

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING: COMMUNITY-OWNED RESILIENCE TO BE A GAMECHANGER FOR WEST ATLANTA COMMUNITY

Community Resilience Hub at Community Church Atlanta to Support Service to Community, Provide Emergency Resource

**Atlanta, Georgia, April 30, 2024** — On April 30, Groundswell, in partnership with the [Community Church Atlanta](#), [Stryten Energy](#), InterUrban Solar, the City of Atlanta, the [Wells Fargo Foundation](#), and the [GM Foundation](#), celebrated the construction launch of one of the first community-owned resilience hubs in the Southeast.

*Leaders from within the community and across the community celebrated the milestone: Here's what they are saying:*

**Dr. Kevin Earley, the Senior Pastor of Community Church Atlanta:** “We want to be the place people turn to for help in our community, regardless of their faith. Being a resilience center expands our reach and impact possibilities.”

**Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Atlanta:** I am delighted to see the resilience hub at Vicars Community Center at the Community Church achieve this incredible milestone. This project has been years in the making, and I am proud that my team in the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience has supported this community-led effort from inception. Multiple city departments will be learning from this project as we begin to stand up a resilience hub program at our community—serving municipal facilities. The resilience hub at Vicars will serve as a beacon of how to move our communities from energy burden to energy opportunity.

**Michelle Moore, CEO of Groundswell:** The Inflation Reduction Act’s ‘direct pay’ option for solar tax credits is a game-changer for community ownership. As a result, the Community Church will own this solar and energy storage project from day one, and the savings they will enjoy on their electricity bill will mean more money for the mission.

**Scott Childers, Vice President of Essential Power at Stryten Energy:** Battery energy storage systems (BESS) store excess energy during periods of high renewable generation and release it when needed. Integrating BESS into applications such as the microgrid at the Vicars Community Center ensures the continuous operation of critical resources for the local community during times of prolonged power outages.

**Robyn Luning, Chief Sustainability Officer at Wells Fargo:** Wells Fargo is proud to support this opportunity for community ownership and this community’s efforts to transition to a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future. Resiliency is key to continue opening avenues for economic advancement and to safeguard the opportunity to build generational wealth for all communities during the transition to a lower-carbon economy.