



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

September 29
Sparky Kelehear
Resaca Battlefield

Upcoming Meetings:

October 6
Pete Sigmon
Zach Monroe - Card
Monroe Co. "Today's
Tufting Technology"

October 13
Kevin Brunson
Vocational Service
Awards

October 20
Bruce Satterfield
Rotary R&R

October 27
Archana Srivastava
Dr. Bharat Parekh -
Center for Disease
Control & Prevention
"HIV AIDS Research"

Club Officers:

Jason Parker
President
Bruce Satterfield
President-Elect
Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer
David Aft
Immediate Past President
Teresa Carter
Club Administration Chair
John Hutcheson
Public Image Chair
Rick Cobb
Membership Chair
Janice Kiker
Community Service Chair
Scott Rhoden
Youth Service Chair
Kevin Brunson
Vocational Service Chair
Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair
Greg Dent
Foundation Chair

Whitfield County DFACS: Blueprint for Change

By: John Hutcheson



Rotarian Scott Rhoden introduced Danny Nuckolls, Director of the Whitfield County Division of Family and Children Services, a position to which he has recently been appointed after serving for a year in an interim capacity. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Danny outlined a "Blueprint for Change" now being implemented by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services under the able statewide leadership of Director Bobby Cagle, followed by a summary of needs and challenges in Whitfield County.

With the goal of achieving a world-class quality of service and care, the Blueprint consists of three components. The first is adoption of a practice model that will serve as the foundation for safeguarding children and strengthening families. Second is development of a robust workforce through increased staffing and expertise, research-based caseload ratios (in Whitfield County the current average case load is 23—the goal is to lower it to 15), mentoring for supervisors, improved compensation based on proven competency, and definition of a career path. Finally, the plan calls for creating greater constituent engagement through advisory boards at the state and local levels; organized "roadshows" to involve and inform the public, stakeholders, and media; and heightened consensus and collaboration among partners, staff, and stakeholders.

Turning to Whitfield County's situation, Danny provided an array of information about the Office of Family Independence (OFI), Child Protective Services (CPS), and PLC-Permanency which handles placement of children in foster care. OFI locally administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, commonly known as "food stamps"), Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Danny noted that SNAP issued \$1,732,737 in August 2015 and a total of \$23,047,920 in 2014, while TANF provided \$236,663 in assistance during the same year.

CPS investigates reports of child abuse and neglect. From January 1 through August 31, 2015 there were 1,049 reports of abuse or neglect, of which the majority involved neglect, followed in descending order by reports of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. As of September 17, 2015, 55 active investigations were underway.

In the area of foster care Whitfield County faces an emergency. Between January 1 and June 30, 2015 the County saw 108 children enter foster care, and that figure now stands at 241 for the year thus far, or 100 more than at this time in 2014. At the same time, facilities for foster children in the County have generally declined, from 37 homes with 79 beds and 16 vacancies in 2010 to 19 homes with 52 beds and one vacancy in 2014. Currently there are 22 homes with 54 beds and no vacancies. Danny listed many ways to

help the foster care program, such as becoming a foster parent; providing unreimbursed care; activating various modes of individual or organizational sponsorships; donating gifts, supplies, or financial support; and mentoring children or parents.

Danny closed by listing appropriate contact information. Child abuse may be reported 24/7 by calling 1-855-422-4453. Interest in becoming a foster or adoptive parent can be directed to 1-877-210-5437. More information is available at <http://dfcs.georgia.gov> or locally by telephone at 706-272-2710 or 706-272-2834, or online at Danny.Nuckolls@dhs.ga.gov Danny.Nuckolls@dhs.ga.gov.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Wright, Thomas L (THOMAS)

Birthday

2-Oct

Partner Birthdays

Watkins, Angela

Sutherland, Phyllis

Member Name

Watkins, Jerry T. Jr.

Sutherland, George W.

Birthday

5-Oct

5-Oct

Member Anniversaries

Kiker, Janice F. (JANICE)

Jones, Miller T. (MILLER)

Ireland, William J Jr(BILL)

Bundros, Thomas A (TOM)

Griffin, Joseph Bryan (BRYAN)

Fultz, Arthur Paul (ARTHUR)

Start Date

30-Sep-14

30-Sep-14

1-Oct-13

1-Oct-13

1-Oct-13

4-Oct-11

Years

1

1

2

2

2

4

Wedding Anniversaries

Peterfreund, Allen David (ALLEN) Anna

Partner's Name

Anna

Anniversary

4-Oct

Years

12

Four Way Test

