



For Immediate Release

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The Center for Family Resources Hosts Inaugural Youth Leadership Development Training Course

CFR participates in Cobb Chamber of Commerce's Partners in Education Program

(Marietta, Ga.—April 28, 2008) On May 7, 2008, sixteen students from the Cobb County/Marietta Performance Learning Center (PLC) will graduate from a 10-week Leadership Development Program hosted by The Center for Family Resources. The program is the capstone of the year-long partnership between the organization and the school.

The students meet for one hour each week and cover topics including “Heroes, Mentors, and Role Models—Who Are They;” “Discovering Who I Am;” “I’ve Got the Power—I’m Going to Make a Difference,” and “Discovering Who I Can Become.” The program will conclude with a graduation ceremony held at the Mansour Center on May 7 at 8:30 a.m. The program, “Start Something” is designed specifically for youth by the Tiger Woods Foundation, and is the first of its kind offered by CFR staff members. The program is facilitated by Community Leadership Development (CLD) Coordinator Tony Reynolds.

“The program gets the kids interacting with each other and hearing the personal experiences of their friends, Reynolds said. It’s a new experience for them. It introduces leadership to them and gets them asking ‘What can I do to make my community better.’ They are discovering that they can make a difference and that can be very motivational and enlightening for them.”

As part of the program, the students combine efforts to complete a community service project and will conduct a food drive for The Center for Family Resources’ food pantry. Their activities will include encouraging their fellow students to get involved by marketing the food drive to the entire student body through posters, flyers and sharing the importance of giving back and helping those less fortunate.

As a participant in the Cobb Chamber of Commerce’s Partners in Education program, The Center for Family Resources joined efforts with Cobb County/Marietta Performance Learning Center in August 2007. The partnership developed as a result of Lee Freeman, Employment and Education Director for CFR participating in the “Principal for a Day” program. CFR staff members and PLC faculty soon began formulating ideas to enhance the PLC philosophy through service learning and leadership opportunities offered through CFR programs.

“After participating in the ‘Principal for a Day’ event, it became very clear that the philosophies of CFR and the Performance Learning Center are hand-in-glove, Freeman said. CFR programs are flexible and meet clients where they are. In the same way, PLC allows students to command their own success. The approaches are both individualistic and holistic, allowing students and clients to have success.”

Armed with a 12-month strategic plan of action, the partnership began to flourish with CFR staff members serving as mentors, PLC students benefitting from employment assistance and referral services, and service learning opportunities through the CFR Thanksgiving and Oscar Night® America fundraising activities. The partnership with PLC faculty, staff and students has been an enormous success. Of note, CFR has extended the partnership for the 2008-2009 school year and plans to once again, place CFR staff members in the school as mentors, provide employment and referral assistance and service learning opportunities for PLC students.

“Since the first year has been so successful, we have chosen to renew for a second year to strengthen the partnership and collaborate with other Partners in Education,” Freeman said.

Founded in 1960, The Center for Family Resources (CFR) provides comprehensive services and opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to improve their lives and increase their economic capacity. The nonprofit organization offers education and employment services, housing services, direct financial aid, and community building programs. These community improvement services are accomplished through the combined efforts of leadership, neighborhood outreach, volunteer support, and community collaborative.

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