Monthly Key Accomplishments – May 2011

The 2011 Clayton Teen Summit was successfully coordinated by the Clayton Collaborative. The Collaborative is a quasi-governmental body established in 1997 to work with children and families living in Clayton County. The mission of the Collaborative, an organization made up of various representatives from local organizations, is to serve as a catalyst for community development through the building and strengthening of relationships. The summit focused on developing leadership skills. As the host for the annual Clayton Teen Summit, the Collaborative has seen great success with this year’s program. This program is a prime example of how programs identified by the community through the Archway Partnership are valued and sustained by leaders and stakeholders in the community.

Capacity building is an important aspect of developing programs that can be sustained by the community and the Archway Partnership. The Clayton Archway Executive Committee identified education as a priority in 2009. The Executive Committee determined that there was a need to identify programs and initiatives to assist the Clayton County Public School System. The Clayton Teen Summit, formerly called the Youth Summit, is an annual event that was established by the Clayton Archway Executive Committee to meet those needs.

The Youth Summit committee was established in 2009. Representatives from local organizations were tasked with planning the first summit. After several meetings, the committee determined that the summit should target teens and be renamed the Clayton Teen Summit. The first summit was held in April 2009 with over 40 students attending. Dr. Deryl Bailey, UGA Assistant Professor in the College of Education’s Department of Counseling and Human Behavior Services, was the facilitator. In 2010, the summit focused on improving school spirit. The committee wanted students to get more excited about school activities and events in order for students to get more excited about academics. The summit is a program that the community values and wants to continue long after the Archway Partnership’s community involvement.