Monthly Key Accomplishments – December 2010

I. Archway Public Health Committee

The Archway Public Health Committee for Colquitt County held their first meeting on November 30th. A local physical therapist was selected as the chairman and the vice-chairman is the director of the local YMCA. Additional committee members include 2 physicians, a school nurse director, a health department director, a human resources director, a nursing professor, a Headstart director, a local UGA extension agent and an education director for our local hospital. The discussed their mission, potential priorities and established regular meeting times.

II. City of Norman Park Revitalization

Archway faculty facilitated a stakeholders meeting to discuss ways to revitalize downtown Norman Park. Many buildings are vacant and dilapidated and give the entire community a blighted appearance. Earlier this year Landscape Architecture Graduate Assistants spent time in the community and prepared designs for streetscape improvements. These were presented to all stakeholders present and visions for the future were discussed. An action list was prepared and the Norman Park City Council is moving forward with plans to address how to revitalize downtown and which state and higher education resources could be utilized to assist.

III. Childhood Obesity

A graduate student with the UGA College of Public Health spent two days in Moultrie surveying parents of elementary aged school children participating in after-school programs. Parents were asked if they were interested in learning more about preparing nutritious meals for their children and ways to increase physical activity. Additionally, they were probed to share how such information could be delivered in a way that is most convenient to parents, i.e. email, meetings, text, Facebook, etc. This research is being conducted as part of a grant that focuses on preparing programing and/or curriculum that could be used to impact local rates of childhood obesity.