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HUMAN SERVICES ACHIEVES FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ARC

DeKalb Commissioners approve new Aging Services Plan to meet state and federal requirements from the Atlanta Regional Commission

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YOUTH SERVICES LAUNCHES SITES & SOUNDS PROGRAM

Introductory film and music pilot program for high school students launched by the DeKalb Office of Youth Services

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DIRECTOR HOSTS COMMISSIONER

New collaboration with the Georgia Human Services Department established



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LOU WALKER ELECTS FIRST COE

Senior participants join newly created volunteer board to provide input and support to Lou Walker programming and activities



As we quickly approach the close of the first quarter in 2019, I am excited to launch this first Human Services Department newsletter. 2018 was a time of opportunity and great expansion for the Department. Because of the ground-work that was completed last year, the Human Services team is engaged and committed to enhancing the quality of our services and delivering excellent customer service to the citizens of DeKalb County.

The Human Services Department provides direct services, programs and activities to DeKalb County's most vulnerable populations- from birth through retirement.

With oversight and services areas touching more than 30,000 persons annually (youth, families, and seniors), the reach of the Department has grown tremendously in the past year.

Iwish to personally thank our talented and dedicated staff, community partners and volunteers who work to fulfill our mission: to ensure a safer DeKalb and stronger neighborhoods by the provision of centralized, fiscally responsible services with public/private partnerships, addressing the service needs of families, from infancy to end of life.

Damon M. Scott

Director Scott was appointed by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners in October 2017 to lead the DeKalb County Human Services Department. He is a human services executive with more than 24 years of experience in behavioral health management who has a BA, MSW, License, and post-graduate clinical training. Mr. Scott oversees the Department's more than 45 employees, two multipurpose senior centers and four neighborhood senior centers. Divisions of the Department include: the Office of Aging, the Office of Youth Services, the Office of Grants & Administration, the Office of Transportation and the Office of Partnerships & External Affairs.

Human Services receives Grant from United Way of Greater Atlanta to address food insecurity

In the Atlanta metro area 14% of the population does not have enough food to eat on a regular basis which is known as food insecurity. In South DeKalb poverty levels are higher than other parts of the county. According to United Way of Greater Atlanta's Child Well-Being scores, 41% of children live in poverty in South DeKalb. Food security is low as families struggle with the high cost of nutritious groceries, especially fresh fruits and vegetables. Many households in this area also have an older adult, 55+ years of age, living

and supporting the household and some of these older adults are raising children. Over 50% of families in this area of the County are financially unstable, which is high when compared to other families in the region. The purpose of this grant is to provide food pantry/ food services to South DeKalb intergenerational families to address food insecurity needs in the community. Food pantry boxes will be distributed to 75 families, which is intended to reduce food insecurity and increase financial stability for intergenerational families.



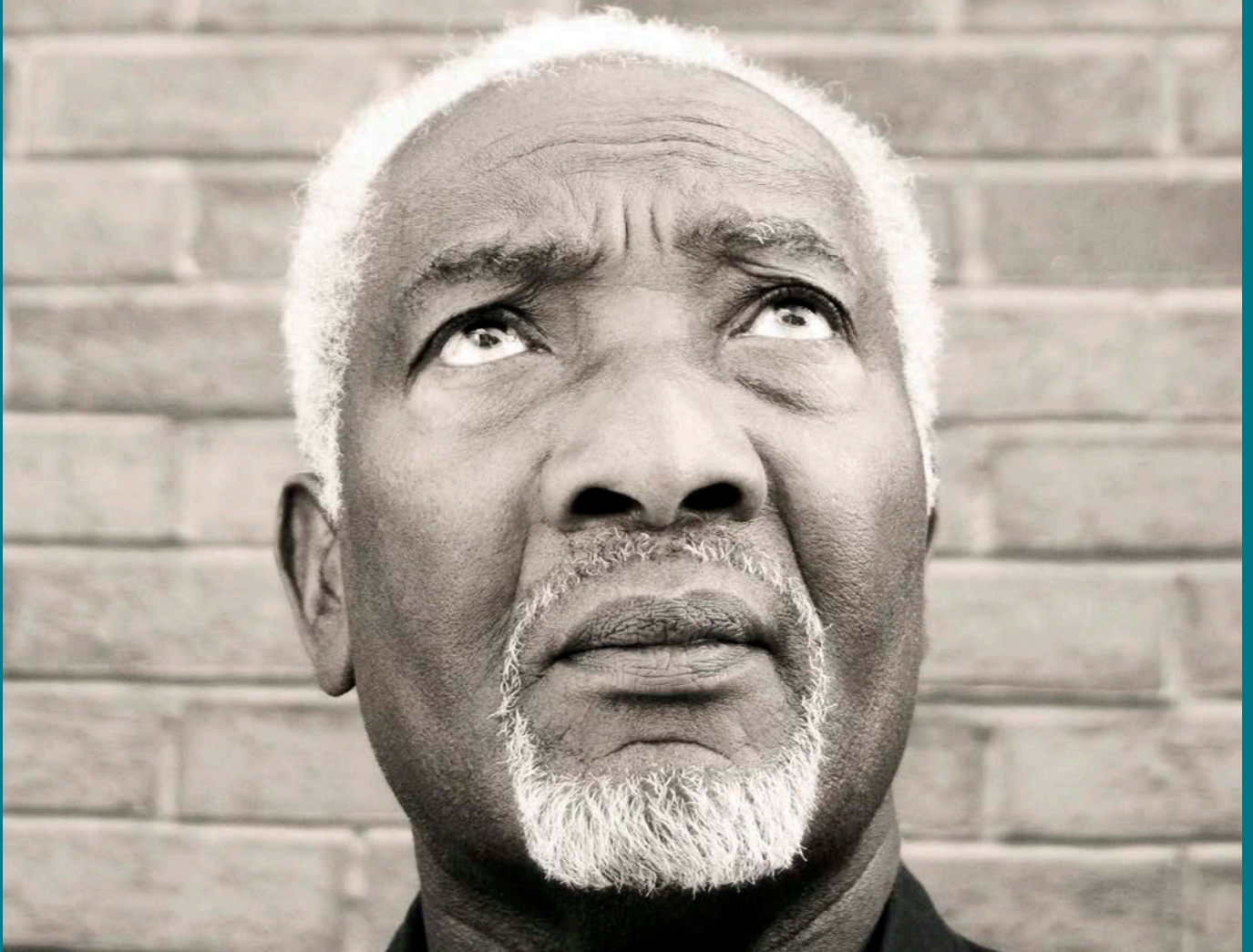
Dementia Friendly Communities for DeKalb



In the state of Georgia there are approximately 140,000 people currently living with Alzheimer's disease. In DeKalb County, it is estimated that 8,250 seniors have Alzheimer's or other form of dementia. As the Baby Boomer Generation continues to age in place within our communities, more resources will be needed to assist them with maintaining their independence and quality of life. The Georgia Gerontology Society has partnered with the DeKalb Human Services Department to explore the development

of Dementia Friendly Communities. The purpose of this project is to engage citizens and community leaders, determine the needs of individuals living with this disease and to collaborate to find solutions. Focus group meetings are being conducted to further explore the causes and effects of dementia and to complete a community Readiness and Recognition review. The project is designed to enhance dementia friendly services for seniors living in DeKalb County.

New Plan for Senior Services Future State approved by DeKalb Commission



The Human Services Department recently implemented a new plan to provide needed services to DeKalb seniors. The Senior Services Future State plan was approved by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and the Atlanta Regional Commission, which provides the Department with an annual award of \$2.2 million for senior services.

The implementation of this plan marks a significant change for the delivery of service to the seniors of DeKalb County. Senior Connections, Inc., a local non-profit organization, which provided senior center management, congregate meals, home delivered meals and in-home services for over ten years to seniors through a contract with the Human Services Department stopped providing services in 2018.

Senior center management and case management services are now provided by County employees. Congregate meals, home delivered meals, and in-home services (personal care, homemaker and respite) are currently being provided by new vendors. This new approach to providing services has allowed the Department to meet the requirements established by the Atlanta Regional Commission for senior service delivery.

Central DeKalb Senior Center receives new Shuttle

Seniors who attend the Central DeKalb Senior Center recently received a 15-passenger bus with the help of Commissioner Jeff Rader, District 2.

The Central DeKalb Senior center is a multipurpose facility located in the Mason Mill/Toco Hills area of the county. The center was opened in February 2015 and it has experienced a significant growth in membership over the last four years- resulting in a need to expand programming. The bus is used to provide participants with the opportunity to explore local attractions together. Since receiving the vehicle, various members have participated in day trips to Emory University, the DeKalb History Center, DeKalb Commission meetings, the Forum, and local performing art studios.





Office of Youth Services launches Sites & Sounds Program



The DeKalb County Office of Youth Services (OYS) provides programs to help streamline existing fragmented youth service initiatives, while also introducing new signature youth initiatives and programs.

The Office of Youth Services launched the Sights an' Sounds Teen Arts Program which provides educational, professional and vocational exposure to film production and music recording industries for high school aged youth. The Office of youth Services partnered with the DeKalb Entertainment

Commission, Savannah College of Arts & Design, American Intercontinental University, Radio One, Triangle Music Studios, WSBTV, Fram 88 Media and the Atlanta Fil and Music Group Recording Studio to provide students with a first class enrichment experience.




Classes in French & Spanish Keep Minds Sharp

According to current research in the field of aging, frequent use of word games and puzzles are beneficial to prevent memory loss. A commitment to life-long learning, which is defined as "the ongoing, voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for personal or professional reasons" is another way to help to ward off dementia.

Seniors participants at Central DeKalb Senior Center are passionate about learning French and other languages. The French for Beginners classes and the Conversational French classes are very popular and well attended. Students learn basic language

elements and cultural aspects of French history, art or music. The center also offers Spanish classes for seniors at the beginners and intermediate level. Central DeKalb Senior Center is designed for seniors age 62 years and older living in DeKalb County. To learn more about the variety of classes offered at Central DeKalb call (770) 492-5461.





DeKalb County Panel Discussion on the Schools to Prisons Pipeline

The “schools to prisons pipeline” is a troubling national trend in which young people that face challenges in school are moved from school into the juvenile and criminal justice system.

The Human Services Department participated in a county wide panel discussion on this issue and Director Scott was able to bring the human services perspective to the conversation. Once a student drops out of school, they are eight times more likely to be incarcerated than their peers who graduate from high school. Current research proves that there is a connection between school failure and later contact with the criminal justice system for minorities.

The panel included representatives from Magistrate Court, Juvenile Court, the DeKalb District Attorney’s Office, the Solicitor General’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, the DeKalb County School District and the National Incarceration Association.



**EDUCATION IS THE MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE WORLD.**

- NELSON MANDELA



Office of Grants & Administration gives local non-profits over \$900K in awards

The Department's Human Services Grants Program recently provided grant agreements to 48 local non-profit organizations for needed services in DeKalb County. The annual grant program is designed to provide supplemental funding to non-profit organizations to enhance their work. There were one hundred eleven (111) organizations in attendance at the Human Services Grants Orientation Workshop and the Department received and evaluated sixty-nine (69) grant applications.

Anticipated outcomes from these grants include: the provision of day care and early childhood learning programs, hearing and visual screenings for children, after school programs for middle school and high school students, the provision of food to low income families through local food

banks, assistive technology and equipment for individuals with disabilities, reading materials translated into recordings for individuals that are blind, counseling services for people with addictions, temporary housing for the homeless and assistance with locating long term housing options, transportation services for seniors and victim assistance services for women experiencing domestic violence.

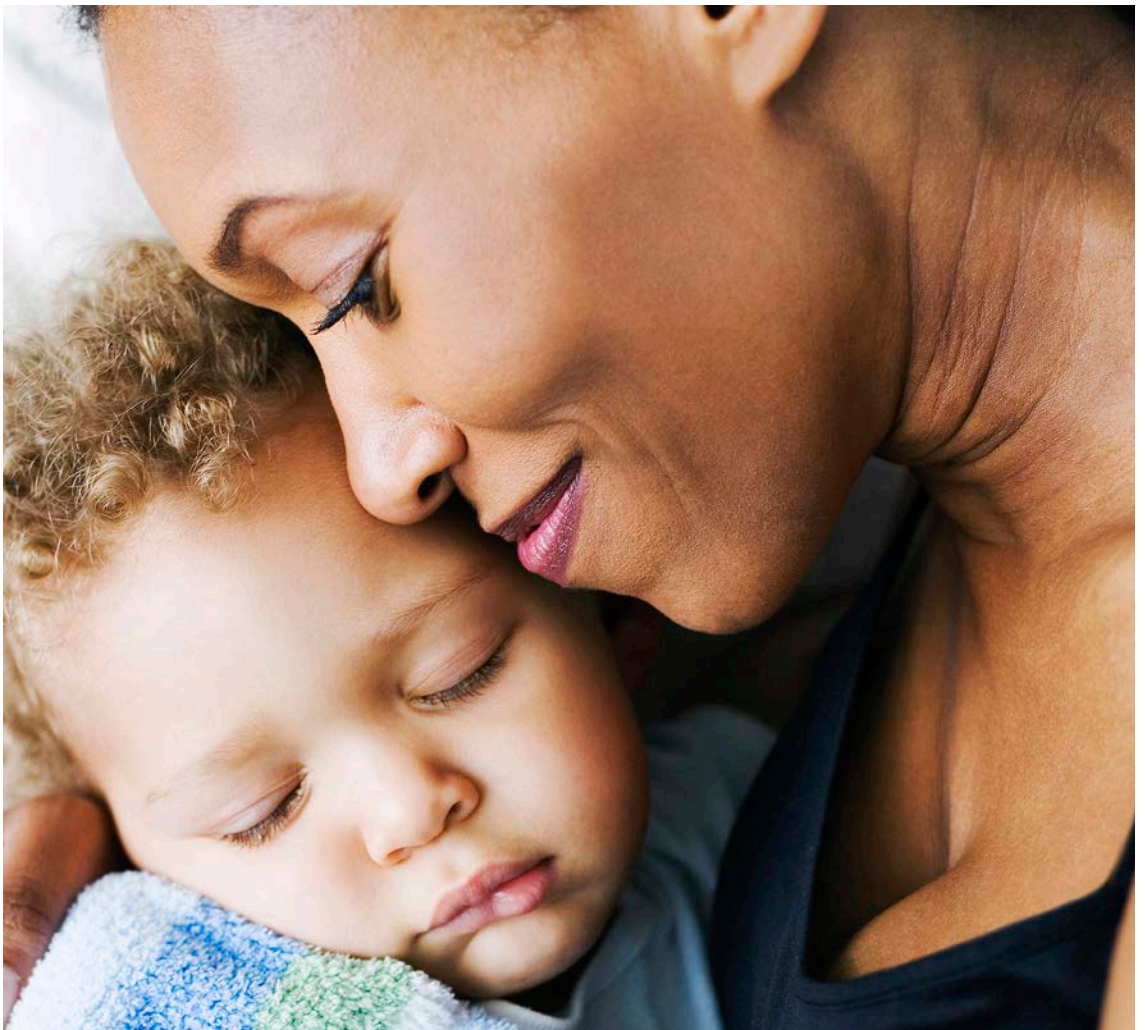
The Human Services Grant Awards assists individuals and families with a variety of supports and services that to enhance their quality of life which in turn leads to viable, sustainable neighborhoods and communities.



HS Receives Mother/Early Childhood/Home Visiting Program Grant

The DeKalb County Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) connects families to parenting resources and a wide range of community services that improve child and family well-being. The Human Services Department has received a grant award to implement this program for the past 8 years from the state of Georgia. The current grant allocation is for \$612,636 from the Georgia Department of Public Health and it has a guaranteed renewal for the next five years.

The home visiting mode is an evidence-based approach that is available for families with more intensive needs. The program assists with the prevention of child abuse and neglect and promotes positive parenting, child development, and school readiness. This year the program is providing services to 123 families in the Parents as Teachers model, 24 families in the Early Head Start Home model, and 1,000 families through the First Steps model.



Year End Review with Leadership DeKalb Director



Servant leadership is a leadership style that focuses on serving others. It is people focused. A servant leader puts the needs of the team first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible. Over the course of the last year, the Human Service Department began exploring servant leadership.

The Department ended 2018 with a presentation on servant leadership from Ms. Maria Balais, Executive Director of Leadership DeKalb. The presentation included a review of the work that was accomplished by the Department during the year. Ms. Balais learned about servant leadership through her mentor Senator Sam Zamarripa,

the first Hispanic person elected to the Georgia state legislature. During the presentation, the Human Services team had a lively discussion on the characteristics of servant leaders.

In an act of service, the Human Services Department donated toys to the DeKalb County South Police Precinct for its 2018 Holiday Toy Drive instead of exchanging gifts. The toys were distributed to families in need of assistance as designated by DeKalb County School social workers.

Ms. Balais' presentation was an inspirational way for the Department to conduct its year-end review.

Seniors on the Move

According to the Atlanta Regional Commission, transportation is the number one need of people of all ages in the Atlanta metro area. The Department's Office of Transportation works tirelessly to provide DeKalb seniors with coordinated transportation to medical appointments, senior centers, dialysis and other places within the community. Last year, the Human Services Department provided over 30,400 trips to DeKalb seniors to help them go to the doctor, medical appointments and other places. To learn more about available transportation options for DeKalb seniors contact the DeKalb County Transportation Line at (770) 322-2967.



Lou Walker Senior Center Elects First Council of Excellence



The LWSC Council of Excellence was established to act in an advisory capacity and support member involvement in the planning and administration of the Center's activities and policies.

It is comprised of Lou Walker Senior Center members and its main functions are to advise, support, assist, and communicate with LWSC staff about ways to improve the activities of the LWSC.



Human Services Director hosts Georgia State Commissioner of Human Services



In 2018, Director Damon Scott invited the State Commissioner of Human Services, Ms. Robyn Crittenden to the South DeKalb Senior Center to participate in meeting to address food insecurity in the State of Georgia and the impact on DeKalb seniors. Ms. Crittenden is an attorney and was the 28th Georgia Secretary of State and the first African-American woman to serve as a statewide constitutional officer in Georgia. In her role as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services, she oversees a \$1.5 billion budget and more than 9,000 employees who are charged with working to strengthen Georgia families. Atlanta Regional Commission's Becky Kurtz, Aging and Independence Services Director was also in attendance at this meeting. The Department presented Commissioner Crittenden her with an award for her service to seniors across the great state of Georgia.

- 19.2% of DeKalb County is food insecure which is about 139,290 persons
- 15.1 % of Georgians are food insecure (not knowing where you will get your next meal)
- 20.9% of Georgia children live in food insecure environments
- 21.1% of Georgia's children (under age of 18) are living in poverty
- 13.5% of Georgia's seniors live in poverty

(Source: Feeding America)

Youth Farm Healthy Harvest Program

A new and innovative program called “Healthy Harvest” is helping to address food insecurity amongst seniors in the Community while giving youth an opportunity to grow. The program, a collaboration between the DeKalb County Human Service Dept.’ Office of Aging, Office of Youth Services, Community Development Department and PAHL (Partnership for Active Healthy Living), is creating hope through intergenerational collaborations. Two high schools, Columbia and Towers

High Schools provide students, who are learning to farm on a community garden. The produce is being used for home-bound seniors to help with their nutrition challenges. The program kicked off last year and over 40 mb students have gone through the program. The students gave also visited neighborhood senior centers to interview seniors about past recipes they used while growing up. This program continues to evolve.

A MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT



JOIN
OUR PROJECT



PAHL Youth Farm Program

The PAHL Youth Farm Stand is an agricultural-based youth development program for high school students. Students will learn how to grow, harvest and sell fresh, healthy produce, flowers and other value-added products at a market stand. Students will also learn valuable life, work, business and entrepreneurial skills.

WHEN: Spring 2019 - Summer 2019

WHERE: Belvedere Peace Community Garden

WHO: DeKalb County Students at Towers High School and Columbia High School

APPLY: Email: edna@pahlga.org



Human Services Employee Spotlight

Congratulations to these Human Services team members who have recently achieved major milestones. We wish you continued success in all that you do.

SERVICE AWARDS:



MRS. ILMA HODGES
Fiscal Manager
(15 years of Service to DeKalb)



MS. ARETHA MADDOW
Senior Center Assistant Manager
(20 years of Service to DeKalb)

STAR EMPLOYEES:



MR. JIMMIE BROOKS
Special Projects Coordinator



MS. LIDIA QUINONES
Youth Services Project Manager

2018 BRIGHT FUTURES GRADUATE:



MR. JASHAWN WILLIAMS
Youth Services Project Manager recently completed the Aspiring Managers track of DeKalb County's Leadership Development Program

“Leaders are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.”

- Vince Lombardi

HUMAN SERVICES

What We Do

Human Services is a network of county programs and services and community partners that support the well-being of all who live, work, and play in DeKalb County. Our programs and services create opportunities for individuals and families to be safe, healthy and realize their full potential for providing services to address the essential needs of DeKalb County residents.



By The Numbers

2.2M

Received \$2.2 million funding commitment from the ARC for senior services

117,591

senior meals both delivered and congregate

forty-six non-profits

Awarded Human Services grants totaling \$617,808 to 46 non-profit organizations

1,206

families served through the Office of Grants (MIECHV grant of \$612,000)

38,000+

hours of case management services provided to seniors

20,000

Over 20,000 seniors received services (meals, senior centers, rides, case management, and in-home)

119,387
square feet

6 senior facilities – 4 neighborhood senior centers and 2 multipurpose centers at 119,387 square feet

47

staff members

1,000+

Over 1,000 youth ages 0 – 24 served by the Office of Youth Services

200+
volunteers

0.47%

\$5,664 million budget (0.47% of County budget)

The DeKalb Human Services Department's programs and services create opportunities for individuals and families to be safe and healthy and to realize their full potential. Our Department is results oriented and outcome driven.

The Department manages an annual appropriation of \$2.2 million dollars from the Atlanta Regional Commission for aging services and maintains an overall budget of approximately \$5.6 million dollars. These resources are used to provide 117,591 meals to seniors attending senior centers and seniors who could not travel to senior centers and

38,000 hours of case management and personal care services. Approximately, 20,000 DeKalb seniors participate in senior center programming, receive transportation, case management and/or receive personal care services on an annual basis.

The Human Services Department serves over 1,000 DeKalb youth ages 0-24 through a variety of programs and activities. Young people and their parents who live in DeKalb receive childhood/early intervention services and access to educational workshops and activities year-round. Students participate in empowerment programs and learn about

government through the youth commission program. The Department is committed to enhancing relationships with our community partners to expand our footprint in DeKalb. The Human Services Grants Program awards 46 local non-profits with grants totaling \$617,808 to help expand their current services on an annual basis. The Department actively pursues new state and federal grant opportunities as well as private/public partnerships.

The work of the DeKalb Human Services Department is completed by 47 staff members and over 200 volunteers.