

volunteer**vision**

gwinnettcounty **senior**services

collaborative efforts for effective services

Spring Edition, 2009

contents

2 • Above & Beyond

3 • Meals on Wheels
Corner

3 • Opportunities to
Support

Save the Date for Spring Volunteer Recognition

We Can't Thank You Enough For All That You Do!

Living Today for a Better Tomorrow

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH MAY 2009

Older Americans Month is a big deal for many in our community, especially those who volunteer to help the elderly in some capacity. Their service is so important to us that we actually celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week during Older Americans Month instead of in April. Donating almost 45,000 hours of volunteer service in 2008 made a big difference in the lives of many of our seniors. More than fifty (50) different groups worked together – averaging one per week – to help hundreds of individuals and families facing daily-living challenges.

Saying 'thank you' to our volunteers is the least we can do. We are pleased to announce that

we are inviting all volunteers to a Spring Volunteer Recognition luncheon at Garden Plaza Senior Living Community in Lawrenceville on **Thursday, May 14, 2009**, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Be on the lookout for your invitation in the near future. Garden Plaza management will graciously sponsor this event – a chance for us to thank you, our volunteers, for all that you do for our seniors.

Also, we recently received a request from our seniors for insect repellent and sunscreen. Please consider making such a donation when you come. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Moffa at **770.822.8774** or e-mail lisa.moffa@gwinnettcounty.com.

Manager's Moments



Linda Bailey
Senior Services Manager



As the senior population in Gwinnett continues to grow to record proportions, so does the demand for volunteer services. Most seniors are very dependent on volunteer services such as Meals on Wheels delivery, home-making assistance, minor home repair, or transportation assistance. So far, our volunteers have met these needs at a record pace.

As we celebrate Older Americans Month this month, we must continue to remember our seniors. The good-faith efforts and support of our volunteers continues to positively impact the livelihood of our seniors and we are very grateful for everything our volunteers do. Thank you so much for all your assistance.



Just Since January

The generosity of our volunteers and donors continues to make a huge difference in the lives of our seniors.

- Mrs. M was beginning to worry as drought conditions changed to 'raining buckets', because she didn't have enough buckets to catch all the water pouring through her damaged roof. Skilled 'Dirty Dozen' volunteers from Sugarloaf UMC and Home Repair Ministries managed to install a new roof in record time with financial assistance from the **Friends** of Gwinnett County Senior Services.
- Mrs. W was worried about her water heater pipes freezing. When volunteers responded to fix her pipes, they noticed that her wheelchair ramp was severely rotted. These volunteers may have saved her life by repairing that ramp; which reduced the risk of a serious fall.
- Mr. and Mrs. J are battling health problems. As a result, several home maintenance issues were overlooked. With emergency assistance from **Friends**, volunteers were able to meet some critical home repair needs.



Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

Great Service to Our Community



Mill Creek High School Helping Hawks & "Men of Character"

Group volunteer projects have never meant more to our seniors. Faith-based volunteers from Sugarloaf UMC, Hamilton Mill UMC, Grayson UMC, McKendree UMC, CrossPointe Church, Sugar Hill Family Church, and Home Repair Ministries have all participated in group projects to complete yard work, carry out minor home repairs, and perform important home maintenance tasks.

Members from the Lilburn and Snellville Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently completed group projects for seniors. On this service day, the church youth partnered with Touch-a-Life youth volunteers to plant more than 125 flower beds throughout the Lawrenceville Housing Authority properties.

Unsung Heroes



Gwinnett Bar Association volunteers hard at work

There is no limit to what volunteers can and continue to do to help our seniors.

- Joel Shiver and his hardworking corps of volunteers from Hamilton Mill UMC continue to answer the call for minor home repair assistance projects.
- Martha Whitman single-handedly coordinated several donation sites for senior gifts on behalf of the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta.
- Sonny Bettis and company have completed countless home repair projects and continue to be real lifesavers for many seniors.
- Susan Eckert provides ongoing support and assistance to a grandmother raising grandchildren.
- Jerry Cook took a week of vacation to address senior home repair and maintenance projects.

Teen Volunteer To MIT!

The youthful members of the National Association of Chinese-Americans in the Future Leadership Initiative Program (FLIP) have contributed countless hours of volunteer service and raised hundreds of dollars to help support programming needs for our seniors.

Teen president **Nancy Ouyang** has motivated her FLIP peers to collect



We are very proud of Nancy and wish her luck at MIT!

blankets, volunteer at Easter Egg hunts, and complete yard work projects for our seniors. This leadership development program is intended to foster responsible corporate citizenship and allow teens to give back to their communities.

Now the exciting news – Nancy has been accepted to study at MIT! Effective leadership is being rewarded. Congrats!

Opportunities to Support Our Seniors

Charity Crawfish Boil

Mark your calendars and start licking your chops because you do not want to miss the **First Annual Charity Crawfish Boil** on Saturday, May 16 at The Hail Mary Sports Pub in Grayson. \$30 buys a heaping plate of mouth-watering crawfish low country boil, salad, bread, and liquid refreshments plus unlimited great fellowship. This opportunity is very special because all proceeds will be presented to the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior



Services to support the senior meals programs. There are presently almost 200 seniors on the monthly meals waiting lists.

Tickets are available at The Hail Mary Sports Pub or from Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services board members. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 770.822.8837 or e-mail gary.galloway@gwinnettcountry.com.

A 'Git 'R Done' Mind Set



Blake Hawkins

Blake Hawkins, the General Manager of The Hail Mary Sports Pub in Grayson, is the generous event partner and host for the upcoming Charity Crawfish Boil to benefit our seniors.

Blake has always put meeting people and their needs as top priorities. He has a desire to maintain excellent customer service while managing to get the job done. Blake understands the daily living

activity challenges that many seniors face, because he is a caregiver for his mother. We appreciate Blake and the Hail Mary Sports Pub.



THE HAIL MARY
SPORTS PUB
Grayson, GA • 770.963.0205

Silent Auction

Roaring Twenties is the theme for this year's upcoming Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services' Silent Auction at 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 - 8pm. There will be plenty of food and entertainment for this event which has become a community highlight every summer.



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



Meals on Wheels Corner

By Marilyn Sessions, Meals on Wheels Coordinator

Volunteers Save the Day!

When the going gets tough, our volunteers get going. Volunteers have really stepped up to the plate to help serve our seniors during these tough economic times. We sincerely appreciate their passion and commitment to the Meals on Wheels program.

Despite budget cuts, volunteer services have managed to offset any calls for direct service reductions. Overall, volunteers contributed more than \$875,000 worth of services to Gwinnett County seniors in 2008. This year, volunteers are on track to contribute almost **\$1 million** worth of volunteer service to those with needs.

The growing senior population is going to demand even more services at a time when funds are extremely tight, so every effort helps to make a difference in the quality of life for someone. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

So, if you know someone who might be interested in volunteering for the Meals on Wheels program, please do not hesitate to refer them to **Gary Galloway** at **770.822.8837** or email to gary.galloway@gwinnettcountry.com.

Thank all of you for your continued support of this important program.



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

Senior Services Centers

Gwinnett County Senior Services
Department of Community Services
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
www.gwinnettseniorservices.com

Senior Services Manager
Linda Bailey
linda.bailey@gwinnettcountry.com
Graphics
Shawn Valdez
shawn.valdez@gwinnettcountry.com

Editor
Gary Galloway
Volunteer Services Coordinator
770.822.8837
gary.galloway@gwinnettcountry.com

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the volunteer vision

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6900



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

