

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT





**OUR MISSION** The mission of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) is to bring about social and policy changes that promote opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and their families to live, learn, work, play and worship in Georgia communities.



**VISION** The GCDD envisions a state in which all persons are included in all facets of community life, have choices while exercising control over their lives and are encouraged to achieve their full potential.

## The Beginning of a New Era

The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) is pleased to present its annual report for the federal fiscal year October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. This may look like an ordinary annual report, but it is really a story we hope will be read many times as it tells how Georgians have been impacted by the work of GCDD since our inception in 1971. In the back of this report, you will find our public awareness video series, "Voices Beyond the Mirror" commemorating 40 years of work that GCDD has undertaken as supported by the Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act. This series shares firsthand accounts of the challenges, successes, changes and interdependence of people with developmental disabilities, families and communities throughout Georgia. GCDD believes it is not only time for us to tell our story, but more importantly, for Georgia's citizens to tell their story.

Over the last year, GCDD members and staff have worked hard to develop a strategic plan for the next five years that outlines the activities, focus of work and how it will interact with people with

developmental disabilities, their family members, advocates, policymakers and others interested in our issues. This plan identifies how GCDD will work in local communities to create bridges between people with and without developmental disabilities. Our main goal is to focus on the assets that people and communities can contribute, rather than their limitations or needs. Our plan concentrates on leveraging the existing strengths and resources already in place to help us serve as a catalyst, facilitator and connector to ensure a better quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Georgia.

While Real Communities has become a central point of GCDD's focus, we have not abandoned the many other activities such as public policy issues, sponsoring Disability Day at the Capitol or recognizing those who work beside us to accomplish our many objectives. We have a set of principles and ideas that support not only our work in communities, but translates into public policies, public awareness messages, inclusive efforts that bring all children together and address how

publicly-funded service systems should reinforce the work being done in communities.

Our voice in the community continues to be strong. This past year, 2,000 people attended the 13th annual Disability Day at the Capitol, at which the newly elected Governor Nathan Deal spoke about implementing the Department of Justice Settlement that will close all public institutions by July 1, 2015. While Georgia will not be the first state in the South to close its institutions, this Settlement puts us on a path to end a chapter of our history where we warehoused people because they were different and it was the easiest thing to do. This long-awaited accomplishment begins a new chapter in which Georgia must refocus its efforts to ensure that people receive the needed formal and informal supports to be contributing members of communities across our State.

We hope that you will join us as we wrap up one strategic plan and forge into the next to begin a new era. GCDD looks forward to partnering with you into the future to create more welcoming communities in Georgia.



Eric Jacobson  
Executive Director



Tom Seegmueller  
Chairperson

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#### ABCD PRINCIPLES

use already-existing community resources in new and different ways to create the framework for sustainable community development for all.

## Real Communities Initiative

GCDD launched the Real Communities Initiative in 2010 to build inclusive communities throughout Georgia. The goal is to connect people with developmental disabilities and their organizations to other citizens and their associations to act collectively on community issues through Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) principles and GCDD values.



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## The GCDD Real Communities Initiative is focused on:

**Creating real positive changes** that improve life for ALL in the community.

**Building strong bridges** in the community that reach outside the boundaries of disability so that a wider network can celebrate the energy and gifts of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Creating a sustainable model of community-centered family support** that is based on collaboration and the ABCD principles.

**Learning how to make positive change** that reaches beyond the focus of disabilities and promotes community engagement and full participation.



## GCDD Supported Real Communities Projects



**CITY OF FITZGERALD** In July 2010, Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald successfully passed a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) that included funding to address the lack of public transportation options. Fitzgerald specifically earmarked \$250,000 to provide seed funding to explore community-based transportation models as part of the Real Communities Initiative. Public transportation impacts all residents including those with and without disabilities. The initiative is based on community responses, and is exploring transportation models to benefit the whole community including formalized ride share and carpool programs, transportation co-operatives, church van co-operatives and TimeBanks.



**KOREAN COALITION** The Korean Coalition was formed as part of GCDD's Real Communities Initiative to offer support for Korean individuals living with disabilities and their family members. Originally funded through a GCDD Innovative Grant, the Korean Coalition was started by a group of Korean families based on a needs assessment conducted by the Center for Pan Asian Community Services. Beginning as a family group and using tools such as person-centered planning and circles of support can be a strong first step in empowering a group to act in the larger community. Through this initiative, parents have the opportunity to connect with others facing similar barriers, access basic services, build strength as a smaller group and begin reaching out to the larger community.



**THE GWINNETT GIVES TIMEBANK** The Gwinnett Gives TimeBank was started by a group of parents who all have children with disabilities. The group's initial interest was focused on exploring human service co-operatives, life sharing and other alternative arrangements that allow adults with developmental disabilities to live and participate in integrated community settings. As a stepping stone in that direction, they will launch the first TimeBank in the metro area of Atlanta in 2012. TimeBanks promote equality and build caring community economies through the inclusive and reciprocal exchange of time and talent. (For more information, visit [timebanks.org](http://timebanks.org))

**CITY OF MILTON** In collaboration with the City of Milton and local residents, GCDD developed the Better Together Mini-Grant Program to provide neighborhood groups and residents with resources to create community-driven projects. These projects enhance and strengthen local community life, build avenues towards civic engagement and create opportunities for the full participation of all residents including persons with disabilities and others who are typically left out of community life. All projects are initiated, planned and implemented by local residents and support neighborhood improvements, promote neighborhood associations and fund projects that bring community members together to create avenues towards inclusion and build a culture of neighborliness.

Beginning as a family group and using tools such as person-centered planning and circles of support can be a strong first step in empowering a group to act in the larger community.

- KOREAN COALITION

"We work with GCDD and the City of Milton to help people build their social circles, participate in the community as a whole and pursue their passions."

Amanda Quintana,  
Community Builder for the City of Milton

## GCDD Supported Real Communities Projects

RFS/GGN is developing two new community garden projects in the City of Clarkston with the intention of actively engaging the entire community including people with developmental disabilities.



**CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** As a part of the Real Communities Initiative, Centenary Church is exploring ways to welcome people with disabilities and their families into the congregation and offer opportunities for them to contribute. Founded in downtown Macon in 1884, the area suffered a severe downturn due to poverty and crime and the church's congregation greatly decreased by the 1990s. In 2005, the church began working actively to engage its surrounding neighborhood, and the congregation is now extremely diverse and dedicated to addressing the concerns of the community in long-term and sustainable ways including becoming more welcoming to all persons, particularly those with disabilities through GCDD's Real Communities Initiative. The church engages in learning exchanges, promotes programs such as a community garden, transitional housing, micro-loans and most recently, has been involved in an effort to open a food co-operative.

**REFUGEE FAMILY SERVICES/GLOBAL GROWERS NETWORK** The Global Growers Network (GGN) is a program of Refugee Family Services (RFS), a nonprofit serving 2,500 refugee/immigrant women and children each year. The Global Growers Network is a whole-systems approach to improving access to desirable employment, micro-enterprise opportunities, land acquisition, local growing/marketing techniques and food security/sovereignty. As a part of Real Communities, RFS/GGN is developing two new community garden projects in the City of Clarkston with the intention of actively engaging the entire community including people with developmental disabilities.





**THE MARKET** was founded by six volunteer women, whose goal was to engage the whole community around one common denominator – **food.**

**FORSYTH FARMERS' MARKET** The Forsyth Farmers' Market was created to address food access issues and provide all members of Savannah's community with a welcoming, inclusive place to purchase regional produce. As a GCDD Real Communities Initiative, the market serves as a building block to create a means of developing a more welcoming neighborhood, as well as provides opportunities for connection and contribution for people with and without disabilities.

GCDD members and staff have worked hard to develop a strategic plan for the next five years that outlines the activities, focus of work and how it will interact with people with developmental disabilities, their family members, advocates, policymakers and others interested in our issues.

- ERIC JACOBSON



## DD Grant: FY 2011 Budget - Expenditures

Period Covered October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011

EXPENDITURES ..... EXPENDED

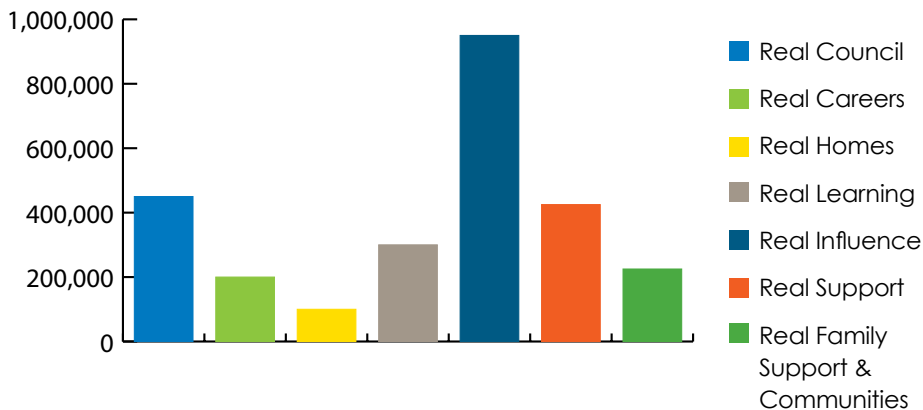
### COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Real Council .....	\$453,125
<b>Total Council Administration .....</b>	<b>\$453,125</b>

### PRIORITY AREAS

Real Careers .....	\$203,162
Real Homes .....	\$105,918
Real Learning .....	\$295,965
Real Influence .....	\$967,229
Real Support .....	\$424,011
Real Family Support & Communities.....	\$224,123
<b>Total Priority .....</b>	<b>\$2,220,408</b>

**TOTAL .....** **\$2,673,533**





The 2011 Carl Anthony Cunningham Council Member of the Year Award Winner, Denny Spear & Family.

### ADVISORY MEMBERS

Jill Alexander  
 Scott Bales  
 Esma Campbell  
 Stacy Franklin  
 Randy Grayson  
 Dorothy Harris  
 Tiffany M. Nash  
 Faith Reed

## GCDD Council / Advisory Members

Tom Seegmueller, Chair  
 Tameeka Hunter, Vice Chair

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Commissioner  
 Michael A. Beatty, Georgia  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 Commissioner  
 Mark Butler,  
 Georgia Department of Labor  
 Jamie Cahill  
 Kim Chester  
 Tom Connelly  
 Commissioner  
 David Cook, Georgia Department  
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 Georgia Department  
 of Human Services

James Risher  
 Beverly Rollins  
 Commissioner  
 Frank E. Shelp, M.D., M.P.H.,  
 Georgia Department of Behavior  
 Health & Developmental Disabilities  
 Denny Spear  
 Zolinda Stoneman, PhD  
 Ken Whiddon





13th Annual Disability Day attendees with Gov. Nathan Deal, GCDD Chair Tom Seegmueller, GCDD Executive Director, Eric E. Jacobson and GCDD Deputy Director, Patricia Nobbie, PhD.

## GCDD Staff

Eric Jacobson  
Executive Director

Patricia Nobbie, PhD  
Deputy Director

Dottie Adams  
Individual and Family  
Supports Director

Valerie Meadows Suber  
Public Information Director and  
*Making a Difference* Magazine  
Editor-in-Chief

Caitlin Childs  
Organizing Director, Real  
Communities Initiative

Gary Childers  
Chief Financial Officer

Dreda Mackey  
Grants Manager

Kim Person-Hudson  
Executive Assistant/  
Meeting Planner

Dee Spearman  
Public Information Assistant

Anna Watson  
Planning and Policy Specialist

Eric Foss  
Front Receptionist







VOICES BEYOND  
THE MIRROR  
GCDD believes it is  
not only time for us  
to tell our story, but  
more importantly, for  
Georgia's citizens to  
tell their story.

- ERIC JACOBSON



## Funded and Supported Activities 2011

Alliance of Direct  
Support Professionals  
ASPIRE  
Center for Financial  
Independence and Innovation  
Conference Sponsorships  
Direct Support Professional  
Certificate Program  
Disability Day at the Capitol  
Employment First Georgia  
Georgia Microboards Association  
GCDD Website  
Innovative Grants  
A Better Me Campaign  
Kennesaw State University  
Academy for Adult Inclusive  
Education and Social Growth  
*Making a Difference* Magazine  
*Making a Difference* – Annual  
Appreciation Ceremony  
Media Round Tables  
*Moving Forward*  
Legislative Newsletter  
Navigator Teams  
Partnership Funds  
Partnerships for Success  
People First of Georgia  
Project SEARCH  
Public Forums  
Public Policy Monitoring Progress  
of Transportation Investment  
Act (TIA)  
Real Communities Initiatives:  
City of Fitzgerald  
Korean Coalition  
Gwinnett Gives TimeBank  
City of Milton  
Centenary United  
Methodist Church  
Refugee Family Services/  
Global Growers Network  
Forsyth Farmers' Market  
"Shut Out, Priced Out and  
Segregated" (SOPOS)  
Transition Steering Committee  
Unlock the Waiting List!  
"Voices Beyond The Mirror" Public  
Awareness Video Campaign





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Scan the QR code to visit [gcdd.org](http://gcdd.org). To access the “Voices Beyond the Mirror” videos, click on the “News and Media” tab and then click “Videos.”



**VOICES BEYOND THE MIRROR** was created by GCDD to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act of 1971. The series is comprised of 10 different short videos and encourages a deep, thoughtful look into the everyday realities of people living with different types of disabilities. Personal reflections and insight on the progress in the disability rights movement from the Federal Partners of the Georgia DD Network are also included.

The goal of “Voices Beyond the Mirror” is to raise awareness, spark conversation, spread knowledge and respond to GCDD-commissioned research that revealed a lack of information and exposure to persons with developmental disabilities and the issues that concern them. It is offered as a tool for sharing stories of the nearly 54 million Americans who live with some type of disability.



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