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FOUNDATION MEETS IN DARIEN MCINTOSH ISSUES AND NEW GRANTS ON THE AGENDA

The Board of Directors of the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation meets in McIntosh County today, marking a first for the nearly decade old philanthropic organization. The 19-member Board WILL conduct its annual meeting at the Southeastern Bank, courtesy of bank president, Con Holland. After its regular business, which includes adoption of a new strategic plan and election of officers, the Board will hear presentations from key community leaders representing workforce development, health and youth services.

Wally Orrel, president of the McIntosh Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Development Authority, will share perspective on economic development opportunities for the county as well as service needs for community members. Paige Lightsey, nurse manager of the McIntosh County Health Department, will present on the work underway with Reach Out and Read, an early childhood literacy program of the health department which was funded by the Foundation. Zerick Samples, director of McIntosh County branch of the YMCA of Coastal Georgia, is providing an update on the Summer Learning Loss Prevention program which was supported by the Foundation.

At the meeting, the Foundation will approve two new grant programs to address documented health needs for McIntosh County residents. With the goal of reducing the high rate of tobacco use in the county, one grant supports a new tobacco cessation program for residents. The second grant is focused on infant and child car safety through a “McIntosh Car Seat Safety” education campaign. The Miller Family Fund, a component fund of the Foundation, is providing the grants to help the citizens of McIntosh County. Martin and Laura Lynn Miller have a home in McIntosh County and a long history of successful philanthropy focused on health, aging and quality of life issues. The new programs will kick off in early 2015.

About the Foundation

The Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation (CCGF) was incorporated in 2005, as a tax-exempt public charity created by and for the people of Glynn, McIntosh and Camden counties. The Foundation now has assets approaching \$14 million and hosts some 40 distinct funds. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$4 million in grants to community organizations in the three county region and beyond.