

VOLUNTEERS GET CREATIVE IN SUPPORT OF CFR

THANK YOU to the individuals, schools, businesses, civic organizations, and churches who helped make 2008 brighter for CFR and the families we serve. Your creativity and imaginative donations of your time, talent, and resources made it possible to continue to assist the ever growing number of our neighbors in need.

Volunteer Highlights:

- The Bank of North Georgia hosted a Peanut Butter and Jelly drive.
- **Right:** The Ford Elementary Student Council spent an evening "Caroling for Cans," donating more than 600 food items.



- The Knowles family, supporters of CFR threw a Christmas Shindig Shopping Contest, donating housing and pantry items to CFR.
- **Left:** John Vannice, age 7, son of Jay and Anita of Marietta, ran a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds to CFR's Thanks for Giving 2008 Program.

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.



995 Roswell Street NE • Suite 100 • Marietta, GA 30060 • tel 770.428.2601 • fax 770.423.2234 • www.TheCFR.org

Dear Friends,

We would like to wish you a **Happy New Year** and hope that you will enjoy our first newsletter of the year and take the opportunity to review our successes, our challenges, and the news of what 2009 holds in store for CFR.

Last year brought difficult challenges as we addressed the increasing need facing many families in Cobb County. We saw new faces, many of them telling the same story. The economy has made it difficult, if not impossible to make ends meet. The year ahead promises uncertain and challenging times for all of us. Our community continues to be impacted by the news of foreclosures, fluctuating gas and food prices, and an unstable job market.

CFR has also felt the impact. Our Board and staff have made strategic decisions to preserve our core business, while keeping some key programs even if at a reduced level. As many of you have had to do, we have frozen hiring, combined program functions for some staff, and laid off four people, who have been with us for 7 to 20 years. We are preparing to focus staff to address critical emergency assistance for low-income families and shelter for homeless families. We will continue to provide GED preparedness at the same level, but our other Employment/Education services, i.e. mentoring and Community Leadership Development, will be at a reduced level.

Even though we have had to make these tough decisions, we move into the new year determined and hopeful. The Board and staff of CFR want to say **Thank You** for what you have done to impact the lives of families and individuals. Your loyal support to CFR makes a huge difference in our efforts to strengthen individuals, families, and communities in Cobb County. In an effort to keep you posted on your investment, you can review our **2008 program highlights** on the next page.

As we enter our 49th year, CFR promises to continue to be good stewards of your support by providing programs and services that really matter. We couldn't do it without all of you - our donors, volunteers, partners, and friends.

Thank you for sharing our vision.

Warm Regards,

Larry Terry, Board Chair 2009

Jeri Barr, CEO

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities... Support CFR!

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!

Become a Food Pantry Volunteer

Host a Food Drive

Adopt-An-Apartment

Rent a Room at the Mansour Center

GED Scholarships

Join a Task Force/Committee

I want to help a family become stronger in 2009!

My tax deductible gift could help in 1 of the following ways:

- \$1,200 will provide 1 month of emergency shelter
- \$400 will provide food for a family of four for one month.
- \$150 will allow an individual to take a GED course and test.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: \$ _____

Please charge this gift to my (circle one): AMEX DISC MC VISA

Charge a one-time gift in the amount of: \$ _____ Charge my card monthly installments of: \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date. _____

Signature _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

2008 At a Glance

During 2008, CFR:

- Assisted 296 families with rent and utility payments, totaling \$214,353.18;
- Received \$3,292,572 of requests for assistance (33% increase from 2007);
- Provided food to 8,734 individuals (9% increase from 2007);
- Received 13,545 phone calls and walk-in inquiries for assistance. (14% increase from 2007);
- Provided food boxes to 1,370 families during the Thanks for Giving Program. (26% increase from 2007);
- Housed 200 individuals (74 adults and 126 children) through Short-Term and Transitional Housing Programs;
- Celebrated the graduation of 24 GED students;
- Conducted life skills training, career counseling, and job skills training for 146 people;
- Partnered with 47 people from 3 neighborhoods in the Community Leadership Development Program;
- Encouraged 21 youth through the Mentoring Program; and
- Welcomed community and individual volunteers, who provided more than 10,381 hours to assist CFR programs and services - a dollar value of \$202,533.



New Board of Directors for 2009

CFR is pleased to announce the following officers and members to its 2009 Board of Directors:

Larry Terry, PBS&J, Board Chair
Lou Little, WellStar Health System, Chair Elect
Bob Kiser, Moore Colson, Member-at-Large
Cassy Ferrell, Vinings Bank, Treasurer
Bruce Clayton, Genuine Parts Company, Past Chair
Debbie Abernathy, *E. Smith Heating and Air*
Lynda Ausburn, *Walton Communities*
*Dave Baukema, *Flagstar Bank*
Fred Beloin, *Beloin, Brown, Blum, and Baer, LLC*
Tonya Boga, *The Boga and Edwards Law Group*
Richard Cope, *USA Cargo Services Company*
*Judy Davis, *Network Services Plus, Inc.*
Deonne Decker, *CBeyond*
Cigdem Delano, *Morehouse School of Medicine*
Mary Karras, *Bank of North Georgia*
Judson Langley, *Bank of North Georgia*
Bob Lewis, *Marietta Board of Lights and Water*
John Mansour, *Ayoub & Mansour, LLC*
David McGinnis, *Security Exchange Bank*
*Kevin Moore, *Moore, Ingram, Johnson, and Steele*
Brian Noyes, *Brock Clay Government & Public Affairs*
Rick Ramsey, *Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company*
**Misty Saldi, *Ex-Officio*
*Troy Saunders, *The Home Depot*
Naomi Smith, *FSB Corporate Counsel*
Mary Williamson, *Georgian Bank*

* New Board Members

** Junior League of Cobb-Marietta partnership

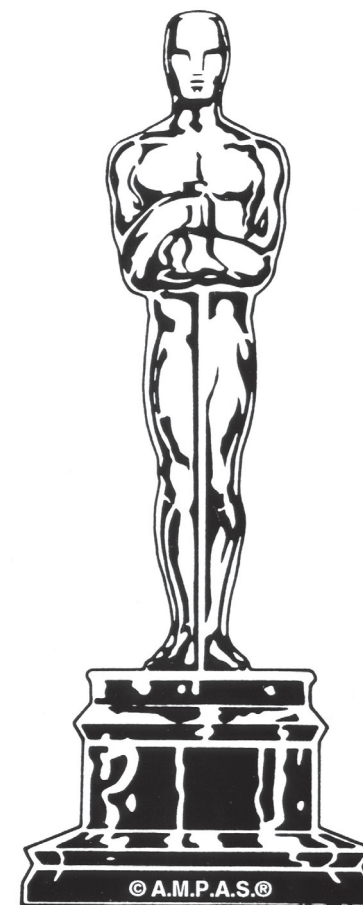
Remember us for your next party, business event, or corporate training!
The Mansour Center offers affordable, flexible conference and banquet space perfectly suited for your next event!

Visit our website at www.MansourCenter.com to find out more!



Pam Brems, Director
PamBrems@MansourCenter.com • (770) 701-0315

OSCAR NIGHT® AMERICA - ATLANTA



The red carpet is rolling out in Atlanta! Entertainment's biggest show debuts in 2009 with renewed energy, glamour, and excitement. Refreshed with a new venue and format, Oscar Night® America – Atlanta will continue to impress over 600 guests at the Sponsors Dinner, an exclusive dinner reserved only for our sponsors. We will also welcome individual ticketholders to join our sponsors at Atlanta's only official Oscar®-viewing party, which will allow guests to experience the entertainment of the evening in an elegant theater setting.

WHAT

Oscar Night® America- Atlanta
Telecast of the 81st Annual Academy Awards

WHEN

Sunday, February 22, 2009
8 p.m.

WHERE

Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

For more information on sponsoring Oscar Night® America-Atlanta or to purchase tickets, visit www.AtlantaRedCarpet.com.

For the eighth consecutive year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has given CFR the honor of hosting Atlanta's only official Academy-sanctioned party. Co-chaired by Tony Britton and Bill Pinto, the 2009 event will feature live entertainment, silent and live auctions, and much more!

Sponsorships for the event are still available and items for the silent auction are currently being accepted. Please contact us to coordinate.

WWW.ATLANTAREDCARPET.COM