Colquitt County Archway Partnership Report  
September 2009

**New Items**

**Downtown Landscaping**

Dennis facilitated a meeting regarding the landscaping downtown at the request of the Downtown Merchants Association (DMA). DMA, City and County were all represented at the meeting and it we are identifying resources to utilize on the project. I have requested that Hazel make a trip to Moultrie to offer suggestions from the perspective of a landscape architect. We need recommendations on plant materials and spacing from someone at the College of Environment and Design and would also like to engage a horticulturalist from the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences who could develop a maintenance plan.

**Next Action:** Bring Hazel to Moultrie.

**Streetscapes**

Two graduate students from the College of Environment and Design visited Berlin and Doerun to begin work on recommendations for renovating and improving the downtowns. These requests were made as a result of the work sessions we have been holding with the elected officials from each of the smaller municipalities in Colquitt County.

**Next Action:** Assist the students as needed and bring them back down to look at Norman Park and Funston.

**Community Wellness – YMCA**

The Moultrie YMCA has received a grant from the National YMCA to work on a community wellness initiative. Moultrie YMCA was one of 21 communities selected to receive the grant this year and is now tasked with transforming Moultrie into a model healthy community. Various community leaders will be traveling to Washington, DC later this year to learn more about the initiative and Dennis Epps will be traveling with them. This initiative focuses on bringing the community together and forming partnerships to achieve a common goal.

**Next Action:** Dennis will travel with the group to DC and learn more about the role that Archway could potentially play as the initiative moves forward.
**Continuing Projects**

**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.

**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.

**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. Two meetings have been held with Dennis serving as facilitator. The meetings were a great success and the attendees decided that they would like to continue meeting on a regular basis. Dan Bollinger with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission spoke to the group about funding opportunities at the last meeting.

**Next Action:** Plan a meeting for October and invite Denise Carter with USDA-Rural Development to share information about their programs.

**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.