



## News From the Atlanta ToolBank: (The Outer Edge)

February 2024

Dear Friends of The Atlanta ToolBank,

It's hard to believe it's already February. It seems like yesterday we were saying goodbye to 2023 and welcoming 2024. This year is set to be a big one for the ToolBank. We'll be growing, adding services, expanding our staff, and hopefully serving more clients, enabling them to accomplish more than ever before. From time to time, I hope to send out a few updates and tidbits of information to keep our friends informed about what's happening at the ToolBank, and sometimes adding an invite to join us for community, conversation, refreshments, and bonding on a Friday afternoon.

### In Memoriam:

I have sad news to share. Many of you know **Adam Meade**, who served as the ToolBank's **Director of Community Engagement** for the past seven years. Adam passed away on January 31 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Adam was truly a remarkable individual who left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered. He worked tirelessly to advance the ToolBank's mission, leading our community engagement, marketing, fundraising, and most importantly, our Friend-Raising efforts.



We at the ToolBank are thinking hard about how to honor Adam's amazing life and the legacy he left behind. I am sure that sometime soon, we'll be inviting Adam's many friends to stop by the ToolBank to celebrate him. This one-of-a-kind individual will be greatly missed by his family, his friends, and everybody in the ToolBank world.

### Lending Fee Increase:

Starting on **March 1, 2024**, our tool lending fees will increase from 3% to 5% of an item's retail value. This increase ensures that the Atlanta ToolBank will continue to protect the assets we provide to the community. It also allows us to increase our tool inventory and expand our footprint into Atlanta's northern suburbs. The ToolBank has not increased its lending fees for several years, and after much consideration, we believe now is the time to do so. Orders already in the system will be billed at the previous rate.

### Order Processing (TOMs):

The **TOMs** ordering system has allowed for quick and efficient tool ordering. New features such as the search bar, categories, subcategories, and filters have been a hit with member agencies across the board. TOMs was created by ToolBank USA as an ordering program for ToolBanks across the U.S. New features and improvements are routinely suggested and implemented. Additional features should be rolling out shortly. Some will make the ordering process easier for our clients, and others will be backroom features that make the ordering process easier for the ToolBank's staff. We are excited for future updates. Please tell us what you think.

## Tool Delivery Service:

Starting **March 1, 2024**, The ToolBank will begin offering a Tool Delivery Service. The purpose of this service is two-fold. First, occasionally we encounter groups who wish to use our tools but are unable to pick them up. Second, delivery service is another step towards expanding our geographic footprint, and one of our most important goals is to ensure as many organizations as possible can use our tool inventory.

Rates for tool delivery will be a single \$750 fee for pick-up & delivery, plus an additional \$1.05 per mile (each way) measured from the ToolBank to the service destination and back. Delivery is only available with 72 hours' notice, and payment in full will be required when the order is submitted. We can deliver tools any day of the week, but scheduling must be coordinated with our Tool Lending Department.

ToolBank staff will deliver tools in our customized and enclosed pull-behind trailer. The trailer can be left overnight at a work location for the tools to be used within two days. The group organizer will be sent a passcode via email or text, which will unlock and lock the trailer. On the days the tools are to be used, the group organizer can unlock the trailer. After the project is completed, the tools need to be placed back inside the trailer, and the trailer should be re-locked. ToolBank staff will retrieve the vehicle the day after the project has been completed.

Host organizations are responsible for unloading, reloading, and securing the trailer, and are also responsible for conducting an inventory of tools before and after usage. Once the tools arrive back at the ToolBank's main headquarters, our staff will conduct another inventory.

This is a new service which will undoubtedly have some initial challenges. It's not a service every organization will use, but we hope some will find it helpful. As we learn from initial delivery and pick-up experiences, improvements to the service will be made. We will work hard to reduce the cost of the delivery service. We are excited to see the response to our delivery service. Please see our website for additional details and updates.

## Space For Rental:

The ToolBank is not only a great place to borrow tools at a great price, but it's also a great place to hold your next board meeting, gathering, fundraiser, or other special event.

As you may know, the **Tool Training Center (TTC)** is a large flexible event space approximately 50 x 40 feet. The TTC has three large glass garage doors that open to the beautiful Atlanta Skyline, a paved parking lot which can also be utilized as extra space for trainings, or for event guests to relax. This space is designed to meet almost any need you may have. It is perfect for events, receptions, conferences, trainings, and much more.

The TTC can accommodate a group of 200 reception style without tables & chairs, 150 theater style, 125 cocktail style with high-top tables, 100 when set-up as a conference room, and 70 for a formal seated lunch or dinner. It has a stage for presentations, a full audio-visual set-up, a bar area, and much more. Groups can invite a catering service to provide food.

The ToolBank's **Boardroom** is a comfortable space one might mistake for the boardroom of a large corporation. Our boardroom is ideal for conferences and meetings, with the capacity to comfortably seat up to 20+ individuals. The room is equipped with an 18 x 4-foot conference table and audio-visual equipment including a 75-inch television, Apple TV for wireless connections, a Jabra conference call

system, power plug-ins for laptops, and free Wi-Fi. The high-back executive chairs are extremely comfy, restrooms are nearby, and there is a small kitchenette available for use.

Please stop by for a visit to see our space. I promise you'll be excited to host your next event at the Atlanta ToolBank. ToolBank members get a special price, and other non-profits also receive a discount. Please visit our website for rates and additional information. Also, look for the flyer we'll be sending out soon and please share with friends.

### **Tools For Sale:**

During 2023, The ToolBank conducted two **ToolRush Events** that were wildly successful. This year we are planning at least one, if not two, ToolRush events. Additionally, The ToolBank will start having a regular retail presence in our front office. Although folks will not be able to select from as many tools as are available during ToolRush, there will be plenty of opportunities to find great tools at a fantastic deal. To start we will have what can only be labeled as an "interesting" mix of tools and tool bundles. We will have big tools, small tools, and tools in-between. We'll certainly have new tools, and some gently used tools. Over time we hope to find items that are popular and offer them on a regular basis. So, the next time you visit the ToolBank, please check out our front office to see if there is something you may want to pick up.

### **Open Position:**

The ToolBank is looking for a **Director of Development and Community Engagement**. A position description was emailed to most of the Atlanta ToolBank network. The job description is posted on our website. It can also be found on LinkedIn and Indeed.

That's all for now. I'll be in touch again soon, and yes, I was serious about hosting a Friday afternoon open house for fellowship and a few refreshments. More to come.

Best,



Aaron A. Sampson  
Executive Director  
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