Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Winter Meeting
Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta
March 1, 2012
The Sapelo Foundation
1712 Ellis Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
912-265-0520
www.sapelofoundation.org

Mission Statement
The Sapelo Foundation promotes progressive social change affecting in particular, vulnerable populations, rural communities, and the natural environment in the state of Georgia.

Core Values:

• Works to empower people who are powerless or marginalized.
• Acts as a catalyst in promoting change primarily through affecting public policy.
• Is strategic and proactive in its funding and leverages financial resources.
• Convenes potential partners around issues.
• Encourages collaborative action and networking, particularly among groups with differing racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
• Takes risks in grantmaking and encourages other funders to participate.
• Shares experiences with foundations and other potential partners.

Reynolds family members expect to continue to play an active role in the work of the Foundation.

Current Programs and Special Initiatives

Annemarie and Richard J. Reynolds, Jr. Scholarship Program - Each year the Sapelo Foundation awards approximately $100,000 in college scholarships to students from McIntosh County, GA. 113 students received the scholarship in the 2011-2012 school year.

The three projects below were initiated by the Sapelo Foundation and have received funding each year since inception.

Georgia Water Coalition - a coalition of 180 groups created in 2003 working to insure sound statewide water management policy for all Georgians

JUSTGeorgia - a coalition of 92 organizations created in 2006 working to insure adoption of the most fair and equitable juvenile code possible with a long-term goal of creating a statewide coalition that will advocate, monitor, and report on the conditions, laws, and policies that affect the justice and safety of Georgia's young people.

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute – an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 2004 that strives to raise the level of public policy debate in the state of Georgia. GBPI uses research, analysis and education to advance policies and practices that improve the quality of life for all Georgians.
Emory’s Barton Child Law and Policy Center
1301 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-0333
www.bartoncenter.net

The Barton Child Law and Policy Center is an interdisciplinary child law center founded to protect and promote the legal rights and interests of abused, neglected, and court-involved children. As a clinical program of Emory University School of Law, the Center supports three in-house legal clinics, including two direct representation clinics and a public policy and legislative advocacy clinic. The Center's work is directed by Emory Law faculty and performed by law students and graduate students in public health, social work, and theology. Center faculty and clinic students positively impact the lives of children by providing holistic client representation; conducting research; authoring publications; analyzing and drafting legislation; forming strategic partnerships, and influencing policy directives.

Adults Protecting Children, Inc.
5900 Spout Springs Rd., Suite 3C-188
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
770-789-3879
www.adultsprotectingchildren.com

Adults Protecting Children is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that trains adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Our focus is in the northeast portion of Georgia. Before we started Adults Protecting Children (APC), we wanted to make sure we were not just duplicating the efforts of other organizations. What we learned was that most agencies were dealing with the TREATMENT end of sexual abuse - suicide, teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug use, etc. There were agencies that wanted to do prevention, but they didn't have the time or resources. Because our focus is primarily on prevention, we felt there was a unique place for us. So in December of 2009 we launched APC.

Our 4 Core Values:
• The adults in a child's life must bear the responsibility to protect that child. Therefore our training is adult focused.
• There must be a new emphasis placed on prevention, without taking away resources for treatment. This problem will end only when we prevent it.
• Communities must build a coalition of key leaders, organizations and residents that work to bring about county-wide prevention initiatives.
• A cultural shift is needed that moves our communities from denial and fear of child sexual abuse, which keeps children vulnerable, to one where the issue is openly discussed and adults are putting in place procedures and policies that will not allow abuse to continue.
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
100 Edgewood Ave, Suite 950
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-420-1324
www.gbpi.org

The Georgia Budget & Policy Institute is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that strives to raise the level of public policy debate in the state of Georgia. Founded in 2004, GBPI uses research, analysis and education to advance policies and practices that improve the quality of life for all Georgians.

Each year, GBPI:

• Provides research and recommendations that are featured in dozens of news articles and editorials.
• Identifies best practices from other states to suggest alternative solutions to existing problems and fiscal policies facing Georgia.
• Publishes dozens of fact-based reports on critical issues affecting Georgia’s financial future.
• Educates legislators regarding tax, budget and policy implications of upcoming legislation.

Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
MOB, Suite 500
1001 Johnson Ferry Rd, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30342
404-785-3829
www.choa.org

The Center for Safe and Healthy Children (CShC) is a comprehensive child maltreatment program at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Staff members provide clinical services for abused, exploited and neglected children and their families throughout Georgia. The Center administers 3 child maltreatment prevention programs, provides education to medical and nonmedical professionals on child abuse and neglect, and advocates for child welfare at the local and state levels. The Center is recognized as a leader in the state in issues of child maltreatment and has collaborative relationships with multiple state agencies, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations.

Clinical Services:

• Two outpatient clinics serving suspected victims of child sexual and physical abuse or neglect
  o Videotaped forensic interviews
  o Comprehensive medical evaluations
  o Mental health assessments, therapy and referrals
  o 1300 patient visits in 2010
• After Hours and Weekend Sexual Assault coverage of 2 Emergency Departments
  o Specially trained social workers and nurse practitioners provide evaluations for victims of acute sexual assault/abuse and commercial sexual exploitation in the Scottish Rite and Egleston Emergency Departments (services to begin in Hughes Spalding ED in 2012)
  o 144 patients seen in 2010
Comprehensive medical evaluations of children admitted to 3 Children’s hospitals for suspected physical abuse or severe neglect
  - 255 patient consultations in 2010

Telemedicine services to patients in rural Georgia
  - 127 real-time medical exams in 2010
  - Also provided: second opinion case/photograph reviews
  - Telemedicine network is expanding to ~20 sites in 2012

Child Maltreatment Prevention Programs:
  - Period of PURPLE Crying (primary prevention of shaken baby syndrome)
  - Stewards of Children (primary sexual abuse prevention)
  - Child Abuse Intervention and Prevention for First Responders (program targeting emergency medical personnel)

Education and Training
  - Application submitted for child abuse pediatrics fellowship (to start in 2013)
  - Elective rotations in child abuse pediatrics for medical students, residents and fellows
  - Local and statewide training for medical and nonmedical professionals involved in child maltreatment
    - Webinar series, computer-based trainings, long-distance learning series, on-site trainings and conferences

Advocacy
  - Participation on local and state level committees and task forces related to child welfare, child protection and child maltreatment
  - Participation on multidisciplinary teams for child abuse investigations and child death review

Research
  - Early research efforts (projects on physical abuse, as well as on program evaluation)

GOAL: By 2017, the CSHC will be an established Center of Excellence (as defined by National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions). Challenges: establish strong research program; establish fellowship; increase state funding of program.

Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30309-4530
404-815-5903
www.gaappleseed.org

Who We Are:
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization devoted to law that serves the public interest. Using the skills of hundreds of volunteers – mainly lawyers and other professionals – Georgia Appleseed focuses on achieving systemic changes to laws and policies that unfairly impact children, the poor and the marginalized in our state. Georgia Appleseed is an independent affiliate of the national Appleseed network.

What We Do:
Georgia Appleseed’s 11 current projects are diverse and reflect three core competencies: to research an issue; to disseminate our findings; and to strategize and advocate for systemic change based on those findings. Some of Georgia Appleseed’s key current projects include:
• **JUSTGeorgia**—In conjunction with efforts to revise the Georgia juvenile code, Georgia Appleseed conducted a statewide stakeholder interview project with the help of more than 200 attorneys from 13 major law firms. Input from the project went into The Child Protection and Public Safety Act, which is pending before the Georgia General Assembly. The bill has received commitments from Governor Nathan Deal and House and Senate leadership.

• **Heir Property Project**—Because an end to poverty begins with property rights, Georgia Appleseed seeks to help primarily low-income families across Georgia gain secure tenure in their homes and farms. As a result of Georgia Appleseed’s work on the Heir Property Project, Georgia is poised to be the first southern state to pass the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, which has already been introduced in the Georgia General Assembly and is expected to pass during the current legislative session, leadership, and is poised for passage in 2012.

• **Effective Student Discipline Project**—In an effort to dismantle the school to prison pipeline, Georgia Appleseed reviewed state law regarding zero tolerance and other practices used to discipline students, interviewed and surveyed hundreds of stakeholders, and published the findings of its 18-month study on public school discipline. This report, *Effective Student Discipline: Keeping Kids in Class*, available on the Georgia Appleseed website, is designed to help legislators and other public policy makers understand the problems and identify solutions to maintain safe schools for all students, keep kids in class and out of juvenile court, and increase graduation rates.

**How Are We Different:**

*We address injustices that others do not.* Georgia Appleseed identifies issues that have not been fully addressed by either the public or private sectors, and we offer solutions that improve the lives of Georgians in every corner of the state.

*We can maximize your gift.* Georgia Appleseed leverages every dollar we receive by cultivating significant pro bono support from of large numbers of lawyers and other professionals to accomplish more work in a highly cost effective manner. For example, the equivalent of 1.3 paid staff directed the work of more than 260 lawyers from 13 major law firms, yielding over $1 million in pro bono services for JUSTGeorgia.

**Association County Commissioners of Georgia**

50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404-522-5022  
www.accg.org

When it comes to understanding Georgia communities, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) has a pulse on what’s happening across the state. Since 1914, ACCG has served as the network for counties and county officials to share innovative ideas, discuss and build consensus on complex issues and work for the improvement of the quality of life for all Georgians.

While ACCG is best known for its legislative advocacy efforts before the Georgia General Assembly and the U.S. Congress, the association’s work on behalf of counties goes much further. ACCG also fosters leadership development among county elected and appointed officials through a certification program offered in partnership with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, encourages civic engagement through youth programs directed at high school and college students and provides other diverse services aimed at helping counties operate efficiently.
ACCG values partnerships and is uniquely positioned to gather information from Georgia counties and collaborate on initiatives that impact the health, safety and welfare of our communities. For more information on ACCG, visit www.accg.org.

Atlanta Botanical Garden
1345 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-876-5859
http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org

Founded in 1976, the Atlanta Botanical Garden develops and maintains plant collections for display, research, conservation, education, and enjoyment. Ranked as one of the top ten botanical gardens in the nation, the Atlanta Botanical Garden serves the Southeastern region as a horticultural and educational resource for garden enthusiasts, the garden and landscape industry, and the community at large.

Outdoor gardens include Perennial, Rose, Conservation, Bog, Shade, Southern Rock, Japanese and Conifer gardens, an award-winning Parterre garden, and the new Edible Garden. The Southern Seasons garden showcases five acres of shade-loving ornamentals from around the world; the recently opened Kendeda Canopy Walk leads out to a 15-acre mature hardwood forest that boasts tulip poplars, pine, and oak trees with walking trails that enable visitors to explore this valuable forest remnant in Midtown Atlanta. Across the Flower Bridge is the two-acre Children’s Garden that combines horticultural education with interactive entertainment and includes gardens, exhibits, and a child-sized amphitheater.

The Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory houses rare and endangered plants from tropical rainforests and desert regions. The state-of-the-art Fuqua Orchid Center – the largest orchid center in the United States – houses rare high-elevation orchids and companion plants as well as tropical species orchids. The Center for Conservation and Education is adjacent to the Conservatory and features a tissue culture lab for plant propagation with a floor-to-ceiling glass observation wall, an orchid research library, classroom, and greenhouses for the Garden’s Conservation program.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden is a place where visitors can discover nature while exploring something deeper within themselves. It is Atlanta’s “urban oasis” and, as the Garden grows, it will continue to offer innovative and dynamic ways to connect people with plants.

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
1485 B Woodland Ave
Atlanta, GA 30316
678-904-2880
http://georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org

The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy (GCCA) was founded in 1987 to provide services to children who were victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or who had witnessed violence. The mission of the GCCA is to champion the needs of these children through prevention, intervention, therapy and
collaboration. Intervention begins with a forensic interview that is video recorded and used by prosecutors to determine the course of the criminal investigation. The GCCA facilitates the multidisciplinary teams in both Fulton and DeKalb counties and offers trauma focused therapy services to children and their non-offending family members.

In 2006 the GCCA partnered with Darkness to Light, to introduce their Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention training to communities in Georgia. Using a train-the-trainer model, the Center is leading a statewide adult-focused training initiative to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The mission of the prevention initiative is to reduce the occurrence of child sexual abuse through a coordinated effort to bring the Stewards of Children training to leading institutions and to shift the societal perspective on child sexual abuse in Georgia to make prevention part of the culture, and not society’s taboo subject. Stewards of Children, the only adult-focused, evidence-based sexual abuse prevention curriculum, is currently being offered in 49 states and 11 countries in both English and Spanish.

**VOICES for Georgia’s Children**
100 Edgewood Avenue, N.E., Suite 1580
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-521-0292
http://georgiavoices.org

Established in 2003, Voices for Georgia’s Children is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where children are safe, healthy, educated, employable, and connected to their family and community. Our mission is to be a powerful, unifying voice for a public agenda that ensures the well-being of all of Georgia’s children.

To improve children’s lives we focus on three policy issues: early childhood from birth to age five; child health; and youth transitioning to adulthood. Our advocacy work takes many forms: Direct advocacy educates decision makers about sound policies and investments that affect Georgia’s children; polling, research, and publishing provide context for healthy debate; community outreach stimulates citizen interest and engagement around key issues; and media campaigning translates complex public policy into language people can understand.
Moderator and Speaker Bios

Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Winter Meeting
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March 1, 2012
Phyllis Bowen
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Phyllis Bowen is the Executive Director of the Sapelo Foundation where she has worked for the past 19 years. She has led the Sapelo Foundation through its efforts to implement strategic grantmaking goals by stimulating statewide coalition-building for progressive policy change. This strategy has produced outcomes such as the Georgia Water Coalition and JUSTGeorgia as well as institutional contributions such as the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute.

She is very active in her community and serves on the Wayne County Library Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of the Georgia Coast Rail Trail, is marketing chair for the Animal Rescue Foundation of Wayne County and owns and operates a small business in Odum, GA.

She has served as president and conservation chair of the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, was a founder and past president of the Glynn Environmental Coalition, a founder and officer of the Coastal Georgia Land Trust, served on the board of the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest, the Governor’s Rural Economic Development Council and various Georgia Department of Natural Resources committees.

Phyllis has a special love of and appreciation for rural communities and has chosen to own and operate a small farm in Jesup which produces free-range organic eggs and meat goats. In her spare time she enjoys camping and trail riding with her horse, kayaking on the many beautiful rivers in South Georgia and reading.

Phyllis has one daughter, Meredith Drury, who is a freshman this year at Maryland Institute College of Art.

Melissa Carter
Executive Director
Barton Child Law and Policy Center
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404.727.0333
melissa.d.carter@emory.edu
www.bartoncenter.net

Melissa Carter is a member of the Emory Law faculty and Executive Director of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center. The Barton Center was founded to promote and protect the legal rights and interests of abused, neglected and court-involved children through legislative advocacy, policy development, and holistic representation and to develop dedicated and knowledgeable juvenile law professionals. As Executive Director, Melissa is responsible for the administration of the Center, including supervision of clinical faculty, staff and students; development and
budgeting; strategic planning; and directing the Center’s policy and legislative agendas. Melissa oversees the Center’s three student legal clinics and teaches related courses.

Prior to joining the law faculty, Melissa served as the appointed state Child Advocate, leading the staff of the Office of the Child Advocate in the fulfillment of the executive agency’s statutory mandates to provide independent oversight of the child welfare system and coordination of activities related to child injury and fatality review and prevention. She has extensive experience in public administration and policy, having also worked in Illinois and Georgia for the states’ Court Improvement Projects, a federally-funded program focused on improving the processing of civil child abuse and neglect cases in juvenile courts. Ms. Carter formerly practiced with the law firm of Claiborne, Outman & Surmay, P.C., representing clients in adoption, assisted reproductive technology, and juvenile court cases and was previously affiliated with Emory Law as Barton’s 2002 post-graduate fellow.

Ms. Carter has authored several publications on child welfare topics, contributed to the drafting and passage of multiple pieces of state legislation, and is a frequent presenter on juvenile law topics. She was selected as a 2009 Marshall Memorial Fellow, has received awards for service to the State Bar, and serves as an advisor to the Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children and as a member of the Board of Directors of VOICES for Georgia’s Children.

**Steve W. Collins**  
**Founder & President**  
**Adults Protecting Children, Inc.**  
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Flowery Branch, GA 30542  
770.789.3879  
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www.adultsprotectingchildren.com

Mr. Steve W. Collins is the founder and president of Adults Protecting Children, Inc. After 17 years with Mission to the World, the mission agency of the Presbyterian Church in America, Mr. Collins resigned to start this nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in November of 2009. Adults Protecting Children is committed to the training of adults in how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the sexual abuse of children.

He also works part-time as a regional coordinator for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy’s prevention department is engaged in a state-wide initiative to train one million Georgia adults in how to prevent the sexual abuse of children. As a regional coordinator, Mr. Collins works in the northeast portion of the state promoting this initiative.

Mr. Collins is a Certified Facilitator for Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children, an adult-focused prevention training course. He is also a Certified Instructor for Darkness to Light, giving him the credentials to certify facilitators to teach the Stewards of Children materials. He also is a Prevent Now Certified Instructor for Darkness to Light as well as a Georgia Bright From the Start Specialty Trainer.

Mr. Collins and his organization has targeted specific counties in the north Georgia region with a goal of creating a prevention initiative in each county that will work toward training 5% of the adult population.
Mr. Collins has trained over 700 people and certified approximately 35 individuals to teach the Stewards of Children materials. He has also provided this training internationally as well.

Alan Essig  
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As Georgia Budget and Policy Institute’s first executive director, Alan brings a wealth of experience and understanding of state government to his role in carrying out GBPI’s mission. In addition to leading a dedicated and talented staff and board, he analyzes overall state budget proposals and revenue policy issues. Alan frequently presents economic analyses of budget and tax proposals to the Georgia State Legislature and testifies before its committees. He also regularly addresses state-wide civic groups where he presents tax reform solutions and policies, and serves on national steering committees.

Alan’s recent professional experience includes serving as a senior research associate with the Fiscal Research Center of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, as well as deputy policy director for the Georgia Governor’s Office. Alan’s experience also includes serving as a committee aide for the Georgia State Senate and Georgia House of Representatives Appropriations Committees, assistant commissioner for the Georgia Department of Human Resources, director of the Georgia State Senate Research Office, deputy director of the Budgetary Responsibility Oversight Committee, and as a legislative budget analyst for the New York State Senate Finance Committee.

Alan holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master’s degree in public administration from the State University of New York at Albany. Georgia Trend magazine named Alan one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians in 2010. He has been quoted in both state and national publications such as NPR Weekend Edition, New York Times, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Savannah Morning News and Albany Herald, to name a few.

Jordan Greenbaum, MD  
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Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children  
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Dr. Greenbaum is the medical director of the Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. She obtained her medical degree from Yale School of Medicine, and completed a residency in Anatomic Pathology at Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles, and a forensic pathology fellowship at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York. She has spent the majority of her career working in the field of child maltreatment, and currently provides medical evaluations at Children’s and training at the local, regional and national level. She is a past president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Sharon Hill
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Sharon Nelson Hill is the founding executive director of Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice. Before joining Georgia Appleseed in 2005, Hill served on the bench of the Fulton County Juvenile Court as an Associate Judge for more than eight years.

Hill began her legal career in 1985 in private practice with Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan. From 1989 to 1995, Hill worked as a staff attorney for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and focused on poverty law and representing people living with HIV/AIDS. Hill returned to private practice with the firm of Troutman Sanders in the mid-90s and also served as the staff attorney for the Special Judiciary Committee of the Georgia Senate during the 1997 legislative session.

Hill joined the Fulton County Juvenile Court in 1997. Hill heard all truancy cases filed by Atlanta and Fulton County School Systems for more than five years, founded the Education Advocacy Program Advisory Committee, piloted the implementation of Model Court (deprivation), and was the Judge for the first Family Drug Court in Georgia.

Since joining Georgia Appleseed in 2005, Hill has continued her service in the community through advisory and leadership positions with Chief Justice-Led Task Force to Promote Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaboration and the Committee on Civil Justice for the Georgia Equal Justice Commission. She currently serves as the Chair of the State Bar of Georgia’s Children and the Courts Committee and as a member of the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Committee on Justice for Children. As a member of her faith community, Hill currently chairs the Board of Mission and Action.

After graduating from Williams College, Hill completed her joint JD/MBA degree at Emory University, graduating with distinction.

Hill has received several awards for her public service. Her most recent recognition for her work for a new Georgia Juvenile Code was the 2009 St. Thomas More Society Award, presented to recognize actions manifesting justice and humanity in difficult circumstances.

Hill is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta, Class of 2009 and completed the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education’s Education Policy Fellowship Program in 2010.

Hill and her husband have a daughter who is a college student.
In November of 2011, Governor Nathan Deal appointed Ms. Howell as General Counsel to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. As General Counsel Ms. Howell is serving as the lead agency attorney in the agency’s two settlement agreements with the Department of Justice. Ms. Howell was appointed in January 2011 by Governor Nathan Deal to serve as the first female Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), where she led 4,000 employees working in 26 facilities and 92 court service offices to effect restorative justice for more than 22,000 incarcerated youth.

She has devoted her career to education, justice and children. As both a Commissioner and School Superintendent, Ms. Howell believed she could effect change in youthful offenders by holding them accountable for their actions while providing appropriate sanctions, treatment, and education so that youth leaving incarceration would have the tools they needed to develop and sustain productive, law-abiding lives.

Her tenure as DJJ Commissioner reflected her drive to be innovative, promote excellence, provide a continuum of high quality services to her clients, give opportunities to employees to expand their skillsets, and collaborate with the community and other partners to maximize the potential positive impact on incarcerated and at-risk youth, as well as their families.

Ms. Howell had a long history with DJJ. She joined the State Agency in 2005 as the Legal Services Director and was appointed Deputy Commissioner a year later. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, she served in several capacities and managed nearly every portion of the agency, including legal services, human resources, training, internal investigations, apprehensions, transportation, education, and medical and behavioral health.

Prior to joining DJJ, Howell was an Assistant Public Defender with the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit in the DeKalb County Juvenile Court, where she represented youth in delinquency cases.

Outside of DJJ, Commissioner Howell has served as the Managing Attorney for the Southern Juvenile Defender Center (SJDC) at Emory School of Law. She received a post-graduate Equal Justice Works fellowship to work at SJDC. Her work focused on policy and systemic improvements for youth with disabilities in the justice system.

She is active in a number of professional organizations, including serving on the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit. She is also involved with the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and Georgia Association for Women Lawyers. Amy Howell is a former President of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division (YLD) and, during her Presidency, created an award-winning Public Interest Internship Program that connected young lawyers with not-for-profit organizations in need of legal counsel. During Ms. Howell’s tenure, her YLD chapter won a national award for the best YLD and the service program she created was recognized as the best service project in Georgia.

Ms. Howell was appointed by House Speaker David Ralston to the Advisory Committee for the Office of the Child Advocate for the Protection of Children where she serves as Vice-Chair.
Ms. Howell also serves on the Advisory Board of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory School of Law. She is a 2008 Alumna of LEAD Atlanta and 2009 Multiple Sclerosis Leadership Class.

Prior to her legal career, Amy Howell taught elementary school working with special needs and gifted children in North Carolina, where she was recognized as the school’s ‘Teacher of the Year.’ Ms. Howell has received numerous awards including being named as the Attorney Child Advocate of the Year by the Georgia Association of Homes & Services for Children in 2005, and Juvenile Defender of the Year by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia in 2004. Ms. Howell holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College and a juris doctor from The Temple University School of Law. She lives in DeKalb County with her husband and two young children.

**Ross King**
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Ross King serves as the Executive Director for the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). ACCG works on behalf of Georgia’s county officials and their communities, with a focus on public policy and advocacy, leadership development, civic and community engagement and cost-efficient programs such as insurance and retirement. He has worked for ACCG since 1987, serving as the association’s policy director and deputy director prior to his appointment as Executive Director.

Mr. King has dedicated his career to public service. He began his professional career in 1982 in Americus, Georgia as the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor and City Council. He served as the first state program coordinator for the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) prior to joining ACCG.

He serves as a member of the Georgia Humanities Council, the Livable Communities Coalition (LCC), the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GRHAB), the Advisory Council College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at the University of Georgia, the Southern Growth Policies Board’s Council on the Southern Community (CSC) and the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation.

**Mary Pat Matheson**
**Executive Director**
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Mary Pat Matheson is the executive director of the Atlanta Botanical Garden and directs all operations for the 30-acre urban garden in Midtown, the heart of Atlanta. The Garden showcases floral displays, plant collections, a children’s garden, annual fine art exhibitions, the Fuqua Conservatory and Orchid Center, and the Canopy Walk, the largest suspension bridge of its kind in the United States. Additionally, she is responsible for the development of Smithgall Woodland Garden, a 185-acre public garden in Gainesville, Georgia.

In 2010, the American Public Gardens Association presented Mary Pat with its prestigious Service Award. The Garden was honored in 2008 with the Managing for Excellence Award by the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and in March 2009 was selected WSB Green Champion. Matheson was named one of 14 Women of Excellence by Business to Business magazine in July 2007 and one of 25 Power Women to Watch by Atlanta Woman magazine in January 2006. In 2005 she was named 2005 Professional of the Year by the American Horticultural Society and the Lexus Leader of the Arts by Public Broadcasting Atlanta.

Matheson is a past president of the American Association of Public Gardens and she is currently second-vice chair of the American Horticultural Society Board of Directors. Locally, she serves on the board of directors for the Midtown Alliance, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the executive committees of the Atlanta Chapter of the International Woman’s Forum, Georgia Communities for Growth and MAACC (Metro Atlanta Arts and Cultural Coalition). She is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and a member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta.

Lamar Norton
Executive Director
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Lamar Norton became the fifth full-time executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association on January 1, 2012. He leads a staff of more than 80 employees tasked with carrying out the mission of the organization of over 500-member cities, with a focus on legislative advocacy, training and a variety of financial, human resource, risk management and operational programs and services.

For over a decade, Norton directed the association’s lobbying efforts at the state and federal levels aimed at strengthening Georgia’s cities in their efforts to build quality of life and grow sustainable economic centers.

Prior to joining the GMA staff in 2002, he was manager of community development with the Georgia Power Company where he was instrumental in building relationships with local government officials, state department heads, chambers of commerce, local development authorities and boards of education to increase Georgia’s ability to attract economic growth throughout the state.

Norton is a graduate of Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. He has served on a number of boards and professional associations, including the Georgia Academy for Economic Development, Regional Leadership Institute, Regional Leadership Foundation, Whitfield Economic Development Authority and several local chambers of commerce. Additionally, he served in leadership positions on the boards of the Georgia Chapter of the American Lung
Association, Professional Association of Georgia Educators Trustees, Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Housing Finance Authority.  
Most recently, Norton was named one of the most “Notable Georgians” by Georgia Trend magazine for 2012.

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Tiffany Sawyer is the Director of Prevention Services at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, a child advocacy center whose mission is to facilitate the healing of children and families who have experienced child sexual abuse. She joined the staff of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy in 2006. In her capacity at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, Mrs. Sawyer is responsible for the statewide planning, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of the Center’s statewide sexual abuse prevention initiative with the goal of training adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.  
Prior to her work in Georgia she worked for three years as the Associate Director of Programs at Darkness to Light, a national non-profit for the prevention of child sexual abuse by putting the responsibility for prevention squarely on adult shoulders. While at Darkness to Light, she assisted in the creation of the Stewards of Children training curriculum and helped to launch the program on national and international levels. She serves on the Children’s Impact Board for the United Way of Metro Atlanta and is the Co-chair for the Governor’s Office of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Prevention Taskforce.  
Mrs. Sawyer earned her bachelor degree in French Education from the College of Charleston and taught high school French before getting involved in child advocacy. Tiffany has conducted over 300 trainings and presentations throughout her career.

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Andrew Schulz is the Vice President, Legal and Public Policy for the Council on Foundations, providing leadership and oversight for the Council’s current legislative initiatives, public-philanthropic partnerships, and outreach efforts to members, other nonprofit organizations, policymakers, and the general public. Mr. Schulz’s responsibilities also include
maintaining ongoing expertise in a broad cross-section of tax, legislative and regulatory issues in order to provide legal assistance and consultation to Council members and the general public. Mr. Schulz frequently speaks around the country on legal and public policy issues affecting non-profit organizations. Prior to joining the Council in 2000, Mr. Schulz was an associate at the law firm of Dorn & Klamp in Washington, DC, where he specialized in the laws affecting non-profit organizations. He is a graduate of the College of Wooster (Wooster, OH) and the George Washington University Law School. He is a member of the Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia Bars.

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Pat Willis is the executive director of VOICES for Georgia’s Children, a statewide organization that supports research, communication, and advocacy for issues related to children and families. Committed to five measures of childhood improvement by 2015, VOICES has developed a comprehensive set of public policies addressing health quality and coverage, early childhood development, juvenile justice and vulnerable and disconnected youth. Through education, lobbying, and coalition-building, VOICES raises the priority of children’s needs in Georgia.

Ms. Willis became the first director of VOICES in August 2003 after achieving over 30 years of accomplishments in the corporate sector, the public sector and in volunteer service. During 20 years at BellSouth Corporation, she was the founding director and subsequent president of the BellSouth Foundation, an endowed trust devoted to improving education in the Southeast and Latin America. Through almost $50 million of grants and programs, the foundation achieved national recognition and respect in the issues of teacher preparation, school leadership and education technology, and international recognition for Pronino, an education initiative in 10 countries of Latin America.

Ms. Willis spent the first seven years of her career in the Research and Evaluation Division of Atlanta Public Schools and also served as a political campaign consultant in Atlanta in the late 1970s.

In Georgia, Ms. Willis is on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, the board of Georgia Family Connection Partnership, and the Advisory Boards for the Georgia State University College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Atlanta Junior League. Nationally, she serves on the board of the Schlechty Center for Leadership in School Reform in Kentucky. Ms. Willis is a member of the Women’s Forum of Georgia and the International Women’s Forum. A trustee of Marietta (OH) College, her alma mater, for 12 years, in 2008 she completed four years as chair of the board.