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<th>Area Agency on Aging</th>
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<td>Kinship Care</td>
<td>Revolving Loan Fund</td>
<td>River Valley Regional Commission</td>
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What a wonderful FY 2011!

The River Valley Regional Commission would like to thank all of our counties and cities for their support throughout this past year. I do believe that we have all come to realize that our communities have a great deal in common. While we may be one of the smaller regional commission regions in population, we are large, geographically, and strive to be the first in level of service to the region’s citizens.

As we begin our third year as the River Valley Regional Commission serving sixteen counties and 35 municipalities in west central Georgia, and 370,887 Georgia Residents, I am pleased to be serving as the Chair of the River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) Council. The Council’s Vice Chair is Clinton Perry of Taylor County, and Richard Morris of Randolph County is the Secretary.

The past two years have proven how coming together as a larger group and a larger region has greatly benefitted all of us. It definitely gives us (the local governments) a “stronger voice” concerning state and federal legislative matters, and other issues when necessary. The members appointed to the Council are very involved not only with the monthly Council Meetings but also with their respective RVRC ad hoc committees. It is very uplifting to see people willing to serve the region as a whole.

Just as in previous years, the staff this year was successful in receiving funding for many CDBG, OneGA, DOT, EIP, EDA, and other grant applications, as well as providing planning, transportation, aging, workforce, GIS, and environmental services to our communities. Overall, the RVRC, in FY 2011, brought in approximately $19,025,580.52 to the 16 county region; this means that for every $1 dollar of dues received by the RVRC from our cities and counties, their overall return on investment has been $53.42 in federal and state funding. Fifty percent (50%) of funding received this year was federal, and forty-three percent (43%) was received from the state.

If I, any of the council members, or the staff can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to let us know. The Council, our Executive Director, Patti Cullen, the RVRC staff, and I all stand ready to serve! We understand and appreciate the confidence and support you have given to the RVRC and we want and will continue not only to provide services to our city and county members, but to improve upon them and expand the services as funding permits. We look forward to an even better FY2012!

-Terrell Hudson, Chair
The River Valley Regional Council, composed of representatives from our 16 counties and 35 cities, meets monthly to review and discuss activities of the RVRC. Individual committees have been formed within the council related to transportation, economic development, environmental, and planning issues that affect our region. The committees meet as needed to review, discuss, and to make decisions on related projects, and report their findings back to the full Council.

### RVRC Council Members

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<th>County</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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- Ronnie Burgamy, Commissioner
- Jim Lawrence Commissioner
- Edward Lee Private/Non Public
- David Shivers Commission Chair
- Steven Foy Martin Councilman, City of Fort Gaines
- Walter Mathis, Commission Chair
- A.J. Rivers, Commissioner, City of Cordele
- Mike Speight Private/Non Public
- Emerson Lundy, Jr. Mayor of Vienna
- John Harry Lange, Commission Chair
- Rebecca Chambers, Mayor of Hamilton
- Derek Williams, Private/Non-Public
- Ambrose Richard Felton, Commission Chair
- Gerald Beckum, Mayor of Oglethorpe
- Tommy McKenzie, Private/Non-Public
- Kevin Brown, Commissioner
- Ralph Brown, Mayor of Buena Vista
- Teresa Tomlinson, Mayor of Columbus
- Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Councilor, Columbus
- Pat McHenry, Columbus State University
- Richard Morris, Commission Chair
- David McMillier, Commissioner
- Jimmy Bradley, Commission Chair
- Steve Whatley, Mayor of Cuthbert
- Bryson Langford, Private/Non-Public
- Greg Barineau, Commission Chair
- Patricia Jones, Councilor, Ellaville
- Johnny Wall, Private/Non-Public
- Joe Lee Williams, Commission Chair
- Charles Gibson, Mayor of Lumpkin
- Chip Jones, Private/Non Public
- Lawrence Young, Private/Non-Public
- Andrea Brooks, Commissioner
- Eloise Paschal, Councilor, Americus
- Wally Summers, Private/Non-Public
- Tony O. Lamar, Mayor of Talbotton
- Pam Jordan, Private/Non-Public
- Clinton Perry, Jr., Commission Chair
- Harold Heath, Mayor of Butler
- Mary Ayers, Private/Non-Public
- George Moore, Commission Chair
- Melvin Crimes, Commissioner
- William “Bill” D. Barnes
- Governor’s Appointee, School Superintendent
- Governor’s Appointee, Private/Non-Public
- Governor’s Appointee, Private/Non-Public
- Lt. Governor’s Appointee, Private/Non-Public
- Speaker of the House Appointee, Private/Non-Public
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Patti Cullen

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sarah Walls

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Grace Grant, Executive Secretary
Becky Holmes, Office Manager
Annie Thompson, Fiscal Assistant
Debbie Zwaga, Secretary/Receptionist

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director (Americus Office)
Rick Morris, Planning Director (Columbus Office)
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Planner
Courtney Grunninger, Regional Planner
Mariyana Kostova, GIS/GPS Manager
Julio Portillo, Regional Planner
Lance Renfrow, Environmental Planner
Tina Rust, GIS/Planner

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Kay Hagler, Community Development Director

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Katie Howard, Economic Development Director

AREA AGENCY ON AGING
Tiffany Ingram, Director
Mary Day, Assistant Director
Ilona Preattle, Program Director
Kia Morris, CCSP Specialist & Gateway Coordinator
Eryn Dodds, Data Resource Specialist
Rochella Wright, Gateway Community Screener
Daniela Maldonado, Gateway Community Screener
Lauren Pfrogner, Admin/Data Entry Specialist
Katy Bridges, Kinship & Caregiver Specialist
Linda Harris, Case Manager
Shameika Averett, GACARES Coordinator
Jennifer Williams, Community & Information Liaison
Gail Simpson, Fiscal Analyst
Franetta Miles, IT Technical Specialist

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT
Janice West, Director
Norma English, Workforce Coordinator

Intern Spotlight

Gary Gordon, a graduate of the University of Georgia, was chosen to serve as the RVRC’s Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He was very active in recruiting and organizing volunteers to serve with local non-profit organizations and helping the local food bank in Americus with sorting and distribution. He also assisted the RVRC in many of its programs that included the alleviation of poverty and unemployment, while also increasing volunteerism within the 16-county region. He will now serve as the Caregiver Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging.

Kayra Velez served as the Planning and Marketing intern for the Planning Department at the River Valley Regional Commission this year. She worked under the direct supervision of Julio Portillo and Rick Morris while assisting with Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, the Safe Routes to School Program, and various marketing activities. Kayra recently graduated from Columbus State University (Columbus, GA), and will now serve as the RVRC Marketing Manager & Assistant Planner.
Planning:

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) awarded the RVRC the Excellence in Regional Transportation Award for the ActiveValley Bicycle and Pedestrian Initiative (October, 2010). Accepting the award is Julio Portillo (right), RVRC Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner.

The Georgia Planning Association awarded the RVRC the Outstanding Planning Process, Large Community award for the ActiveValley Bicycle and Pedestrian Initiative (September 2010). Pictured left to right: RVRC Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, Julio Portillo; Columbus Planning Department Planner, Rosana Juestel; Columbus Planning Department Director, Rick Jones.

Aging:

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging presented the River Valley Area Agency on Aging the N4A Aging Achievement Award for “Retreats and Treats” which fosters and supports senior site managers in their daily activities.

AAA Director, Tiffany Ingram (left), and AAA Program Director, Ilona Preattle RN (right), both received a Certificate in Aging from Boston University School of Social Work Institute for Geriatric Social Work. Five accredited continuing education courses were successfully completed in aging.
The RVRC Planning Staff provided planning and technical assistance through federal, state, and local contracts to our member governments. The following was accomplished throughout the 2011 fiscal year:

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING**

- RVRC completed updates to the Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman Comprehensive Plan, and a Solid Waste Plan update was adopted by the local government. Harris County and the towns of Hamilton, Pine Mountain, and Waverly Hall each adopted separate Comprehensive Plans. The City of Shiloh Comprehensive Plan was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review during FY2011.

- Staff completed the short term work program (STWP) element of the comprehensive plan for Macon County and the cities of Ideal, Marshallville, Montezuma, and Oglethorpe. The Short Term Work Program updates were also completed in Schley County and the City of Ellaville. RVRC Staff assisted with this joint comprehensive plan, and updates were adopted in June.

- Staff assisted Sumter County and the cities of Americus, Andersonville, Desoto, Leslie, and Plains in accepting the offer from DCA to defer the update to their comprehensive plan for five years. Staff assisted Randolph County and the cities of Cuthbert and Shellman with accepting the offer to defer the update to their comprehensive plan for five years.

- RVRC Staff assisted the City of Cordele with adoption of the Gillespie-Selden Urban Redevelopment Plan and the City of Richland with a Revitalization Area Strategy (RAS).

**REGIONAL PLANNING**

The Regional Agenda Update for 2011 was approved and adopted by the RVRC Council at the June 2010 Council Meeting. RVRC Staff is also continuing their work on the Regionally Important Resource Plan, a draft of which was completed and submitted to DCA for review in May 2011.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

Staff completed Watershed Improvement Plans, Phase II, for Mountain Oak Creek (Harris County) and Pennahatchee Creek (Dooly County) under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act. Staff sampled Mountain Oak Creek for fecal coliform throughout the duration of the year. Best management practices are currently being established for this creek. The watershed for Pennahatchee Creek is currently being monitored and sampled for fecal coliform in order to determine sources of contamination. Staff also created a Watershed Improvement Plan (Year 1) for Pataula Creek; monitoring for fecal coliform will begin in July of 2011.

**PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION**

Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans were completed by RVRC Staff and approved by GEMA-FEMA. Staff also began working with Clay, Marion, Quitman, and Taylor Counties with updates to their pre-disaster mitigation plans.

**ZONING**

RVRC Staff provided planning and zoning technical assistance to the cities of Fort Gaines and Hamilton, Clay County, Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman, Talbot County, Stewart County, and the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County.
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

RVRC Staff provided assistance in the creation of a Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR) for the purpose of discussing and developing a list of transportation improvement projects to be included on the region-wide T-SPLoST to be held in 2012. Staff provided technical assistance to the RTR and its executive committee in general administrative tasks.

Transit Planning

- The River Valley Regional Commission hosted the first annual Georgia Transit Day Fair on September 8, 2010 at the Columbus Civic Center in Columbus. The Fair, one of many held across the state on this same day, was designed by the State of Georgia to educate local and state-elected officials, regional stakeholders, and others regarding the importance of transit within their Regional Commission area. The goal was to start the discussion on what transit should look like in Georgia and get stakeholders involved in developing a statewide Transit Plan.

- Construction on the transit facility located in Randolph County was completed this year. The center is expected to open later this year.

- RVRC Staff also completed Transit Development/Assessment Plans for Talbot and Sumter Counties.

- Staff applied for funding to hire a Mobility Manager for the region under the federal program, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC).

Transportation Improvement Projects

- Environmental documentation and design plans for the City of Cuthbert Streetscape Project were completed and approved by GDOT.

- The City of Shellman Depot Renovation was completed.

- Environmental documentation and design plans for Phase 3 of the Harris County Walking Trail and Hamilton Walking Trail amenities were completed and approved by GDOT.

- Clay County acquired all rights-of-way for Phase 1 of the Phenomenon Trail.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

- Staff successfully completed a new Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which reflects several updates about facilities in the River Valley Region. Staff planned, developed and executed the 3rd Annual Bike to Work Day event and 1st Annual Ride With the Mayor in Columbus, and the 1st Annual Bike to Work Day and Ride with the Mayor in Americus. Over 300 citizens participated in both cities.

- In conjunction with the planning of Bike to Work Day events, the Active Valley Bicycle & Pedestrian Initiative was
promoted, which focused on bicycle and pedestrian programs that serve as the first step towards creating livable and sustainable communities. These programs were marketed via the Active Valley website, www.activevalley.org.

Safe Routes to School Program:
RVRC Staff helped select region schools organize and plan for International Walk to School Day, which took place on October 6, 2010. Staff completed two Safe Routes to School comprehensive plans for Taylor and Clay Counties, and they assisted in the development of three Safe Routes to School grant applications (Clubview Elementary in Columbus-Muscogee County, Taylor County and Clay County). Clubview Elementary, in Columbus, was awarded $230,000 in infrastructure improvements in June 2011.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
• Staff made various informative presentations throughout the year. A presentation on Historic Preservation Tax Incentives and the National Register was made to the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce. Information was also presented on proper techniques for artifact hunting to the Montezuma Historic Society.
• Staff created and conducted a series of four (4) “Pattern and Place” Workshops to educate local governments on re-development tools, developing new visions for their communities, the use of historic preservation for economic development, and taking projects from paper to reality.
• Staff assisted representatives of the O’Neal Historic District (Cordele) to develop goals and objectives for William’s Field, an undeveloped property on the edge of the historic district where residents have requested to have a park with recreational amenities.
• Staff assisted with the preparations for HPD representatives to visit Flint River Farms.
• Fifty-seven (57) applications were reviewed for Certificate of Appropriateness for the Board of Historic and Architectural Review of the City of Columbus.
• Ellaville/Schley County was assisted in establishing a 501(c) 3 non-profit historic society in order to promote historic preservation and history education in the community.
• Staff assisted the Chattahoochee County Historic Preservation Society with a National Register nomination for the Cusseta Industrial High School, and they also assisted the City of Vienna with a National Register nomination for the Equalization School.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
• This year, GIS staff assisted Talbot County in starting a county-wide E911 system. Staff administered a
OneGeorgia E911 grant totaling $141,396, which funded GPS fieldwork and the installation of communication equipment that would allow the county to merge with the Middle Flint Regional E911 system. A total of 2,543 addresses were collected using GPS. During the fieldwork, road names were verified and updated, and road address ranges were assigned. The format of the road and the address point data were aligned to the E911 Center’s file format.

- GIS staff worked with the GICH team on the inventory house survey covering the City of Americus and parts of Sumter County. Staff surveyed 9,834 houses, recording information about the roof, foundation, windows, and doors of each house along with the property lots. Staff performed analyses on the data collected, preparing maps showing the condition of the structures, if the units were occupied or vacant, and the condition of the lots. The results of the analyses were presented at the GICH conference in Savannah in February.

- GIS staff continued to maintain the tax parcel data for Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Talbot, and Webster counties. In May, Quitman County contracted with the RVRC for Tax Parcel Maintenance.

- GIS staff provided maps for various Transportation Enhancement (TE), Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Comprehensive Planning, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Downtown Redevelopment, and Zoning projects. GIS Staff assisted and provided essential data for all of the 16 counties and departments in the RVRC.

- Over the course of FY11, staff attended multiple training workshops offered by the US Census Bureau and the Georgia Regional Commissions to prepare for the release of the 2010 census data. After the release of the data, the staff gathered population and demographic data relevant to the local governments, and provided it in a comprehensible format, as requested.

- The staff used Census data to offer assistance to the county commissioners and city council members with the required redistricting of their commission and council voting districts. Staff worked on redistricting with Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Sumter, Talbot, and Webster counties, as well as the City of Cordele.

- In the fall of 2010, GIS staff members attended a 3-day GIS training in Brunswick, sponsored by the Georgia Regional Commission. In May 2011, staff attended a 3-day Southeastern Regional User Group (SERUG) GIS conference in Jacksonville, FL. These conferences and training were designed to update the staff on the latest GIS software, allowing them to continue to provide high quality assistance to our local governments.
The Community Development Department of the River Valley Regional Commission provides grant writing, grant administration, and technical assistance to our region’s local governments. Various grant and loan programs are offered through State and Federal programs which aid with financing of Community Development initiatives. The various grant and loan programs are provided through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (CDBG) grant program and its Employment Incentive Program (EIP), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), USDA Rural Development, and the State’s OneGeorgia Program as well as other special programs as they may develop and become available at both the state and federal levels.

CDBG GRANTS

- On April 1, 2010, RVRC staff submitted 21 grant applications for the regular CDBG Grant program. The following communities in the River Valley Region were approved for funding in September of 2010:

  - City of Buena Vista, $357,200 for sewer infrastructure
  - City of Butler, $470,266 for sewer infrastructure
  - City of Cuthbert, $334,298 for water and sewer infrastructure
  - Crisp County, $500,000 for street and drainage infrastructure
  - Georgetown – Quitman, $500,000 County Health Department expansion
  - City of Ideal, $250,297 for water infrastructure
  - City of Marshallville, $261,693 for water infrastructure
  - City of Montezuma, $500,000 for sewer infrastructure
  - City of Unadilla, $500,000 for sewer infrastructure
  - City of Ideal, $251,297 for water infrastructure

- On April 1, 2011, RVRC staff submitted sixteen (16) CDBG grant applications for various communities in the region. Announcement of these successful applications are expected in late September of 2011.

- In addition to preparing and submitting various CDBG applications, RVRC staff continues to administer previously funded CDBG programs. At the beginning of this fiscal year, RVRC was administering 31 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and three (3) American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Grant, or commonly known as stimulus funding. Staff was able to close out fourteen (14) CDBG projects and the three (3) stimulus projects. Eleven thousand seventy-seven (11,077) people benefitted, of whom 10,329 were low and moderate income persons, from the successful completion of these projects. These projects ranged from public water and sewer infrastructure, street and drainage improvements, to the construction of a neighborhood service center. The primary objective for the stimulus projects was to save and create jobs, while the secondary objective was to provide temporary relief programs for those most impacted by the recession and invest in infrastructure.

Mayor Kathy Gordon excited to accept the grant award for the City of Ideal’s water infrastructure improvements

Final sewer improvements from the Cordele 09 Stimulus Project, which benefitted 119 people
education, health, and green energy. One thousand five hundred forty-nine (1,549) people benefitted from these three stimulus projects in our region.

**OTHER GRANTS:**

Other applications funded on behalf of our local communities were:

- FY 2011 Housing Activities for Cordele, Vienna, and Americus (GICH communities)
- Gateway Grants for Plains and Shellman
- GEFA loan and grant for the City of Marshallville
- Intermediate Threat and Danger Projects:
  - City of Hamilton – Sewer System, $14,187
  - City of Pinehurst- Water and Sewer, $20,312
  - City of Marshallville – Street & Water Repair, $5,067
  - City of Fort Gaines – Sewer Infrastructure, $15,064
- USDA Community Facility Grants
  - City of Fort Gaines – Police Vehicle Purchase, $47,770
  - Stewart County – Vehicle Purchase for Sheriff’s Department, $28,750
  - City of Vienna– Police Vehicle Purchase, $68,302
- Transportation Enhancement Projects
  - City of Cordele – Sidewalk Improvements, $400,000
  - City of Andersonville – Depot Rehabilitation, $200,000
  - City of Shellman – Streetscape, $300,000
- Miscellaneous Grants
  - Georgetown-Quitman County – Smoke Detectors, $20,000
  - Georgetown-Quitman County – Firefighters Assistance/Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response – $64,000
The RVRC is designated as an Economic Development District by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). This designation allows us to receive funding in order to provide technical assistance to cities and counties, development authorities, and existing and emerging private entrepreneurs, businesses, and industries.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Staff administered Economic Development projects for the region to include Vienna’s wastewater project to retain industry, Macon County’s revolving loan project to aid with a nursing home expansion and creation of healthcare jobs, Dooly County’s aid with supporting industrial roadway and rail spur needs for industry, and Marshallville’s need to provide quality water for industry and businesses. Staff also continues to assist Marion County with Chamber of Commerce Redevelopment. In addition to this assistance, the following Economic Development financial aid requests were funded:

- Development Authority of Vienna, EPA, for Vienna School Hazardous material clean up project: $196,400
- Unadilla, RBEG, for Sewer Infrastructure: $99,999
- Andersonville Drummer Boy Museum, Flint Energies, Façade Improvements: $3,000
- Dooly County, EIP, for road infrastructure: $104,496
- Vienna, ITAD, to support business: $39,875
- Southern Lower Chattahoochee Council of Governments, OneGeorgia, for Cooperative Kitchen (Feasibility Study): $7,500

WORK-READY CERTIFICATION

Staff continued to serve on the leadership team for the Chattahoochee Valley Advanced Manufacturing Work Ready Region, which includes the counties of Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Stewart, Talbot, and Taylor. Harris and Talbot Counties have been certified Work Ready, while the other counties are working to achieve this status.

US HIGHWAY 27

Staff assisted the U.S. Highway 27 Association with implementation of their Strategic Plan for the development of the U.S. Highway 27 corridor. This has involved development of a website and adoption by the Georgia General Assembly of a resolution designating U.S. Highway 27 as Martha Berry – Georgia’s Scenic Hometown Highway. This resolution will allow GDOT to mark the highway on the Georgia State map, an excellent form of marketing at no cost to the association.
REVOLVING LOAN FUND

• The EDA Revolving Loan Fund Plan, submitted in June of 2011, was revised to reflect the merger of the Middle Flint and Lower Chattahoochee EDA Revolving Loan Funds. The completed revision was approved in July. This amendment will allow the loan fund to offer loans to businesses located in Muscogee and Harris Counties.

• RVRC staff provided credit analysis and loan closing assistance for one business on behalf of the City of Plains’ Revolving Loan Fund, which created 2 jobs in the region. A loan was also approved for Innovative Senior Solutions, an adult day care and home care provider based out of Sumter County (Americus, GA). The loan was used to establish an Adult Day Care Center in Cordele, GA.

• RVRC staff provided technical assistance to 16 businesses and other numerous development authorities throughout the region in FY2011.

REHABILITATION PROJECTS

• Staff began assisting the Richland Downtown Development Authority and the City of Richland in the creation of a Redevelopment Fund application to rehabilitate 9 downtown buildings. This will replace the roofs and rehabilitate the facades on these buildings, as well as do interior repairs on two of the buildings which are owned by the Downtown Development Authority.

• Staff is also working with the Stewart County Board of Commissioners to rehabilitate the Lumpkin Library, located in downtown Lumpkin, which is currently unsafe to occupy.
The mission of the Area Agency on Aging is to create and sustain a livable community that promotes health and well-being for older adults and persons with disabilities. This is achieved through information, education and accessibility to services and resources promoted through the AAA Gateway – Aging and Disability Resource Connections as well as community collaborations. Our vision is to “Be Informed, Be Prepared and Live Well.” There are several resources and programs that support this vision, and help put it into action.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

This program provides the portal for seniors, caregivers and people with disabilities to obtain information as well as placement for appropriate services and resources. Access to these services provides opportunities for the elderly and disabled to maintain independence and dignity through a comprehensive, coordinated system of resources and support. Contacts throughout the year included:

- 15,538 Gateway/Aging and Disability Resource Connection contacts (incoming and outgoing) serving 6,528 people through various ADRC programs and services.
- “Answers on Aging” were provided by counselors who received over 30 calls a day.

HOME-DELIVERED AND SENIOR CENTER MEALS

Approximately 150,000 meals were served to seniors over 60 years of age, their caregivers, and persons with disabilities. AAA contracts with providers to serve meals in 12 senior centers in the River Valley’s 16-county region. The ratio of home-delivered meals to congregate-meals is 3:2 or 60%/40%.

SENIOR FARMERS’ MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

For the 6th consecutive year, AAA staff was able to serve 673 seniors through the Senior Farmers’ Market Program at 14 senior centers across the region. Each senior was able to cash in $20 vouchers in exchange for fresh produce. Two Georgia farmers (from Buena Vista and Cordele) brought their own locally-grown produce to sell. This served as a win-win situation for both the seniors and the farmers!

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES PROGRAM

CCSP is a Medicaid waiver service for those needing extensive care at home to prevent nursing home admission. The program, which served over 430 clients throughout the region during the 2011 fiscal year, saves Medicaid dollars and allows the clients to choose to remain in their own home and community.

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

HCBS serves seniors over age 60 through a variety of programs and services. These include meals, recreational activities at senior centers, transportation to and from senior centers, wellness programs, respite for caregivers, legal assistance, information and referral assistance, case management, kinship care support, as well as caregiver support. Over 2,000 clients received assistance through home and community based services throughout the year.
KINSHIP CARE: GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

This program provided 30 families raising related children with assistance and support through several outlets. Support group meetings took place throughout the year in Muscogee, Stewart, and Clay counties; an annual field trip to Callaway Gardens took place; school supplies and emergency preparedness kits were distributed to all families. Advocacy efforts were organized supporting legislation for financial and legal support for families raising related children.

SENIOR WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

Senior Week at the Capitol is an annual event sponsored by the Georgia Council on Aging. On February 23, 2011, over 140 seniors and caregivers from our region (the highest number to-date) went to the Georgia State Capitol during Senior Week to meet with local elected officials to advocate for Home and Community Based Services, and to support the “Be There 4 Seniors” campaign.

CAREGIVER SERVICES

This program provides assessments to caregivers in identifying levels of stress. The goal is to keep caregivers healthy so they can continue providing care to their loved ones. The Annual Caregivers Conference was held at the Columbus Public Library with over 75 people in attendance. The break-out sessions at the conference presented a variety of caregiver issues. This year the Alzheimer’s Respite voucher program known as “Time-Out” provided up to $1200 each to 30 caregivers to spend on their respite needs. Staff worked to revitalize the West Central Georgia Care-Net, taking the lead under the guidance of the Rosalynn Carter Institute; quarterly meetings were held which included professionals and caregivers in our region. Staff also worked with T-Care, a caregiver program that develops a care plan for the individual caregiver’s needs and choices.

WELLNESS AND PREVENTION

• The AAA Wellness program provided 65 activities reaching 1,928 seniors in the region. These included presentations and programs on safety, nutrition, physical activity and exercise, and disease management. The medication management program reviewed medications for expiration, duplication, purpose and side effects. The program is also coaching senior center managers on how to promote healthy lifestyles and daily physical activity. When counting all activities offered through the contracted twelve (12) senior centers in our 16-county region, 332 programs were implemented, benefitting 6,393 seniors.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Management provides one on one assistance for people that normally have no caregiver and are most in need. Often these clients only need assistance for stabilization until they can receive services. A new program has been initiated in which clients provide each other peer to peer support through telephone reassurance.

GEORGIA CARES

Georgia Cares provides assistance with Medicaid, Medicare and long term care insurance as well as information regarding fraud and abuse targeting seniors. Staff attended over 50 events in the community and have provided information to over 22,000 seniors and disabled persons through various outlets such as health fairs, commercials and television appearances in FY2011.
The River Valley Regional Commission serves as the grant recipient and administrator for WIA services. These services are governed by the Middle Flint Workforce Investment Board (MFWIB), which is comprised of local area private and public sector members. The WIA serves an 8-county area consisting of Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor and Webster counties. The program offers education and training opportunities to eligible individuals ages 17 and up within the area to receive education and training opportunities, which will lead to employment and self-sufficiency.

WIA Grant Awards for the area Program Year (PY) 2010 and Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 totaled $1,141,417. Remaining grant funds from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) from Program Year (PY) 2009 totaled $547,426 that were used during PY 2010.

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT:**

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA-Stimulus) funds received in the area during PY 2009 & PY 2010 allowed the area to increase the number of service training enrollments and add new training activities. Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) was added this year, which allowed youth ages 14-24 years of age to gain work experience skills and earn employment wages. WIA was able to serve 115 youth with summer youth employment during the summer of 2010.

- The ARRA grant funds provided the opportunity to pilot a GED Plus training activity for the adults and dislocated workers population. This activity served as a pilot project modeled from our successful youth GED Plus activity. Activity allowed the adults and dislocated workers in the region to improve basic skills and literacy educational levels, and enhanced their employment opportunities by obtaining their GED. Our program was selected and recently visited in June 2011 by representatives from United States Department of Labor (USDOL) to conduct onsite participant/staff interviews on the ARRA funded GED Plus training services. A National Report is being written about hundreds of projects across the United States that utilized ARRA grant funds to implement training and employment services to help stimulate the national economy, and this project is one of the projects being considered to be featured in the final written report.

**WIA AND TRADE ACT SERVICES (PROGRAM YEAR 2010):**

WIA and Trade Act Services had total participant enrollments of 556 individuals. The chart pictured at the right is a breakdown of enrollments for each program.

### Individual Training Accounts (ITA’s)

The Individual Training Accounts (ITA’s) are designed to provide educational and/or occupational skills training activities to participants to enhance their employability. This training activity typically includes both in-classroom training and hands-on learning within a specific educational and/or occupational area. Technical Colleges, Universities and eligible private training institutions offer programs that lead to job readiness and advancement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Training Accounts (ITA’s)</th>
<th>242</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-The-Job Training (OJT)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth GED Plus</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult GED Plus</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislocated Worker GED Plus</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Act– ITA’s</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Youth Work Experience (Summer 2010)</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
providers deliver the training to the participants. Successful completion of the designated ITA training will typically result in the participant earning a degree, diploma, certificate, or license in the program area.

**On-The-Job Training (OJT)**
The On-The-Job Training (OJT) program is designed to assist local area employers in finding skilled employees that meet their employment needs. Employers worked with the OJT Career Advisor to outline required qualifications, define job duties, and determine the length of training time needed to master job tasks. WIA customers that meet employment qualifications are referred for an interview with the employer, who later makes a final decision on hiring. If hired, an OJT Training Agreement is developed, which outlines hourly wages to be paid, listing of specific job duties, and length of training time needed. Employment wages are paid to participants during the designated training period by the employer.

**GED Plus Training Services**
GED Plus training services are designed to help WIA eligible customers obtain their General Education Diploma (GED) by offering basic skills remediation training. Training is delivered in a classroom setting for 6-8 hours per day for a 5 week period where remediation instruction is provided in the five (5) subject areas of GED examination. The “Plus” part of training includes one week of work readiness training that includes job search assistance, referral to educational training and employment opportunities, resume preparation, interviewing skills, work ethics, personal budgeting and finances, personal grooming and workplace skills.

**Summer Youth Work Experience**
The Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) was a special program funded by American Recovery & Reinvestment (ARRA Stimulus) funds to help youth ages 14-24 years of age in having summer employment opportunities. Training was delivered during the school break for summer (June – August). Eligible youth were then placed at volunteer employment worksites to gain actual work experience and skills while exploring career options. Youth were paid wages by RVRC WIA program for hours worked and were provided with Workers’ Compensation insurance coverage.

**PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES:**
Through the above mentioned programs, the following educational milestones were attained by participants:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degrees</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degrees</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical College Diplomas</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Skill Licenses (State Licenses)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Diploma (GED)</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In March 2010, the US Census Bureau released the population numbers for the State of Georgia. The data includes information such as race, ethnic origin, age, and detailed household information. Listed below are the population numbers for each county in the River Valley Region:

The data for the RVRC region shows an increase of 5% in the population between 2000 and 2010. According to the Census 2010 data, the counties with the highest growth in our region are Harris, Schley and Dooly Counties. Chattahoochee County is experiencing a significant loss of population of -24.3%.

### Percentage Change in Population from 2000 to 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quitman</td>
<td>2,598</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>-3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>973</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>7,791</td>
<td>7,719</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coleman</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuthbert</td>
<td>3,731</td>
<td>3,873</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellman</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>1,083</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schley</td>
<td>3,766</td>
<td>5,010</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellaville</td>
<td>1,609</td>
<td>1,812</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart</td>
<td>5,252</td>
<td>6,058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumpkin</td>
<td>1,369</td>
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<td>Richland</td>
<td>1,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>33,200</td>
<td>32,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Americus</td>
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<td>Andersonville</td>
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<td>Desoto</td>
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<td>195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plains</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talbot</td>
<td>6,498</td>
<td>6,865</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junction City</td>
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<td>177</td>
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<td>Talbotton</td>
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<td>Woodland</td>
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<td>Taylor</td>
<td>8,815</td>
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<td>Butler</td>
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<td>Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weston</td>
<td>75</td>
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</table>

Source: 2010 Census Data