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## Volunteer Spotlight: Atlantic National Bank

What if you could change the course of a young person's life by volunteering for an hour a week? Beth Lemke and Misti Zeigler, employees of Atlantic National Bank are doing just that. Partnered with Communities In Schools, Beth and Misti take turns going once a week to Glynn Academy to tutor 9<sup>th</sup> grade students during their 'Study Skills' class.

"When Luke Fennell came to see me about volunteer opportunities with Communities In Schools, I was very excited about the chance to participate in an organization that has the potential to be extremely impactful. The future of our community is largely dependant on the children it educates. They will one day be our leaders, educators, business owners, parents and service volunteers. As a community, we need to do

everything we can to encourage our children to become successful members of a thriving society. They need to know that we are behind them 100%! CIS gives us the outlet to do just that", states Beth, who is the

Beth and Misti are able to leave work and return an hour later as if they had never left their offices. Beth feels, "we are fortunate to have employees at Atlantic National who have the desire to contribute and a leader who allows us the time to contribute as we grow our volunteer participation to support CIS and the Glynn County school system."

Luke Fennell, executive director of CIS believes "this is an outstanding example of how partners can provide critical academic support for students and our objective is to increase the number of partners

because our students need this support." If you or your business are interested in becoming a partner volunteer with Communities In Schools, please contact Luke at 554-0649 or Jordan Griffis with Hands on Coastal Georgia.



Atlantic National Bank employees Misti Zeigler, President John Rogers and Beth Lemke (left to

Director of Marketing and Business Development for the bank.

With full support of Atlantic National Bank President John Rogers,

## Doggie Playground: Fun Plans for the Humane Society

Dogs need a place to play too! And that's why the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia has announced plans to construct a 'Doggie Playground'. The fenced playground will be located on the property in front of the main office and will be nearly half of an acre. Plans include tunnels and hoops for the dogs to run and jump through. Also, there will be a covered area for the dogs and volunteers alike to escape the sun and relax in the shade. The idea of the playground is to give the larger dogs at the shelter a place to roam and play each day. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the project, including creative thinkers and skilled workers.

Donations of construction materials are also needed. The project, slated to begin in mid-February, will certainly make a difference at the shelter. "This is their home, and we just want to make everyday of their life to be the best that it can be", says Ashley Woods, executive director of the Humane Society . If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation for this project, please contact Ashley Woods at 264-1191 or 253-9271 or Hands On Coastal Georgia.



## **AmeriCorps in Your Community**

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Local AmeriCorps members Jordan Griffis and Kathy Patelidas are partnered with Hands on Coastal Georgia, an affiliate of Hands on Georgia. The mission of the Hands on Georgia AmeriCorps Program is to build communities by creating stable supportive relationships between community members, service organizations, AmeriCorps members, and service recipients. In Coastal Georgia, AmeriCorps members serve both Glynn and McIntosh counties. They are largely responsible for volunteer recruitment, training and leadership development.

Kathy, a McIntosh resident, serves on the Darien Chamber of Commerce and is currently working on establishing the chamber's first-ever Ambassador Program. The purpose of the program is to generate new ideas and promote local businesses, specifically by attending new business ribbon-cuttings and 'Business After-Hours Events'.



Pictured above are the local AmeriCorps members, Jordan Griffis (left) and Kathy Patelidas (right).

Jordan, a Glynn county native, is currently partnered with Communities In Schools, a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase graduation rates and decrease drop-out rates in the Glynn County School system. Together they are designing 'Banking on Success', a program where local bank employees tutor and mentor local 9th grade students once a week.

For more information about the AmeriCorps program or the service that the members are providing in both counties, please feel free to contact HOCG.

## **McIntosh Ambassadors Program Off to a Great Start**

The McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce is excited about their new Ambassadors Program, which was headed up by McIntosh AmeriCorps Member, Kathy Patelidas. Kathy, who also serves as the Vice President for the Chamber of Commerce comments, "This is a great way for local Chamber Members to come together and develop ideas to promote the Businesses in our community."



The initial members of the Ambassadors Program plan upcoming events with the McIntosh Chamber of Commerce.

The Ambassadors first task is to create a survey that will be sent out to all chamber members. By asking various questions, the group hopes to collect information on what the chamber can improve on. They hope to find out what businesses need

and expect from their local chamber. The group also plans to showcase a difference business in the Darien News on a weekly basis. The Ambassadors hope to be a support to all of the local businesses.

Attending grand openings, ribbon cuttings, and helping with business after hours are just a few of the events where you can expect to see them.

The Chamber anticipates 20 members for the program for this year and so far they have 12. If you are interested in joining the McIntosh Ambassadors Program, please contact either Kathy Patelidas or the McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce at 437-6684.

### **Volunteer Opportunities for Winter 2008:**

1. Dick Mitchell Health Information Center Volunteers  
Agency: Southeast Georgia Health System Auxiliary
2. Dog Playground  
Agency: Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia
3. Emergency Care Center Volunteers  
Agency: Southeast Georgia Health System Auxiliary
4. Front Desk Reception  
Agency: MAP International
5. Gift Shop Volunteers  
Agency: Southeast Georgia Health System
6. Handy Man  
Agency: Glynn Community Crisis Center/Amity House
7. Homework Help  
Agency: Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Georgia
8. Human Resources Volunteer  
Agency: Southeast Georgia Health System Auxiliary
9. Office Volunteer  
Agency: American Cancer Society
10. Ongoing Volunteers  
Agency: International Seafarers' Center
11. Ushers Needed for to Take Tickets for Shows  
Agency: Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association
12. Aquarium Care  
Agency: Care Net Pregnancy Center of Coastal Georgia
13. Church Liaison  
Agency: Care Net Pregnancy Center of Coastal Georgia
14. Georgia Dads-Men's Ministry  
Agency: Care Net Pregnancy Center of Coastal Georgia
15. Mobile Food Pantry  
Agency: America's Second Harvest

For additional projects, please visit [www.hocg.org](http://www.hocg.org)

Looking for a project specifically for your company, church, or organizational group? Give us a call! We will be more than happy to find a project that fits your group's interests, skills, and even time availability! There really is a project for everyone!

To view more information about a project or one of our partner agencies, or to sign up for one of the volunteer projects, log on to [www.handsoncoastalgeorgia.org](http://www.handsoncoastalgeorgia.org).

**Be the change. Volunteer!**