Colquitt County Archway Partnership Report
June 2009

**New Items**

No new items for June

**Continuing Projects**

**Ellenton Clinic Summer Project**

For the past 16 years students from various colleges have spent 2 weeks each summer participating in the summer project which offers healthcare to migrant farm workers and children. This year for the first time UGA participated. Twelve students from the College of Pharmacy worked in Ellenton during the project. They were accompanied by Dr. Tricia Von Waldner and will be taking a class offered by her in the fall. The student’s involvement was measured as a great success for the project and for the students. We are hopeful that they will participate again next year. In addition, Archway was very instrumental in gathering support from the hospital for the students. CRMC sponsored a “Welcome” dinner for the students and faculty the first night they were in Moultrie. Archway handled all the details on behalf of the hospital.

**Next Action:** Assist Dr. Von Waldner in making plans to participate again next year.

**2nd Annual Archway Leadership Summit – Follow-Up Work Session**

As a result of the Leadership Summit, the Executive Committee has planned a work session for July 1st that will include each of the Mayors and City Councils for the smaller communities in Colquitt County. We hope to keep the momentum going and discuss in greater detail the challenges they are facing and possible resources that could be utilized. Dennis has agreed to come and facilitate the session. After the initial meeting plans are to meet again and extend an invitation to the elected officials for the City of Moultrie, Colquitt County, and our State Representatives and State Senator.

**Next Action:** Conduct the Work Session. We have RSVP’s from 8 council members. Dennis will be facilitating.

**Downtown Landscaping**

The Downtown Merchants Association (DMA) has requested that Archway facilitate a meeting with the DMA, City of Moultrie, and Colquitt County. Discussion will focus on the need for a “Masterplan” for landscaping downtown. Various entities are responsible for maintaining the landscaping and as a result it doesn’t always have a consistent look.
Issues related to parking will also be discussed. After a list of needs is assembled we can identify resources that may be helpful. I have spoken with the City Manager and County Administrator and both agreed to participate in the meeting.

Next Action: Identify a date for the meeting.

YMCA Community Assessment

Two years ago the YMCA received a grant from the Goizetta Foundation to increase their outreach into the Hispanic community in Colquitt County. One piece of that grant was completing a community assessment of the needs of the Hispanic community in regards to childcare and other programming. The local YMCA leadership has requested that Archway complete the assessment. Courtney Tobin and Rolando Herts from the Fanning Institute spent two days in Moultrie conducting focus groups with community partners and members of the Latino community. The assessment was completed ahead of the deadline and the YMCA was very pleased with the quality of the work. Because of the positive experience of working with Archway, Greg Coop is looking at potentially having Archway facilitate and prepare their next strategic plan.

Next Action: Community Assessment is completed. Communicate with Greg Coop, Courtney Tobin, and Dennis if the YMCA decides to use Archway for their strategic plan.

City of Moultrie – Natural Gas Vehicle Conversions

The City of Moultrie has requested assistance in gathering information about converting part of their vehicle fleet to natural gas. They are already in the NG business so this could be a cost-savings for them. In addition they are looking at applying for stimulus funds and would like assistance in completing the application. We linked the City up with Greg Rupert with Georgia Tech and he was able to offer some assistance in gathering technical information. Dennis is also working with the City Manager on funding opportunities.

Next Action: Continue to assist when needed. Dennis is staying in touch with GEMA regarding stimulus funds and when they become available we will assist the City in completing the application.

Landscape Architecture Projects

Develop conceptual drawings for the former site of the Vereen Hospital should the city choose to develop it into a park. Several scenarios have been discussed including but not limited to a traditional park with greenspace, playground equipment, and possibly even exercise stations or a botanical garden highlighting species native to southwest Georgia. The site is 5.79 acres and was the location of the former hospital. The property is on a highly traveled section of south Mainstreet in a mostly residential area. All buildings have been removed from the site. Brian Beck began his internship in May and is doing a
great job. He has already presented several drawings to the City Council and is using their feedback to make adjustments. He met with the Archway Executive Committee at the June meeting and presented his work thus far.

**Next Action:** Continue to support Brian as he completes his internship.

**Housing**

The Southwest GA RDC has received a grant to create a city-wide housing plan for the City of Moultrie. Archway is listed as a partner and has been assisting the RDC in putting together and completing a housing preference survey. Tom Rodgers and Cynthia Harrison have been very helpful in providing pictures and guidance as we put this together. Steve Gavigan with DCA contacted me at the request of Cynthia Harrison and has put together a complete survey for us to use. I have worked with City planning staff and presented the survey to 230 residents at 15 community meetings.

**Next Action:** Completed

**Moultrie Technical College – MIS**

Amanda Franklin has been working with Moultrie Technical College on several different projects. The main focus is helping MTC evaluate software bids before they make a purchase.

**Next Action:** Completed

**Moultrie- Colquitt County Top 5**

Below is the final list of priorities for Moultrie –Colquitt County.

1. Attain an 85% graduation rate
   a. Mentoring
   b. Parenting
   c. After School Programs
2. Decentralization and Coordination of Services
   a. Continuing Education
   b. Healthcare
   c. Recreation
   d. Social Programs
   e. Childcare
3. Attain Census accuracy in 2010
4. Promote widening of Highway 133
5. Preparation and Planning for 2012 SPLOST
Next Action: Identify resources at UGA that may be used to begin work on some of these priorities.

**Economic Impact of Ellenton Clinic**

The Ellenton Clinic has requested assistance from the College of Public Health in determining the economic impact the clinic has on the community, specifically on hospitals in the four county area it serves. Faculty from Public Health received a grant to conduct this type research on free clinics throughout Georgia. Laura Bland is the lead on this project and I am offering assistance to Cynthia Hernandez as needed. Cynthia is currently seeking approval from Rural Health Services to pursue the project. The next step will be contacting each of the hospitals and requesting that they participate as well. In order for the study to be conducted each of the hospitals must agree to share their records over the course of a year.

Next Action: Mr. Lowry has given his approval and a student needs to be identified to carry out the project.

**DCA Homeless Count 2009**

Colquitt County is participating in the DCA Homeless Count for 2009. Southwest Georgia RDC is the lead for this project but I have been trained to help conduct the count and I serve on the planning committee. The count will take place during the last week of January. Approximately 200 surveys were completed county wide. Archway assisted in conducting the surveys at a soup kitchen and at a “Hope for the Hungry” feeding.

Next Action: Await the result of the survey and focus on the role they play in obtaining accurate Census data in 2010.

**Sesquicentennial**

The City of Moultrie will celebrate it’s sesquicentennial in 2009. We are putting together a committee to plan any city events during the year related to the sesquicentennial. Ed Jackson is working with the school system to assist teachers in using the event as part of their curriculum for the next year. Archway was responsible for drafting a resolution and having it offered by Rep. Jay Powell in the House of Representatives and Sen. John Bulloch in the Senate. The Resolution will be presented to the City of Moultrie at an event celebrating the Sesquicentennial this fall. In addition, Ed has been assisting Melody Jenkins, Director of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Library, with gathering photos and adding text for a book on the history of Moultrie-Colquitt County that will be published next year.

Next Action: Continue to work with Amy Johnson, Mainstreet Director in planning events.