Interview with Zion Hill’s Executive Director, Dawn Price

What is the history and mission of Zion Hill CDC?

Zion Hill CDC was created by Zion Hill Baptist Church as their desire to serve the community outgrew a normal ministry format and was better realized as a separate 501(C)3. Since its inception in 2002 we have served over 13,000 individuals with rent/utility assistance, housing, food, clothing, medical insurance, etc.

Zion Hill is passionate about addressing what we believe is the root cause for many of the issues affecting low-income communities – affordable housing. We believe that by making housing affordable, we allow families and individuals to not only survive, but to begin to thrive. Access to affordable housing frees up household monies, so that their lives can be improved by the access that only discretionary income can provide.

Tell us a little bit about how Zion Hill and Enterprise partner together?

While still providing our existing services, Zion Hill CDC is beginning to focus particularly on homeless services and building affordable housing. In 2020 we will begin to build six affordable housing apartment complexes which will create affordable homes for the homeless and housing insecure in South Fulton. Through grant funding and technical assistance, Enterprise will be able to provide us with technical assistance as we undergo our affordable housing building project and perhaps bring partners to the table that we would not have access to otherwise. Our recent Enterprise award is hopefully just the start of a long-lived and incredibly impactful partnership.

How does this work affect community needs in East Point and Atlanta?

Zion Hill CDC focuses its efforts and resources on all of South Fulton, which is comprised of East Point, Hapeville, College Park, Union City, Fairburn, Palmetto, City of South Fulton, and Chattahoochee Hills. Over 17 years of serving the community, our programs have varied based on the needs of the community. We have offered a youth camp, Welfare to Work programs, food box giveaways, and much more. We create programs based on the most pressing needs of the community. We try to anticipate needs so that we can create pathways to self-sufficiency for our clients before they find themselves in crisis mode.