

# The Atlanta Journal/The Atlanta Constitution recognizes Prime Insurance for their Community Room

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The Atlanta Journal / The Atlanta Constitution

## Insurance firm opens doors to community

By Gary Hendricks  
STAFF WRITER

Sandra Garrett wanted to throw a birthday party, but her house wasn't big enough, and renting a hall would cost \$100 or more.

In a last-ditch effort to find something more reasonable, she contacted the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, which suggested that she call Prime Insurance Agency and inquire about its community room.

So accommodating is the agency that Garrett has been able to use the room twice, once for the birthday party and again last week for a welcome-home party for her nephew, Andrew Payne, 3, who made a miraculous recovery after being run over by a car and spending five weeks in the hospital.

For seven months, Prime Insurance, at North Avenue and Tara Bou-

levard, has been providing its community room free to anyone who wants to hold a meeting, throw a party or conduct a seminar.

"We let a lot of different groups use it for free," said Alfred Dingler, an agent for the insurance company. "We've had 4,000 use the room. More people need to know about it."

The room, decorated with antebellum prints and complete with table and chairs, seats 45 or up to 55 for standing room only.

The agency requires a deposit, but that is returned if the users clean up the room.

Dingler said the agency, which has been in business for nine years, added the room when it expanded. He and others at Prime had read about an agency in Idaho that offered a community room.

"It's giving something back to our

community," Dingler said.

The room's availability has been spread by word of mouth, fliers and notifying the Chamber of Commerce that it's there, Dingler said. The room is in use almost constantly now, he said.

There is plenty of parking because the agency is located in an office court, Dingler said.

A quilting club uses it regularly, and local companies have conducted employee-training seminars there. Civic clubs also use it, and so do families.

The room easily provided enough space for Andrew, who had been given a little chance for recovery, to run and hop into the laps of his parents and other relatives. Every time he did so, the adults oohed and aahed and applauded, delighted to see he's all boy again.