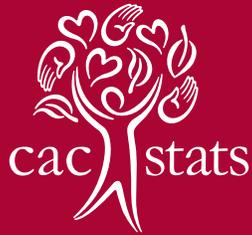




# CommunityactionReport

## Vintage Affair Set For September



JANUARY –  
JULY 2006

- Answered over 1800 phone calls for information or assistance.
- Served an average of 569 clients each month, providing them with food, clothing vouchers, or financial assistance.
- Distributed over \$82,000 worth of groceries to over 2122 households.
- Provided financial assistance for rent and utilities to over 60 households each month.
- Responded to a total of 883 "household" requests for clothing by providing free vouchers for Thrift Boutique merchandise.

### Inside This Issue...

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- ◆ Thrift Boutique Sales
- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ Our Clients
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Don't miss this year's Vintage Affair, presented by the Coldwell Banker Cares Foundation and hosted by Joey Mason at beautiful Glenridge Hall. Set for September 30, A Vintage Affair again will be a special evening of delectable food, fine wine, distinctive auction items, and an exciting live auction. This is CAC's major fundraising event with all proceeds going directly to CAC client assistance programs, preventing hunger and homelessness in our community. Tickets for the event are \$85 and can be ordered through the Vintage Affair website at [www.vintageaffair.org](http://www.vintageaffair.org)

Glenridge Hall is the perfect venue for such an event. Designed to look and feel four centuries old, the 1920's Tudor style house is among the most romantic of American country homes. The 14,000 square foot home and its gardens is the perfect backdrop for a fall evening of sumptuous foods, select wines, and merriment. It's a good time for a great cause.

As usual, there will be silent and live auction items up for bid. Some items sure to cause excitement include dinner for 24 at Glenridge Hall, a week

in Cabo San Lucas, and a wine tasting party for 20. Other great items include a football signed by Falcons defensive end Patrick Kerney, cooking lessons for kids, and golf packages. Scottie Chesin will again be amusing and motivating bidders through his live auction.

This year, every friend of CAC can bid on auction items at the Vintage Affair website. Visit [www.vintageaffair.org](http://www.vintageaffair.org) to see all the wonderful items being auctioned. Register at the web site to receive "Hot off the Press" announcements regarding the newest auction items.

**PROVIDING DELECTABLE EDIBLES** are Brooklyn Café, Chicago's, 5 Seasons Brewing, Food 101, Toni's Casa Napoli, Meehan's Public House and A Royal Affair Café. Beverage connoisseurs representing The Grape, olde world wines, Sierra Nevada Brewing, Motovino Wines, Georgia Crown and Atlantic Wine Shop, Freixenet and 5 Season's Brewery will be on hand to provide information and samples of their unique wines and beers.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO PRESENTING SPONSOR** Coldwell Banker Cares Foundation, and **CORPORATE SPONSORS** Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, CH2MHILL, Church's Chicken, Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Piedmont Bank, Talent Builders, Advance Realty, Family Wealth Services LLC, Kroger City Walk, Milner Office Products, Phoenix & Dragon Bookstore, and S.R. Walker Designs.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION** goes out to Melanie and David Couchman, gracious hosts of the Sponsor and VIP party, September 21.



**CH2MHILL SIGNS ON AS VINTAGE AFFAIR SPONSOR:**  
Judy Parker, representing CH2MHILL presents a check to CAC Volunteer Lisa Ulrich supporting CAC's annual fundraiser, A Vintage Affair.



**Lead Auction Donors**

Joey Mayson  
Hawai'i State Tours  
Sewell Appliances/Kitchenaid  
Castleberry's Treasures for Your Home  
Sali's Place Antiques & Vintage Accessories



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St. John United Methodist Church

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Catholic Church

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church

Temple Sinai

Temple Emanu-El

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Tamara Carrera

# Vintage Affair Auction Goes Online

Now you can get into the swing of A Vintage Affair before the September 30 event by visiting the Vintage Affair website at [www.vintageaffair.org](http://www.vintageaffair.org). At the website you can donate, view, and even purchase auction items as well as preview the delectable foods and superb wines being offered. Enter your email address to receive "Hot off the Press" updates on new auction donations.

The website also provides an excellent opportunity for you or your business to gain immediate visibility with your donation or sponsorship. Already the site is averaging 285 hits daily and new auction items are continuously being added. Sponsors and auction donations exceeding \$1200 in value will be provided the added benefit of a direct link to their business website.

It's not too late to be a CAC supporter. Consider donating something from our auction "Wish List" below or contribute your own unique find.

- Vacation homes
- Passes to the Aquarium
- Jewelry
- Botox treatments
- Signed sports memorabilia
- Food experiences (Dining in the kitchen with the chef at a restaurant)
- Hot air balloon rides
- Spa packages
- Wine or theme baskets
- Catering
- Original art, pottery
- Sports tickets
- Teeth whitening
- Dance lessons
- Interior design sessions
- Behind the scene tours

*Last year the Vintage Affair raised over \$45,000, all of which went directly to client assistance. Support CAC this year with an online auction donation or purchase, sponsorship, or ticket order.*

## Runners Sprint for Youth & Warmth

The weather was cold and blustery, but the hearts of approximately 160 runners and volunteers were warm as they ran to raise over \$4,200 for CAC's Youth Enrichment Program. With proceeds from this event and Fulton County FRESH funds, CAC was able to provide over 230 full and partial camp scholarships to deserving Sandy Springs and Dunwoody youth.

These youth, referred through school guidance counselors and professional staff will be attending summer enrichment programs of their own choosing ranging from academic, to art, drama, nature and sports camps. The 23 camps participating in the program not only expand the campers' horizons, but also provide opportunities for leadership, social development, and personal growth. The Youth Enrichment Program is an investment in our youth and the future of our communities

Without the support of Altrusa International, Inc. of Atlanta, Dunwoody Baptist Church, the Sprint volunteers, participants, and sponsors this success could not have been possible.



Photos of all the runners can be seen at Bruce Tolbert Photography <http://www.btp.smugmug.com/gallery/1305806>

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**  
Willamette Management Associates

**GOLD SPONSOR**  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
Atlanta Kids ENT

**OTHER SPONSORS**  
Service Landscapes • S.R. Walker Designs  
Talent Builders, Inc. • Whole Foods

## YES! I want to Support the Community Action Center!

To invest in my community I (we) enclose a gift of:

Total Pledge:

Amount Enclosed:

Donor \$25

Friend \$50

Partner \$100

Advocate \$250

Benefactor \$500

Patron \$1,000

Pacesetter \$2,500

Sponsor \$5,000

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please Notify \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Community Action Center • 1130 Hightower Trail • Atlanta, GA 30350

CAC IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### OFFICE VOLUNTEER

answer phones, interview client, data entry, assist with mailings.

### FOOD PANTRY

shelve donations, pack bags, distribute groceries. Drivers are also needed for food pickups.

### THRIFT BOUTIQUE

Sort and display donations, assist shoppers. Evening, weekend, and weekday volunteers needed.  
Create your own shift by getting a group of five of your friends or coworkers to cover a time slot.

### TEEN OPPORTUNITIES

Assist in Thrift Boutique or Food Pantry. Work with computer data entry, mailings, and other general office activities. Conduct a food or clothing drive. Be a Holiday Elf by assisting with Holiday Programs.

### COMMUNITY HELPER

Conduct a food drive at your school or place of work. Gather gently used fall and winter clothing for the Thrift Boutique.

### SPREAD THE WORD

Schedule a CAC speaker. School, civic, and congregational presentations are available.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Painters to provide a second coat of paint to the stairwell.  
Web savvy individual to assist with upkeep up of CAC web site.  
Conduct a children's clothing drive for the Thrift Boutique  
Maintain web page, assist with newsletter, archive CAC photos

## CAC OFFERS FUNDRAISING PARTNERSHIP



*Partner with the Community Action Center to earn funds for your church youth group, neighborhood association, swim team, or other non profit group.*

In conjunction with the Community Action Center's annual fundraising event, A Vintage Affair, CAC is conducting a raffle to win 2 first class (or 4 coach) round trip tickets to Hawaii, deluxe accommodations for one week on the island of Oahu, and use of a convertible rental car during the week. This incredible vacation package valued at \$6,000 is provided by Hawaii State Tours. The drawing will be held September 30 and you need not be present to win.

Raffle tickets are \$25 each, but nonprofit groups partnering with CAC in ticket sales, may retain \$5 of each ticket sold. Sell 20 tickets and keep \$100!! It's that simple.

*For more information and raffle tickets contact the Community Action Center at: [assistanceCAC@aol.com](mailto:assistanceCAC@aol.com)*

## • VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS •

In recognition of the over 100 volunteers of the Community Action Center and their contribution to the success of the Community Action Center and its programs, the CAC Board of Directors provided a daily special Thank You treat for the volunteers during the month of April. Many Board members stopped by to personally thank volunteers for their enormous commitments of time and energy, which have kept CAC operating for over 18 years. As one note of appreciation read: Thank you for your commitment, your compassion, your patience, your heart, and your smile.

With over five years serving the community through her work at CAC, **BETSY MARTIN** is the epitome of service with a smile. A former teacher, Betsy does it all from working in the clothing department to interviewing clients and answering the phone, to volun-

teering for special projects. A member of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Betsy sees the great needs within our community and strives to lessen the load others bear with her caring compassion.

**NANCY ETTINGER**, a six-year veteran, first learned of CAC through her membership at Dunwoody United Methodist Church. With her supportive nature, Nancy compassionately handles the sometimes-desperate first calls for help that come over the telephone. Always positive, Nancy sees even more possibilities for the role CAC can play in the community, "but we need more volunteers".

Won't you become one of those volunteers? No special skills are required, just a desire to help others, have your talents put to good use, and enjoy the special camaraderie amongst all CAC volunteers. Visit us for a tour or call 770-552-4889.

## New Board Members Fill Important Roles

*Joining the 2006 Community Action Center Board of Directors are D.E. Cutshaw, Judy Harhai, Terry Hartigan and Jim Kelley.*

Jim Kelley is a partner in the Sandy Springs accounting firm of Ellison Boshell Salmon Tuller Kelley, and a member of the 2006 class of Leadership Sandy Springs. With experience in non-profit accounting, Jim says his board membership and position as treasurer is a fortuitous matching of his talents and CAC's needs. He has seen the agency's accomplishments in the community and is glad he can support the community in this way.

The Community Action Center is very fortunate to have Dianne Elizabeth Cutshaw join the board and assume the position of Chairperson of Phase II of the capital campaign. As owner of Family Wealth Services, De brings a strong financial background and an understanding of estate planning to the Board. A Sandy Springs resident and mother of two, De will work to give CAC the strong financial footing it needs to continue in its work for years to come.

CAC volunteer Terry Hartigan will be devoting even more time to the Community Action Center as he joins the board. Serving as chairperson of the Facilities Committee, Terry will be using his civil engineering background to provide for the maintenance of the Hightower Trail building. Terry is also an active member of St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church and a volunteer at their St. Vincent DePaul assistance center.

Judy Harhai, as a seven year CAC volunteer, has performed many functions within CAC. Currently, Judy edits the newsletter and assists with getting the CAC story published in local media and presented to the business, civic, and educational community. "My experience is that when people become familiar with who we are and what we do, they are eager to help. So getting the word out is imperative."

The Community Action Center is proud to have these superb additions to its Board of Directors.

## Temple Emanu-El Joins CAC

The Community Action Center welcomes Temple Emanu-El as a new member congregation of CAC. Temple Emanu-EL, under the leadership of Rabbi Julie Schwartz, has been a supporter of CAC for many years, donating food, providing volunteers, and participating in special events. We look forward to developing an even deeper relationship with the members of Temple Emanu-El, working together to prevent hunger and homelessness in our community and reaching out to improve the quality of life for all.

# • COMMUNITY SUPPORT •

*The Community Action Center brings together community resources to provide compassionate assistance to persons in need. We thank the many community supporters who make our programs possible:*

**HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH CUB SCOUT PACK 186** which conducted an outstanding food drive for CAC. Thanks, scouts, for collecting and shelving all that food.

The fifteen girls from **GIRL SCOUT TROOP 22442 FROM VANDERLYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** earned the Bronze Award the highest award in junior scouting, by collecting winter clothing, cleaning and mending them, and donating them to CAC. Additionally, the girls learned sewing skills in creating a lovely baby quilt which they presented to the Thrift Boutique.



**LEFT: ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE FIFTH GRADE CONDUCTED A SCHOOL WIDE FOOD DRIVE FOR CAC.**

**BELOW: ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN.**

**ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE** chose as their annual school project a food drive for CAC. Over eight cars and vans were filled to the brim with bags of food which the students eagerly unloaded and shelved.

**THE EPSTEIN SCHOOL** collected over 51 bags of groceries to feed CAC clients.

**LEADERSHIP SANDY SPRINGS AND VOLUNTEER SANDY SPRINGS DAY** provided a group of hardworking volunteers who applied a much needed coat of paint on hall steps and walls. The passage way is safer and looks much less forboding thanks to them.

**SANDY SPRINGS KIWANIS** donated a special Sandy Springs throw as a prize for the Spring Sprint.

**HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL STUDENTS AND DUNWOODY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH YOUTH GROUPS** performed many hours of community service at CAC, giving up precious hours of their time through the school year and summer to assist those in need in their community.

**TEMPLE EMANU – EL** for their harvest of fresh vegetables from their Garden Isaiah.

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH YOUTH** went into business with a lemonade stand, raising funds to buy food for the Food Pantry.



## Back to School



“Buy a Sack for CAC” school supply drive is in full swing. Being able to start the school year with clean backpacks, shiny notebooks, fresh markers and a crisp white paper does much to generate enthusiasm for learning and install academic confidence. Last year CAC provided backpacks with all necessary supplies to over 350 Sandy Springs and Dunwoody youth. And throughout the year CAC responds to requests from school personnel and provides supplies to new students entering the system.

As you provide new supplies for your child, consider buying duplicates for a child in need. “Buy a Sack for CAC” and make the first day of school special for a child in need. For a detailed list of requested items email [cacpublicity@bellsouth.net](mailto:cacpublicity@bellsouth.net).

Don't forget to donate those gently worn polo shirts, khakis and jeans, sweaters and jackets, and nearly new tennis shoes to our Thrift Boutique. Some Mom will be glad to stretch her clothing budget by purchasing these items and some youngster will be glad to have these items as part of his school wardrobe.



### Shop at the THRIFT BOUTIQUE

for your Fall fashion needs.

See our wide selection of nearly new infant and children's wear  
**OPEN Mondays & Wednesdays** from 10a to 4p and the 1st & 3rd Saturdays from 10a to 2p

### •Thrift Boutique Specials•

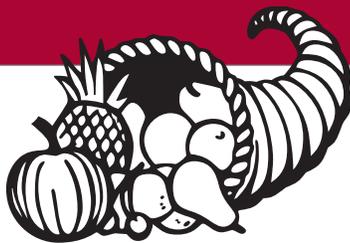
Shop the Thrift Boutique on the first and third Saturdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, for the special savings listed below.

- Sept. 16th Women's Jeans .....\$1.00
- Oct. 7th Men's Ties.....\$0.50
- Women's Purses .....\$2.50
- Oct. 21st Kid's jackets .....25% off
- Nov. 4th Women's tops .....\$1.00
- Nov. 18th Women's sweaters.....\$2.00
- Dec. 2nd Men's slacks .....\$2.00
- Dec. 16th Formal Wear.....50% off

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE

Get your CommunityActionReport hot off the press while conserving natural resources by signing on for email delivery of the newsletter. Email [assistancecac@aol.com](mailto:assistancecac@aol.com) with your name, mailing address, and email address to receive our next issue online.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### SEPTEMBER

- Partner with CAC on its Hawaiian Raffle. Have your group sell raffle tickets and earn \$5 for each ticket sold. Drawing is September 30.
- See and bid on the unique items being auctioned at A Vintage Affair by visiting the website at [www.vintageaffair.org](http://www.vintageaffair.org).
- Attend the Vintage Affair at Glenridge Hall on September 30. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.vintageaffair.org](http://www.vintageaffair.org) or through the Community Action Center.
- “Buy a Sack for CAC” when purchasing your child’s school supplies.
- Donate gently used but outgrown school clothing to CAC’s Thrift Boutique.
- Save those empty copy paper boxes and donate to CAC. These boxes become containers for our Thanksgiving food baskets.
- Become a CAC volunteer. Work in the Food Pantry, Thrift Boutique, or Client Assistance area.

### OCTOBER

- Thanksgiving food drive begins. Donations of general food items or specific items for Thanksgiving food baskets are wanted. Volunteers to sort food and pack food baskets are urgently needed. Email [assistance-cac@aol.com](mailto:assistance-cac@aol.com) for a list of food items for Holiday Baskets.
- Collect empty copy paper boxes from your school to be used as containers for Thanksgiving food baskets.
- Donate outgrown Halloween costumes to the Thrift Boutique.
- Start to organize a Thanksgiving food drive at your business, school, or club.
- Spanish clubs: Use your Spanish to help register Spanish speaking clients for CAC Holiday Programs. Call CAC for registration dates.
- Attend the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on October 17 and see why CAC volunteers are such special people.

### NOVEMBER

- Thanksgiving Food Baskets distributed November 20 and 21.
- Business and social organizations: Assemble and decorate food baskets for Thanksgiving distribution. Email [CACpublicity@bellsouth.net](mailto:CACpublicity@bellsouth.net) for a list of items to be included in baskets.
- Purchase \$10 gift cards from your local grocery store and donate them to CAC. These cards become part of the Thanksgiving Food basket and are used to purchase a turkey for the meal.
- Teens, social groups, businesses, individuals: Work at CAC packing and distributing Thanksgiving food baskets.
- Donate warm winter clothing to the Thrift Boutique.

### DECEMBER

- Holiday Gift Shop: December 15, 16, 18-21.
- Businesses, social organizations, schools: Adopt a Family for the holiday. Email [assistancecac@aol.com](mailto:assistancecac@aol.com) or call the center at 770-552-4889.
- Collect holiday wrapping paper to be used to wrap items from the Holiday Shop. Partial roles of paper are welcome.
- Be a Holiday Elf: volunteer to sort and display donated gifts or to wrap gifts at the Holiday Shop.
- Purchase new toys, clothing, sports items, watches, and teen items for our Holiday Gift Shop.
- Email [CACpublicity@bellsouth.net](mailto:CACpublicity@bellsouth.net) for a suggested list of Holiday items.
- Help the homeless through the winter by donating hand cream, pop-top food items, sweaters and coats.
- CAC closed December 24 until January 2.

## Our Clients

In the Community Action Center cabinets there are fat files and there are thin files. The first category includes client families or individuals who have a hard time making money stretch from paycheck to paycheck without contributions from the CAC food pantry. They may also occasionally need assistance with their rent or utilities. Over a number of years in their “stretched thin” lifestyle, their folder increases in girth.

The thin files are clients who seek assistance just once. They are regular working people who, because of a series of unfortunate circumstances, end up in a situation that is impossible to overcome.

Gayle C. is such a client. Born and raised in Alabama, she enlisted in the Army after high school. After a three year stint, she attended and graduated from the University of Alabama. After graduation, she married and eventually had two children — a son, who is currently enrolled in her alma mater; and a daughter, who has developmental disabilities and attends high school here in Fulton County. For most of the two decades following graduation she taught school in Alabama. For three years she owned a company which was the food contractor for a junior college.

But her marriage was difficult resulting in a divorce, reconciliation, and then remarriage. Last year they divorced for the second time. Gayle’s teaching contract in Alabama was not renewed so she applied for unemployment benefits.

Later in the year, she and her daughter moved to Atlanta to be with a man with whom Gayle expected to start a new life and work. She enrolled in a program to become a Christian counselor. She had already begun her required internship when her new relationship ended and unemployment payments ceased. A part-time job was not possible because her internship required flexibility in hours. But Gayle scraped by, completing the required hours and then searching for a full time job.

Because Gayle is articulate and personable she soon found employment in retail sales. By now, however, her savings were depleted. She could not come up with the full amount for rent which was due two weeks before her first pay check. So she turned to the CAC.

“I would never have thought I would wind up in this situation. My parents taught me to be independent. ‘You don’t go on welfare. You work hard and help others’. I started working when I was fifteen in the alterations department of a Parisian, and I kept on working. And I always have tried to help others — even after I moved here to Atlanta.

“It’s so frustrating — I’ve always been a good citizen; paid my taxes; served my country. But when I needed some help, the system let me down. When I applied for food stamps, just to tide me over, I was told I had \$100 a month too much money! But the Community Action Center gave me food and the little bit I needed to get by till I got paid.”

For both the thick files and the thin files, the Community Action Center provides that “little bit” that helps our clients get through the month. But for many clients, CAC does more than that — CAC provides the “little bit” that helps them get to a place of safety.