The Archway Partnership Presents to German Delegation
On April 23, the Rotary Club of Dalton hosted a delegation of educators from Germany. One of the chief concerns of the delegation was how to handle their growing immigrant population in schools. The delegation had the opportunity to tour some of our local schools during the day. Over lunch, Archway faculty were able to discuss differences and similarities faced by educators in the two cultures. Following lunch, the Archway Partnership gave a formal presentation with questions and answers, and the German delegation did the same. Archway’s presentation can be viewed here.

First Five Coalition Visits Prenatal Health Clinic Model in Hall County
In an effort to examine a successful model of prenatal healthcare to uninsured community residents, First Five Healthcare Subcommittee members visited the Long Street Clinic in Hall County on April 17. Longstreet Clinic is a large, physician-owned specialty group. The Hall County Health Department, local hospital, and the Longstreet Clinic combine forces to offer prenatal care at the Health Department for undocumented/uninsured women. The hospital provides two nurse midwives, and 600-800 women/year are seen. The cost is $450 up front, with a total cost of $1,200 for care (a 10% discount is given to women who pay the full $1,200 up front).

Archway Partnership First Five Facilitates Meeting with OB-GYN's
A few of the First Five Healthcare Subcommittee members met with some of the local OB-GYN’s to discuss private care of women who need full-term care and get released early from the Health Department (currently the Health Department only offers partial-term prenatal care). At the meeting, subcommittee member and owner of a local clinic, Stephen Miracle, presented a proposal. Local OB-GYN, Dr. Tidwell, suggested that the Health Department extend their care to 32 weeks as opposed to the current 28 weeks. Then, private care could take over. The Health Department was open to the idea. Other local OB-GYNs were open to that same idea. The committee will continue to work towards finding a solution for all women in the community to obtain optimal prenatal care.

Lakeshore Park Update
At the end of 2011, UGA students Rachel Johnson and Justin Crighton teamed up with City-County Planner Kevin Herrit to host a planning event for the local Lakeshore Park. Prior to the event, Rachel and Justin prepared three different concepts for the park. Community members had an opportunity to view these proposals and then make comments about what they would like to see in the park. Over the next year, the Archway Partnership Executive Committee realized how important improving the park was and made it one of their top priorities. Today, a small team continues to work with local elected officials and property owners in the area to determine how changes can be implemented.

Post Saturday Academy Meeting
On May 6, a group of leaders from the recent Saturday Academy program met and reviewed preliminary results, as well as discussed future plans and areas for improvement. The conversation is underway for how to implement in fall 2014.
March of Dimes Grants
First Five Healthcare Subcommittee member, Dr. Luis Viamonte, set up a meeting with the March of Dimes Regional Director on May 7 to discuss prenatal grants. One of the models discussed at a previous First Five Healthcare Subcommittee meeting, group prenatal care – Centering Pregnancy, is a top 3 priority for March of Dimes grants this coming year. After the meeting, Dr. Viamonte invited the March of Dimes staff to visit the Dalton-Whitfield Health Department women’s clinic and the Hospital NICU area. Grant writing entities, including the Whitfield County Health Department, Hospital, Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership, and Georgia Mountains Health were all in attendance. Archway will continue facilitating these meetings to collaborate on the grant writing process. It was such a positive meeting, and we look forward to seeing how all this plays out in the next few months. The March of Dimes grants are due at the end of the July with funding occurring January 2015.

Book nook update
The Archway Partnership’s Book Nook initiative is making headway in the Dalton-Whitfield community. Eight Book Nooks can now be found in various local lobbies or waiting areas, including: White’s Pediatrics, City of Refuge (an outreach program that meets the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the homeless, low income, poverty level, and indigent families of the Dalton-Whitfield Community), Whitfield County Health Department Dental Clinic, Dalton Utilities (a local utilities service business), the Salvation Army, Georgia United Credit Union, Family Chiropractic Center, and St. Joseph’s Clinic (a local area clinic that serves the low income, Latino families). An article highlighting Book Nooks was in the Dalton Daily Citizen newspaper on May 6 and can be read here.