



# volunteervision

gwinnettcounty health & human services

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collaborative efforts for effective services

Winter Edition, 2012

## contents

1-2 • Above & Beyond

3 • Opportunities to Support

3 • Home-Delivered Meals update

## 2012: a year in review – By Shawn Valadez, Volunteer Specialist

As 2012 comes to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to touch on some of the great things our volunteers have accomplished over this past year. 2012 was a challenging year for many of us. Yet, despite a down economy and dwindling resources, volunteers once again stepped up to meet the needs of many local seniors, families, and grandfamilies.

Volunteer Gwinnett – Health and Human Services includes almost 1,000 volunteers from all walks of life who selflessly give their time, treasures, and talents to help others in need. Our volunteers produced over 65,000 hours of volunteer service; an in-kind value of over \$1.4 million to Gwinnett County. The true value of these efforts to assist seniors, families, and grandfamilies in need is priceless. In addition to meeting a direct need for a local resident, volunteers also let those in need know that there are,

in fact, people in their own community who care about their well-being and are willing to lend a helping hand. This phenomenon is invaluable to the mission of Gwinnett County Health and Human Services.

In this edition, we have expanded our *Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services* section to feature some of our high-impact areas and the volunteers who served in these areas. In addition to these highlighted volunteers, many others deserve our thanks. Thanks to all our volunteers who make this volunteer program what it is today. We can't thank you enough for all that you do!



## Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

### Human services center aids and instructors



Teaching classes



Painting faces for Easter celebration



Setting up Black History Month display

Our talented volunteers who served in a human services center or community center were able to provide valuable classes and workshops focused on a variety of subjects, such as: arts and crafts, dance, gardening, mentoring and tutoring, reading and writing, math, science, music, tax-assistance, driver safety, health and fitness, and more. Special thanks to **Simone Saddler, Karen Foote, Fran Thompson, Fronzetta Peak, Timothy Daly, Larry Scurlock, Monica Davis, Kim LaFourche, Rodney Lewis, Martha Whitman, Maggie Walls, Ines Beltran, Jeneen Hammond, Heidi Mikklesen, Irene Eggeling, Gabriela Ruiz, Trout Unlimited, AARP, Volunteer Income Tax Association, Center for Pan Asian Community Services, and Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services** for their passion to assist children, adults, and families in need.



# volunteer vision

## Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services *(continued)*

### Yard work and home repairs



Helping to maintain a senior's lawn



Bob Fellows corrects a flooring issue for a local senior



Harvey Anderson surveys completed access ramp

This year, home repair and yard work volunteers completed over 140 projects to make needed repairs and maintain yards for almost 100 local seniors. With supplemental financial support from **Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services**, volunteers managed to complete major roofing and flooring projects, provide much needed plumbing and HVAC repairs, and worked closely with Gwinnett County Police's Quality of Life Unit to conduct cleanup projects for seniors in need. Special thanks to **Mountain Park UMC, Home Repairs Ministries, Senior Transition Services, Ground Zero Grace, New Prospect UMC, Sugar Hill Church, Tradesmen for Christ, Grayson UMC, Wall Heating and Air, The Gwinnett Braves, Ernest Communications, Sonny Bettis, Roger Kurth, Fred Ramos, Jeff McDaniel, Paul Hoffman, and Susan Clarke** for their tireless efforts to provide home repairs to seniors.

### Skill-based volunteers



Assisting with blood-pressure reading



Serving at annual Crawfish Boil charity event



Raising funds at Friends' Silent Auction

Other volunteers made an impact by sharing some special skills to benefit seniors. Nurses from **Homestead Hospice** provided monthly health-focused educational sessions at all three senior centers. **SeniorBSafe** volunteers conducted fire safety home inspections for local seniors. Medical students from **Georgia Baptist College of Nursing** provided simple health checkups. **Home Instead Senior Care, Ricoh Electronics, and Alternative Home Care for Seniors** each conducted a holiday food or clothing drive for local seniors. Volunteers **Danny Royal** and **Kathy Nimmo** organized the annual **Friends Charity Golf Classic at TPC Sugarloaf** to raise much needed funds for Gwinnett County Senior Services. Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services board members **Brad Culp, Pam Tokarz, John Winters, Celia Moore, Bill Gower, Gigi Libretto, Jennifer Thilo, Ken Mitchell, Veronica Vasilik, Carolyn Golden, Kelly Faber, Russ DeLong, Mary Ellen Smith, Rosalind Bennett, David Coleman, and Karen St John** collectively raised more than \$60,000 for Gwinnett County Senior Services through the execution of multiple charity events, including the annual **Friends Silent Auction**.

### Home-delivered meals



Delivering meal to local senior

Delivering meals to seniors in need is an important task. The volunteer-driven, Home-Delivered Meals (HDM) program currently serves almost 300 local seniors with nutritious daily meals. This would not be possible without the assistance of our fantastic HDM volunteers. While we regret there is not enough room to list every HDM volunteer in this space, we would like to thank **Harmony Grove UMC, Primerica, Members Auto Choice, Grayson UMC, First Baptist Church of Buford, North Metro Baptist Church, Sugarloaf UMC, Gerdau Ameristeel, Hi-Hope Service Center,** and the countless individual volunteers who selflessly give their time, treasure, and talents to such a worthy cause.

## Opportunities to Support

### SeniorBSafe



Gwinnett County Health and Human Services has teamed up with Fire and Emergency Services in an effort to ensure that local seniors are safe from health hazards in the home. **SeniorBSafe** is a program that uses dedicated volunteers to conduct simple home inspections to eliminate fall and fire hazards in the homes of local seniors. If a hazard is identified at an inspection, home repair volunteers are then asked to make any needed repairs.

Volunteers are needed to conduct in-home inspections as needed. Orientation and training will be provided to all potential **SeniorBSafe** volunteers. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Sylvia Goalen at **678.518.4853** or email [sylvia.goalen@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:sylvia.goalen@gwinnettcountry.com).

### Friends Annual Silent Auction



Yee haw! Grab your partner and join us for a barn raising do-si-do event. Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (Friends) will hold their **eleventh annual Silent Auction on Thursday, April 25, 2013**, at Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. This wild west-themed event will be a hoedown featuring great food, live entertainment, and some fantastic bid items that you won't want to miss. We encourage you to kick up your heels for our seniors. Tickets are only \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

For more information about how you can donate an item for bid, participate as an event sponsor, or purchase tickets, please contact Friends board member Veronica Vasilik at **404.408.5215** or Brittany Ebner at **770.822.8067**.

## Home-Delivered Meals update – By Shawn Valadez, Volunteer Specialist

A new year means new opportunities for Gwinnett County Senior Services. The Home-Delivered Meals program (HDM), formerly known as Meals on Wheels, has experienced a good deal of change over the past year. In an effort to keep our volunteers informed, we present this update.

First off, let us say thank you to all our HDM volunteers who provide this greatly needed service for local seniors. Some of our most tenured volunteers serve in the HDM program and some groups, such as Primerica and Harmony Grove UMC, have even been involved with Gwinnett County Senior Services for over 20 years! We really do appreciate you.

Secondly, it is our pleasure to introduce our new HDM Coordinator, **Steven Nelly**. Steven comes to us with a master's degree in food technology from the University of Georgia and brings a wealth of experience in preparing and delivering nutritious meals to the community. Steven has a strong appreciation for volunteers and understands the immense value that volunteers represent.



Steven Nelly

*"I think volunteers are great because they allow our seniors to interact with several different people on a regular basis. It is great that there are those in the community who are willing to help out fellow citizens with their time,"* says Steven.

In addition to managing the daily operations of delivering meals to 300 local seniors, Steven will also be responsible for overseeing the production of over 150,000 meals annually. In the past, these two tasks were handled by two employees, respectively. We feel that with Steven's expertise and experience, we will be able to produce more meals without compromising quality or nutritional value. Handling both of these items is a big task, but we feel very confident in Steven's abilities. We all know Rome wasn't built in a day and with that in mind, we want to thank our volunteers for their patience as we continue to grow.

Lastly, many HDM volunteers have recently reported that they would like to assist more seniors on their delivery routes. We want you all to know that we have heard your requests and we are currently looking at various opportunities to expand the routes. Because we also have many new volunteers waiting to be placed on a new route, this may be a difficult task. We want to be able to accommodate new volunteers while expanding our current routes, but our ability to do so depends on increased funding and extensive planning. As a result, we would then be able to offer the Home-Delivered Meal program to more seniors in need. We are committed to this important task and sincerely appreciate our volunteer's support. Thank you for all that you do!





**Gwinnett County  
Board of Commissioners**  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935

# the**volunteervision**



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The Gwinnett County Health and Human Services Volunteer Program engages volunteers to assist programs and provide services for individuals, families, and seniors. Since volunteer opportunities are based on the needs of citizens, a majority of our volunteer opportunities exist to serve seniors.

The **Volunteer Vision** is a quarterly publication of the Gwinnett County Health and Human Services Volunteer Program. For newsletter questions and comments, as well as all inquiries about volunteer opportunities, please contact **Shawn Valadez** at **678.377.6716** or email [shawn.valadez@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:shawn.valadez@gwinnettcountry.com).

**Gwinnett Health & Human Services**  
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770.822.8850  
[www.gwinnetthumanservices.com](http://www.gwinnetthumanservices.com)

**Gwinnett Senior Services Center**  
567 Swanson Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-4537  
678.377.4150  
[www.gwinnettseniorservices.com](http://www.gwinnettseniorservices.com)

**Home-Delivered Meals Program**  
678.377.4150  
[www.gwinnettseniorservices.com](http://www.gwinnettseniorservices.com)

## Health & Human Service Center Locations

**Lawrenceville Senior Center**  
225 Benson Street  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-4955  
678.277.0970

**Buford Senior Center**  
2755 Sawnee Avenue  
Buford, GA 30518-2560  
770.614.2527

**Norcross Senior Center**  
5030 Georgia Belle Court  
Norcross, GA 30093-2667  
770.638.5683

**Centerville Community Center**  
3025 Bethany Church Road  
Snellville, GA 30039-6109  
770.985.4713

**Buford Human Services Center**  
2755 Sawnee Avenue  
Buford, GA 30518-2560  
770.614.2400

**Norcross Human Services Center**  
5030 Georgia Belle Court  
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