former President Jimmy Carter, Rosalynn Carter, and former Botswana President Ketumile Masire led a Carter Center team of 50 delegates from 16 countries to observe the elections and vote tabulation. The National Elections Commission (CNE) invited the group.

Major political parties also welcomed the delegates, including the ruling FRELIMO party and the opposition RENAMO party.

"The voting process was peaceful and orderly," said President Carter. "Mozambicans demonstrated their clear commitment to peace, freedom, and democracy."

That was not the case, however, after Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975. A 16-year civil war erupted in the sub-Saharan African nation, resulting in widespread killing and destruction. More than 1 million land mines remain unexploded.


But the 1992 peace agreement initiated Mozambique's transition to democracy, paving the way for the country's first

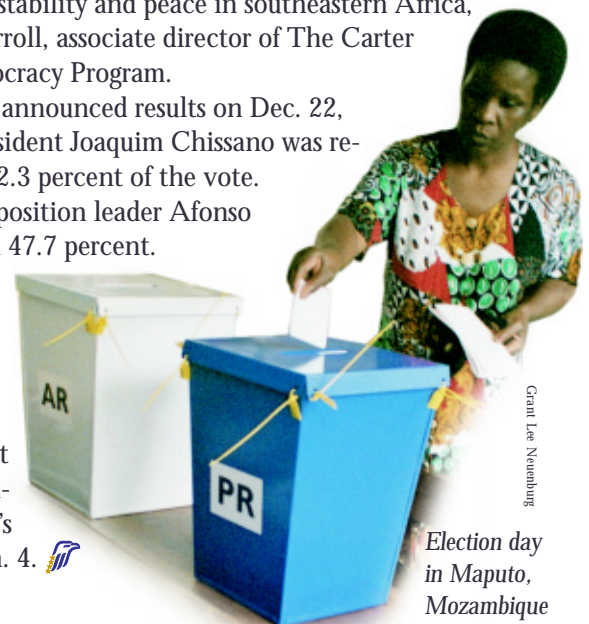
multiparty elections in 1994. Now, despite widespread poverty and illiteracy, Mozambique is recovering with an estimated 10 percent annual growth rate and low inflation.

In all, Carter Center delegates observed 649 polling sites in 50 districts representing 550,000 registered voters. The Center did note some problems with processing complaints, delayed poll openings, intimidation of some RENAMO party members, and a lack of transparency in processing the final vote count.

"Mozambique's election is an important test for the zone of democratic stability and peace in southeastern Africa," said David Carroll, associate director of The Carter Center's Democracy Program.

The CNE announced results on Dec. 22, indicating President Joaquim Chissano was re-elected with 52.3 percent of the vote. RENAMO opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama had 47.7 percent.

Although his party challenged the results, the Mozambique Supreme Court validated President Chissano's re-election Jan. 4. 



Grant Lee Neuenburg

Election day in Maputo, Mozambique

East Timor Voters Prevail

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said Charles Costello, Democracy Program director. "The Center's reports were thorough and provided impetus for public condemnation in the media and by governments worldwide."


President Carter urged then-Indonesian President B.J. Habibie to stop military and police involvement with the militias. President Carter also advised that Indonesia's international good standing could suffer if the country failed to abide by its earlier agreement with the United Nations and Portugal to provide public order and security for free and fair balloting.

With the violence unabated, Center observers dispatched throughout the territory Aug. 30 to observe the vote. The U.N.-supervised "public consultation" allowed East Timorese to request greater autonomy within Indonesia or independence. The referendum brought nearly every eligible voter to the polls, with about 79 percent choosing to secede from Indonesia.

With the Indonesia military's active support, militias resisted the outcome with more violence and massive population displacement. Finally, under great international pressure to stop the violence, the Indonesian government allowed an Australian-led peacekeeping force to restore security in September.

In late October, the Indonesian parliament ratified the vote, ceding control to the United Nations and allowing for a U.N. interim administration and peace-keeping force that will manage the transition to independence for East Timor.

"After being forced to evacuate to safety in mid-September, The Carter Center sent a team back to East Timor in December to assess how we might help the East Timorese," said Costello.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it as its 27th province. The action sparked a separatist insurgency, perhaps causing 200,000 deaths of East Timorese to date. 



These boys in Memo, East Timor, build their "make-believe" house in the dirt, while their home behind them smolders after pro-integration militia set it afire. "This is one of the scenes I will always remember," said Kirk Wolcott of The Carter Center.

Kirk Wolcott

Crisis in East Timor: Again We Bow to the Bullies

Kirk Wolcott, Conflict Resolution Program coordinator for The Carter Center, wrote about his experience in East Timor for the Sept. 29, 1999, issue of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Below are excerpts reprinted with permission:

At a time when citizens of East Timor should be celebrating the island's recent overwhelming vote for independence, they instead are hiding, fleeing, and dying.

I traveled to East Timor in August as one of 15 international observers The Carter Center sent to monitor the vote on integration with or independence from Indonesia.

Before arriving, I was baffled that the United Nations had trusted the Indonesian government to provide security for the very island it had spent 23 years trying to conquer. It was soon obvious that Indonesia was not living up to its commitment.

The pro-integration militia had not been disarmed as promised. They were intimidating, harassing, and killing people throughout the island. I saw men of all ages wearing militia T-shirts and brazenly carrying machetes, handguns, and even automatic weapons, one of the many signs that they were being supplied and supported by the Indonesian security forces.

My first night in Maliana, I awoke around 11:30 to the sound of gunfire. I got up and saw our two Timorese drivers literally trembling with fear in the hall. Rumor was that those helping "foreigners" would be the first ones killed.

The next morning, we visited the U.N. compound in town. "Just another night in Maliana," an Australian military liaison officer joked uneasily. He, like civilian police officers and other U.N. personnel,

was forbidden to carry weapons.

He told us that the militia members had spent the night terrorizing pro-independence students in Dombosco. We visited Dombosco later that morning and found men and boys sitting outside straw huts. They had sent the women and girls up the hill for safety.

Now they were waiting, armed only with slingshots, bamboo spears, and stones, for the militia.

A U.N. helicopter arrived and officials toured the town to determine if the vote should be canceled. I asked one official what would happen next. "The vote will go on," he said. "Only Timorese have been killed. As long as internationals are not hurt,


we will stay. That's the way of the world."

The vote did go on and nearly 99 percent of East Timor's eligible voters cast ballots overwhelmingly for independence.

In Chechnya, thousands were slaughtered struggling for independence. In Kosovo, we waited years to challenge Milosevic.

And now in East Timor, we again gave into a bully. Only after the island was ravaged and half the population expelled did we decide to take action.

Next time, action must come sooner. The existing international laws enable us to apply economic pressure or send in our armed peacekeeping forces earlier. If we are unwilling to use these tools, we must find other ways.

The alternative is to keep watching the pictures on television that I am now having such a hard time believing. 



Kirk Wolcott with water buffalo near Maliana, East Timor



Sophie Kahn

Mental Health Fellowship Program Selects New Recipients

The Carter Center's Mental Health Program chose six new journalists in July (shown at right) for its 1999-2000 Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism.

Each receives a \$10,000 grant to study a selected mental health topic, furthering The Carter Center's Mental Health Program goal of increasing accurate reporting on mental health issues and diminishing stigma and discrimination against people with these illnesses.

Recipients make at least two trips to The Carter Center. The first trip, which occurred in September, enabled the fellows to meet Mrs. Carter and their advisors to discuss their projects. The journalists will return in September 2000 to present their completed works.

Since the program's inception in 1997, two recipients have received Pulitzer Prize nominations, and one received Amnesty International USA's 1999 Spotlight on Media Award.



Pat Bellinghausen
Billings Gazette
Billings, Mont.
Topic: Needs of people with mental illnesses in rural communities



John Head
Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta
Topic: Mental health challenges among minorities



Liisa Hyvarinen
WTSP-TV
St. Petersburg, Fla.
Topic: Suicide causes, and prevention and support resources



Annie Murphy Paul
More magazine
New York
Topic: Promises and perils of self-help approaches to mental and emotional problems



Paul Raeburn
Business Week
New York
Topic: Scientific and social aspects of mental illnesses in children and how schools cope



Emil Vernarec
Business and Health magazine
Montvale, N.J.
Topic: How employer-sponsored health programs might address depression and job-related stress

Symposium Previews Surgeon General's Mental Health Report

Anticipated release of the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on mental health in December was the topic of the 15th Annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy.

Deputy Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu told some 200 leaders from national mental health organizations that mental illnesses are "critical public health problems" that need an approach "based on nurturing, not clouded by blame and stigmatization."

He noted 51 million Americans experience diagnosable mental disorders, yet only one in four affected adults receives treatment. Only one-third of

children and adolescents who need mental health services get them.

"The surgeon general's report is a remarkable opportunity to further destigmatize mental illnesses and create awareness of the advances our society has made in treatment and prevention," said Mrs. Carter.

"Doctors, consumers, and other advocates in the mental health community will be working together to create widespread awareness that mental health is as important to public health as is physical health."

Leaders and consumers at the November symposium discussed ways to galvanize the nation around mental

health as a public health issue and create awareness of scientific advances in diagnosis and treatment.

Mrs. Carter also announced at the symposium the appointment of a new director for the Center's Mental Health Program. Dr. Gregory Fricchione, associate professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, will join the Center in January.

At Harvard since 1993, Dr. Fricchione has been director of the medical psychiatry service at Brigham and Women's Hospital and director of research at the Mind-Body Medical Institute at Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Schistosomiasis Treatment Plan Debuts in Nigeria

Efforts to control the spread of another parasitic disease gathered momentum when Nigeria's Plateau and Nasarawa States began drug treatment in October.

The disease is urinary schistosomiasis or "snail fever." It evolves when people swim or bathe in water contaminated with parasitic larvae that emerge from certain fresh water snails. The larvae become adult worms, penetrate the skin, and scar internal human tissue in the intestines, liver, and lungs, resulting in chronic debility and sometimes premature death.

Treatment for schistosomiasis consists of taking one annual oral dose of the drug praziquantel.

The first statewide treatments with praziquantel were administered during special ceremonies held Oct. 11 in Mungkohot village in Plateau State. Andaha villagers in Nasarawa State followed suit the next day.




A staff member unloads schistosomiasis posters in Nigeria for community distributors.

Witnessing the milestone was Dr. Frank Richards, technical director of The Carter Center's river blindness,

lymphatic filariasis, and schistosomiasis programs. "In partnership with the ministries of health from both Nigerian states, The Carter Center has officially expanded its fight against disease to include schistosomiasis," said Dr. Richards. "Partnerships that make available to impoverished communities safe miracle drugs is truly cause to celebrate."

Medochemie Company of Cyprus donated 50,000 praziquantel tablets to the schistosomiasis initiative. Earlier, Bayer Pharmaceuticals of Germany also donated 50,000 tablets.

"The Carter Center expects to help control this disease as methodically and successfully as it has battled Guinea worm and river blindness," Dr. Richards said. "We hope that we will continue to receive donated praziquantel from the companies that make it, so we can sustain this launching."

People in 74 tropical countries of Africa, Asia, and South America are infected with schistosomiasis. Nearly 200 million people have the disease in Africa. 

Lions, Hilton Contribute \$30 Million to Center

A \$30 million gift from the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation will assist Carter Center blindness prevention programs in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Since 1996, The Carter Center has

The Carters present a river blindness statue to Jim Ervin of Lions Clubs.



helped distribute more than 15 million treatments of the drug Mectizan, which prevents river blindness when administered annually. River blindness is a debilitating disease spread by the bite of black flies, affecting millions of people in Africa and Latin America.

"These funds also let us initiate programs to control trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness," said former President Jimmy Carter.

About 6 million people, mostly women, are blind from trachoma, which is preventable with simple hygiene. Another 540 million, almost 10 percent of the world's population, are at risk.

"Since 1996, Lions members have assisted Carter Center efforts in Africa," said Jim Ervin, president of Lions Clubs International whose foundation is donating \$16 million over five years. "Last year, 67 percent of treatments provided

Top Four Carter Center Contributions Since 1998

- **Lions Clubs International Foundation:** \$16 million for blindness prevention
- **Conrad N. Hilton Foundation:** \$13.626 million for trachoma control
- **United Kingdom and Japan:** \$2.5 million each for Guinea worm control

through the Center's river blindness program were in partnership with Lions Clubs in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Sudan."

"We made the Center the primary grant recipient because of the infrastructure it created for Guinea worm eradication in countries where trachoma is also endemic," said Donald Hubbs, board chairman of the Hilton Foundation.


The Hilton Foundation has committed \$13.6 million to The Carter Center over the next 10 years. 



PHOTO: UCI

President Carter samples peanuts grown by Malian farmers, while Mrs. Carter inspects a handful held by Farid Waliya of the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics in Mali (left).

Agriculture Program Yields Promise in Mali

Farmers participating in the Sasakawa-Global 2000 agriculture program (SG 2000) continue to explore innovative methods to increase agricultural and economical productivity.

Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter visited farmers in October in Selingue, Mali, who have implemented an irrigation project. "Using irrigated land that frequently is cultivated to grow rice, these farmers also are growing Quality Protein Maize (QPM), a

nutritious corn variety that SG 2000 introduced into Mali in 1997," said President Carter.

"Next year, 4,000 Malian farmers will test QPM on almost 5,000 acres of irrigated SG 2000 demonstration plots."


While in Selingue, President Carter presided over the grand opening of the village's first CREP or "Caisses Rurales d'Epargne et de Pret." CREPs are village savings and loan associations that give member farmers access to loans and

credit lines at low rates to purchase equipment and other agricultural items.

Since all village farmers contribute to the CREP, incentive is high to repay loans and support their neighbors. As a result, loan repayment rates are about 98 percent.

SG 2000's Mali country director, Dr. Marcel Galiba, was a key team member who developed and implemented the first CREP in Benin in 1992. "The strength of the CREP movement in sub-Saharan Africa is that it provides a real bank building and a real safe in which to place money," said Dr. Galiba.

"Since the bank is not an abstract paper trail, farmers feel confident in depositing their money there."

Selingue's CREP opened with 106 members, including 25 women farmers. They initially are concentrating on savings mobilization and already have assets of more than \$1,200 U.S. The farmers plan to use their CREP loans to buy seed and fertilizer and begin minor trading. 

Forces Mount in Mali to Control Trachoma

Its symptoms are as unbearable as the statistics – painfully inflamed eyelids with in-turned eyelashes scarring the cornea, often causing total blindness.

This is trachoma, a chronic bacterial infection that affects nearly 146 million people. The tragedy is that it is preventable.

That is why The Carter Center has begun a program to help curtail the world's leading cause of preventable blindness in six African countries and Yemen, as announced during an October visit to Ferekoroba, Mali.

"This is a disease that causes immense and unnecessary pain and suffering," said former President Jimmy Carter. "Building on our successful fight against



J.D. Scott


The Carters meet a Malian boy who has trachoma, as part of their village tour in October.

Guinea worm disease in Mali, I believe The Carter Center can help the Malian people beat trachoma, as well."

President and Mrs. Carter met

villagers affected with various stages of trachoma while visiting Mali. "To see very small children and very old people in such pain was especially heart-wrenching," said Mrs. Carter. "But the villagers of Ferekoroba are committed to sparing future generations from this devastation."

Former Malian head of state General Amadou Toumani Touré accompanied the Carters to Ferekoroba and co-signed with President Carter a trachoma agreement on behalf of the Malian government. The trachoma control program will begin in three regions in Mali and eventually include all areas.

Trachoma can be prevented through basic hygiene such as proper face and hands washing, improved water supplies and sanitation, and antibiotics. 

Carters Receive Nation's Highest Civilian Award

A capacity crowd filled The Carter Center's Ivan Allen Chapel to witness the presentation of the nation's highest civilian award.

Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter each received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton during the Aug. 9 ceremony.

President Clinton cited the Carters' many "extraordinary and unparalleled" accomplishments, including President



President Clinton chats with the Carters after honoring them with the Presidential Medals of Freedom in August.

Carter's successful brokering of the Camp David Peace Accords in 1978 and Mrs. Carter's efforts to erase the stigma of mental illnesses. President Clinton also praised the Carters' national and global efforts through The Carter Center.

"In the past, this award has been presented to people who have helped America promote freedom by fighting for human rights, or righting social wrongs, or empowering others to achieve, or who have devoted themselves so effectively to advancing freedom," said President Clinton. "But rarely do we honor two people who have devoted themselves so effectively to advancing freedom in all those ways.

"Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter have done more good things for more people in more places than any other couple on the face of the earth," he said.



New Home for Interfaith Health Program

The Interfaith Health Program (IHP) moved to the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) of Emory University in November. Its new address is:

Interfaith Health Program
750 Commerce Drive
Suite 301
Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 592-1460

Planning for IHP's move began in 1997 with the adoption of The Carter Center's new strategic plan. IHP was founded as a health component of the Center in January 1993.

"Conversations": Talk of the Century

Cutting edge issues in peace, health, and education are on tap for the 1999-2000 "Conversations at The Carter Center."

The speaker series program of four panel discussions kicked off Sept. 14 with a sold-out program featuring former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter. They discussed projects that send them and Center staff circling the globe.

The dialogue shifted Nov. 4 to how globalization is changing the face of higher education. The discussion included Emory University President Dr.

William Chace; Dr. Marion Creekmore, vice provost, Emory Office of International Affairs; and Cynthia Hooks, director of Educational Programs at The Carter Center.

Providing firsthand experiences were Carter Center interns Michael Bindell, a graduate student at Georgia State University, and Stephanie Shemin, a junior at Emory University.

"Conversations" will start the new year with "Millennium Bugs: Fighting Diseases in 2000 and Beyond" on Feb. 10. Leading health experts will discuss which diseases might be eradicated or re-emerge in 2000. Dr. Don Hopkins, associate executive director of The Carter Center's health programs, will lead the exchange.

Amnesty International and the International Rescue Committee will join the final discussion on April 20 about "Countries in Crisis: Issues for the Next Century."

Panelists will include Ajamu Baraka, director, Amnesty International; Peter Herbert of the International Rescue Committee; and Charles Costello and Dr. Jennifer McCoy, directors of the Democracy Program and the Latin America and Caribbean Program, respectively, of The Carter Center.

■ All "Conversations" are 7-8:30 p.m. at The Carter Center. Tickets are \$6 and available at (404) 420-3804.

New "Waging Peace" Video Rolls Out

The Carter Center recently unveiled a new version of the video "Waging Peace."

Updated this summer and narrated by television news veteran Walter Cronkite, the tape conveys The Carter Center's goals of waging peace, fighting disease, and building hope.

It also highlights major success stories spanning the past 15 years.

■ To request a copy of "Waging Peace," call (404) 420-5117.



Katherine Kolb

This pre-kindergarten program at an Atlanta learning center is one of several to benefit from The Atlanta Project's involvement.

The Atlanta Project Legacy Continues

After eight years of partnering with local communities to improve their quality of life, The Carter Center has provided a grant to Georgia State University (GSU) to continue The Atlanta Project's (TAP) groundbreaking work.

Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter founded TAP in 1991 to address quality-of-life issues in some of Atlanta's neediest neighborhoods.

"We wanted to establish a framework for addressing difficult issues and eventually step back to have this framework become a permanent part of the community," President Carter said. "Georgia State shares TAP's commitment to nurturing grassroots coalitions. The university is an appropriate and effective place to build on what TAP started."


The grant, effective Aug. 1, 1999, will allow GSU to use existing TAP infrastructure to establish the Neighborhood Collaborative, which will unite university resources with community-based organizations and groups in Atlanta's urban core.

"TAP has impressive grassroots connections in the community," said David Sjoquist, a GSU economics professor and head of the university's team coordinating the collaborative's development. "Using TAP's resources to further the community outreach activities already in place at the university is a substantial benefit for both programs."

TAP's major initiatives (see "The TAP Legacy" at right) will all continue under GSU's leadership.

"The Atlanta Project was created to bring government, business, volunteers, and those in need together – to help us get to know, understand, and reach out to each other," President Carter said.

"We learned many important lessons from our successes and failures. Perhaps most important, we understand that building healthy communities is a complex, never-ending process that requires respect among those who need assistance and those willing to help," he said.

"Rosalynn and I are grateful to all who have shared our vision and to GSU for continuing this mission." 

The TAP Legacy

The Atlanta Project's (TAP) accomplishments during its eight years include:

- ✓ Establishing six pilot After Three Programs in area middle schools
- ✓ Immunizing 16,000 preschoolers in one week at area health clinics
- ✓ Working with public health departments to develop the state's first immunization tracking system
- ✓ Developing "America's Youth Passport" to help parents track children's health records. More than 300,000 Georgia children have received a passport.
- ✓ Establishing partnerships with area elementary schools to develop in-school health clinics to serve surrounding communities
- ✓ Creating a program for residents to report housing code violations and improve city hall responsiveness to these complaints
- ✓ Forming partnerships with businesses and welfare recipients to facilitate hiring and training
- ✓ Establishing "FutureForce," in partnership with the U.S. Army, to promote leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and community service among at-risk youth
- ✓ Helping establish family resource centers and other outreach programs in several communities
- ✓ Creating community policing programs in collaboration with the Atlanta Police Department
- ✓ Rallying banking institutions to offer small business loans to residents of low-income communities.