



# NEWS

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## Gwinnett Chamber Honors the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia at 61st Annual Dinner



Kerry Armstrong, Judy Waters, Joe McCart & Bill McCargo

In February, the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner presented by Gwinnett Medical Center and the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce celebrated Gwinnett's finest citizens, as well as one of the most successful years in the Gwinnett Chamber's history. The Annual Dinner, held at the Thomas P. Hughes Grand Ballroom at Gwinnett Center, celebrated Gwinnett's success and honored those who have made a difference in our community.

This year's D. Scott Hudgens Award was presented to the *Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia* (CFNEG). Accepting the award on behalf of the *Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia* was Board of Director's President Joe McCart and Executive Director Judy Waters. The award was given in honor of Scott Hudgens, a respected developer and philanthropist who unselfishly gave of his time and talents to ensure that many others, especially those with limited means, would benefit from his treasure. The *Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia* was established in March 1985 after a group of community leaders recognized Gwinnett County's necessity for an organization that would meet the charitable "needs" of its people. Today, we administer funds for such notable organizations as Gwinnett Gladiators for Kids, the Cobb County Community Foundation, the Greater Purpose Fund for Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation, as well as Senator Jack Murphy's, the Wendy Murphy Young Artists Scholarship Fund, the Chamber's Partnership Gwinnett Charitable Fund and many more. Despite the challenge of this year's economy, the gifts to these funds totaled an amazing \$7.2 million dollars with another \$6.5 distributed to non-profits.

## Judy's Connections

"Success is not final: failure is not fatal.  
It is the courage to continue that counts."  
- Winston Churchill

Not only are more of our citizens and friends suffering due to the economic downturn, so many of our nonprofit organizations have been extremely overburdened and forced to scale down to essential services. We know that as an organization, we have to be strong, stay focused to our mission, be creative and most of all be "courageous." Courageous enough to care, courageous enough to continue the mission of the Foundation, courageous enough to be creative and certainly courageous enough to strive for the "Greater Good."

Our community has become aware of the Foundation's ability to convene, provide service and encourage collaborative efforts. Despite the financial challenges of the economy, contributions to the Foundation persist. The Board of Directors continues to review our investment approach, always seeking the best return through prudent management of gifts donated. These actions are a core strength of the Foundation.



Judy Waters, Executive Director

As corporate jobs – as well as corporate dollars – are drastically cut, the individual donors are "courageous" and caring enough to give to the needs with greater generosity and with greater dollars than ever before. A community foundation's role is to connect donors with nonprofits who are doing good work in the area. Making these connections led to over \$6.5 million dollars in proactive grants in 2008.

As the economy begins to heal, we can faithfully assure this remarkable community that our endeavors in the Northeast Georgia region will continue. Hope still lives and a strong belief in the spirit of philanthropy will feed our souls and encourage us in the days ahead.

As the Executive Director, I sincerely thank all of you for your support and dedication to the *Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia*. I feel honored to serve you and look forward to a stronger and more vibrant ability to promote philanthropy.

~Judy Waters

## Capital Markets July 2009



Stock markets in the first half of 2009 ended modestly higher than they started the year. How that occurred was much more volatile than the stock market average suggests. By the first week of March, the S&P 500 Index had lost 24% in two months of unremitting selling. When Citibank and Wells Fargo leaked the quarter's profit progress, a powerful rebound in stocks was ignited that by June recovered the entire early year decline.

For the year's first half, the S&P 500 Stock Index gained +3.1% while the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost -3.8%. International markets enjoyed a buoyant second quarter led by emerging markets which has gained +34.3%

for the year. Commodity prices rebounded noticeably led by oil and metals. Bonds were positive, if modest, in total return, with the Barclays Capital US Aggregate Bond Index adding +1.9%.

That the quarter ending June 30 brought the first positive equity market return in the last seven underlines the enormity of the markdown in stock prices since the summer of 2007. The Federal Reserve is making money available at miniscule rates and it is having an effect, especially in the banking sector. Where we go from here is uncertain, but we have come a long way from last fall when the run on money markets came close to breaking the financial system that makes our economy work.

## Philanthropy...Easier *done* than said!

### Spitfire Media Group's In-Kind Donation Launches E-newsletter



As a charitable foundation, we are always seeking partnerships with those such as **Tillman Allen Greer**, who provides the space and production for this newsletter, that allow us to expand our

services while minimizing our operational costs as we press forward with our mission of philanthropy. Giving of products and services in-kind is just one way many of our corporate partners contribute. With the donation of such gifts as legal services, printing, promotional items, websites and more, we are able to make our dollars stretch further and

benefit our community more.

Another great example of one such partnership is **Spitfire Media Group's** donation of their marketing and graphic design services to create a great new e-newsletter for us to send your way. Thanks to this exciting new tool, we'll be able to keep you abreast of new donors and funds, our charitable giving, and

## 2009 Appreciation Evening



Aurora Theatre Performers, Julia Hall & Rachel Farley

Our friends from the Aurora Theatre did a great job in helping us convey the deep gratitude the *Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia* has for our donors and supporters as did the revitalizing setting of the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center facility where our annual Appreciation Evening was held. Rachel Farley's presentation of co-writer David Greer's song *All Are Our Heroes* truly reflects our attitude towards not only cancer survivors, but also all who continue to persevere in the face of adversity.

The uplifting songs, the presentation of the well-deserved awards and the incredible food once again provided by ABokay by JoAnn Morris all served to renew the gratification we find in serving our community.



Jean Duke & Judy Waters

The first Paul and Jean Duke Humanitarian Award, exemplifying Paul and Jean Duke's spirit of compassion and

embodying a dedication to humanity, was given to Jean Duke in memory of her beloved husband, Paul, a founding CFNEG member and president, who passed away in March 23, at the age of 84.

Our 2008 honorees for the Foundation's Community Leadership and Philanthropy Award were Clyde and Sandra Strickland. Both have received numerous recognitions for their outstanding service. The Stricklands hold a fund with the Foundation, are season sponsors of the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and offered their support for advanced cardiac care at Gwinnett Medical Center to the tune of a \$1 million donation. They take great pride in the fact



Gwinnett Ballet Theatre Dancers

that there are four generations of Stricklands still enthusiastically engaged in Gwinnett County.

We also recognized the good work of our discretionary grant recipients in their endeavors in building a stronger community.

Special thanks to:

Mr. Steven W. Williams, President  
United Community Bank

&

The CFNEG Professional Advisors Committee  
as sponsors of the evening

creative ways we can all work together to positively impact our community. It also enables you with a great new way to educate others about the work of the Foundation by simply forwarding the letter to your friends. We hope you'll sign up for this new communications tool by visiting [www.cfneg.org](http://www.cfneg.org) to sign-up or by calling 770-813-3380.