LEADERSHIP HART—Seeking to cultivate local leaders and build a wealth of leadership resources in the community, officials from the Hart County government and the Hart Chamber of Commerce resuscitated Leadership Hart, a successful leadership development program that had fallen dormant. With the help of the Archway Partnership, civic and business leaders in Hart County identify a diverse group of individuals with the potential to become more active leaders in the community. Through a year-long series of workshops, citizens from every aspect of the community come together to develop leadership skills, build community, and enhance Hart County’s economic development by focusing on a class project that deals with a demonstrated need within the county. Support for the program has been ubiquitous through the county, with investment and support coming from various organizations and institutions.

EMERGING LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP SUMMITT—In Colquitt County, the Archway Partnership helped to secure the support from the UGA Fanning Institute to train local leaders in becoming facilitators for leadership training. Twenty Colquitt County leaders have become certified facilitators and in the past year have trained 23 Colquitt County citizens to become leaders in the community. By having leadership development facilitators located within the community, there is a long-term commitment to the type of leadership development that promotes community growth and sustained personal involvement. The Archway Partnership also hosted a leadership summit that brought together leaders from across the county to discuss Colquitt County’s potential as well as build the types of cross-organizational relationships that lead to successful community development.

LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON—Washington County leaders alongside the Archway Partnership secured a $67,000 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to enhance existing leadership initiatives and start a new leadership initiative that focuses solely on healthcare. Engaging students from Georgia College and State University’s student leadership program as well as students from the Medical Scholars Program, these leadership initiatives teach the technical skills necessary to engage in economic and community development at the regional and state levels. Youth Leadership Washington focuses on middle and high school students, teaching the value of civic engagement and leadership to students with the hope of preparing them for lives of engaged leadership both within and beyond the Washington County Community.

COMMITTING TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—As part of Clayton County’s 2010 work plan, county leaders committed to creating a new leadership program for low-income minority women between the ages of 18 and 35. This demographic is an important part of Clayton County’s make-up and leadership development efforts directed here are a way to ensure increased civic involvement from this group. Students and faculty from Clayton State University have also been tapped to participate in and help facilitate leadership development initiatives. Leadership programs targeted at developing youth leaders have also been implemented at four middle schools in the county.

TRAINING THE TRAINERS—In Pulaski County, twenty-four community leaders came together to develop a county-specific curriculum to be used to reinvigorate the dormant “Leadership Pulaski” program and to train facilitators in implementing the program. The purpose of Leadership Pulaski is to sustain community leadership initiatives and to develop leadership skills through an annual program aimed at individuals from every part of the community. An informal group within the community is also seeking ways to bring leadership development to young professionals in the community as well as develop networks among these young professionals that will allow the community to identify future leaders and to build investment in the community among this group.