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## **New Partners Fighting Spread of COVID-19 Among Elderly**

What do a charity, a State Senator, an insurance company and medical students have in common? The answer is fighting the spread of COVID-19 among the elderly. New partnerships are doing that in Georgia. The Thanks Mom & Dad Fund, State Senator P.K. Martin, and medical students from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine have joined forces to help Georgia's seniors.

Many senior service providers have noticed a troubling trend: older adults declining in-home care for fear of contracting COVID-19. This can worsen existing health conditions. Like others in the healthcare industry, in-home care providers had difficulty getting personal protective equipment.

After receiving a grant from Anthem Foundation, Thanks Mom & Dad Fund reached out to Senator P. K. Martin, a champion for senior issues. Sen. Martin immediately jumped in to help alongside medical students who started a group known as Medical Students for Masks-ATL. Together these partners were able to find vendors and help deliver personal protective equipment to frontline workers providing in-home care for seniors across the state.

In the Atlanta region, Sen. Martin delivered some of the first masks to the Center for Pan-Asian Community Services (CPACS).

***“I am honored to protect Gwinnett County seniors by helping CPACS,” said Senator Martin. “When disasters strike, new partnerships like this help us take care of our neighbors and that’s my priority.”***

In addition to their Atlanta effort, Thanks Mom & Dad Fund distributed another 7,000 masks and 14,000 gloves to Area Agencies on Aging throughout the state.

***“We wanted to quickly respond to the risk of COVID-19 exposure for older adults,” said Maureen Kelly, President of Thanks Mom & Dad Fund. “All of the partners played a role by assembling quickly to help local areas across the state.”***

Additional grants were made to LeadingAge Georgia for 4,000 meals in low-income senior housing facilities and to the Atlanta Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging for mental health services and reassurance calls.

Since 2003, Thanks Mom & Dad Fund has donated over \$1.6 million to support innovative programs and initiatives dedicated to serving older Georgians. For more information visit [www.thanksmomanddadfund.org](http://www.thanksmomanddadfund.org)