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Bill Bolling wins Shining Light Award

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A man who has helped feed Atlanta's hungry for decades has won one of the city's top honors.

Bill Bolling, founder and executive director of the [Atlanta Community Food Bank](#), is the winner of the 2009 Shining Light Award. The annual prize was established in 1963 and recognizes outstanding business and community leaders for their individual contributions to build a better Atlanta.

Bolling founded the Atlanta Community Food Bank and has served as its executive director since 1979. He oversees the distribution of more than 20 million pounds of food and grocery products each year through more than 800 local and regional nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry. Prior to his association with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, he served as director of community ministries for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

Shining Light awards, which are eternally burning natural gas lamps, adorn many areas of Atlanta. Each historic gaslight is installed in a location that is meaningful to the recipient. Bolling's award will be unveiled on Nov. 16, 2009, at a public event in his honor at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 435 Peachtree St. in Atlanta.

Atlanta Gas Light and News/Talk 750 WSB sponsor the award. Past winners include former President Jimmy Carter; Chick-fil-A Inc. founder S. Truett Cathy, former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and founder of the Georgia Aquarium and Marcus Institute Bernie Marcus.

"All of Atlanta salutes Bill Bolling with the Shining Light Award," said John W. Somerhalder II, AGL Resources chairman, president and CEO, in a statement. "Without him, there would be no Atlanta Community Food Bank. It is exceptionally fitting that we honor him this year, when the Atlanta Community Food Bank celebrates its 30th anniversary, and when the need in our community for the Food Bank's services has never been greater. We celebrate Bill's vision, his passion and his commitment to be a voice for the underserved."

Bolling, who grew up in Lexington, N.C., is a frequent speaker on topics related to hunger, poverty, regionalism, affordable housing and public policy reform. He is a charter member of the Board of Directors of Feeding America, the national network of food banks (formerly America's Second Harvest). He is founder of the Atlanta Housing Forum, begun in 1988, and continues to serve as moderator of the Regional Housing Forum. He is past chair of the Board of the Regional Leadership Forum and the State of Georgia Housing Trust Fund Commission.



Byron E. Small

Bill Bolling