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The Center for Family Resources Receives Department of Justice Grant *Local Organizations Collaborate for Project in Six Flags Area*

Marietta, Ga. (October 10, 2009) – The Center for Family Resources (CFR) has received a grant of \$237,000 from Cobb County through the Department of Justice for a new project to increase services to the Six Flags corridor of south Cobb County. The grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and along with CFR, will bring together local organizations including Cobb County Public Safety and the Boys and Girls Club to implement community programs that will improve the quality of life and outlook for the residents in the Six Flags area.

The corridor, located in Cobb County Police Department Precinct Two, Beat 215, has a much higher poverty level than other areas in the county. Police reports from 2007 revealed roughly 60 percent of all violent crimes in Cobb occur in this area. The statistics are only bolstered by a reported lack of trust in law enforcement and gang-related activity plaguing the area.

CFR staff member Lee Freeman, will serve as Project Director, and will incorporate a multi-faceted and collaborative approach with the goal of reducing crime, invigorating the community, developing positive youth leaders and establishing sustainable quality of life improvements in the area. The four main strategies for the project include enhancement of proactive law enforcement to help residents feel safe in the neighborhoods where they live, work and play; community policing to bridge public safety and the community; prevention, intervention and treatment efforts; and neighborhood restoration and economic development.

“This project is a true example of collaboration in a much needed, growing area, said Freeman. All three of these entities are in the business of making positive changes for the good of the community.”

The collaborating organizations will implement multi-generational programs to engage both residents and their children for long-term area improvements for themselves and their community. CFR will expand its existing mentoring program to include up to 15 additional middle and high school youth from the area, while the Boys and Girls Club will expand its center in the area to include up to 50 additional youth.

“This project allows several organizations to work together in a practical manner to seek solutions and implement programs that will go to the heart of the matter, said David Carriker, Regional Vice President of the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta. The youth of this area need consistency and this program works toward that goal.”

CFR staff will coordinate with Public Safety to form an Athletic League to implement recreational programs. Additional programming will focus on academic enhancement, healthy lifestyles, leadership and preparation for college. The CFR Community Leadership Development Program will offer civic leadership training to the area’s potential community leaders to empower them in identifying problems and implementing plans of action to combat issues facing their communities. CFR will also work with a number of other partners to increase services in the area.

“Change starts at the local, grassroots level, said Freeman. These organizations coming together will bring much-needed services and programs to this area, allowing them to become a vibrant community.”

Since 1960, CFR has helped thousands of low-income families with employment, education, and housing services; leadership development programs; mentoring opportunities; and temporary financial and food assistance. Guided by organizational values of Family, Integrity, Results, Service and Teamwork, the staff at CFR is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by helping families acquire the resources they need to become independent and self-sufficient.

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