



## NEWS RELEASE

## *City of South Fulton Government*

### Department of Communications and External Affairs

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### **Finish Strong Learning Pod Providing Internet Access to Low-Income Students**

(City of South Fulton, GA – Sept. 1, 2021) – As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact in-person instruction at schools in Fulton County and across Georgia, many low-income students face the risk of falling behind because of a lack of reliable internet service.

An innovative partnership among the City of South Fulton and community partners seeks to ease that threat by opening a learning pod for students unable to connect to distance learning from home.

“Many children are suffering academically because of situations beyond their control,” said District 3 City Councilwoman Helen Zenobia Willis, who led efforts on behalf of the city to create the program. “We have come together as community partners to ensure students in the city have access to valuable learning opportunities.”

Hosted by Siloam Church International, the Finish Strong Learning Pod opens Sept. 21 in the church’s youth center. The program will operate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-5:30 p.m., providing access to internet service as well as a safe space for students in the third to eighth grades to study. Other partners include The Crossfire Movement and Comcast. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held Sept. 20.

Modeled after Comcast’s Lift Zone concept, the pod helps students get online, participate in distance learning and do their homework. As part of its Internet Essentials initiative, Comcast provides affordable high-speed internet to households throughout the United States. Since 2011, it has connected 8-million low-income people to the internet.

Comcast hopes to launch more than 1,000 Lift Zones in the next few years.

“This is a perfect example of the great things that happen when communities come together to care for each other,” Willis said. “The city is happy to support learning opportunities in our area.”

Interested parents may register for the Finish Strong Learning Pod by completing the [parent interest form](#). For more information, e-mail [info@siloadchurchint.org](mailto:info@siloadchurchint.org) or call (404) 762-9175. Because of limited space, students will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

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