

volunteervision

gwinnettcounty seniorservices

collaborative efforts for effective services

May 2008, Spring Edition



Save the Date for Spring Volunteer Recognition

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

Older Americans Month is a big deal for many of our seniors. Volunteer Appreciation Week is an even bigger deal when you stop to consider all the great things that volunteers do to help our seniors. Donating almost 40,000 hours of volunteer services in 2007 made a difference in many lives and saying "thank you" is the least we can do for the huge contributions of our volunteers. More than fifty (50) different groups worked together - averaging one per week - to help hundreds of seniors facing daily-living challenges.

We are pleased to announce that we are inviting all volunteers to a Spring Volunteer Recognition sitdown luncheon at Laurel Grove Retirement Community on **Thursday, May 22, 2008**, at 2:30pm, so be on the lookout for your invitation in the near future. The Laurel Grove management

will graciously sponsor this gathering - a chance for us to thank our volunteers for all that they do for our seniors.

Space will be limited and the luncheon will begin promptly at 2:30pm. For more information, please call 770.822.8846 or e-mail to: shawn.valadez@gwinnettcounty.com.

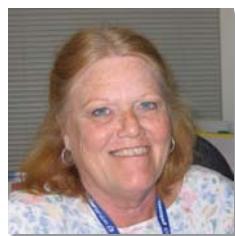


**WORKING TOGETHER FOR
STRONG, HEALTHY
AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES**

Older Americans Month 2008



Manager's Moments



Linda Bailey
Senior Services Manager

Rising gas prices are bound to have an impact on everything that we do (or don't do) this summer. However, as we begin to budget for this extra cost of living, we need to take a moment to remember the needs of our seniors.

comes from our volunteers! We also need to remember that many of our 80 - 90+ year old seniors have tremendous daily-living challenges.

So, as we strive to find those few extra miles in our budgets, let's not forget the needs of our seniors. The good-faith efforts and support of our volunteers have had a profound impact on the livelihood of these seniors and we are very grateful for everything our volunteers do. Thank you so much for all your support.

Many of our seniors at home rely exclusively on the services we provide and do not have a realistic "plan b" to fall back on if our volunteers are not available. Most are completely dependent on these services, with no family or friends capable of providing support. In fact, many of our seniors' only contact with the outside world

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
April 27-May 3, 2008

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JSJ* - *Just Since January

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

- After rainstorms, Mr. and Mrs. M. were wading in ankle-deep water on their screen porch to use their washing machine and get food from their refrigerator. Electrical appliances and standing water don't mix; professional roofing repair and volunteer labor solved this problem.
- Coincidentally, Mr. M. mentioned to the volunteers that he was suffering from excruciating tooth pain. Dental services by Dr. Nguyen to scrape tartar, fill cavities, and crown a badly-cracked tooth have saved Mr. M. from potential serious gum disease leading to bacterial poisoning.
- Mr. and Mrs. G. had a series of minor home repair needs that were jeopardizing their personal safety. Window and door locks as well as yard lights were replaced by volunteers. Leaks and water-rotted bathroom flooring were fixed and grab bars installed to reduce the risk of falls.
- Mrs. M. was cited for having gang graffiti on the outside walls of her home. Volunteers repainted the exterior of her home.

Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

Sugarloaf UMC Serves Again



The 2008 *Great Day of Services* for Sugarloaf United Methodist Church was another great day for many of our senior residents. We were again blessed to have Sonny Bettis as the team leader for a group of energetic

and able volunteers who worked very hard to help seniors with yard work, home repair, and household organization - things that otherwise would go undone if not for the generous support of these dedicated volunteers. Special thanks again to Sarah Hove and Tami McLaughlin for coordinating the projects.



Smiling Sugarloaf volunteers cheerfully help seniors with chores

Unsung Heroes

Many people step up to help in many ways. There are no limits to what volunteers can and continue to do to help seniors.

- Joel Shiver and his hardworking corps of volunteers from Hamilton Mill UMC just finished a 6-month repair job that had many "interesting" twists.
- The Ismaili Muslim Community "Golden Club" seniors have been making cards and favors for home bound seniors.
- The Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett "Goof Off Gals" club makes birthday cards and gift baskets for all our Meals on Wheels clients.
- Crosspointe Church youth and adult groups have completed projects for our seniors.
- Home Depot of Snellville employees continue to identify and donate materials for senior repairs.



The "Bank of Good Will" pays dividends to our seniors

Touch-a-Life Teen Mentoring Program Delivers

once the holidays with gifts and goodwill are over, the real winter, full of cold and gloom, sets in and seemingly lasts forever. Our home bound seniors who receive daily meals typically receive an extra meal during this period so that they can feel our concern for their well-being.

At the Lawrenceville Senior Center (LSC), a special group of teen volunteers delighted seniors by donating goodies when the seniors least expected them.

Touch-a-Life mentoring program Director Jonette Bolding was determined to bring care packages that her group of teens had tirelessly collected and put together for our seniors. Ms. Bolding's car was loaded with 52 bags of personal items for our seniors! The seniors were delighted and stated that the bags were filled with things they could use or eat on a daily basis. One senior told me that this was an answer to prayer; she had moved recently from New York

and was boiling her water before drinking it. She was thrilled to receive a case of bottled water!

The LSC seniors and staff would like to send out a special "Thank You" to *Touch-a-Life* teens and staff. We really appreciate all that you do and hope that you'll continue to be a part of our lives.

Opportunities to Support Our Seniors

Birdies for Charity

The Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS) is again participating in the exciting **Birdies for Charity** fund raising program in conjunction with the upcoming **AT&T Classic** PGA Tour golf tournament. Last year this guess-and-pledge program with a chance to win a 42" HDTV netted more than \$3,600 to support senior clients needing emergency assistance, home repair, or Meals on Wheels service.

Simply fill out the pledge brochure by guessing how many birdies (one shot less than "par") the PGA Tour professionals will make from Wednesday through Sunday and linking your tax-deductible pledge per birdie to the actual numbers or committing to a fixed dollar amount. Participants can pledge as little as 2 cents per birdie (there were 1,839 made last year) or commit to donate hundreds of dollars. Every penny goes to FOGCSS!

All pledges and guesses must be submitted before mid-May (you don't have to pay until later in the summer), so call 770.822.8837 or e-mail gary.galloway@gwinnettcounty.com to get your "lucky" brochure.



Silent Auction

Lights, Camera, Auction 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 24, 2008** 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 to: celia.moore@gwinnettcounty.com.



Meals on Wheels Coordinator's Corner

by Marilyn Sessions

As summer quickly approaches and gas prices continue to rise, accomplishing our mission of providing home-delivered meals for home bound seniors will undoubtedly require a certain level of sacrifice from all of us. Thankfully, our seniors are well worth the compromise.

We want you to know that we are sensitive to the extra cost of gas that our volunteers absorb and we are committed to providing the shortest, most convenient delivery routes possible. The number of seniors we serve continues to grow. As a result, the logistics of providing ideal routes for our volunteers have become far more complex and some routes have

expanded.

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@gwinnettcounty.com.

We truly appreciate the dedication that all of you have shown over the years, and we realize that most of you already make sacrifices on a daily basis to ensure that our seniors are fed. Thank all of you for your continued support of this important program.

Dollars per Day to Keep Hunger Away

Although the price increases of groceries and gas have caused many of us to reassess our budgets, we need to remember that many of our home bound seniors cannot afford these essentials, regardless of the cost!

Many of our senior clients receive home-delivered meals because they have been assessed as no longer being able to reliably prepare meals for themselves. Meals on Wheels service is offered without regard to financial means. Unfortunately, these rising costs can lead to increasing waiting lists for needy seniors. If you are interested in sponsoring a year's worth of meals for one or more seniors, please consider the tax-deductible benefits by calling 770.822.8837 or sending an e-mail to: gary.galloway@gwinnettcounty.com.



Norcross
5030 Georgia Belle Court
Norcross, GA 30093
770.638.5683

Buford
2755 Sawnee Avenue
Buford, GA 30518
770.614.2527

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

Senior services centers

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75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
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the volunteer vision

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
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to:



Call for Volunteers

Take the time to make a difference in the lives of others by becoming a volunteer. Call **770.822.8837** for more information on opportunities that await.

Long-term Service Opportunities

- Meals on Wheels delivery
- Occasional duty service, errands
- Local transportation
- Friendly visitation / "adoption"

Short-term Service Opportunities

- Group projects
- Home repair (minor)
- Yard work
- Corporate collection drives
- Sponsorships

Innovative Service Opportunities

- Health & wellness screenings
- **Dirty Dozen** home repair (major)
- Client or program financial support
- Civic or corporate sponsorship
- Non-profit board assistance

Visit us on the web at:
www.gwinnettseniorservices.com

