

The Caregiver's Advocate

Georgia CARE-NET Coalition Newsletter is a publication sponsored by the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI). "The Advocate" is designed to support and promote the work of Georgia's 12 CARE-NET organizations.

September 2011

Faces of Caregivers In Georgia



The Georgia Coalition's Newsletter "Faces of Caregivers in Georgia" is the centerpiece of the CARE-NET Coalition's public awareness campaign. Featured in this article is the profile of a caregiver who has made a meaningful difference in the lives of the Coastal Georgia citizens.

Janice Guglielmi continues to serve as both professional and family caregiver.

Janice Guglielmi has been taking care of people throughout her working career. For over 20 years, she worked as a practice manager in a doctor's office where she provided direct patient care and interacted with the families as well. In 2010, she resigned from that position in the private sector and went to work as the Administrative Coordinator for CCSP, the Community Care Services Program, in Savannah, GA. This is a Medicaid Waiver pro-

gram, which provides care for clients who qualify for a level of nursing home placement, but want to stay in the home.

During the last year, Janice's father, who she refers to as "Dad" (T. J. Taylor), was taken to the Mayo Clinic where he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. With her many titles, she also became a Family Caregiver. Janice remembers that there were many signs leading up to her Dad's diagnosis. He lost interest in his previous activities, had a lack of energy and started sleeping more. He developed many of the classic symptoms with loss of memory. But, there was one episode that was more personal with her. Ever since she had been a little girl, when Valentine's came, her Dad would give her mom a big heart box of candy, and he would get Janice a small heart box of candy. It had been a yearly tradition. That is, until last year. Now, he does not even remember when it is "February". Moreover, sometimes, he does not remember her name or the fact that she is his daughter. But, Janice remembers how loving, kind, giving and energetic her Dad "used to be". What a great Father he was and this is exactly what "drives" her to be a great caregiver. It's a role she has embraced. She's encouraged by the scripture (Ephesians 6:2) that says, "Honor your Father and Mother" and she wants to fulfill that honor and direction.

Continued on page 2

Former First Lady Special Guest at Quarterly CARE-NET Meeting



The Former First Lady's attendance was the highlight of a very productive meeting.

Coalition members joined Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter for photograph at September 12 Quarterly Meeting in Macon, Georgia.

met recently with First Lady Michelle Obama to discuss the work of CARE-NETs in Georgia. Mrs. Carter said that Mrs. Obama was really excited about the Coalitions and particularly the work being done by RCI to assist families of soldiers who return with PTSD and physical disabilities.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter took time from her busy schedule to attend the September 12 Quarterly meeting for the Georgia CARE-NET Coalition. Mrs. Carter told the group that she attended the meeting to express her personal appreciation for the great job CARE-NETs across the state are doing to assist caregivers and their families. During the meeting, she shared some of the numerous activities that she is engaged in on behalf of caregivers and their families. Mrs. Carter

In This Edition

Director's Message.....	2
Points of View.....	3
Georgia Coalition in Profile: West Central Georgia CARE-NET.....	3
News and Upcoming Events	4
Caregiving News Under the Georgia Dome.....	9
RCI in the News.....	10
2011 Meeting Dates.....	11
Map of Georgia CARE-NETs.....	12

Message from the Director

Dr. Leisa Easom is the Executive Director of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, Americus, Georgia.



Leisa Easom, PhD, RN

The Unpaid Cost Of Caregiving

In May of this year, Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter testified before the Senate Special Committee on Aging regarding the oncoming Caregiving Crisis in the U.S. During her testimony, Mrs. Carter stated that our nation is in need of a fundamental shift in how it values and recognizes the work of family caregivers.

Did you ever wonder what the actual monetary value of family caregiving is worth? A lot! As we know, families who choose to care for a loved one at home often end up helping with “everything” from medication management to transportation.

A new report by the AARP Public Policy Institute, entitled “Valuing the Invaluable: The Growing Contributions and Costs of Family Caregiving,” recently highlighted the value of caregiving support. AARP estimates that this “unpaid care” is worth approximately \$450 billion each year. In terms of the U.S. budget, that is nearly the cost of the Medicare program and far more than nursing homes and nursing salaries.

The report found that each year, caregivers provide older adults with 1.4 billion car trips and generally spend around 20 hours a week tending to their needs. Almost two-thirds of family caregivers are women. More than eight in 10 are caring for a relative or friend age 50 or older.

“Most caregivers don’t think of what they’re doing as work,” said Susan Reinhard, Senior Vice President for Public Policy at AARP. “They think of it as what families do for each other. They don’t think of themselves as caregivers.

The report also found that the care provided continues to increase in complexity. The impact of shorter hospital stays and advances in home-based medical technologies plays out in the health tasks that family caregivers often carry out, including bandaging and wound care, tube feedings, managing catheters, giving injections or operating medical equipment.

This new level of care, which the report calls the “new normal,” also takes an increasing toll on the caregiver. The report found that those who take on this unpaid role to help loved ones remain in their own homes and communities risk stress, depression, physical health problems, social isolation, competing demands and financial hardship and thus, are vulnerable themselves.

The biggest takeaway from the report is that caregivers need a better support system. This is exactly the goal of our 12 CARE-NET Coalitions. We at the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) often express that too often, caregivers are viewed as expendable resources who are overlooked and ill-prepared... leading to damaged health, high levels of stress and burnout. Our view at RCI, in contrast, is that family and professional caregivers are the most valuable asset in any care system; a resource that should be cultivated, preserved, developed and valued by the community. Our approach emphasizes strategic investment of community resources in building caregiver skills and supports and protecting caregiver health.

We must support, preserve, and protect the backbone of our Country’s long-term, home and community-based care system— the caregiver.

The full AARP Report can be viewed at:
www.aarp.org/research/ppi.

Faces of Caregivers, Continued from page 1

Being a caregiver has taught her many things. A sense of humor, which she inherited from her Dad, goes a long way. Sometimes you just have to laugh, she says. Laughter is the best medicine. Janice is also learning from being a caregiver the importance of caregivers taking care of themselves. She shares that “... you have to take care of yourself some too. You must recharge your batteries. If you don’t take care of yourself, you won’t be able to take care of anyone else either.” Janice admits that it can be overwhelming to be a caregiver, but suggests that caregivers

should focus on what they can do, not what they cannot do.

Mr. Taylor is 82 now and was in great health until the last couple of years. He volunteered at church, loved to do yard work and help neighbors and family with gardening. Janice shares a quote from a former TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL television episode. It said, “Some of our best living is done in the people that we leave behind”. Janice is glad that she is one of the people that her Dad is still living through. In addition, she hopes to be as good to him, as he has been to her and to others in their community.



Points of View...

Stephen Snyder
Director of Public Relations
Georgia Southwestern State
University

Rosalynn Carter Institute National Summit, Training Institute: 'Using What Works'

October is just around the corner, and that means it is time for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) to host its annual National Summit - Oct. 5-7. Titled "Using What Works: Bringing Effective Caregiver Programs to Your Community." The Summit aims to provide practical, hands-on assistance to help agencies deliver effective support programs to caregivers across the country. An estimated 200 participants are expected to be in attendance to gather first-hand knowledge.

"The 2011 RCI Summit provides unique opportunities for learning about the adoption and implementation of evidence-based programs into community agencies," said Leisa Easom, Ph.D., RCI executive director. "The expert speakers and potential network exchanges create a rich experience for all who attend."

The Summit will feature a presentation from U.S. Secretary of

Labor Hilda L. Solis. Other notable presenters include Linda O. Nichols, Ph.D., of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center; Ann Widger, director of External Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Carolyn W. Colvin, deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration; and a video welcome from Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These representatives will give updates on what the Federal Government is doing to assist families dealing with caregiving issues and concerns. On Thursday and Friday, Summit attendees will be introduced to caregiving frameworks that integrate implementation science, policy and best practice models.

The 2011 Mattie Stepanek Caregiver Scholarship winners will be recognized by Mattie Stepanek's mother, Jeni Stepanek, at a luncheon Thursday, Oct. 6. The Georgia Caregivers of the Year and winners of the 2011 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award will be recognized by Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter at a Gala Awards Banquet, to be held on that same evening. Carter will be in attendance for the entire Summit.

Johnson & Johnson is the primary sponsor for the Summit. They are dedicated to supporting family caregivers across the nation, particularly through their partnership with RCI which was established in 2001. This valued partnership builds on the work accomplished by RCI over the past 24 years as well as on the social responsibility credo of Johnson & Johnson to be "responsible to the communities in which we live and work," and to "encourage...better health and education."

Georgia Coalition in Profile: West Central Georgia CARE-NET



Members of the West Central Georgia CARE-NET pose during a regional meeting for photograph.

After two and a half years, the West Central Georgia CARE-NET has recently "re-grouped" the region's CARE-NET. A number of former and new group members have been busy re-building what the area had laid the foundation for several years ago. The re-vamped West Central Georgia CARE-NET was organized April 5, 2011 in Americus, Georgia. The re-building effort was lead by former CARE-NET Coordinator Katy Bridges (Katy recently left the AAA to return to Nursing School). At the March 28 meeting, individuals from various agencies who all share a passion for the area's caregivers, came together to support the group. Participants included Dr. Kendall A. Blanchard, Georgia Southwestern University President, Dr. Leisa Easom, RCI Executive Director and CARE-NET Consultant Myrtle S. Habersham. The area's participants outlined a strategic approach to move the CARE-NET forward. Since that meeting, the CARE-NET has been actively engaged in a number of local caregiver-related activities, including the May 4 AAA-sponsored Caregiver's Conference in Columbus, Georgia to celebrate Older Americans Month. Recently, AAA Director Tiffany Ingram appointed Gary Gordon to replace Katy Bridges as the West Central Georgia CARE-NET Coordinator. Gary is excited about his new role and the direction of the CARE-NET.

Continued on page 11

The Caregiver's Advocate

News and Upcoming Events

From The CARE-NET Coalitions

Coastal Area Agency On Aging (AAA) Leads Effort to Revitalize Local Caregiver's Coalition...

After a period of inactivity, the Coastal CARE-Net Coalition conducted its first meeting in Richmond Hill, Georgia on June 7, 2011. CARE-NET Consultant from the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, Myrtle S. Habersham, was present to provide guidance and words of encouragement to the newly "revitalized" Coalition. The CARE-NETs form a unique coalition of caregiver support organizations who provide information, assistance, counseling, training, and support groups for caregivers throughout their service areas.

Jill Jackson-Ledford is the AAA Director for this area and Jennifer Meshanko is the newly appointed CN Coordinator. The Coastal CARE-NET serves a nine-county region, including Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, and Liberty, Long, and McIntosh counties. The coalition supports caregivers of elderly individuals as well as adults and children with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Committed individuals from the field of health care, mental health, education, ministry, civic groups, law enforcement, community businesses, judicial system, and charitable organizations are encouraged to become a part of Coastal CARE-NET.



Members of the Coastal CARE-NET Coalition pose for a photograph during one of their regional meetings in Richmond Hill, Georgia.



River Valley AAA Director names Gary Gordon as new CARE-NET Coordinator

West Central Georgia CARE-NET... Newly appointed CARE-NET Coordinator, Gary Gordon, is excited about the opportunity to serve caregivers in the area. Following a March 28 CN re-organizational meeting facilitated by Dr. Leisa Easom (RCI Executive Director) and Myrtle S. Habersham (CN Consultant) the West Central Georgia AAA Director (Tiffany Ingram) and area members have worked diligently to strengthen the Coalition's membership, services, and programs. The CN has a 16 county area that includes both Columbus and Americus, Georgia.



Members of the West Central Georgia CN pose for photograph.

Central Savannah River Area CARE-NET... The Ninth Annual Faith in Aging Conference was held in Augusta on August 18, 2011.

Continued on page 5

The Caregiver's Advocate

News and Upcoming Events, Continued from page 5



Dr. Nancy Kropf, Georgia State University, (on right) and Myrtle S. Habersham, RCI CN Coordinator, (on left) were speakers on this program. Over 250 people attended from very diverse professions as physicians, ministers, nursing students, and others. There were 31 vendors. Each vendor was allowed time to brief the participants about their particular programs and services. Several people in attendance are expected to join the CARE-NET.

October 20 is the deadline for the Regional Caregiver of the Year awards nominations. *"Living From the Top of Your Head, and Serving for the Bottom of your Heart"* is the theme for the program.

CN Coordinator Adams is training to become a Master Trainer and plans to provide in-home counseling for persons experiencing symptoms of early Alzheimer's disease.

There continues to be evidence that the Powerful Tools program is reducing caregiver burden. The CARE-NET is partnering with the American Heart Association in its annual *Relay for Life*. CN members are exploring ways to increase support of veterans in their coalition.



Shown above (left to right) are Jeanette Cummings, Director, Central Savannah River Area AAA, Myrtle S. Habersham, CN Consultant and Janice Adams, CN Coordinator.

Shown below are three members of the Legacy Link CN (left to right) Beverly Fricks, Susan Sanfilippo, Ann Laura Bagwell



Georgia Mountains/Legacy Link Cn Continues Efforts To Support Area Caregivers

The Georgia Mountains/Legacy Link CN has been busy gathering nominations and selecting regional winners for the Georgia Caregiver of the Year Awards. They continue to hold their Caregiver Support Group twice a month and free individual counseling to caregivers is also available.

The Coalition has sponsored a series of caregiver events during the last year.

Continued on page 6

The Caregiver's Advocate

News and Upcoming Events, Continued from page 6

On August 15, they held **Dementia Training for Family Caregivers** featuring speaker, Melany Sattler, the Director of Education, Alzheimer's Association GA Chapter. During this program, the CN featured a musical therapist who sang, gave tips to the caregivers and spoke on the importance of music when taking care of persons with dementia. Approximately 22 people attended the event (at Forsyth County Senior Services) which included a caregiving resource table, refreshments and door prizes.

The Caregiver Support Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Individual counseling is also available for caregivers



Participants shown left attend Dementia Training.

The training participants were requested to complete a short survey to evaluate the training and seek contact information, support group involvement, ideas for other

training topics and data on "how they obtain the necessary resources." The next CN meeting is scheduled for October 12 at 3:15 P.M.

Middle Georgia CARE-NET members (left to right below) Mary Whitfield and Arnellee Reeves are discussing potential strategies to consider for achievement of CARE-NET goals and objectives.



Middle Georgia CARE-NET...The CN Coordinators are continuing a strong effort to recruit new members and credits RCI CARE-NET Consultant Habersham for much of their progress. Co-Coordinator Ken Jasna is spearheading a new Visually Impaired Program (VIP) in Baldwin County, Georgia. This program

provides visually impaired adults and children in the local school system a unique mentoring experience. The CARE-NET will also sponsor Middle Georgia-wide "CARE-FAIR" on November 3 that will feature representatives from local service providers, health screenings and a panel of experts on caregiving.



Participants of the Northeast Georgia Elder Rights Symposium, held September 8, pose for photograph.

Northeast Georgia CARE-NET... According to Coordinator **Connie Wilkes**, the September 8 Elder Rights Symposium was a tremendous success. Over 300 individuals attended. Dr. Leisa Easom was one of the keynote speakers.



Over 20 vendors were present to provide information to participants on caregiving services and programs in Northeast Georgia.

The CN has been extremely busy planning a series of events that include the following: The Care Improvement Luncheon (September 14) included discussions about RCI and other community resources to assist seniors and caregivers and a Health Fair was scheduled for September 25. This year's event is being held in the evening to allow others who have daytime commitments to attend. The event included a presentation on caregiver stress.

Continued on page 7

The Caregiver's Advocate

News and Upcoming Events, Continued from page 7

November 2 is the date for the first Annual Caregivers Luncheon; an event which is filled with information and fun activities, including bingo, free makeovers and massages. Caregiver award recipients will be honored at this time.

The National Council on Aging is sponsoring the “Savy, Saving, Seniors” webinar designed to teach seniors as well as other caregivers how to budget and spend wisely.



Shown above are (left to right) RCI Executive Director Leisa Easom, PhD, RN, Casey Johnson, Heart of Georgia Altamaha CARE-NET member, Myrtle S. Habersham, RCI CARE-NET Coordinator and Kathy Keith, Coordinator of Heart of Georgia Altamaha CARE-NET.

Heart of Georgia Altamaha CARE-NET...The CARE-NET continues to facilitate quarterly collaborative meetings for local service providers and programs. According to Coordinator **Kathy Keith**, 50-60 people attended the last quarterly meeting. Kathy participated in Seniors Week at the Capitol and is involved with depression screenings for caregivers in her area. She is also one of two master trainers for “Powerful Tools” evidence-based program in the Heart of Georgia service area. A train-the-trainer session on “Powerful Tools” is being planned for other staff serving caregivers. Sixty people are enrolled in the Care Consultation program, which is a telephone intervention service for caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients. The Heart of Georgia CARE-NET is also exploring ways to provide respite care for grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren.



Members of Atlanta CARE-NET shown in above photograph.

Atlanta CARE-NET... According to CN Coordinator **Mary Lou Vergara**, the Atlanta CARE-NET functions as a virtual CARE-NET, using technology, specifically the internet to maintain communication with its members who represent many diverse counties in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The CN is proud of its efforts to conduct training on evidence-based programs for caregivers. Twenty training sessions on “Powerful Tools” were conducted last year. The members have expressed an interest in training staff to teach the curriculum in Korean and Spanish. The statewide Kinship Care initiative is alive and well in the Atlanta area. This effort has also reached out to veterans and families with family members currently deployed in the Middle East. A conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, which will focus on caregiving by grandparents.

Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging Extends Invitation For CN Members...On September 21, Myrtle S. Habersham (RCI CN Consultant) made presentation entitled “RCI/CNs Provide Assistance to Georgia Caregivers” in Waycross, Georgia. She discussed the mission, goals and objectives of RCI and CNs and highlighted specific outcomes achieved during 2011. The CNs have been effectively implementing their statewide Marketing and Outreach Plan to enhance program supports for Georgia caregivers. This was an organizationally diverse representation of agency representatives. Several ADRC representatives expressed an interest in joining the Southern CN.

Continued on page 8

The Caregiver's Advocate

News and Upcoming Events, Continued from page 8



RCI CN CONSULTANT Myrtle S. Habersham meets with Southern Georgia ADRC Council in Waycross.

Southern Crescent CARE-NET...The CARE-NET is in the process of forming an Elder Abuse Coalition to address the increasing problem of elder abuse in the service area. Coordinator **Beth Dow** and CARE-NET partners are continuing their quarterly meetings and working closely with other caregiving related organizations in the area. Over 30 families in the area have completed the RCI sponsored evidence-based Georgia Family Support Program since implementation about two years ago. Twelve additional families are enrolled and will complete soon. The CARE-NET will participate in a Senior EXPO on October 29.



Members of the Southern Crescent CARE-NET are shown above.



Members of the Southwest Georgia Coalition attend August 12 CN Meeting.

Southwest Georgia CARE-NET... The CN held its most recent meeting on August 12. Members continue to plan their "Annual Lunch & Learn" seminar. This event will be held on November 10 at the Methodist Church in Albany. A local Health Department representative will speak about many healthcare issues and the availability of services for persons without insurance. The seminar will also include a keynote speaker (RCI CN Coordinator Myrtle S. Habersham), door prizes, and other therapeutic entertainment. Approximately 120 local citizens from their 14 county service area attended last year's seminar. AAA Director, Kay Hind, has named Ada Brown as CN Coordinator. Special thanks were extended to outgoing Coalition Coordinator, Monica Posey, for her outstanding contributions to the CN.

Northwest Georgia CARE-NET...On July 20, Marie Dodd, Northwest Georgia AAA Representative, and CARE-NET Consultant Myrtle S. Habersham participated in a live call-in radio interview on WBLJ 1230 AM station. David McGuffey, Certified Elder Law Attorney, is the host of this show. The station broadcasts this show weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. The host's objective is to have guests provide answers to questions on topics of interest to seniors. Discussion topics relate to such areas as Elder Law, Special Needs, Estate Planning, Tax Planning, and Asset Protection. The show aired throughout Northwest Georgia and parts of Tennessee.



Photo taken, July 20, at the WBLJ radio station in Dalton, Georgia after broadcasting of the Elder Law Radio Show. Shown above (left to right) are David McGuffey (Certified Elder Law Attorney), Kenneth G. Neybert, Radio Program Assistant, Myrtle S. Habersham, RCI CARE-NET Coordinator and Marie Dodd, Special Projects, Northwest Georgia AAA.

Caregiving News From Under Georgia's Gold Dome



The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) establishes local, state and national partnerships committed to building quality long-term, home and community-based services. RCI, in the 1990s, developed the CARE-NET (Caregivers Network) program as a unique coalition of caregiver support organizations across a broad array of illnesses and disabilities.

One core mission of the CARE-NET Coalitions is “public advocacy and education” to promote the health of Georgia’s caregivers, both family and professional.

The Georgia CARE-NETs serve in an ideal way to identify the needs of caregivers and advocate for changes to support family caregivers.

The RCI and Georgia CNs have continued a proactive advocacy and education program to inform public officials and key stakeholders about the work of RCI and CNs. Recently Dr. Leisa Easom and CARE-NET Consultant Myrtle S. Habersham conducted additional educational briefings as shown below:

June 30 (Americus) “Update on RCI and CARE-NETs”
.State Representative Mike Cheokas, Vice-Chairman, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight and Information and Audits and Member Health and Human Services, Appropriations, State Institutions and Property and Insurance Committees.

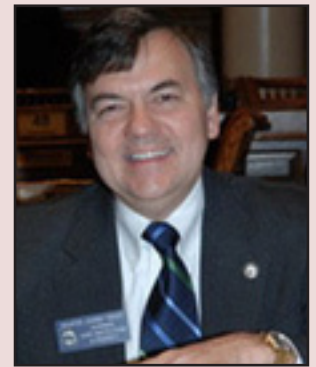


Mike Cheokas

July 13 (Atlanta) “The Role of CARE-NETs in Georgia”. **State Senators Renee Unterman and Johnny Grant** were briefed. Senator Unterman is Chairperson of Health and Human Services, Vice Chairperson of Regulated Industries and Utilities and member of Administrative Affairs, Appropriations, Government Oversight and the Rules Committees. Senator Grant is Vice Chairman of Higher Education and member of Health and Human Services, Appropriations and the Public Safety and State Institutions Committees.



Renee Unterman



Johnny Grant

July 29 (Warner Robins) “RCI and CARE-NETs: Caregiving Focus”. **Larry O’Neal, Majority Leader, House of Representatives** and member of Governmental Affairs, Judiciary and the Ways and Means Committees.



Larry O’Neal

Briefings will continue during the December Quarter. They are being scheduled for November (tentative) with **General Assembly Members Ann Purcell** (Chairperson of Human Relations and Aging, Georgia House of Representatives), **Butch Parrish** (Appropriations Chairman, Georgia House of Representatives), and **State Senator Jason Carter** (Member of the Science and Technology and Urban Affairs Committees).

RCI In the News

New Online Caregiving Issues and Management Certificate Program (CIMC)

The new caregiving certificate is an online “stand alone” certificate. This certificate is an interdisciplinary program designed to foster understanding of the caregiving field through the exploration of the journey of a caregiver, evidenced-based caregiver support programs, vulnerable populations needing caregivers, and culturally appropriate approaches to caregiving. Flyers have been developed and shared at national conferences to inform mid-career workers in business, psychology, sociology, education, and healthcare of this educational opportunity. Courses were developed by the Rosalynn Carter Institute, School of Nursing and the Department of Psychology/Sociology.

The RCI will manage the advisement of students enrolled in the online Caregiving Issues and Management Certificate Program. Post-baccalaureate graduates or individuals currently enrolled at GSW who are pursuing a baccalaureate degree are eligible to enroll in this 18-semester credit hour (i.e., six 3-hour courses) program. The first course for the new Caregiving Certificate will be offered the spring semester 2012.

Additional information on the program can be viewed at website: www.RosalynnCarter.org.

RCI Announces 12 New Pope Scholars for Academic Year



The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving at Georgia Southwestern University recently announced the 12 Pope Fellows selected for the fall 2011-2012 academic year. The Pope Fellowship Program was established in 1996 through an endowment from John and Betty Pope of Americus Georgia. Since 1996, 197 students have been awarded over \$780,000 in support.

Selected for this very prestigious fellowship were the following 12 students: Miriam Rodriguez (nursing major from Perry), Kristin Thrash (sociology major from Hogansville), William Ellerbee (biology/pre-med major from Thomaston), and Sara Gillis (nursing major from Bonaire), Brandi Mixon (nursing ma-

ior from Cordele), Brittany Brooks (nursing major from Bainbridge), Kinsey Powell (chemistry major from Buena Vista), Danielle Martin (nursing major from Lawrenceville), Sally Anne Russell (nursing major from Americus), Lauren Brown (exercise science major from Kennesaw) and Rebecca Greenslade (nursing major from Albany).

A welcome reception was held for Pope Fellows on August 24, 2011, on the GSW campus. Mrs. Betty Pope addressed the group at the reception, along with GSW President Kendall Blanchard, Ph.D and RCI Executive Director Leisa Easom, Ph.D. The Pope Fellowships provide financial support for outstanding individuals enrolled in the Caregiver Specialist Certificate Program at GSW. The goal of the Pope Fellowship program is to cultivate leaders in the caregiving field.



Plans to Relocate RCI to GSW's State-of-the-Art Health and Human Science Complex

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to commence construction on Phase One of Georgia Southwestern State University's highly anticipated Health and Human Sciences Complex. The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving will be relocated into this facility.

This is a two-phase project that will result in the construction of a two-story, 46,000 square foot nursing facility adjacent to GSW's Education Center and the Wheatley Administration Building. The second phase will construct a similarly sized building adjacent to the nursing facility, providing a new home for the psychology and sociology department and the **Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving**.

We waited for and worked toward this day for a long time," said **GSW President Kendall Blanchard**. "This building will be a major addition to the campus and give our nursing program the room and resources it needs to expand its offerings and enhance its already stellar reputation." It will move GSW's School of Nursing to the forefront of innovation and clinical technology. The state-of-the-art simulation and virtual learning center will allow students and health care practitioners throughout this area to practice and test their clinical skills outside the confines.

Continued on page 11

The Caregiver's Advocate

RCI in the News, Continued from page 10

Last June, with help from **State Representative Mike Cheokas** (R-Americus) and **State Senator George Hooks** (D-Americus), the state approved funding to begin the project in FY2011

RCI To Release New Book From Springer Caregiving Series

The new book **“CENTERS FOR ENDING: The Coming Crisis in the Care of Aged People”** will be released in the fall of 2011. The book, written by Dr. Seymour B. Sarason (deceased) describes the process of being a recipient of care through the eyes and heart of a care recipient. By combining personal reflections and policy insights, Dr. Sarason sensitizes the reader to appreciate caregiving in terms of both its form and emotional tone.

The Springer Book Series is sponsored by RCI and designed to present a broad portrait of caregiving in the United States in the twenty first century. In her foreword to the Series, Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter notes that “in its essence, “Centers for Ending” reminds us that caregiving is an intimately interpersonal and reciprocal process involving both those who deliver and those who receive care. Readers of the Springer Series will find hope and evidence that improved support for family and professional caregivers lie within our reach.”

Another RCI Springer Series caregiving book **“Education and Support Programs for Caregivers”** was released in the spring of 2011. These books are available through the RCI web site at www.rci.org.

RCI Executive Director and Staff Teach Caregiving In Korea

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving and The Cyber University of Korea continue their collaboration on caregiving training and education. Dr. Leisa Easom, RCI Executive Director traveled to Seoul, Korea to lead the “Caring for You, Caring for Me” a curriculum based educational series. Staff Laura Granberry and Gayle Alston were also teachers in the training sessions. The training sessions are part of a collaborative partnership between GSW Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving and The Cyber University (RCI-Korea) to address the growing need of aging Korean populations for caregiving supports and resources. The Cyber University has an enrollment of over 8,000 students who range in age from 20-80 years old. The University's Caregiver Certificate Program has an enrollment of 250-300 students each semester.

Georgia Coalition in Profile, Continued from page 3

The CARE-NET quarterly meetings are coordinated with AAA Community Care Services Program (CCSP) quarterly meetings. These meeting locations alternate between Columbus and Americus. Coordinating the CARE-NET meetings to follow the CCSP meeting has encouraged an increased attendance for the CN sessions since work schedules can often be challenging for the members.

The focus of the meetings thus far includes networking opportunities with caregiving related agencies and organizations, coordinating with the other eleven CN Coordinators and staying informed of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving updates. The West Central Georgia CARE-NET is proud of its newly re-energized organization. The CARE-NET representatives are dedicated to improving the services and lives of the area's caregivers. The West Central Georgia CARE-NET is currently comprised of representatives from the following agencies: River Valley Area Agency on Aging, Rosalyn Carter Institute, Adventist Community Services, Source Care Management, ResCare HomeCare, Direct Services Corporation, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Amedisys Home Health, Clay County Family Connections, Innovative Solutions, Sumter Retirement Village, Magnolia Manor-Mattie H. Marshall Center, Visiting Nurses Association of Cordele, Inc., and the Pastoral Institute.

The CARE-NET serves 16 counties, including Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooley, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, and Webster. The River Valley Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is the umbrella agency for the CARE-NET and its supporting organizations.

Upcoming Georgia CARE-NET Coalition Meeting

The next 2011 quarterly meeting date for the Georgia CARE-NET Coalitions will be held at the Methodist Home for Children and Youth, 304 Pierce Avenue, Macon, Georgia 31204 on December 13 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The schedule of 2012 Quarterly Coalition meeting dates will be published in the December 30 edition of The Caregivers Advocate.

Georgia Care Nets

Department of Human Resources Service Areas

1. Northwest Georgia
2. Georgia Mountains/Legacy Link
3. Atlanta Region
4. Southern Crescent
5. Northeast Georgia
6. West Central Georgia
7. Middle Georgia
8. Central Savannah River
9. Heart of Georgia Altamaha
10. Southwest Georgia
11. Southern Georgia
12. Coastal Georgia

