



# volunteervision

## gwinnettcounty health & human services

collaborative efforts for effective services

Fall Edition, 2012

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## Online registration update – By Shawn Valadez, Volunteer Specialist

I am pleased to announce that Gwinnett County staff will begin creating active volunteer profiles in [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net), beginning November 5, 2012. This means that you will not be responsible for completing this task on your own. We hope to have all active volunteers registered in the new system by November 30, 2012. After your profile has been created, you should receive an email with instructions on how to report your hours through the website.

Gwinnett County also asks that all volunteers update their *Waiver of Liability* form. Volunteers who receive this newsletter by mail will have the new form included with this edition. Other volunteers may be contacted directly to complete this task, but this form is also available online at [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net).

Completed forms can be faxed, emailed, hand delivered, or mailed at your convenience.

### Background information

In the summer edition of the *Volunteer Vision* newsletter, volunteers were asked to visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net) to register for the opportunity called *HHS Volunteer Roundup*. The purpose of this request was to register all active volunteers through the County's new online volunteer management system and provide a more efficient means for volunteers to report their hours of service. We hope that having County staff register you online eliminates any confusion.

I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers. You are an amazing group and an absolute pleasure to work with. Thank you for everything you do!

## Pat's Pearls of Wisdom



**Pat Baker**  
Director, Health and  
Human Services Division

Gwinnett County Health and Human Services is pleased to announce the addition of **Jamie Cramer** as our new Manager of Gwinnett County Senior Services. Jamie brings lots of wonderful experience from the Georgia Division of Aging Services and we're especially excited about her background as Clayton County director of aging services. Having worked with senior programs on the county as well as the state level, Jamie has experience with a variety of volunteer programs and services that have worked well through the years. She also understands what is needed as we move into the future with the baby boomer population.

Jamie is very much aware that volunteers are the key to our programs' future. Her vision for volunteers includes more involvement in our well-established programs and use of volunteers in new programs in the future.

Jamie sees herself as a community activist. By 2020, Gwinnett County is expected to have Georgia's largest senior population and I believe she is the right person to be at the helm of services to seniors. She is the type of person we need in this position during these times of economic downturn and reductions in funding. I look forward to working side-by-side with Jamie as she moves Senior Services forward. She has hit the road running and the future of Gwinnett County Senior Services is looking bright!

## Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

### Irene Eggeling



Irene Eggeling – Norcross Human Services Center volunteer

Ms. Irene Eggeling is a special volunteer with a passion for teaching. Irene is a long-time instructor at the Norcross Human Services Center and teaches reading and writing to adults as well as basic computer skills classes for adults and seniors alike. She also serves as a mentor at Lilburn Middle School.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Irene Eggeling is a lifetime member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). She even served as District President of her VFW, which at one time was recognized as one of the strongest VFW Districts in the United States.

If that weren't enough, Irene has also been an avid participant in the Gwinnett Senior Golden Games and has medaled in bowling, badminton, golf, table tennis, and horseshoes. Bowling is her favorite sport. In her spare time, Irene can be found knocking down pins with her bowling team. Thank you, Irene, for your kindness and passion to help others. We really do appreciate you!

### Kawneer



Volunteers from Kawneer

Recent studies have shown that a staggering percentage of American workers don't feel engaged in their jobs. Further studies have found that one of the best ways to engage employees in their companies as well as in their communities is by creating a company volunteer program. Kawneer is a great example of a local company that has done just that with great success.

Since 2008, Kawneer has been actively involved in assisting local seniors in Gwinnett County. Each year, Kawneer employees prepare and serve a special Independence Day lunch for seniors at Jones Bridge Park. Our seniors always appreciate their enthusiasm and willingness to do whatever is asked of them. In addition to helping with this event, Kawneer employees have become a welcome fixture at our annual senior prom at Bethesda Park. A local favorite, the senior prom has become an event where seniors expect the smiling faces of Kawneer employees to escort them to the dance floor and really cut a rug. We really appreciate our volunteers from Kawneer. We encourage your company to start a volunteer program today!

## 2012 Friends Charity Golf Classic

Planning and executing a profitable charity golf tournament is no easy task. However, thanks to our high-caliber volunteers, this year's annual **Friends Charity Golf Classic** at TPC Sugarloaf was a resounding success. Members of **Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (Friends)**, a volunteer-governed nonprofit organization, assembled an experienced group of volunteers to raise much-needed funds for select senior services programs, such as the Home-Delivered Meals program.



Volunteer Kelly Faber (left) assists golfer with registration

Special thanks go out to volunteers Kathy Nimmo, Danny Royal, and Bill Gower for all their hard work to make sure golfers and volunteers alike enjoyed a day of smooth sailing at this event. Also, thanks to all our donors, sponsors, players, and volunteers for all your efforts to make this event a success.

If you missed this year's big hit, please mark your calendars for next year's classic on September 9, 2013.

## 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 in 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).

### A Thanksgiving down under



*Volunteers serve holiday meals to those in need*

This Thanksgiving holiday, volunteers have a very special opportunity to assist local seniors at the **Outback Steakhouse** in Suwanee, Georgia. For the fifth straight year, Gwinnett County Senior Services will identify and invite local seniors and grandparents raising grandchildren who would not otherwise have a Thanksgiving meal to gather for a special holiday lunch. This special event is funded entirely by the owner of Outback Steakhouse in Suwanee, Yanis Latsis, and his crew.

Volunteers will be needed to deliver meals from Outback Steakhouse to local seniors who live within a 10-mile radius on November 22, 2012. All meals will be delivered between 9:00am and noon. If you would like to assist a local senior on this special day, please contact Brittany Ebner at **678.377.6715** or email [brittany.ebner@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:brittany.ebner@gwinnettcountry.com).

### Holiday opportunities preview

Holiday opportunities to assist others in need are right around the corner. Some of this year's opportunities to serve include:

#### **Project A.W.A.R.E.**

Volunteers will be needed to pick up and deliver portable electric heaters to local seniors in need of heating assistance.

#### **Be a Santa to a Senior**

For the fifth straight year, **Home Instead Senior Care** will be collecting holiday gift bags to distribute to those in need of a little holiday cheer. The *Be a Santa to a Senior* project will need volunteers to collect, wrap, and deliver gift bags to a record number of local seniors.

#### **Blanket and can food drives**

Various food and blanket drives will be available to volunteers this holiday season. Volunteers will be needed to collect and deliver these items.

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Brittany Ebner at **678.377.6715** or email [brittany.ebner@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:brittany.ebner@gwinnettcountry.com).

## Manager's Moments: Meet Jamie Cramer, Senior Services Manager



*Jamie Cramer*

We offer a warm volunteer greeting to **Jamie Cramer**, our new Manager of Gwinnett County Senior Services. Jamie has spent the past 14 years with the Georgia Division of Aging Services and brings more than 22 years of leadership experience in aging programs. She has

been an advocate for volunteer-based programs and services throughout her career and we look forward to her leadership and guidance as we continue to grow.

Jamie has a strong understanding of how important volunteers are to providing quality programs and services to Gwinnett County seniors. She remarks, "Gwinnett County Senior Services

*has a great reputation and their quality of services for seniors is what attracted me back to direct programming leadership. Programs like the Home-Delivered Meals program show how valuable volunteers really are to helping seniors. I am truly excited to have the opportunity to build on that legacy of compassion and service in Gwinnett County."*

As Jamie looks to the future of Gwinnett County Senior Services, she sees the continued growth of the volunteer program as a valuable tool to meet the needs of a growing senior population. "As the wave of baby boomers become seniors, it is important that Gwinnett County Senior Services continues to build collaborative community partnerships and engage new volunteers to assure cutting-edge services for older adults" she says.



# thevolunteervision

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



## thevolunteervision

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 residents, 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**.

**Gwinnett Health & Human Services**  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935  
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  
Norcross, GA 30093-2667  
770.638.5660

