



ATLANTA CHILDREN'S SHELTER AND ORKIN: PROVIDING A SAFE HOME FOR CHILDREN, NOT PESTS



Atlanta Children's Shelter
GUIDING HOMELESS FAMILIES TO INDEPENDENCE

Since 1986, the Atlanta Children's Shelter has provided high-quality child development and support services for homeless families striving for self-sufficiency. The award-winning organization's Early Childcare Program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a designation earned by fewer than 5 percent of all childcare providers in the U.S.

Atlanta Children's Shelter called on Orkin in 2006 because they needed highly effective pest management with minimal pesticide use in the sensitive childcare environment. We spoke by phone with Dr. Jackye E. Brown, executive director of Atlanta Children's Shelter, about the importance of protecting the children from pests while reducing the use of chemicals. Here is an edited transcription of that interview.

Why did Atlanta Children's Shelter decide to switch to Orkin?

"We had been using the same pest management provider for years, but when we started to see pests on a regular basis, it was time for a change. Orkin met with us and listened to our concerns. Together, we walked the facility and discussed areas that might be at risk for pests. From that day on, we have not had a single incident. We're so pleased with Orkin."

What benefits have you experienced since you changed providers?

"With Orkin, there's consistency and continuity – we have been working with the same pest specialist since we signed our contract. We know him well and his friendly and personable attitude is good fit for our environment. Not to mention, in our business, when you're often dealing with

families fleeing domestic abuse situations, it is ideal to know the faces of our service providers when they are on the premises."

How does Orkin make your job easier on a day-to-day basis?

"Our pest control is preventive at this point, and it's working. If we do have an issue, we make one phone call and our pest specialist comes right away. Orkin's responsiveness is extremely important to us and shows just how much they value our business."

How has Orkin addressed the sensitive environment at the shelter?

"Clearly, we are in a unique environment, serving children age four and under. It is extremely important that chemicals are never used while they are in the vicinity. When we interviewed Orkin we let them know our preference for minimal chemical treatments and Orkin has taken extra precautions. Our employees are aware of the locations of baits and are familiar with our pest management practices. In addition, our pest specialist comes to the Shelter once a month to monitor for signs of pests. If any spraying is required, we work with Orkin to schedule it when children aren't present."



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Dr. Jackye E. Brown
Executive Director
Atlanta Children's Shelter

leaves after a service, he always asks our business manager to sign a form acknowledging his visit and reviews the steps he took around the facility with her. Orkin's business protocol has earned them a good reputation, one we can fully endorse thanks to our own personal experience."

What do you like best about your partnership with Orkin?

"I would have to say, Orkin's professionalism really has impressed me most. Before our pest specialist