Monthly Key Accomplishments – March 2011

- **College of Public Health Internships**
  Emily Watson met with Ashley Wells, the director for the new Public Health Training Center at the UGA College of Public Health. They discussed funding for internships for the summer of 2011 and the need to place students throughout the state in rural areas. The Public Health Training Center Grant will provide a stipend for each intern. Members of the Archway Public Health Committee in Colquitt County then assembled a list of potential internship opportunities for students. These include working with the Healthy Colquitt Coalition, the Ellenton Farmworker Health Clinic, and with the Archway Public Health Committee. Ashley is optimistic that students will be identified to fill these positions.

- **Archway Phase II**
  Members of the Archway Executive Committee, the Healthy Colquitt Coalition and the Archway Public Health Committee continued discussions about the sustainability of Archway in Colquitt County. A plan was accepted by all parties that will allow for a shared-position directed locally by both Archway Committees in Colquitt County. This will allow for continued access to the UGA Archway Partnership faculty in Athens and extensive connectivity with the College of Public Health.

- **Childhood Obesity**
  Rich Christiana, College of Public Health Graduate Student, attended the Archway Public Health committee meeting and presented the results of the surveys and focus groups conducted thus far. Members of the Healthy Colquitt Coalition were invited to attend the meeting as well and participated in discussion. Rich updated the committee on the status of the project and advised them of the next steps. These include creating curriculum to be used during after-school programs, a newsletter for parents with suggestions for easy and affordable healthy meals and family activities available, and programming for “Family Nights”.

  Additionally, Rich has drafted a proposal for conducting his dissertation study in Moultrie. “The Natural Environment as a Place for Play: A Mixed-Methods Study Investigating Factors Influencing Rural Youths’ Engagement and Experiences in Noncompetitive Physical Activity in the Outdoors” is the title of his proposed study. This would require participation of middle school students and meetings have been scheduled for March to discuss this with the principal and superintendent.