

# Brantley Nonprofits Insider Section

## News on Brantley County nonprofits activities



The Georgia Center for Nonprofits thanks the Brantley Enterprise for donating this page for the benefit of Brantley County's nonprofit community and residents. To report news, contact Sonny Hickox at (912) 462-6171, x. 128.

GEORGIA CENTER  
for NONPROFITS

### BRAVEHeart Teen Initiative Starts in Brantley County

BRAVEheart Teen Initiative, an abstinence education and character-building program, is expanding its services into Brantley County. BRAVEheart educates students about the facts of sexual activity outside of marriage. Currently, hundreds of students in each of the Glynn County middle and high schools receive a special BRAVEheart presentation during the sex education portion of their health classes.

The new BRAVEheart Club meets at Sunny Brooks Market Place and MUCH Ministries off HWY 82, on Thursday evenings from 4-5pm. It's for all students ages 10 and up. For more information, call (912) 466-0891 or (912) 778-5574.

BRAVEheart also has a drama team which performs presentations for church youth groups. To schedule a presentation at your church or to get more information, you can call the BRAVEheart office or visit [www.braveheart.org](http://www.braveheart.org).

BRAVEheart Teen Initiative is the prevention branch of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Coastal Georgia (CPC). The



Students take part in a BRAVEHeart Lecture  
Photo Courtesy of CPC

CPC exists to aid women who may not be aware of their alternatives by providing information, encouragement, practical help, and counsel as they sort through their anxieties and fears. Free and confidential services include: pregnancy testing, peer-to-peer options counseling, limited obstetrical ultrasound and sexually transmitted disease testing with treatment.

Care Net now offers an "Earn While You Learn" educational program that allows new mothers and their families the opportunity to earn maternity and baby items. The CPC is a locally organized and funded nonprofit ministry.

### College of Coastal Georgia May Send Students to Brantley

#### Service Learning To Be Part of College's Academic Programs

The College of Coastal Georgia, which has a number of students enrolled from Brantley county, is instituting a program which could benefit our nonprofits.

Called "Service Learning," the students participate in organized service experiences in nonprofits and businesses, and link these experiences to their classroom studies. Through this, they gain a deeper understanding of course content, develop skills in community leadership, advance their awareness of global issues and diversity, and exercise social responsibility.

The College is interested in offering placement opportunities to Brantley County nonprofits. Having a service learning student requires planning by nonprofits, that accept the students. Careful supervision must ensure the student is meeting their class goals as well as the nonprofit's goals.

A service learning student can be on a nonprofit project for 10-13 weeks. Students work a minimum of 15 hours per week for participating nonprofits.



College of Coastal Georgia Students  
Photo Courtesy of College of Coastal Georgia

New students coming in may work on the same project or on new projects.

The range of projects can be very broad. Some of the academic disciplines include internet and computer technology, biology, psychology, nursing, English, communications. The college is in the early stage of this long term program., and has worked with about 4 nonprofits thus far.

In July the college will add another 10-15 new service learning sites, and the number of participating nonprofits will continue to expand over time.

For more information contact GCN Regional Manager Sarah Todd, at (912) 234-9688 in Savannah, or GCN Brantley County Coordinator Sonny Hickox at (912) 462-6171 x 128, in Nahunta.

### Nonprofits Face Challenges On Tax Exemptions

The state's nonprofit sector has won a major victory in current legislative discussions about potential tax changes for nonprofits. Last week, suggested Georgia tax code revisions that would have significantly impacted the state's nonprofits were removed from The Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue's legislation. The Committee's Chair acknowledged they had heard from "back home" about the proposals in HB 385 and assured that they "would not be taxing Girl Scout Cookies."

In Georgia House Bill 385, the 2010 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians, several sales and use tax exemptions for nonprofits would have been eliminated over the next few years. These included exemptions relating to the sale of goods to a nonprofit hospital, nursing home, or hospice, PTAs' sales, the use of prepared food which is donated to a qualified nonprofit for hunger relief, the use of prepared food which is donated following a natural disaster and used for disaster relief, and sales of food and food ingredients to and by members of councils of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

The Bill has been one of a series of challenges to nonprofits. Another challenge, being considered by the federal government to address the budget deficits, is the complete eliminate the Corporation for National and Community Service, which manages AmeriCorps/VISTA, Learn and Serve America and Senior Corps.

These federal programs provide volunteers to nonprofits throughout the country, and small stipends and the opportunity to build new skills to young adults and seniors while helping others.

These volunteers significantly lever-

age nonprofits' ability to provide desperately needed services.

It's also important the nonprofit sector is fully apprised of these challenges, so they can provide their community stakeholders and state and national representatives with factual information about the economic value that the nonprofit sector brings to Georgia. And to let them know the consequences to millions of people should the challenges to the state nonprofit sector severely impact nonprofits' ability to deliver services to their clients.

The Georgia Center for Nonprofits, a state nonprofit association for Georgia nonprofits, has been in the midst of these discussions to provide facts and figures on the Georgia nonprofit sector and to mobilize the Georgia nonprofit sector to respond to the challenges. For detailed information on the issues, visit the GCN web site at [www.gcn.org](http://www.gcn.org).

### NAMI Brantley Seeks Volunteers

Since 1979, NAMI has worked to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. For three decades, NAMI has established itself as the most formidable grassroots mental health advocacy organization in the country.

NAMI Brantley needs volunteers to help spread the word about its services or to assist with office duties. A confidential Family Support Group is being held at MUCH Ministries, every Wed. at ten a.m. Other groups are also planned.

Those interested can call Leola Bunckley, NAMI Brantley President at (912) 778-6101 for information. Says Bunckley, "You can make a profound difference in someone's life today."

The Brantley Nonprofits Insider is a joint effort of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits, Brantley County Family Connection, Brantley County Chamber of Commerce and other nonprofits and community stakeholders. Its goal is to

provide a mechanism for county residents, organizations, and others to easily learn more about local nonprofits' work to support the communities in Brantley County and to highlight collaborative efforts that address county needs.