

1st Quarter Highlights

- **2,621** walk-in and phone call families and individuals assisted.
- Assisted **62** families with rent or utility payments, totaling **\$37,805**.
- Fed **665** households, **1,879** people with food from the food pantry.
- **67,650** pounds of food given out from the food pantry.
- **100 percent** of families exiting the Short Term Housing Program went into either Transitional or Permanent Housing.
- CFR Food Pantry supported by food drives from CBeyond, Boy Scout Troop 797, East Cobb YMCA, and Hightower Middle School.
- Northwest Church-Acworth and GE supported CFR's Adopt-an-Apartment Program.
- CFR Mentoring Program participants visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Atlanta.

JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

In the Fall 2007, Bernice Averill went from being a stay-at-home mom of three to an unemployed, single mom struggling against seemingly impossible odds. Newly employed but with little support as she attempted to get back on her feet, Averill struggled to find long-term, secure housing for her family.



Bernice Averill worked with CFR case managers to create a strong and hopeful future for her family.

"I was so stressed and worried... Averill said. There were no options for staying with family. I didn't know what was going to happen from day to day."

Averill and her girls entered CFR's Short Term Housing Program and began working together with a CFR case manager to ensure she could maintain an independent and self-sufficient life for her family.

"Today I am spending more time with my kids and watching them grow up."

"They provided me everything I needed to get back on my feet, Averill said. They taught me how to budget and save my money and even how to keep my place clean and safe for my daughters."

After 90 days, Averill moved her family to permanent housing and began a journey of success that today includes two promotions with her job. Currently a Level III manager with Domino's, Averill owns her home and looks to be promoted to general manager of her store over the next few months. She hopes to buy a bigger home in the future.

"God blessed me, Averill said. Today I am spending more time with my kids and watching them grow up."

SMALL CHANGES CAN MAKE A **BIG** IMPACT

Consider taking your lunch to work one more day each week and committing that \$5 each week, just \$20 a month to support CFR families. A 12-month commitment of \$20 will make a very big difference.

\$240

could pay for food for a family of four for two weeks.

Visit www.TheCFR.org and click on the 'Donate Now' button to make an annual pledge. You can easily break this pledge into monthly payments at the check-out page! If needed, CFR staff is happy to assist you create a payment plan!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, INTERVIEW...?

Volunteer Bob Mohalley, 64 has been working in the CFR Job Lab since April 2008. Armed with years of hiring experience, Mohalley assists job seekers with resumes, job search techniques, and offers tips on interviewing skills. Recently, Mohalley brought his camcorder and began recording mock interviews; allowing clients to assess their own performance including positive and negative aspects of the interviews like their body language and how they answer questions.



Bob Mohalley conducts a mock interview with a CFR Transitional Housing participant. This single mom practices interview skills as she seeks employment to fully support her family.

Mohalley's background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, a Master's Degree in Engineering and a Master's of Business Administration. After retiring from Lucent in 1999, Mohalley has volunteered at local Atlanta agencies and eventually found CFR.

"I knew I had a lot of skill sets I could apply at CFR," Mohalley said. "I have the opportunity to have one-on-one interaction with people and actually see the result of the work I am doing."

Thank you to Bob Mohalley for using his lifetime of work experience in a creative way to assist CFR clients find employment. Interested in giving your own time and talent to CFR? Contact us to find out how!

Our Values Come **FIRST**

FAMILY

We believe strong families build better communities.

INTEGRITY

We adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and responsible stewardship of resources.

RESULTS

We work to obtain the highest level of personal and organizational performance.

SERVICE

We are passionately committed to service and embrace the tradition of leaders serving from the heart.

TEAMWORK

We cultivate superior leadership and collaborate to mobilize the caring power of our community.

CRITICAL NEEDS

A new year did nothing to slow the growing needs of families in Cobb County. Basic, critical needs are being addressed daily as CFR sees more first-time families.

The need is simply greater than we can meet without support of basic needs services like the CFR Food Pantry. Pantry staple items such as breakfast cereal, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), peanut butter, pastas and soups, etc. are needed to provide well-rounded and nutritional grocery items for the families we serve everyday.



It's a Fact... Ga. 49th in homeless children rankings

"Everyone thinks the face of homelessness as a middle-aged man with a scraggly beard ... The face of homelessness I want people to see is about 36-inches tall and is wearing a blanket sleeper..."

--Marina Robertson, E.D.
Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter

In a recent report that addresses how the country is dealing with homelessness released by The National Center on Family Homelessness, Georgia ranks 49th out of the 50 states. Georgia's rankings reflect performance in four areas: child homelessness per capita (43rd), child well-being (41st), risk for child homelessness (48th) and state policy and planning (deemed inadequate). Report data indicates that of the state's homeless children, 87 percent were age 14 and younger; with 42 percent being under the age of six.

Homelessness has far-reaching impact on the well-being of families. The report said homeless children are far more likely than other children to experience hunger, suffer chronic health problems, repeat a grade in school and drop out of high school. Local needs have increased across the Atlanta region, with the largest demand coming from families. CFR's long-standing commitment of preventing homelessness for Cobb County families is more critical now than ever before.

Some information from the Associated Press and The Daily Tribune-Cartersville was used in this report.

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

As times get tougher for each of us, the challenge of making ends meet becomes greater for many families in Cobb County. **In 2008, CFR saw a 33 percent increase in requests for services.** The troubling trend is many of these families were seeking assistance for the very first time. Your support of CFR during this time will allow us to continue to provide assistance for these families and help offset the increased requests we will see during the coming months. There are many ways to get involved with CFR! Visit our website at www.TheCFR.org to find out more!

- Sponsor a team for CFR's 10 Pin Challenge Bowling Tournament
- Host a Food Drive
- Become a GED Tutor
- Become a Food Pantry Volunteer
- Become an Intake Volunteer
- Adopt-An-Apartment
- Rent a Room at the Mansour Center
- GED Scholarships