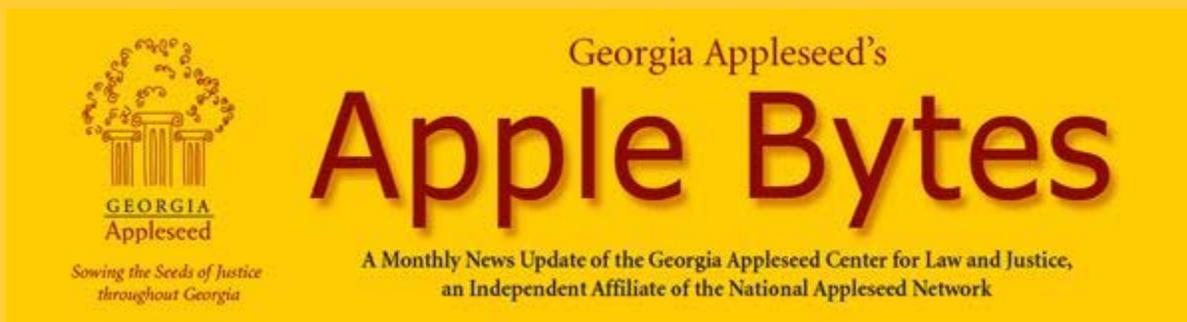


Subject: Heir property project delves root deep

From:

Date:

To:



March, 2010

Issue No. 16

Heir Property Project Delves Root Deep

Seeking systemic changes to tough social justice issues is Georgia Appleseed's raison d'être, but not all our strategies are aimed at the policy level. Helping our volunteers to better understand the daily challenges encountered by the poor, including many heir property owners, is a systemic change of a personal kind. Two recent Georgia Appleseed offerings helped volunteers appreciate the potential impact of their role in helping others rise above poverty.

Heir Property in Georgia Attorney Training Manual Published

The CLE **Heir Property in Georgia**, offered on March 3 as part of the Atlanta Bar Association Pro Bono March Madness, attracted 28 participants for training as attorney volunteers providing direct pro bono services to clients with issues associated with heir property in Georgia. Debuting at the course was the [*Heir Property in Georgia Attorney Training Manual*](#), an education guide for non-real estate attorneys developed by the Georgia Appleseed Young Professionals Council. Instrumental in creation of the Manual



(L-R) Scott Bryant,
Jessica McKinney &
Dave Mobley

were Jessica McKinney (GE Energy), YPC Chair; Avril McKean Dieser (UCB, Inc.), YPC Heir Property Committee Chair; Scott Bryant (Holt, Ney, Zatcoff & Wasserman); Shunta Vincent McBride (DLA Piper) and numerous other volunteers. To arrange training for your firm, please contact our Heir Property Project Manager, Crystal Baker, at ccbaker@gaappleseed.org.

Then, **SURVIVOR: POVERTY** on March 11 provided a first-person reality check for heir property volunteers. 45 young professionals and friends experienced living in poverty during a simulation exercise facilitated by **Sharon Gibson**, of the **UGA College of Family & Consumer Services**. Divided into households, each participant sported a name tag describing the family member they portrayed; with baby dolls in arms, family members sought social services, applied for jobs, juggled child care, negotiated title loans from the 'quick cash' purveyor, were victims of crime in their neighborhood and much more. Following a 'month' in poverty (four 15-minute weeks), participants debriefed together about their role-playing experience and the eye-opening challenges they had confronted. Crystal Baker, Georgia Appleseed Heir Property Project Manager, extrapolated the



experience to that of heir property owners who confront home and property insecurity.



(L-R) Sharon Hill,
Crystal Baker &
Sharon Gibson

Our sincerest thanks to real estate attorney volunteer Sheri Labovitz for handling arrangements and recruiting volunteers to role play as community service providers, and to **Sharon Gibson** for volunteering her facilitator services. Enormous thanks also to Crystal Baker and all the members of the YPC who worked to make this a memorable and meaningful experience.

Contact Information

info@GaAppleseed.org

www.GaAppleseed.org

phone: 404-685-6750

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