



CSI COMMUNIQUE

Volume 16, Issue 1

January 2011

Concerted Services, Inc.'s 44th Annual Meeting

CSI, your local Community Action Agency, held its' 44th Annual Meeting recently in Baxley, GA. The theme for the meeting was "Lighting the Way to Self-Sufficiency" which focuses on the agency's mission "to empower people to become self-sufficient by instilling hope through advocacy, partnerships, and services that promote economic and family stability".

The 2010 Annual Report highlighted new or expanded services made available with stimulus dollars (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). There were increases in the Weatherization program as well as in the Community Services, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Elderly Services programs. These additional ARRA funds provided a spring board for the agency to expand their services to additional citizens in the eighteen county service area that might not have been served had the agency not received these funds.

Mr. Sid Johnson, Director of Stimulus Accountability for the State of Georgia, was the guest speaker. Mr. Johnson works with the Federal government, State agencies, and the public to ensure the accountability and transparency of the six (6) billion dollars in stimulus funds awarded to the State of Georgia.

During his address, Mr. Johnson spoke of his earlier site visit to observe the weatherization measures being performed by CSI staff on a client's home. "Your passion and dedication to serving your fellow Georgians were clearly exhibited in our discussions. Similarly your commitment to accountability and transparency was evident," stated Mr. Johnson. "I know you are proud of your crews and their efforts to meet quality and surpass quotas while serving the needs of the community."

"The opportunity to provide programs and services that offer hope and opportunity to those who need a hand up is an awesome task." stated Mrs. Ophelia Gaines, CSI Executive Director. "We take this responsibility seriously, and are grateful for the opportunity to serve."



(L to R) Sid Johnson, Director of Stimulus Accountability for the State of GA; Kimberly Zipperer, Weatherization Program recipient; and Serge Strickland, CSI's Weatherization Program Director

**Concerted Services, Inc. is
A Part of Your Community
At the Heart of Your Community**

CSI Executive Board Welcomes New Board Member

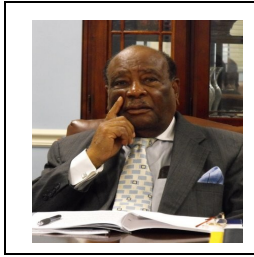


Karen Brunegriff

Rev. James Joyce, Board Chairman, is pleased to announce that Karen Brunegriff has joined CSI's Executive Board representing Atkinson County. She has a BS in Child and Family Development from Georgia Southern University, a Teacher Certification from Armstrong Atlantic University, and a Masters in Consumer Education and Family Resource Management from Indiana State University. Ms. Brunegriff has an extensive background and expertise in early childhood education and development. She served on CSI's Head Start Policy Council before accepting her current position on the Board.

Ms Brunegriff is the coordinator with the Atkinson County Family Connection in Pearson where she coordinates collaboration of local and area agencies to provide services and program for families and children.

CSI Executive Board Members



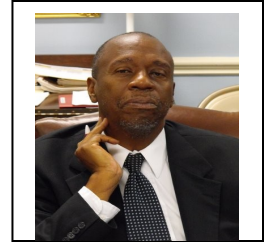
Rev. James Joyce,
Chairman
Toombs County



Wayne Crawford,
Vice-Chairman
Brantley County



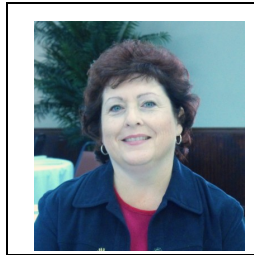
Gloria Paulk
Secretary
Coffee County



Waymon Moody
Treasurer
Evans County



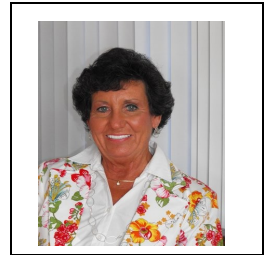
Rose Bailey
Charlton County



Karen Brunegraff
Atkinson County



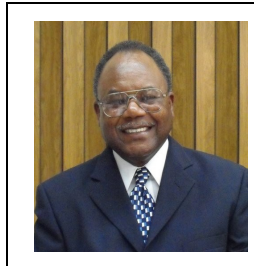
Leonard Burse
Ware County



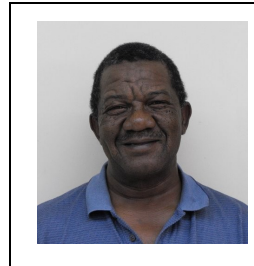
Ethelyn Creech
Jeff Davis County



Wanda Edwards
Effingham County



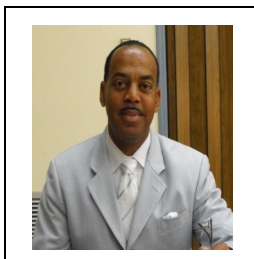
Lee Hagans
Bacon County



Dr. Esco Hall
Appling County



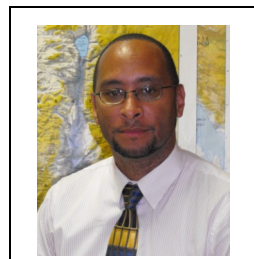
Jeff Kight
Coffee County



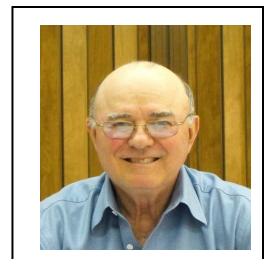
Rev. William Miller
Long County



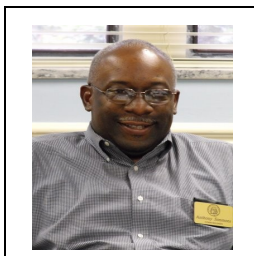
J. R. Morgan
Candler County



Carlos Nelson
Ware County



Daniel Shuman
Tattnall County



Anthony Simmons
Bulloch County



Jennifer Smith
Clinch County



James Thomas
Wayne County



Rev. Andy Velie
Pierce County

Meet CSI Directors



Jack Parker

Mrs. Ophelia K. Gaines, CSI Executive Director, is please to announce that Mr. Jack Parker has joined the agency as Fiscal/Compliance Director. Mr. Parker is a diversified financial professional with thirty (30) years experience in Finance and Administration.

Mr. Parker, a certified public accountant, has a vast background working with both the private and non-profit sectors. His past experience includes audit manager with Arthur Andersen, & Company, LLP, specializing in non-profit company audits; independent financial consultant with Tatum LLC; Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Chief Operating Officer with Thomas Moore College; and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with the NS Group, Inc. He has also served on numerous non-profit Boards, currently serving for the fifth (5th) year on the Board on Eldercare, a Jacksonville agency serving the needs of the elderly in Northeast Florida.

Bryan Singleton hails originally from the upstate of South Carolina, but has resided in three of the four corners of the US. He earned his BS in Business Administration from Western Carolina University and returned to school after twelve years to earn his Masters in Human Resource Development from Clemson University. He has held the Senior Professional of Human Resources (SPHR) certificate for nine years. Bryan has spent most of his career in the logistics industry working for small, family-owned companies to large, multi-national organizations such as Wal-Mart and Lowe's. With more than sixteen years in Human Resources, Bryan's goal remains to encourage others to reach beyond their perceived capabilities, seek challenges, and accept them fervently. His favorite quote... "It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness." – Confucius

Bryan lives in Blackshear and is an avid golfer and Clemson fan.



Bryan Singleton

Wayne County High School Gets New ETS Counselor



(L to R) James Thomas, Assistant Principal at Wayne County High School and Patti White, ETS Counselor

Mr. James A. Thomas, Sr., Assistant Principal at Wayne County High School, County Commissioner, and CSI Executive Board Member, welcomes Ms. Patti White, Educational Talent Search (ETS) Counselor, to Wayne County High School. A change in counselors at the school was made due to the redistribution of the counselor's caseloads when Ware County Magnet School closed in the Waycross area. Mrs. Nita Baker, who previously served as ETS counselor for the school, went with Ms. White to introduce her to the Guidance Counselors at the high school to make the transition as smooth as possible. Ms. White commented that Mrs. Baker has made it so easy for her to work at the school since Mrs. Baker was so popular with the students and staff.

"The students at Wayne County High School will continue to be served in the same efficient manner ." stated Mrs. Carolyn C. Blackshear, ETS Director. "Ms. White has over 24 years experience as a counselor with ETS and is very dedicated to helping students to continuing their education."

The Educational Talent Search Program is an outreach and early intervention program that serves 1,050 participants in middle and high schools in the Reidsville and Waycross areas. The purpose of ETS is to motivate and encourage low-income, first generation students to pursue post-secondary education. The program also helps individuals who have dropped out of high school to receive assistance in enrolling in GED courses.

ETS is a TRiO program funded by a grant from the US Department of Education. Therefore, no fee is charged to the individual students or their families for counseling services.