

## **GWINNETT GREAT DAYS OF SERVICE CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

*Lawrenceville, GA* (16 September 2011) --Volunteers are needed for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gwinnett Great Days of Service, which will be held on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 1, 2011. The annual event offers Gwinnett residents the opportunity to donate their time and energy to doing community service and helping those in need. Last year's volunteers for Gwinnett Great Days of Service completed over 500 community projects. The event is hosted by the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services in partnership with United Way of North Metro.

One of the largest volunteer initiatives in the United States, Gwinnett Great Days of Service enables local non-profit organizations, schools and churches to enhance their services in the community. According to Brent Bohanan, Executive Director of Family Promise of Gwinnett County, Inc., an organization that mobilizes the community to help the homeless, "The Great Days of Service have provided much needed services for free which allows us to focus our resources on ending homelessness in Gwinnett County."

Lynnette Ward , Community Resource Director for Rainbow Village, which provides transitional housing for the homeless, is grateful for the volunteers who participate in Gwinnett Great Days of Service, "because what takes a group of 20-40 volunteers four hours would take four weeks for our crew of two maintenance employees. Plus, we just love the opportunity to meet such wonderful new friends."

In previous years Gwinnett Great Days of Service volunteers from local businesses, church groups, schools and families have participated in projects that ranged from staffing community events, to painting and repairing buildings, installing playground sets and cleaning up nature trails. Gwinnett Great Days of Service "makes our community a better place for many reasons. When people focus on others' needs it helps to create a heart of gratitude," says Mr. Bohanan. Speaking about the impact and importance of volunteerism, Ms. Ward says, "How do we expect our future leaders to understand what community is, if they have never experienced it?"

Great Days of Service relies on community support and is a fun and worthy cause. Businesses, churches and school can sponsor a team or individuals can participate on their own.

Visit Facebook for more information or register online at

<http://www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org>.

The Gwinnett Great Days of Service is sponsored by: United Way, Primerica, FIS Global, Atlanta Hawks/Phillips Arena, Gwinnett Medical Center, Arthur A Buck Jones, Hands on Atlanta and the Atlanta Community Tool Bank.