

Community Help, Inc.

2010 Annual Report

Community Help, Inc. a Community Development corporation was created in 2005, in response to the City of Savannah's Anti-poverty Taskforce report to the community. Our mission is: "To foster low to moderate income communities and neighborhoods in Chatham County, Georgia. This is to be accomplished through affordable housing, cultural and economic development, education, recreation, skills training, support services and other life enhancement projects and programs."

Each year the board revisits our strategic plan. During the last five years we focused our work on the same four objectives. Our progress towards these objectives is stated here. During the course of the upcoming year however, we will define the appropriateness of these or new objectives based on an assessment of our performance, the community needs and acquired resources.

Objective #1

Increase available affordable housing and individual home ownership in the target area.

Status: Our efforts towards this objective have fallen short. In recognition of the economic down turn and the upsets in the housing market we limited our efforts to maintaining our contacts and increasing our capacity to purchase property.

Objective #2

Improve the lives of senior citizens and ease the burden on their caregivers.

Status: The delivery of hot nutritious meals to aging seniors has proven to be a most rewarding effort. Each week between 15 and 20 hot meals are delivered to the homes of senior citizens who either live alone or with the support of a "caregiver". This represents a small increase over last year. We begin our visits with a warm greeting that typically includes hand-shakes and hugs. Conversation is always easy because the seniors are ready to talk about any and everything. Occasionally we share literature or other small gifts. There is always a prayer before we depart. It is clear that their needs go beyond what we give in our visits; most notably transportation.

Objective #3

Improve youth achievement through enrichment activities and services for parents, family heads and their children.

Status: The Historic Preservation Class of our public school system's Early College Program is gaining in student enrollment. Community Help, Inc. provided volunteer support throughout the school year beginning with the "Hands on History" Summer Camp for prospective students; where students participated in activities like the architectural scavenger hunt in Savannah's historic district and a brick wall white washing project at the old Central of Georgia Railroad Roundhouse. During the course of the year we supported trips to other sites like historic Savannah's City Hall and the Tybee light house cottage. We also made four presentations to students based on recent travel focused on ancient Egyptian architecture and Ghanaian culture.

Objective #4

Grow Community Help, Inc. into an effective and sustainable organization.

Status: We elected a new director to the board. She is Ms. Mary W. Maxwell, a community volunteer. Mr. Julian Pafford, Jr. and Mrs. Virginia A. Edwards retired from board Service after five years and four years respectively. A website was launched to assist in communicating our work. The domain name is "communityhelpinc.org" Local resource persons continue to assist as volunteers. In addition to personal financial support from board members, we received local and national support.

Community Help, Inc. looks forward to continuing its efforts to improve the lives of poor people in our community.