

Focus on a Local Nonprofit:

Each newsletter edition features a profile of a nonprofit in the region. We offer this feature to educate our readers on the great work of our local nonprofits and to encourage them to support such local efforts philanthropically.

Georgia Center for Nonprofits (GCN)

Representing over 1,200 nonprofits in Georgia, GCN, celebrating its 20th year, has produced research studies, advocated for the sector at the state and national level, and offered leadership and management consultations and workshops throughout the state.

In November 2011, GCN, with funding from the St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation, launched "Momentum" specifically for nonprofits in the S.E. Georgia counties of Glynn, Camden, Charlton and Brantley. This two year program aims to build the capacity of our local nonprofits to tackle pressing needs, deliver greater impact, and do it all with the highest levels of accountability, transparency, and efficiency. In-depth training has focused on strategy development, management, board training, and leadership development. Eighty local nonprofits are participating to some degree, with 25 "core" agencies committed to completing the most rigorous assignments.

A highlight for the Momentum participants was a chance to meet with some of the state's most influential foundation leaders on Jekyll last February at a meeting of the Georgia Grantmakers' Alliance co-hosted by the community foundation. Visit www.gcn.org for further information.



Photo Courtesy of Georgia Center for Nonprofits

"Toxic Charity" Author Challenges Annual Event Audience



Speaker Bob Lupton

"Give once and you create appreciation; twice you create anticipation; three times – expectation; four times – entitlement; five times – dependency."

With a gentle tone and humor, but a strong conviction honed through over four decades' grass roots development work in inner city Atlanta, Bob Lupton argued in front of an audience of some 80 founders, fund holders and community friends at the March annual event that much harm is done by misdirected but well-intentioned charity.

Clothes closets, food pantries, soup kitchens, "adopt-a-family" programs, free toys at Christmas - all can become "toxic" if done incorrectly. They can erode the recipients' work ethic, create a feeling of entitlement, and expose parents for their "inability" to provide.

Lupton quoted 20th century French philosopher, Jacques Ellul: "Almsgiving is Mammon's perversion of giving. It affirms the superiority of the giver, who thus gains a point on the recipient, binds him, demands gratitude, humiliates him and reduces him to a lower state than he had before."

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(L-R) Frances McCrary, Martha Ellis, Ida Walker, Judy Booker



(L-R) Kay Cantrell, Ellen Fleming, Jack Dinos, Diana Murphy



(L-R) Nancy Coverdell, Jeannie Manning, Mimi Rogers

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life in Coastal Georgia by promoting and increasing responsible, effective philanthropy – now and for future generations.

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“Toxic Charity” continued *from the front*

“Address a chronic need with a crisis response,” stressed Lupton, “and you create a victim culture.” A prime example is New Orleans six years after Hurricane Katrina, where aid is still being solicited for the “victims” of the hurricane.

He shared an example from Nicaragua where a pastor said, “You Americans are turning my people into beggars...why save when you will fulfill our needs; why work when we can get handouts?” When mission groups descend upon a community to build a school or church; paint an orphanage, etc., we are depriving the locals of work for which they could be



(L-R) Mark Bedner, J.R. Wright, Bill Walker, Judy Wright



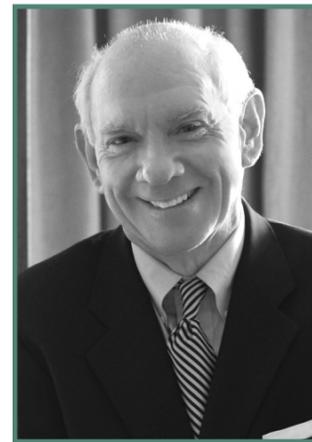
(L-R) Sheila and Bernard McCloud

paid if we put the money into the economy by hiring them instead. One mega-church in Texas spent a figure on the trip logistics, purchasing and shipping supplies, etc. to build a school that would have paid for carpenters, painters, local materials, the hiring of a full-time school teacher for the school, and uniforms for every student!

“Mission trips can be successful, but admit that they are really learning trips or cross-cultural trips, and act accordingly. If you really want to help the people, go and listen to them, find out what the local economy has to offer, and invest in it.” Micro-enterprise efforts are what are needed; not charitable handouts. Consider, also, giving resources other than money – business planning expertise, financial management, strategic development, and market development. As John D. Rockefeller once noted, “money is not the only currency of philanthropy. If the people can be educated to help themselves, we strike at the root of many of the evils of the world...The only thing which is of lasting benefit to a man is that which he does for himself.”

Lupton concluded with the sobering message that “The poverty needle is not moving in spite of all of our service projects and charitable giving because our model further entrenches.”

Another Community Leader “On Board!”



Mark Bedner

Mark Bedner joined the community foundation’s board of directors at its April meeting, appointed to the class of 2015. Bedner brings to the foundation a strong background in finance and investment as well as solid knowledge of this community. He joined Asset Preservation Advisors in 2010, following an extensive banking career beginning with Citicorp’s International Banking Group in the Middle East/Africa division and ending with his retirement as Chairman and CEO of The Merchant Bank of Atlanta following its sale to a BankAmerica predecessor bank. Following his retirement from banking, Mark served as an investment professional with Morgan Stanley and Synovus Wealth Management, and served as Chairman of the Glynn County Georgia Board of Commissioners. He currently serves as Trustee of the Southeast Georgia Health Systems. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kansas as well as a graduate degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts and Harvard Universities.

He moved here in 1994, and although he has maintained a second residence in Atlanta, considers the Golden Isles home. Bedner has accepted a position on the board’s finance and investment committee.

Baby Steps Creating New Media Center at Head Start

Members of the early childhood literacy community-wide advisory council joined community volunteers to spend a recent Saturday beginning the transformation of a classroom at the Head Start building off Fourth Street into an “under the sea” wonderland.

“Drab cinder block walls and a stained carpet did not make for a very sensory-stimulating environment!” explained Baby Steps coordinator Maryellen Aiken. “So the first step was to select a theme and get lots of color and texture on the walls.” Planned and supervised through the incredible talents of local artist Nancy Muldowney, early childhood education specialist Amy Kramer, and College of Coastal Georgia faculty member Jenny Williams, the room was transformed in a matter of hours.

Next steps include carpeting and the installation of “face-front” shelving to display \$1,600 worth of age-appropriate books purchased by the community foundation specifically for Head Start.

This is one of three media centers currently under consideration. If you would like to contribute to these through the early literacy initiative, please contact Lee at the community foundation at (912) 268-4442.



The Wealthy Philanthropist

A recently released 2012 study of characteristics and motivation of wealthy households and charitable giving in the U.S. conducted by Bank of America holds several insights that point to the clear advantages of having a community foundation to serve their needs.

Findings include:

- Wealthy donors seek advice about their giving, with 40% of wealthy donors consulting with at least one advisor about charitable giving.
- Wealthy donors are increasingly structuring their giving. One in four already has a donor advised fund or private foundation (note: we specialize in setting up donor advised funds – many can be completed in less than 30 minutes. We can also show you several advantages of a DAF over a foundation). One in twenty plans to establish one in the next 1-3 years.
- Wealthy donors increasingly view their charitable giving as “investments” and want to know the ROI in terms of impact. (Note: community foundations are grant making specialists!)
- Fewer than one in three cites tax advantages among chief motivators for giving and over half report that they would maintain their current giving levels even if income tax deductions for donations are eliminated.