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Kawneer – Good People Do Great Things

Seniors from the Buford and Norcross Senior Centers received a huge surprise this year during their annual Independence Day picnic at Jones Bridge Park. Aside from getting together to swap tales of better days, catch up with mutual acquaintances, and enjoy the great grilled picnic fare, seniors were treated to world-class volunteer service by volunteers from Kawneer.

Like their parent company (Alcoa, Inc.), Kawneer is not only a leading corporate citizen, but also an outstanding example of corporate-based community outreach. This year, top management at Kawneer has challenged its employees to do even more in the community. Human Resources Manager Lisa Anderson is quick to acknowledge that Kawneer's extraordinary corporate culture is due largely to extraordinary acts by good people. "We are very fortunate to be industry leaders who are also encouraged to give back to our communities."

Anderson and ten of her colleagues not only

volunteered to help – they did everything! They grilled burgers and hot dogs, served the meals, offered seconds and dessert, and even helped to clean up before the ants and flies could move in.

The event was a resounding success. Seniors and staff noted that this picnic was the best they could recall. Miss Anderson was also very pleased. "Our employees came to help seniors. They learned and shared so much with these wise and appreciative seniors" she said. "The best part is that our volunteer service met the Alcoa Foundation Action Grant award criteria, so we will soon be able to present a \$3,000 check to Gwinnett County Senior Services to help feed seniors." **A special thanks to Kawneer employees for making this year's picnic extra special for our seniors!**



Manager's Moments



Linda Bailey
Senior Services Manager

I am thrilled that our volunteers continue to perform such wonderful services for our seniors. In spite of so many uncertainties about the economy, I repeatedly hear stories of volunteers who have taken the initiative to make great things happen for our seniors.

Another really positive indicator is the willingness of groups, civic organizations, and businesses to partner with Gwinnett Senior Services to provide

additional manpower, services, and grant funding to supplement our core programs. Multi-level budget cutbacks have posed many service delivery challenges, but the entrepreneurial enthusiasm of our collaborative partners has really helped to keep us up to speed.

The **Crawfish Boil**, the grants, and corporate involvement of companies like Kawneer are truly appreciated. I encourage everyone to make plans to attend this year's **Silent Auction**, because this major charity event helps to underwrite a large portion of the budget shortfall for senior meals and other primary services.

Youth Service



Seniors cut a rug with youth volunteers at the Lawrenceville Senior Center.

Our seniors have had the privilege of engaging many enthusiastic youth this summer at the Lawrenceville Senior Center.

- Day camp groups from St. Oliver Puckett Catholic Church assisted with Bingo, performed gardening tasks, and took the time to visit with appreciative senior participants.
- Youth from the Gwinnett Tech Workforce Development program performed several various needed tasks around the center.
- Several groups of youth performed and videotaped a talent show that included singing, dancing, and a poetry recital.
- Other youth volunteers spent days sorting and preparing packages of needed food items, personal care items, and household products for a delivery to a number of area grand families (grandparents raising grandchildren, or another relative's children).
- Daisy Scout Troop 1282's gardening service at the Buford Senior Center was appreciated by the fellow volunteers from the Buford Lanier Women's Club and Center Operations Coordinator Tim Morris. Morris said it all when he said, "Young volunteers rock – we couldn't do without them."

Special Thanks to all of our youth volunteers!

Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

Beauty in the Eye of the Cooperative Partners



(l-r) BLWC members Sandra Huff, Carole Smiley, Christine Lansing.

The Buford Lanier Woman's Club (BLWC) actively supports volunteerism through local community service projects, as well as through monetary donations to local charities and non-profit organizations. This year, the Conservation Department of the BLWC selected the Buford Senior Center as a location for one of their community beautification projects. Volunteers from the BLWC renovated the center's 'serenity garden'; clearing foot paths, hanging baskets in the gazebo, and planting colorful and fragrant plants throughout. Seniors were encouraged to participate in the gardening fun, and members of Daisy Scout Troop #1282,



Daisy Scouts Troop #1282 made these beautiful hanging baskets.

who were working on Community and Gardening Participation Patches, made hanging baskets for the gazebo. Gwinnett County assisted with site preparation and mulching. Plant material and supplies were provided in part by the Buford Senior Center and the BLWC. Everyone had a great time working on this project – it was truly a cooperative effort. We are very appreciative of the enthusiasm and generous support we received from the BLWC.

For more information on Buford Lanier Woman's Club, visit our website at www.bufordlanierwomansclub.com.

Answering The Call – by Lisa Moffa, Volunteer



Lisa Moffa, Volunteer

When I first decided to volunteer I really didn't know where to go or how to start. I truly wanted to give back to the community where I grew up and where I now raise my children, so I contacted Gwinnett County Community Services. What I found was an experience that I will never forget.

As a volunteer serving at the administrative offices of Gwinnett Senior Services, I get to see it all. I recently got a call from a disabled senior who desperately needed a new wheelchair ramp at her home. Like

me, the senior was unaware of all the services we provide, so it was gratifying for me to inform her that there are people out there who can help. After a few phone calls, a team of volunteers headed out and built the ramp. Needless to say, the senior was very pleased. What struck me about this situation was how rewarding it was for everyone involved.

Looking outside my own wants and focusing on other people's needs has given me a broader perspective of the world around me. I have learned something from everyone I have met and I am very grateful for this experience. So, let me encourage you to step out of the box and volunteer. You'll be amazed when you give of yourself, the gifts you receive.

Opportunities to Support Our Seniors

Project A.C.C.E.S.



Project A.C.C.E.S. (Added Cooling Comfort for Elderly Seniors) is a new program to collect donated portable electric fans and/or window air conditioning units to distribute to seniors living in residences without air-conditioning. Gwinnett County Senior Services (GCSS) and the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services are working together to help our seniors stay cool this summer.

We are asking people to please consider making tax-deductible donations of brand new electric fans, portable cooling appliances, or window air conditioning units for some of our local seniors. You can drop off your donation at any local Gwinnett County fire station from now until August 31, 2009. Gwinnett Senior

Services will collect the units from the stations and distribute them to seniors in need.

For more information on Project A.C.C.E.S., please contact **Melanie Miller** (GCSS) at **770.822.8842** or e-mail melanie.miller@gwinnettcountry.com. If you think that you need additional cooling from a portable fan in your residence, please contact Adrienne Noble at **678.377.4150**. Supplies will probably be limited for this new program. Project A.C.C.E.S. is sponsored by Gwinnett County Senior Services. Our non-profit partner is Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services. We really appreciate the opportunity to work with Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Friends' 2009 Silent Auction

The **Roaring Twenties** is the theme for this year's upcoming Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services' Silent Auction, hosted by Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett. This exciting annual event, featuring hundreds of unique and special items for silent or live auction bid, is scheduled for **Thursday, July 30, 2009** from 6:00pm – 8:30pm. There will be plenty of food and entertainment for this annual community highlight.

Just a few of the attractive items for bid include:

- Two roundtrip tickets to any AirTran Airways domestic location.
- Two-night deluxe accommodations and a round of golf for two at the King & Prince Beach and Golf Resort, St. Simons Island, Georgia.
- Two Lodge tickets to the 2009 U.S. Open Tennis Championship.

For tickets, or more information, please call Celia Moore at **770.822.8775** or e-mail to celia.moore@gwinnettcountry.com.



Meals on Wheels Corner

By Marilyn Sessions, Meals on Wheels Coordinator

Volunteers – Tried & True!

The public discussion about the economy and murmurs about the possibility of budget cuts are certainly on everyone's mind. All of us are all dealing with some form of uncertainty at this time, but we must remember that there is no uncertainty about the growing needs of our senior clients.

In fact, the waiting list for meals continues to grow and many of those who need meals are more frail than ever before. There are almost 200 needy seniors on the meals waiting list every month, and those assessing these seniors are reporting remarkably reduced physical capabilities.

Of course, I am not sharing anything that you don't see every time you deliver a meal. Just imagine how difficult things would be for our senior clients if they did not have dedicated volunteers that they can count on. Thank all of you for your continued support of this important program.

As we all strive to do more with less, please continue to take the time to observe your senior clients when you visit our at-home seniors. If you notice a fall hazard, a needed repair, or if you observe something that concerns you, please contact me immediately at **770.822.5456** or send an e-mail alert to marilyn.sessions@gwinnettcountry.com.



Norcross
5030 Georgia Belle Court
Norcross, GA 30093
770.638.5683

Burford
2755 Sawnee Avenue
Burford, GA 30518
770.614.2527

Lawrenceville (Rhodes-Jordan Park)
225 Benson Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770.822.5180

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thevolunteervision

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6900



to:

WANTED

GWINNETT COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS

The Gwinnett County Meals on Wheels program is rapidly expanding and volunteers are needed to deliver meals to senior clients who cannot leave home.

Description: Deliver chilled package meals to 6 - 12 appreciative seniors (Typically in the mid-morning)

Time Commitment: Approximately 1.5 - 2 hours for 1 - 5 scheduled days a month

Min. Qualifications: Must Complete Volunteer Application & Pass Background Check
Must possess a valid Georgia Driver's License

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO BECOME A MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER, CALL 770.822.8837

