



e-News!

A Health Services monthly online publication



November 2016

ABOVE: Women's Health employees conduct a breast exam during the "SCLC Women's Breast Exam - Pampering for Peace" in October.

RIGHT: Communicable Disease staff volunteer at health festival for the homeless

Did you know?

*Over 6,600 people in Atlanta are homeless

*Almost 14,000 people in Georgia are homeless

*65% of homeless Georgians are African-American

*About 1.5 million Americans are homeless nationwide

DURING THIS SEASON OF THANKSGIVING, A TEAM OF EMPLOYEES FOCUS ON THE HEALTH OF THE HOMELESS



Saturday, November 5th was a perfect day in Atlanta. The temperature was 72 degrees and not a cloud in the sky. However, instead of enjoying the great outdoors, 18 employees from the [Communicable Disease & Prevention Unit](#) hosted the [1st Annual Health Festival for the Homeless](#) in Renaissance Park in midtown Atlanta. The event offered free tuberculosis tests (TB), HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) tests, flu shots, and Hepatitis C screening. Also available were HIV education and counseling, and the opportunity to talk with counselors about other social risk factors. Employees also distributed free meals donated by corporate sponsors, and winter kits that included hats, socks and gloves. The event attracted 102 adults and 13 children.

"Everyone was just so humble and grateful for the free winter kits," says [Shanica Alexander](#), CDC Public Health Advisor with the [Department of Health & Wellness](#). "It was just so nice to see everyone excited and smiling as they received their bags." The items for the winter kits were donated by [Fulton County Health Services](#) employees during a month-long clothing drive. Employees donated enough items for 125 kits.

Getting screened for TB was critical because shelters now require that individuals have cards showing that they are tuberculosis free before they can enter the facility.

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CLOCKWISE (L - R): Danielle Winfield, Veronica Rooks, Sylvia Franklin & Karen Mahoney - Butler. **Not Pictured:** Nwanneka Oporum & Shawndra Echols

INDIVIDUALS AT THE TRAINING CENTERS WANT CHANGE THAT THEY CAN BELIEVE IN & IT'S COMING SOON!

Change is coming for the 127 adults with developmental disabilities who receive day services at the three Training Centers operated by the [Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities](#). A [Corrective Action Team](#), consisting of six Health Services employees, is implementing unified procedures for all three centers that will focus more on meeting the quality of life needs of the clients. "The big thing that we are seeing from our consumers is a desire to get more involved in the community," says [Veronica Rooks](#), Behavioral Health Assistant. "They have a big desire for self-care such as getting their nails done, getting their hair done and going shopping." The Team consists of [Veronica Rooks](#), [Sylvia Franklin](#), [Nwanneka Oporum](#), [Karen Mahoney - Butler](#), [Shawndra Echols](#), and [Danielle Winfield](#).



Did you know?

**Hurricane Matthew was the most powerful storm since 1967*

**Over 1,000 people were killed in Haiti alone*

**1.4 million Haitians required humanitarian assistance*

**Many areas in the Southeast US experienced severe flooding*

**Many people fleeing Matthew came to Atlanta for safety*

**Scientists fear more deadly future hurricanes because of global warming*

ABOVE: (L - R) Gilford Watson & Kimberly Mallard. Pearl Gordon (Not Pictured)

ATLANTA MAY HAVE DODGED THE HURRICANE, BUT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WAS READY TO ROLL!



For a while, it had the potential to be one of the worst storms of the century. A **Category 4** hurricane was approaching Florida with sustained winds of 140 miles per hour, forcing 1.5 million Americans to flee their homes. As emergency responders across the southeast geared up for the storm, a team from the **Fulton County Emergency Preparedness Unit** also went into action. “My main thoughts were how we could provide assistance if called upon, and getting all of the equipment ready before the storm hit,” says **Gilford Watson**,

Emergency Preparedness Officer. **Watson, Kimberly Mallard** and **Pearl Gordon** began monitoring a web-based Emergency Operations System that allowed them to communicate with state and federal officials. They also participated in daily conference calls hosted by the **State of Georgia**, and received updates on the storm’s impact. The hurricane may have bypassed Atlanta, but Emergency Preparedness was ready for the worse.



Did you know?

**54,000 people die every year from second-hand smoke*

**50% of food service workers have a 50% greater risk of lung cancer than most people*

**Restaurants that allow smoking can have six times the pollution of a busy highway*

**87% of Fulton County residents support smoke-free bars & restaurants*

**Over 2.5 million people have died from secondhand smoke since 1964*

ABOVE: Board of Commissioners issue a Proclamation to the PICH Program

READY TO EXHALE! HUNDREDS OF FULTON RESIDENTS ARE NOW BREATHING EASIER

At their November 16th meeting, the **Fulton County Board of Commissioners** recognized the outstanding efforts of the **Department of Health & Wellness Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Program** to increase public access to smoke-free environments. The PICH Program, along with a coalition of organizations, launched the “**Proud To Be Smoke Free Fulton**” Campaign this Fall. The coalition uses data and scientific evidence to educate business owners, policymakers, and the public about the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke exposure. Also, they discuss the health and financial benefits of smoke free environments. “Recognizing the need for tobacco and smoke-free environments through policies and actions that support broad efforts to include bans on smoking practices,” the Board of Commissioners applauds “the bars, restaurants, parks and recreation facilities adopting smoke-free practices through the work of the PICH Program and its partners,” **Chairman John Eaves** said in reading a proclamation. To date, 25 bars and restaurants in Fulton County have established smoke-free policies as a result of the Campaign efforts. The **US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)** reports there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure, and even brief exposure can be harmful to health. In adults who have never smoked, secondhand smoke can cause heart disease, lung cancer, and stroke.



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