

# COMMUNITIES OF COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION, INC.

## 2011 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS REPORT

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### **America's Second Harvest**

**\$4,000**

To improve website and update social networking tools

**Outcome/Impact:** The redesigned website which is easier to navigate and more informative went live February 2012. The Constant Contact email program was also successfully implemented with over 3000 contacts. Both improvements greatly enhanced online communication thus reducing costs of printing and postage by about 15%. It is anticipated that this percentage will increase as individuals get more familiar with the website and paperless options. Agencies now receive secure information regarding available products and are able to access the website to place orders - a great time saver.

### **Bryan-Lang Foundation**

**\$3,000**

For strategic plan and board development

**Outcome/Impact:** A five year strategic plan was developed with great board participation. The members of the board commented that this was the first planning session of its type in board memory. Five working committees (a mix of members, board and staff) were created: Funding, Facility Enhancement, Technology, Marketing and Friends Organization. Also in the process, a newsletter was "birthed" as a Marketing Committee tool.

### **Camden Community Crisis Center**

**\$5,000**

For technology upgrades and training

**Outcome/Impact:** The laptops purchased enhanced mobility allowing for remote services to clients at point of contact and enabled immediate data collection at the site. This has resulted in faster reporting and immediate access to current information. Software upgrades brought the agency into compliance with certifying agencies.

### **CASA Glynn**

**\$2,500**

Training for Executive Director and staff

**Outcome/Impact:** Three staff attended the National CASA conference, an invaluable resource of information on new trends and issues with children, federal policies and regulatory changes and skill enhancements. It also provided opportunities to network and to connect with leaders in the field and peers in building relationships that will be an excellent resource for information looking forward and as issues arise.

**Communities in Schools of Glynn County****\$4,400**

Professional development of Executive Director and new staff

**Outcome/Impact:** The Executive Director and select staff were able to attend the CIS of Georgia Strategies Conference, the National Youth at Risk Conference, CISGA Social Media training and Why Try Character Training. As a young staff this training greatly enhanced the knowledge base and leveraged effectiveness with students and implementation of successful programs. This knowledge also helped secure additional funding to support two fulltime site coordinators for the 2012-2013 school year. As a result of demonstrated competency in the area of at-risk youth management, CIS will be considered for re-accreditation next year.

**Ferst Foundation of Glynn****\$2,000**

Literacy – books provided to children 0-5

**Outcome/Impact:** With this grant and additional funds, Ferst is currently serving 389 children in Glynn County with an emphasis in census tract 8 (an area with a high rate of children living in poverty) and other economically depressed neighborhoods. Parent and teacher surveys confirmed the effectiveness of this program. Among the results: “60% of teachers surveyed said the children who participated in the Ferst program performed better than the class as a whole in the areas of pre-reading and speaking skills.”

**Grace House of Brunswick****\$3,000**

Creation of a learning lab for on-site computer skills training

**Outcome/Impact:** The learning lab has made it possible for 37 residents of Grace House over the past year to have 24 hour access to computers. When they first come to Grace House, staff works with them to create a resume and guides them in doing effective job searches and applications. Computer skills are taught on an individual basis based on experience. All 37 of the residents were able to obtain jobs within the first few weeks of residency due to this convenience. This resource is also a great encouragement as it enables them to stay connected with family and friends.

**McIntosh Art Association****\$2,400**

Educational outreach during summer and fall for children 4-12

**Outcome/Impact:** A very successful program was implemented with over 70 children, ages four to thirteen. The program provided seven to nine projects during a seven month period. Art education was a part of this experience which included drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, color theory, art history and cultural impact to art. One of these projects by a four year old is represented on the cover of our annual report.

**McIntosh Family Connection****\$4,000**

Technology and equipment upgrades

**Outcome/Impact:** The new computer, laptop and printer including much needed software opened up avenues which were only dreamed of. With faster speed, color printing and off site resources, MFC now has the tools for greater efficiency in overall communications and collaborative outreach.

**McIntosh Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (SEED)****\$4,700**

Project Y.E.L.L. – Youth leadership and life-skills building program.

**Outcome/Impact:** In addition to classroom instruction, students participated in a variety of activities such as four community-wide food give-a-ways; in conjunction with a group from Indiana, they participated in landscaping and clean-up projects at Fort King George and Butler Cemetery, repaired floors, built handicap ramps and porches, painted siding and screened in porches for the elderly; hosted a Youth Gospel Festival; and put together a presentation for the youth of St. Francis Parish from Macon. During a youth trip to DC and New Orleans, students participated in group discussions about economics, government, identified characteristics of impoverished neighborhoods and brainstormed on ways to get people involved in the voting process. When asked what they learned, some of the participant's responses were: "We learned how to get to the root causes of generational poverty, how to do oral presentations, how to value money and learned ways to conserve energy."

**Safe Harbor Children's Shelter****\$3,000**

Equip an office for the Street Beat Program staff

**Outcome/Impact:** Computers, furniture, a projector and other supplies were purchased, an office was outfitted, and the team was able to jump start this new program geared to runaways. The power point projector made presentations to larger groups possible. Street Beat was able to work with at-risk youth to provide needed assistance and resources such as food/clothing, training, encouragement to stay in school, get a GED or work, medical care and other types of interventions. The team worked with nine youth to provide an array of services, 68 youth received specific prevention services, and 860 youth received material and information regarding the Street Beat program.

**Southeast Youth Development Academies****\$5,000**

Beyond the Horizon literacy program

**Outcome/Impact:** 67 different books were given to children/youth between the ages of 7-15 and coaches encouraged daily reading. Students were encouraged to read during travel to away games. The Academy program had 77 participants. A total of 625 books were read during the 2012 fiscal year by a population of children of which 85% lives at or below the poverty level. An average of 12 books per child was read and although the goal was 24, this is a program that is still being refined and there are lessons being learned. Life skills and career exploration were also a part of the program. Coaches spoke with players and encouraged good life choices. Players were given the opportunity to attend career exploration events at Southeast Georgia Health Systems and introduced to the fields of pathology, radiation, oncology, and sports medicine. They also attended an event with an educator/author from Savannah, who talked to them about making positive choices and the young ladies heard a personal story from a young woman who paired strong academic performance with athletics achieving a full college scholarship.

**STAR Foundation****\$2,000**

Technology upgrade/laptop

**Outcome/Impact:** The purchase of a laptop provided the Executive Director more flexibility to work off site in a quiet setting which enhanced concentration and accuracy, and resulted in greater productivity. The laptop was used to prepare a power point presentation to promote the STAR program. However, the real story is told by the lives that have been forever changed for the better as a result of this program that provides computer training and workplace skills, but most importantly concern, encouragement and support by the STAR staff. Bruised spirits are given permission to believe that they can be successful and can do anything they set their hearts to. The statistics on their website testify to that fact.

**YMCA – McIntosh****\$5,000**

Implementation of a health management lab and “Activate America” program

**Outcome/Impact:** In support of the Activate Fitness program this grant provided funding to purchase a Bio-Analogics Body Health Management System. This system, in conjunction with a coach, designs a fitness program specific to the individual by setting exercise, diet and health related goals. The four modules consist of body composition, nutrition, aerobic exercise, and resistance exercise – all of which result in an individual “plan of action” for the health seeker. The implementation of this program got a late start due to delayed installation and accuracy testing of the equipment, however to date eleven people are fully engaged and actively working with the system and 83 members are using it in a limited capacity. Interest and involvement are expected to grow as members become aware of its presence and benefits. A couple in this program recently lost 100 pounds between the two of them and is excited about the resulting health benefits to their family.