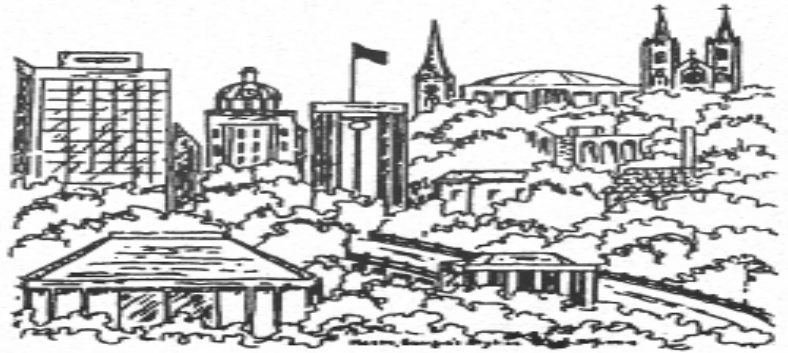


# COMMUNITY CURRENTS

Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy  
364 Cotton Avenue, Suite 100  
Macon, Georgia 31201  
(478) 743-1521

January 2007



## Chris and Russell "Sticking Together"

Six years ago Chris became Russell's citizen advocate. Slowly they began to get to know each other. Both have grown and changed in many ways. A few of their reflections follow.....

### Chris' Reflections:

*People took advantage of Russell for many years and he trusted no one. Because of our relationship his trust of others has grown. Russell feels safer today. He knows "I'm sticking with him."*

*My universe was broadened and this was so needed. It was like taking the blinders off and seeing from a different perspective.*

*There have been some trials over the last 6 years and that has made our relationship stronger. We respect each other more because of struggles.*

*Russell gives me this look that says "I like being with you and I give him the same look. We know what we're saying".*

*Citizen Advocacy stretches you. It's all positive. I said yes 6 years ago because it was the right thing to do. Today Russell has become family.*

### Russell's Reflections: Russell speaks to Chris by using sign language.

*We understand each other and enjoy each other's company. I can just look in Chris' eyes and I get a strong sense of what he's saying.*

*I've moved closer to town, go to church downtown and work downtown. This suits me better and I'm more comfortable today.*

*I know Chris is sticking with me and I'm sticking with him, too!*



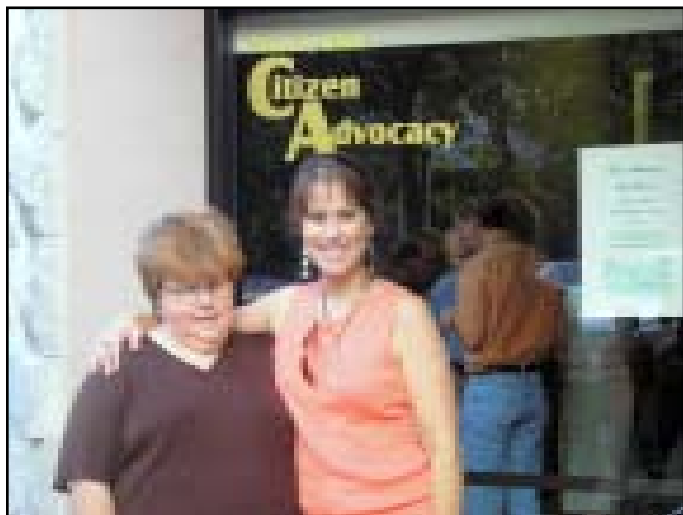
*"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."*

Nelson Mandela



## MACON NEWS

2006 brought about some new changes for Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy. In March of this year Katina Clay joined our organization as Assistant Coordinator. She's a wonderful addition and brings great energy, talent and enthusiasm to the work. We chose to move our office from the Southern Trust Building which was once the tallest building in Macon to 364 Cotton Avenue, Suite 100. This makes us more visible in the community and also contributes to the renovation of our downtown. With our new location and additional office space, we've been able to connect more with the community. In September and November we had an Open House as part of the First Friday events. This has been a great way to introduce Citizen Advocacy to community folks. Citizen Advocacy hosted a dinner at the Federated Garden Club in November that was enjoyed by advocates, proteges and other guests. We hope you will get a sense of the spirit of citizen advocacy from the photos in this newsletter.



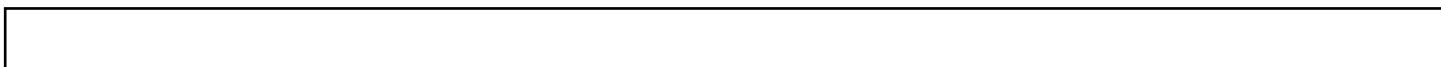
Linda Brennan and Janet Davis at Citizen Advocacy Open House



John Newsom and Ricky Thompson at Federated Garden Club



A Citizen Advocate is a valued citizen, who is unpaid and independent of human services, who creates a relationship with a person who is at risk of social exclusion. The citizen advocate chooses one or several of many ways to respond to and represent that person's interests as if they were the advocate's own.



**The 29th Anniversary Celebration & Art Auction  
To Benefit Macon Bibb Citizen Advocacy**



**Including Art by World Renowned Artist Steve Penley**

**Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007  
7-10:30 PM**

**Live Auction Begins 8:30  
Georgia Sports Hall of Fame  
301 Cherry Street**

**Live Music "Doctors of Disaster"**

**Complimentary Wine and Heavy Hors D'oeuvres**



**Sponsored by**

**Nasata Crowley, MD, LLC**

**For More Information Please Call (770) 733-1828**

**Website: [www.maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.com](http://www.maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.com)**

*Please join us for an evening of  
celebration!*

### **A Community Organization**

The mission of Macon/ Bibb Citizen Advocacy, Inc. is to promote the protection of, and advocacy for, people with developmental disabilities.

Citizen Advocacy happens when a valued citizen, unpaid and independent of human services, creates a relationship with a person with a disability at risk of social exclusion; the citizen advocate chooses one or several of many ways to understand, respond to and represent that person's interests as if they were the advocate's own.

### **Board of**

#### **Directors.....**

Jeff Paschke  
Board Chair  
Marnie Will  
Vice-Chair  
Tom Eden  
Treasurer  
Jessica Tripp  
Secretary  
Irene Cook  
Sandy Flatau  
Jim Crisp  
Member at Large

#### **Staff.....**

Connie Flair  
Coordinator  
Katina Clay  
Assistant Coordinator  
Cindy Tengelsen  
Office Manager

### **Thank You**

*Citizen Advocacy is a community-strengthening endeavor that depends on the support of local citizens. All investments directly benefit the Macon/Bibb County community. Our thanks to these folks who have invested from Jan. 1, 2006 thru Jan. 31, 2007.*

Armstrong World Industries	Bernard & Diana Fletcher	David Nelson
Nettie Allmon	Barbara Fischer	Dr. & Mrs. Charles Ogburn, Jr.
Bashinski Fine Gems & Jewelry	Arja Forester	Jeff & Laura Paschke
Phillip Bean	Larry & Julie Fortney	Steve Penley
Suzan Bennett	Georgia Sports Hall of Fame	Peyton Anderson Foundation
Cathy & Steve Bernhardt	Richard & Mary George	John Ramsey
Bibb County Commission	Marion & Joan Gilbert	Michael & Robin Reardon
Chic-Fil-A -Zebulon Road	Robert & Elise Gray	Ron Richards
Community Foundation of Central Georgia	Sam & Julie Henderson	Edward T. Russell
Bob & Linda Brennan Easter	High Street Unitarian Universalist Church	Sam's Club Foundation
Judge & Mrs. Phillip Brown	Corky Holliday	Jimmie Samuel
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City of Macon	John & Kathleen Izzo	Starbucks
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Bill & Sandy Flatau	Steve Penley	Zarks Family Foundation
Marshall & Barbara Flatau	Alan & Lynn Neal	Jenny Zimmerman
		Zaxby's - Northside Drive

**Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy, Inc.**  
**364 Cotton Avenue, Suite 100**  
**Macon, Georgia 31201**

*"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."  
-Albert Schweitzer*