



COMPASSION IN ACTION NEWSLETTER

Cobb County School District—School Social Work

January—February 2011

The Power of Home Visits

Home visits are a unique part of the Cobb County School Social Workers' day. Typically, social workers make home visits when a parent cannot be reached by phone or email, or to make surprise visits on "missing students." However, besides accomplishing the original goals, often other benefits are achieved. For example, recently, I was given a referral for a mother who could not be reached and who needed some information for her 4th grade son. When I arrived at the home, I saw another school aged boy and learned quickly that he was deaf. The mother had no idea that he was eligible for a free and appropriate education just like his brother because she was new to this country and this son was not allowed to attend school where she was from. I was able to connect mom with the hearing specialists in the county who tested him that day! By the week's end, the child was enrolled

in school! Had I not made the home visit, it could have been weeks or months before anyone found out about this student. Another example of why home visits are so beneficial is that they reveal issues that could go



unnoticed in an office setting. For example, there have been several times that I have made a home visit and learned that the household has no power or no water. I am then able to help the family access resources to reconnect these utilities. This in turn positively impacts students as perhaps they get a better night's sleep and their parents seem less stressed because they no longer worry about how to pay the bill. Regarding truancy, I

have made many home visits over the years to meet with students who are refusing to attend school. Often times, frustrated parents call and cannot get their lanky 10th grader into the car. The power of a home visit in these cases is tremendous. Often, these students are anxious and a meeting in the comforts of home can set the stage for a more open dialogue about the ongoing problem. Students realize that someone from the school really does care and wants them there, and often will agree to come after such a visit. In conclusion, home visits are not done on every referral a social worker receives. However, we are trained and willing to make them when necessary. Often, the outcome is much more than simply obtaining a phone number; families get needed resources and a great feeling of connection with the school.

THE 5TH ANNUAL "SIMPSON'S GOT TALENT" SHOW PRESENTED FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH!

The talent of students, staff, families and community groups will be showcased with acts by gymnasts, vocalists, puppeteers, jugglers, actors, martial artists, musicians, dancers, baton twirlers and more! The theme is "Through All Seasons...Love Thy Neighbor" and School Social Worker

Bethany Miller will cast a variety of acts that support the message of love in all types of weather! Proceeds will benefit the **Needy Family Fund** to assist students involved with the school social work program in emergencies.

The BEST Websites for Family Fun over February Break

- Visit www.cobbcounty.org and click on the leisure link
- Visit www.cobbcvb.com and click on event calendar
- Visit www.americantowns.com/ga/cobb-county/events
- Visit <http://www.safekidscobbcounty.org/events.html>
- Visit http://www.wegoplaces.com/GACobbCounty_Region_629_Cat_Events.aspx



Tickets for the February 18th show at 6:30 pm are:
 \$5 adults
 \$3 pre-school through seniors....or donate the same number of canned goods!



Help the Simpson Family Fund

If you or a loved one would like to advertise their business in the **Simpson's Got Talent** show program for a nominal fee in support of the school social work needy family fund which helps our students during emergencies, the cost is \$10 for a business card sized ad, \$25 for ½ page and \$50 for a full page ad which hundreds of local people will see on the 5th annual night of entertainment on Feb. 18th at 6:30.



Call (770) 971 - 4836

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Center for Family Resources

On November 19 and 20, the Center for Family Resources "Thanks for Giving" 2010 program provided Thanksgiving food for nearly 1500 families. More than 160 food drives were hosted throughout the community, including 62 area schools. These food drives, headed up in large part by the social work

Thanks for Giving Program 2010

department, were able to provide over 40,000 food items of the 70,000 items collected. Enough food was donated to serve all of the pre-registered

families, and to support the food pantry through the remainder of the holiday season. Many schools hosted contests to increase participation, resulting in an amazing outcome to help the "Thanks for Giving" program in its 25th season. Congratulations to the winning food drives from the Cobb County and Marietta City Schools food drives!

Overall School Winner:
Harrison High School

Middle School Winner:
Dodgen Middle

Elementary School Winner:
Rocky Mount Elementary

