“It Takes a Parent” Workshop Transformed into DVD

Throughout 2008, Georgia Appleseed traveled the state presenting its “Effective Parent Involvement” workshop to more than 800 participants in 17 locations. The workshop was our response to national Appleseed research revealing that parents generally do not know how to find, interpret or use the ‘alphabet soup’ array of mandated school assessment tests. The workshop content is carefully designed to fill this gap. It educates parents and professionals on their rights and responsibilities under No Child Left Behind legislation and how they may effectively use the assessment data to best benefit their student and school.

To expand the capacity to reach more parents, Georgia Appleseed transformed the workshop content into a forty-minute video, “It Takes a Parent: Strengthening Effective Parent Involvement.” Produced by Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB), the program features the workshop's creator, noted Georgia education leader and education attorney, Cathy Henson.

The video is ideally suited for use in a facilitated workshop. A facilitator's guide is available, as well as training for workshop leaders.

2,000 DVDs have been distributed free of charge in partnership with Communities in Schools, Georgia PTA and the Parent Involvement Resource Center (PIRC).

“It Takes a Parent” Promo

A line-up of education community all-stars appears on a 5-minute promotional video, spreading the word on the benefits of the workshop content. This “promo” is shown at PTA meetings, school council meetings and other prime arenas where parents and teachers gather. Its goal is to drive viewers to arrange a facilitated workshop using the DVD or to access the video workshop online.

Download the video • promotional video • facilitator guide online at www.GaAppleseed.org/publications.

To obtain a free DVD (while supplies last) or to arrange for a facilitated workshop, contact Theresa Brower at tbrower@gaappleseed.org or 404-815-6266

Help Georgia Appleseed to flourish.
Become a Core Supporter of Georgia Appleseed today.
Fruit $1000  Roots $500  Trunk $250  Branch $100  Seeds (Other amount)
Donate securely online at www.GaAppleseed.org/donate
All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

www.GaAppleseed.org
From Our Executive Director

In this issue, you will read about one of Georgia Appleseed’s newest projects, Heir Property, and about one of our longest standing projects, financial literacy for Latino immigrants. As heir property gains steam, it has the potential to become our biggest pro bono project to date, with the capacity to involve hundreds of legal and other professionals in vital information gathering in counties across Georgia, as well as direct pro bono assistance to heir property owners.

At the other end of the spectrum, Georgia Appleseed’s immigrant policy work is winding down. In particular, our involvement in financial education for Latino immigrants is drawing to a close. Our funding has concluded but our continuing recognition of the need has not. Effecting change is our goal and for Tift and Colquitt counties, where our project has been centered, the impact has been measurable and the effort sustainable. This is due in big measure to the buy-in from the community-at-large. Business owners, financial institutions, schools, government, law enforcement and many more recognized the important benefit in creating a safer community, realized in part by transforming un-banked immigrants into bank consumers.

Andrea Scarrow has been our project presence on the ground. Working as a financial literacy specialist, Andrea designed creative bi-lingual programs to teach residents how to open a bank account, craft a budget, establish credit, and other skills that increase their capacity for economic stability and financial success. According to the chief of police, these financial literacy efforts have had a positive impact on public safety in these communities. Now the challenge is to model the best of what has been learned so that other communities may benefit as well.

Andrea has now submitted her final report to us; you will read about it elsewhere in this issue. Those who have seen Andrea on our Georgia Appleseed video have been touched by her sincerity and commitment to the community she serves. As we extend our thanks to her, we do so with confidence that these special qualities will never diminish.

I would also like to acknowledge UGA, the Archway Partnership and Sharon Gibson of the UGA College of Family and Consumer Services/Cooperative Extension Service. Sharon is an inspiring partner and friend in this and other projects; her expertise is a welcome asset always.

Effecting change is a lofty goal. Many of those who would most benefit from change don’t have the voice to make it happen. But Georgia Appleseed does, through its volunteers, partners, and supporters. That’s where your role starts, our network of volunteers and friends. Sign up today as a volunteer and effect change in Georgia.

– Sharon Hill

Contact Us
Georgia Appleseed
1100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
Office: 404.685.6750
Fax: 404.815.5917
For general information, email info@gaappleseed.org

Georgia Appleseed Board of Directors 2009-2010
A. Stephens (Steve) Clay, Esq.
Board Chair
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP (Atlanta)
L. Joseph (Joe) Loveland, Esq.
Board Vice-Chair
King & Spalding LLP (Atlanta)
Charles (Chuck) C. Clay, Esq.
Board Secretary
Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers, LLC (Marietta)

Sharon Hill

Georgia Appleseed Staff
Sharon N. Hill, JD, MBA
Executive Director
shill@gaappleseed.org

Crystal Chastain Baker, Esq.
UGA School of Law Cousins Fellow
Georgia Appleseed Heir Property Project
ccbaker@uga.edu

Theresa Brower, MSW
Deputy Director
tbrower@gaappleseed.org

Margo Dix Gold
Communications
mgold@gaappleseed.org

Robert (Rob) Rhodes, Esq.
Director of Legal Affairs
rrhodes@gaappleseed.org

Tujuana Tate
Office Manager
ttate@gaappleseed.org

Judy O’Brien, Esq.
Sutherland (Atlanta)
The Honorable Herbert E. Phipps
Court of Appeals of Georgia (Albany)

Richard H. Sinkfield, Esq.
Rogers & Hardin LLP (Atlanta)

Leslie M. Turner, Esq.
General Counsel, Coca-Cola North America (Atlanta)

Terry Walsh, Esq.
Alston & Bird LLP (ret) (Atlanta)

Robert (Bob) W. Webb, Jr., Esq.
Troutman Sanders LLP (Atlanta)

Bertis Downs, Esq.
Young Professionals Council President
Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP (Atlanta)

Robert Gallagher
PricewaterhouseCoopers (Atlanta)
Kent E. Mast, Esq.
General Counsel, Equifax, Inc. (Atlanta)

Mike McGlamery, Esq.
Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood LLP (Atlanta)

Kathy Ashe
Georgia House of Representatives (Atlanta)

Mary Benton, Esq.
Alston & Bird LLP (Atlanta)

Bertis Downs, Esq.
R.E.M. (Athens)

Jeff Firestone, Esq.
UPS (Atlanta)

Robert Webb, Jr., Esq.
TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP (Atlanta)

Robert (Bob) W. Webb, Jr., Esq.
Troutman Sanders LLP (Atlanta)
Parent involvement takes many forms. Beyond their role in ensuring their child’s academic progress, parents also play a critical role in helping to maintain safe schools. Studies show that schools with more parental involvement have lower rates of disciplinary referral, as well as fewer incidents of violence. Georgia Appleseed’s new resource guide, *When My Child Is Disciplined At School; A Guide for Families*, helps Georgia parents and guardians to be informed advocates for their children and advocates for fair, equitably applied school discipline policies.

**What is in the Guide?**

- Guidelines to the school disciplinary process;
- Steps for appropriate parent intervention, including helpful “What If…” scenarios;
- Explanation of disciplinary actions, including referrals to Alternative Education Programs, expulsions and juvenile complaints;
- Parent Checklist and a Parent/Guardian School Discipline Bill of Rights;
- Suggested Georgia Resources for Parents and Students.

*When My Child Is Disciplined At School* is intended for informational purposes only. Users of the manual are encouraged to confer with legal counsel, as appropriate.

Guidebook Team

*When My Child is Disciplined at School* grew from a need identified by the Georgia Appleseed Education Advisory Council. We extend our sincerest thanks to the legal and education professionals who worked pro bono in concert with Georgia Appleseed staff to create this important family resource.

**Project Leader**

Jennifer Falk  
Georgia Appleseed Education Advisory Council Member & NAACP Georgia State Conference Education Chair

**Project Team Members**

Cathy Henson, Esq.  
Education Attorney  
Georgia Appleseed Board of Directors Member

Craig Goodmark, Esq.  
Atlanta Legal Aid Society  
Deputy Director  
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

Leslie K. Lipson, Esq.  
Parent Leadership Support Project Director  
Georgia Advocacy Office  

The handbook also reflects the collaborative advantage of the network of Appleseed Centers. It was originally conceived by Texas Appleseed. We are deeply grateful for their permission to modify the original Texas law-based publication, thus enabling us to expedite its production for the benefit of Georgia students and families.

**Download** *When My Child is Disciplined at School* at [www.GaAppleseed.org/publications](http://www.GaAppleseed.org/publications)

From its first day of publication online, the *Guide* has been at work helping Georgia families. Dr. Garry McGiboney, Georgia Department of Education Associate Superintendent, Innovative Instruction, responsible for alternative education programs, conveyed his appreciation…

“Thank you for informing me about *When My Child is Disciplined at School*. I read through the manual this morning and it is excellent. In fact, I’ve already provided an electronic copy to a parent this morning who was having some issues with a local school district. The manual provides accurate and helpful information, facts, and guidance for parents.”

**Leading by Example…**

The *Leadership Atlanta 2009 Graduation Class* had a distinctly Georgia Appleseed presence. Classmates *Steve Clay,* our Board Chair, and *Sharon Hill,* our Executive Director, completed the one-year program in June. The leadership connections they developed have already been beneficial to Georgia Appleseed’s work. As Sharon observed, “I am really grateful that so many classmates are willing to continue to work together on issues we learned about by helping Georgia Appleseed in our efforts to address some of them.”

Board of Advisors Member & Former Chief Justice Norman Fletcher and Sharon Hill are proud recipients of the esteemed 2009 St. Thomas More Society Award, presented annually to recognize actions manifesting justice and humanity in difficult circumstances. Sharon Hill was honored for her work for a new Georgia juvenile code. Justice Fletcher was honored for his efforts to create a meaningful Georgia indigent defense system.
For the past three years, Georgia Appleseed has worked collaboratively with its JUSTGeorgia partners to improve justice for Georgia’s children and promote safety for its communities through the adoption of a new state juvenile code.

Senator Bill Hamrick Introduces ‘Child Protection and Public Safety Act’ (Senate Bill 292)

On April 2, 2009, that effort culminated in the introduction of the Child Protection and Public Safety Act (SB292) by State Senator Bill Hamrick (R-Carrollton), Vice-Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. “This is an important, complex piece of legislation to improve the manner in which our courts interact with children,” the Senator explained. “…The JUSTGeorgia coalition has done the hard work of carefully analyzing Georgia’s existing Juvenile Code and developing thoughtful improvements. They have pulled together a wealth of valuable input from juvenile court judges, social workers, lawyers…and affected children and their families. I look forward to continuing to work with them as we move this legislation through the General Assembly.”

Read SB292 online at http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/sum/sb292.htm

Common Wisdom: Making the Case for a New Georgia Juvenile Code

Georgia Appleseed’s landmark pro bono effort to glean input from stakeholders across the state was instrumental in informing the content of the revised legislation. Using the skills of more than 260 legal professionals, face-to-face interviews were held in each of Georgia’s ten judicial districts, as well as public town hall meetings, gathering user-based feedback on improvements to the current code. The output of that research was the publication of Common Wisdom: Making the Case for a New Georgia Juvenile Code. The ten judicial district reports and statewide summary report concisely chronicle the feedback and ensuing recommendations.

Access all the Common Wisdom reports online at www.GaAppleseed.org/children/reports

Hats off to Judy O’Brien (Sutherland), author of the Common Wisdom Statewide Summary Report. Judy spent countless hours meticulously transforming the ten judicial district reports into one succinct document reflecting consensus recommendations. An expert in education law, Judy is head of Sutherland’s Pro Bono and Public Service Committees and a new member of the Georgia Appleseed Board of Directors.

JUSTGeorgia

The JUSTGeorgia coalition was launched in 2006 by Georgia Appleseed, Voices for Georgia’s Children and the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic of Emory University School of Law. Its statewide membership of organizations and individuals advocates on behalf of juvenile justice. To learn more, visit www.JUSTGa.org or contact Julia Neighbors, JUSTGeorgia Project Manager, at info@JUSTGa.org.
Pro Bono at Work: Helping Georgians Preserve Their Property Rights

“The phrase ‘an end to poverty begins with property rights’ came to my attention when reading about the eradication of global poverty. It seemed to describe perfectly our motivation in bringing the Heir Property Project to Georgia,” observed Sharon Hill, Georgia Appleseed Executive Director.

Helping disadvantaged property owners to preserve property rights and prevent land loss is the primary motivation of this signature pro bono project undertaken by the Georgia Appleseed Young Professionals Council (YPC).

The problem of heir property came into public view in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. 20,000 Louisiana families residing in homes for generations discovered they were ineligible for federal disaster relief because they could not provide clear title to their property. Here in Georgia, coastal, lakefront and urban developments have put some heir property owners at risk.

“Heir property” is the phrase used to describe real property passed to heirs without benefit of a will or probate. Georgia laws on descent and distribution mean property ownership may be fractionalized amongst children or siblings, a problem that compounds over successive generations. The potential hardships of such ownership are many. It is difficult to develop or to sell such land. Absence of title undermines the ability to maximize the property as an asset to economic gain and security, such as collateral to obtain loans. Property tax payment lapses and partition sales are other common issues. In Georgia, where many heir property owners are lower-income, rural African-Americans, loss of heir property often has social, cultural and economic impact on the surrounding community.

UGA Law Cousins Public Interest Fellowship

In 2008, Georgia Appleseed was awarded a two-year UGA School of Law Cousins Public Interest Fellowship in Heir Property. Real estate attorney Crystal Chastain Baker holds the Cousins Fellowship.

YPC Chair Jason Carter (Bondurant, Mixson, Elmore) and the YPC Heir Property Project Committee, chaired by Avril McKean Dieser, (UCB Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), worked closely with Crystal to develop a multi-faceted plan that would engage scores of pro bono volunteers.

Heir Property In Georgia

The project’s first yield is publication of a user-friendly manual for heir property owners, entitled Heir Property In Georgia. It is used in conjunction with a community-based education seminar, “Heir Property in Georgia: How to Preserve Your Family’s Land”, held in locations across the state. The manual and seminars provide a broad range of information, including property basics, steps to protect one’s land, and the importance of a will. Seminars are presented by legal professionals and organized in partnership with local community groups. The seminars are informational only and do not provide specific legal advice.

The Heir Property in Georgia manual was created with the generous pro bono research support of DLA Piper LLP (US) attorneys Roberta A. Ritvo, Brian M. Gordon, Tracy S. Plott, Shawn Lanier, and Shunta Vincent. DLA Piper volunteers also helped to present the first education seminar in Liberty County in May. Financial support for the manual came from the Cousins Public Interest Fellowship and the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia.

Download Heir Property in Georgia at www.GaAppleseed.org/heir

Seeking Pro Bono Volunteers

County Tax Database Research

Determining the prevalence of heir property in Georgia is the next step. This information will inform project strategy, grants and resources, and design of meaningful measurement tools.

To gather this important quantitative data, volunteers are needed to research the tax database and property records of select counties in Georgia. The research is performed online and can be done from one’s own office. A one-hour professionalism CLE is available for the training and can be presented at law firms and other locations.

We appreciate the pro bono support of YPC member Courtney Showell, Sr., Director of Advisor Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, who is creating a database to capture and analyze the data.

Pro Bono Legal Assistance

YLC’s ultimate goal for the Heir Property Project is the creation of an ongoing Georgia heir property law clinic. To fill the gap in the meanwhile, volunteers are sought to provide pro bono legal assistance to heir property owners on a case-by-case basis.

An Heir Property Training Manual to support volunteer attorneys in these efforts is under development by members of the Heir Property Project Committee, with help from DLA Piper.

According to Crystal, “Pro bono attorneys and other professionals are vital to each phase of this project. The research they perform is the heart of crafting a systemic solution. Their role in helping property owners transforms the research from data into action.”

To volunteer, or to learn more about training opportunities, contact Crystal Baker at ccbaker@uga.edu or contact Georgia Appleseed at 404.685.6750.
On April 16, 2009 Georgia Appleseed hosted its first Good Apple Award Dinner, honoring Teri McClure, UPS Senior Vice President of Legal, Compliance and Public Affairs and General Counsel, and Frank Alexander, Emory University Professor of Law. More than 200 community leaders were on hand at the Park Tavern Garden Tent at Piedmont Park, enjoying the beautiful spring evening and the opportunity to recognize these two outstanding legal professionals.

In her role as Co-Chair of the Georgia Supreme Court Equal Justice Commission’s Committee on Civil Rights, Teri McClure has worked to strengthen Georgia’s civil justice system through policy initiatives that expand pro bono resources and access to the courts for poor and vulnerable Georgians.

Frank Alexander is a nationally renowned expert in property law, particularly in the area of low income and affordable housing. His first-hand perspective of the challenges and potential losses endured by heir property owners and the consequential, often devastating social and economic impact on the communities in which they live, help to inform and propel Georgia Appleseed’s heir property project.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors
Proceeds of the Good Apple Award Dinner provide essential operating funds for Georgia Appleseed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Founders</th>
<th>Presenter Level</th>
<th>Platinum Level</th>
<th>Gold Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kilpatrick Stockton LLP</td>
<td>UPS</td>
<td>DLA Piper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King &amp; Spalding LLP</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alston &amp; Bird LLP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Company</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coca-Cola Enterprises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troutman Sanders LLP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coca-Cola Company</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope, McClamry, Kilpatrick,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrison &amp; Norwood LLP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Turner, General Counsel, Coca-Cola of North America, presents the Good Apple Award to Frank Alexander.</td>
<td>Former Chief Justice Norman Fletcher presents the Good Apple Award to Teri McClure.</td>
<td>Georgia Appleseed Executive Director Sharon Hill was animated in her appreciation of our project partners.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evening “dé-core” featured apples!
National Appleseed Meetings Hosted by Georgia Appleseed

On January 18-19, 2009, Georgia Appleseed was honored to host national Appleseed leadership as they convened in Atlanta for their national meetings. The Executive Directors Council met on January 18, and the national Appleseed Board of Directors convened on January 19. All the meetings were held at the offices of Kilpatrick Stockton.

In a show of Southern hospitality, Georgia Appleseed arranged some distinctly Atlanta experiences for the visitors.

On Thursday afternoon, a tour of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum was personally led by Jason Carter, President of the Georgia Appleseed Young Professionals Council.

On Friday afternoon, a visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was highlighted by meeting with Isaac Ferris, Dr. King’s nephew and the Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.
In 2005, when six Hispanic immigrants were murdered in home invasions in Tift and Colquitt counties, attention focused on an escalating problem. The victims were targeted for cash they kept on hand. Local migrant workers had limited banking skills and a general distrust of financial institutions. Alarmed at the growing victimization and violence, community leaders sought ways to protect immigrant workers and the community at-large.

Georgia Appleseed’s **Financial Access for Latino Immigrants** project became part of the solution. Partnering with the UGA Cooperative Extension and Archway Partnership, Georgia Appleseed helped create a new Family and Consumer Science extension agent position to provide bilingual financial education for Tift and Colquitt residents. **Financial Literacy Specialist Andrea Scarrow** was hired in 2006. She built relationships with the Latino community and developed local collaboration to assess needs and the best ways to meet them. The outcomes included:

- Andrea’s creation of an innovative, award-winning class combining financial literacy with English literacy skills. While improving their English skills, students learn how to open bank accounts, develop a family budget, and build good credit.

- Distribution of 18,000 financial education brochures provided by Georgia Appleseed in Spanish and English, including popular titles “Credit, Debit and ATM Cards” and “Sending Money Back Home.”

**Effecting change**

As Georgia Appleseed’s formal partnership with the UGA Extension Service on this project draws to a close, testimony to the program’s impact to effect change is found in the sustainable outcomes noted in Andrea’s final report.

Andrea explains, “Generally, the feeling of trust that we set out to create between the Latino population and the local banks has increased. Most of our local banks have someone on staff who speaks Spanish, there is more signage in Spanish, and many have sent representatives to participate in our programs, making that personal contact with the Latino audience. One of the banks is now accepting the Mexican Matricula Card for identification purposes after persevering through the process of rewriting their Customer Identification Policy.

In addition, Moultrie Chief of Police, Frank Lang, recently commented that he has seen a decrease in crimes against Latinos and greater trust between Latinos and the police department evidenced by the Latinos’ growing willingness to call and report crimes.

Because of Cooperative Extension’s outreach to Latinos in Colquitt and Tift County, other organizations, such as the YMCA in Moultrie, are partnering with Extension to provide outreach programming and services for Latino families.

In conclusion, I believe that Extension’s partnership with Georgia Appleseed has had an impact not only in the area of financial access for Latinos in Southwest Georgia, but has in fact set an important precedent for our communities in fostering an atmosphere of concern for the safety, stability, and health of Latino families.”

---

**Georgia Appleseed Board of Advisors 2009-2010**

The Board of Advisors acts as a sounding board on new projects, assists in cultivating leadership, and serves as ambassadors for Georgia Appleseed in their home communities.

- **The Honorable Roy E. Barnes**, Esq.  
  former Governor, State of Georgia; Barnes Law Group LLC (Marietta)
- **James (Jim) H. Blanchard**, Esq.  
  Retired Chairman & CEO, Synovus (Columbus)
- **Dr. Portia Shields**  
  President, Concordia College (Alabama)
- **The Honorable Norman S. Fletcher**  
  former Chief Justice of the  
  Georgia Supreme Court (ret.);  
  Brinson, Askew, Berry, Seigler, Richardson & Davis LLP (Rome)
- **Shel H. Knox**  
  (Augusta)
- **Catherine (Cathy) Z. Manning**  
  PricewaterhouseCoopers, retired  
  (Texas)
- **Jorge Forment**  
  President & CEO, United Americas Bank (Atlanta)
- **Paul Painter**, Esq.  
  Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams LLP (Savannah)
- **DeAlvah (Dee) H. Simms**, Esq.  
  (Macon)
- **Wade (Trip) H. Tomlinson III**, Esq.  
  Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood LLP (Columbus)

---

**Be an AppleByte!**

Be an AppleBytes subscriber and receive periodic online updates on our activity. [Sign up at www.GaAppleseed.org](http://www.GaAppleseed.org)