Colquitt County Archway Partnership Report
July 2009

New Items

Leadership Summit Follow-up Work Session

The Executive Committee decided that as a follow-up to the Leadership Summit we should invite all the City Council members from the smaller municipalities to meet again. We would use the momentum from the Summit to continue the conversation about challenges and resources that were needed. The meeting was held July 1st and Dennis facilitated. The meeting was a great success and the attendees decided that they would like to continue meeting on a regular basis. For the next meeting we will invite staff from the RDC and USDA-Rural Development to speak with them about various funding sources for infrastructure.

Next Action: Submit request for higher ed assistance forms and plan the next meeting to be held in August.

Development Authority Retreat

The Moultrie-Colquitt County Development Authority held their retreat on July 1st. Archway was asked to facilitate the session and Dennis came down to do so. The session was a success and several industries were identified as targets for the community.

Next Action: Assist the Development Authority when requested as they pursue various industries.

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.

Next Action: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4th.

YMCA Strategic Planning

Greg Coop, Executive Director of the YMCA, has requested that Archway assist the Y in
completing their Strategic Plan. Funding was identified and Dennis and Courtney Tobin will be working on that project during the fall.

**Next Action:** Assist as needed.

## Continuing Projects

### 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.

**Next Action:** Completed.

### 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.

### 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 participated in the DCA Homeless Count for 2009. Southwest Georgia RDC was the lead for this project but I have been trained to help conduct the count and I serve on the planning committee. The count took 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. Survey results have been received and as expected indicate that we do have housing challenges in Colquitt County. One number of particular interest to us is how the latino community was counted and those numbers were not included in the survey results. They have been requested and hopefully we will receive them soon.

**Next Action:** Use this count as a tool in preparing for the 2010 Census.

**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 this month and is doing a great job. He has already presented several drawings to the City Council and is using their feedback to make adjustments.
Next Action: Continue to support Brian as he completes his internship.

Sesquicentennial

The City of Moultrie will celebrate it’s sesquicentennial in 2009. A committee is being put together to plan any city events during the year related to the sesquicentennial. 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 Jackson assisted 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.

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

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. The final report has now been completed and given to the City for their use.

Next Action: Completed