Archway Partnership Assists with
Census in Colquitt County
Prepared by: Emily Watson, Sue Chapman, & Shannon Knepp

In 2008, Colquitt County decided that the 2010 Census was the year to make their community “count.” With the help of the Archway Partnership, Colquitt County had 71% of households respond to the Census questionnaire they received in the mail. This was a 10% increase when compared to the 2000 Census.

The U.S. Census measures the changing populations in counties and states. By doing this, the census helps determine the number of representatives a state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. Georgia is on the brink of adding a representative, and an accurate census could give Georgia the push it needs to gain another voice.

The census also helps to determine where government tax dollars will go. By participating, Colquitt County could see more government funding. This funding helps provide the community with much needed facilities that provide jobs, and improves the health and well being of the area. Census data is also very important to the economic development of the community, as population is one of the first things a business considers when looking to come to an area.

In order to ensure the utmost participation in the 2010 Census, the Archway Partnership teamed up with City and County officials to create the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee for Colquitt County. The goal of the committee was to form and execute a plan encouraging residents to participate in the Census.

To ensure that the form was accessible to everyone in the community, five questionnaire assistance locations were provided with a Census worker at each location to answer questions and provide forms. The Archway Partnership made recommendations to the Census Bureau on the most ideal locations for the “Be Counted” Sites and Questionnaire Assistance Centers. Archway Partnership’s Colquitt County Professional, Emily Watson, appeared on one of Colquitt County’s local television programs, “Moultrie on the Move,” was featured in the local paper, The Moultrie Observer, and spoke at local civic meetings.

During the 2000 census, a large number of the Hispanic population was left unaccounted for in Colquitt County. The 2010 Census Complete Count Committee for Colquitt County printed fliers in Spanish and positioned them around the county. These fliers alerted the Hispanic population of the importance of completing the census, and ensured them that the form would only be used to make sure Colquitt County has the resources needed to take care of its residents. The Archway Partnership was an integral part of the Census Complete Count Committee, and helped to facilitate meetings and activities. The Archway Partnership assembled volunteers to set-up booths outside Hispanic grocery stores and soccer games sponsored by a local Hispanic Soccer league. Volunteers also attended churches with large Hispanic congregations to assist members in completing the form.

Advancing Community Priorities: With an unprecedented period of growth in Colquitt County, planning for future growth has been marked as a key community priority. Participating in the 2010 Census is an integral part of measuring Colquitt County’s growth to plan for future development of the Colquitt County area.