



The LCMS Junior Beta Club recently raised \$1,200 to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The two students who spearheaded the "Quarter Drive" were Charity Drinkard (l) and Erin Thornton. They are shown here with Tonya Burt, club advisor.

Junior Beta Club raises \$1,200 for earthquake victims in Haiti

"I had been thinking about doing something but had no idea as to how to proceed when Erin Thornton and Charity Drinkard burst into my room," said Tonya Burt, advisor for the LCMS Junior Beta Club.

"Erin and Charity, who are both Junior Beta Club members, were insistent about raising funds for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. They had a plan, which involved placing cans for donations in each middle school classroom for a period of two weeks.

"After the money was counted, it was determined that the Junior Beta Club will contribute \$1,200 to the people of Haiti via the American Red Cross on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff at LCMS," according to Burt.

Also, with a total of \$364, Leigh Aycock's class raised the most money during the "Quarter Drive."

The students were rewarded with a pizza party, sponsored by Michelle's Pizza in McCormick.

Second place went to the students in Ken Hayes' class, who donated \$279 toward the cause. As a reward, the students enjoyed free ice cream at lunch.

In her comments, Burt said, "We would like to thank all those who supported us in our effort to help those in need. A special thank-you to Erin and Charity for spearheading the project."

The other Junior Beta Club advisors are Patty Arthur and Stacey Radford.

In her remarks, Erin said, "I was devastated when I learned Haiti had been hit by an earthquake. I was really shocked when I found out how many had been hurt or killed.

"A few days after we had been talking about the earthquake in social

studies class, Charity looked at me, and I looked at her. It was as if we were thinking the same thing. The whole country of Haiti has gone under so we decided to help."

As for Charity, she said, "The people of Haiti are in poor condition. It is my duty as a citizen of the United States of America and as a member of the Junior Beta Club to help out as much as I can.

"I do not like to see people in bad condition - children in particular. They are my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I feel that God put it on my heart to reach out and help. Therefore, I did whatever I could to help the people of Haiti.

"Tears came to my eyes when I saw the poor little babies and children suffer - that's what motivated me to go on with this fund-raiser."

Both Charity and Erin are in the seventh grade at LCMS.

Preachers to square off against school system's faculty and staff

The pastors of the Lincoln County Ministerial Association have once again challenged the faculty and staff of the Lincoln County School System to a friendly game of basketball - all in the name of charity.

Hopefully, the rematch will tip the scales one way or the other after last year's score of 52-52.

The game will be held Saturday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the LCHS Gymnasium. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Among the All-Stars taking the court for the ministerial association

are Rev. James James, Rev. Dan Rosser, Rev. Keith Etheridge, Rev. Tom Smalley, Rev. Dennis Quinn, Rev. Dave Hinson, Rev. Steve Rayner, Caleb James, and Rusty Scott.

The team fielded by the school system includes Kevin Blizzard, Shawn Davis, Howie Gunby, Dr. Becky Barden, Chris Smalley, Billy Kirby, Kenn Barnett, Eddie Roberts, and Christie Mattison.

In addition to a unique basketball game, the event will also feature creative halftime activities, under the direction of Rev. Chip Woodall; con-

cessions; a few unexpected twists; and plenty of fun.

Proceeds from the game will be placed in the ministerial association's benevolence fund. Last year, the association raised \$1,500 to help the people of the county pay light bills, water bills, and rent; purchase clothing; find temporary housing; buy food; and so forth.

Instead of charging admission, donations may be left at the door.

For more information on the "Big Game," call Rev. James at 706-359-3996.

ACS seeks cancer survivors to volunteer for Reach to Recovery

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is seeking cancer survivors to volunteer for the Reach to Recovery program in Lincoln County.

"The ACS program provides information and support for women facing breast cancer using Reach to Recovery 'visitors,'" said Summer Garrison, senior community manager for the ACS. "These visitors are women who have been there."

As breast cancer survivors, these special volunteers are trained to provide information and support to

women who have been newly diagnosed with breast cancer.

"The heart of the program is one woman reaching out to share personal experiences and give support to another in a time of need," said Garrison.

The ACS will certify Reach to Recovery volunteers on Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the ACS office, located at 2607 Commons Boulevard in Augusta.

For more than 40 years, the ACS Reach to Recovery program has helped people, both women and men, cope with breast cancer. It all begins when an individual is faced with the possibility of a diagnosis of breast cancer and continues throughout the entire period that breast cancer remains a personal concern.

"When people first find out they have breast cancer, they may feel overwhelmed, vulnerable, and alone," said Garrison. "While under this stress, many people must also try to understand complex medical treatments and then choose the best one.

"Talking with a specially trained Reach to Recovery volunteer at this time can give a measure of comfort and an opportunity for emotional grounding and informed decision making," she continued. "Patients and family members have a chance to express feelings, talk about their fears and concerns, and ask questions of someone who is knowledgeable and level-headed.

"Most importantly, Reach to Recovery volunteers offer understanding, support, and hope because they themselves have survived breast cancer and gone on to live normal, productive lives."

The visits may take place face-to-face or by phone.

Those who are one year post-surgery breast cancer survivors and no longer taking treatment should call Summer Garrison toll free at 1-866-227-0904 to obtain more information about becoming a Reach to Recovery volunteer.

The deadline for registration is Monday, March 15.

Meeting continued

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the system.

- Voted to enter into executive session to deliberate upon the employment of personnel. Upon returning to regular session, the board:

- Voted to accept the retirement of Linda Cooper from her teaching position at LCES, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

- Voted to accept the retirement of Michael Fogarty from his teaching position at LCES, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

- Voted to accept the retirement of Paul Reviere from his teaching position at LCES, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

- Voted to accept the retirement of Ficklen Guin as assistant superintendent for support services, effective July 31, 2010.

- Voted to approve Amy Wheeler for a teaching contract at LCHS for the 2010-2011 school year. Board member Denise Freeman opposed the motion.

- Voted to approve Stephanie Jordan for a teaching contract at LCHS for the 2010-2011 school year.

The meeting was recessed until Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at which time the board will make further personnel decisions and deal with tabled agenda items.

Child advocates

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lawyers, social workers, and judges, who are too frequently overworked to give urgent attention to each child.

In 1976, Superior Court Judge David Soukup of Seattle, Washington, observed a recurring problem of too little information in the courtroom upon which to base life-changing decisions about the safety, permanency, and well being of children. As a result, he raised funding to recruit and train community volunteers to obtain information and speak of behalf of children in court.

In 1977, a CASA pilot program was implemented based on Judge Soukup's idea. In 1982, the National CASA Association was established to direct CASA's emerging national presence.

In 1988, Georgia CASA was founded under the auspices of Kids of Georgia Need Volunteers, Inc. In 1989, two pilot CASA programs were established in Georgia. In 1992, Georgia CASA gained independent, non-profit status and began transitioning local CASA programs into autonomous initiatives.

The need for a program like CASA is highlighted by the following statistics for the state of Georgia:

- Every day, 90 children are the victims of confirmed abuse or neglect.

- Two hundred and forty incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported daily.

- Sixty children died from abuse and neglect in 2007.

- On any given day, about 8,700 children are in the foster care system.

As for the statistics on Georgia CASA, close to 8,700 children were served by over 2,000 CASA volunteers during FY 2009.

Sadly, of the approximately 19,400 children who came through the foster care system during FY 2008, only 7,521 had a CASA volunteer.

Residents reminded to set clocks ahead one hour Sun.

Local residents are reminded to set their clocks ahead one hour when Daylight Saving Time (DST) resumes at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 14.

Georgians are also urged by Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine to change the batteries in their smoke detectors as well.

The commissioner's plea is made in conjunction with the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" fire safety program, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the American Burn Association.

The annual change from standard to Daylight Saving Time in the spring is a good time to make sure smoke detectors are functioning properly, according to the commissioner.

"Your smoke alarm can save your life but only if it's in working order,"

Oxendine said. "Every year, approximately one third of the fire fatalities in Georgia occur in homes that either do not have smoke alarms or where the alarms do not function.

"Changing the battery at least once every year and vacuuming the dust from the device are easy ways to ensure continued protection of your family and your property.

"And while you're thinking about fire safety, plan and rehearse an escape route your family can use in the event of fire," the commissioner continued. "A gathering place outside the home should be designated for family members prior to the drill."

In conclusion, Commissioner Oxendine noted that having a working smoke detector doubles the chances of survival in a house fire.

Census forms making their way to local mail boxes

Census questionnaires have already begun arriving at area homes.

The good news is that with only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history and will take just 10 minutes to complete.

To shine the spotlight on the Decennial Census, the Georgia Complete Count Committee, in cooperation with Governor Sonny Perdue and the General Assembly, has declared March 8-14 as "Census Awareness Week."

One of the primary goals of the 2010 Census is to increase the national mail-back response rate. This not only reduces the cost of the census, it also increases the accuracy of the data as well.

"Census Day" is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent American households, as they exist on that day.

Citizens are reminded that participation in the census is required by law.

Some of the activities taking place in connection with Census Awareness Week include:

- (1) State School Superintendent Kathy Cox sent a letter to all local school superintendents asking them to work with their local schools and teachers to "teach the Census" this week.

- (2) Information about the Census is now posted on the state government website.

- (3) Ministers across the state have been asked to speak about the Census this week to let their congregants know that completing the census is safe, secure, and essential.

- (4) Dr. Robert Groves, director of the United States Census Bureau, visited Atlanta on Monday, March 8.

As it now stands, the Census Bu-

reau must submit state population totals to President Barack Obama by December 31, 2010.

Furthermore, an individual's census data is strictly confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau or its employees to share personal information with any other government agency - not law enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, immigration officials, or welfare agencies.

In essence, the census is done for the purpose of apportioning the United States House of Representatives.

It is crucial that everyone be counted in the 2010 Census because the information gained from the national survey is also used to:

- Distribute over \$300 billion in federal funds and even more in state funds.

- Attract new businesses to state and local areas.

- Forecast future transportation needs for all segments of the population.

- Plan for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.

- Forecast the future housing needs for all segments of the population.

- Direct funds for services for people living in poverty.

- Develop rural areas.
- Develop adult education programs.
- Plan future government services.
- Distribute medical research.

For general information about the 2010 Census, contact the Atlanta Regional Census Office at 1-404-730-3832 or visit the following website: www.2010census.gov.

HENS AND GOBBLERS!



Come help the Little River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation work for the wild turkey here in Georgia.

27th Anniversary Membership Banquet

to be held Friday, March 12 at The Court Street Livery in Downtown Washington

Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7:30

There will be a live auction, silent auction raffles and door prizes! Something for everyone!

(no alcohol.)

Tickets may be purchased at Kettle Creek Arms, from Dr. Les Sales, from any banquet committee member, or at the door.

For more information, call Les Sales at 678-2929.