



MACON/BIBB CITIZEN
ADVOCACY, INC.

COMMUNITY CURRENTS

FALL 2013

ME, MOM & CHRIS

Chris and Gary met at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins. It seemed like a good place. Chris has been employed at Warner Robins Air Force Base for over 15 years and he thought it would be great to tour Gary around the historic exhibits.

Gary was looking forward to becoming friends with Chris. He had just lost his stepfather who was very dear to him due to a heart attack; the comfort of a new friend was nice. It's just me and mom now.

Gary was born in 1966 in Greshin, Michigan. He moved to Macon as a teenager in 1981. Michigan doesn't bring back a lot of memories for mom or Gary. Growing up with an abusive father was hard, but Gary's mom made the best of things. By age 9, mom left the life she knew to show Gary a better way.

He didn't grow up with friends. There were no parties, no sports and no community involvements. Things were expensive and without transportation it was difficult for him to be a part of what was going on. But mom and Gary kept the faith. Faith is what they had. Gary is a spirited man who enjoys praying for his family and others. He's thoughtful, kind, considerate and just a great guy to be around. His only vulnerability is that he never meets a stranger.

Because of this Gary has experienced abuse on several occasions by people he thought were his friends. It was evident that Gary needed someone in his life that he could trust.

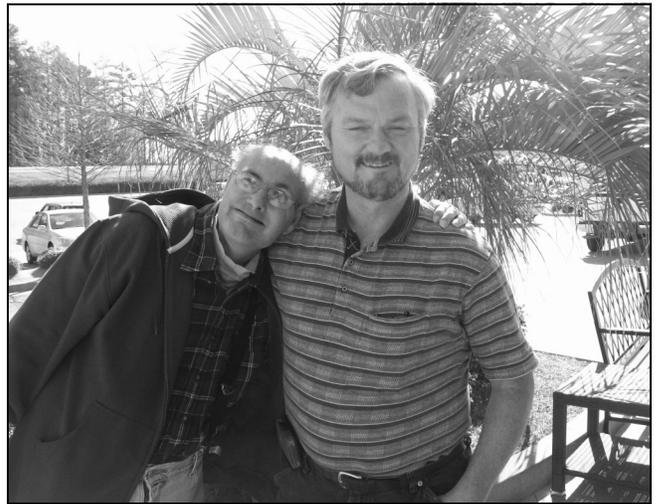
Chris had been a citizen advocate for 8 years with a gentleman who had a hearing impairment. Chris provided tons of protection for him and enhanced his life in many ways. After his friend's passing, Chris remained close to citizen advocacy.

Citizen advocacy is personal and intentional. We knew that Chris was the right fit for Gary. Mom said "No". Because of Gary's past abuse, she really wanted a woman to be his citizen advocate. She felt it was safer that way. But when we asked Gary what he wanted, he said that he wanted a guy to be his brother.

Chris and I met. I shared mom's concerns and what Gary wanted and Chris said I'm here for Gary if mom is okay with it.

I went to Gary's home with a citizen advocacy video of Chris being there for a man who didn't have anyone he could trust along with a story written about their relationship of 8 years and how Chris's presence made his protégé's life less vulnerable. After our discussion mom and Gary were ready to meet Chris.

Since November of 2010, mom, Chris and Gary have become the best of friends. Spending time together has built a trusting relationship. Renting a movie and picking up dinner on his way to Gary's for shared memories together has warmed all hearts. Chris understands that citizen advocacy brings two people together one person at a time, but he says mom and Gary are together. She's all he's got. I thought I was adopting them but instead they adopted me.



Gary Shattuck, Jr. & Chris Riley



The Sound of Music Fundraiser

Please join us for the dress rehearsal of Theatre Macon's upcoming production of "The Sound of Music" on December 5, 2013.

Tickets cost \$25 and will include a pre-play reception at Molly's Café, 402 Cherry Street in downtown Macon.

Wine, cheese and dessert along with entertainment will be presented at 6:30 p.m.

All proceeds will benefit Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting vulnerable people with developmental disabilities who live in the Macon area.

Please visit our new website at www.maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.org. Friend us on Facebook and watch our video on YouTube by keying in

Citizen Advocacy is American culture at its best. Empowering Citizens to become all we are meant to become.

~Dan Hamby

Citizen Advocacy is a straight forward way of saying that everyone matters.

~Scott Hewit

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

~Margaret Wheatley



Community is about the common life that is lived in such a way that the unique creativity of each person is a contribution to the other.

~John McKnight

“The Gift”

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around says Leo Buscaglia. The gift of citizen advocacy happens when we welcome another into our hearts. Through this gifts are given and gifts are received. These testimonies are about those gifts.



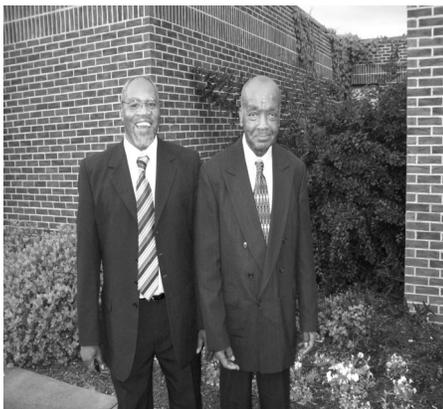
She stole my heart with her beautiful smile. Her eagerness to learn and explore life brings excitement to me. She is a jewel and a diamond and a treasure to me.

~Amanda and Courtney



Stephen is always excited and ready to go. His motivation and interest in learning is encouraging. It brings me joy when I see the smile on his face when we spend time together. He’s taught me to be patient and enjoy the moment.

~Granville and Stephen



Through our amazing journey of friendship Mr. Frazier has taught me the ability to grow and change as I’ve watched him stretch himself beyond all comfort levels. He brings us joy and we are proud to have him as a part of our family.

~Connelly and Mr. Frazier

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

Citizen Advocacy gives people the opportunity to be moved by compassion – to be moved from their hearts. It lifts the veil of assumptions, stereotypes and prejudice to help a citizen see a neighbor with a disability as a person, a human being whose life has inherent, intrinsic, precious and absolute worth and dignity.

Excerpts from
 “One Person at a Time”
 by Father Adam
 Hildebrand

MACON/BIBB CITIZEN ADVOCACY, INC.

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Statement of Purpose

Citizen Advocacy is not a service. Rather, it is the invitation for people leading full lives in our town to get to know others who have been excluded. Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy, Inc. is supported by people in our community. We are an independent non-profit organization. Citizen Advocacy is a people intensive endeavor—little by little, one person at a time.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY

A Valued Citizen, unpaid and independent of human services, creates a relationship with a person who has a developmental disability and is at risk of social exclusion.

The citizen advocate represents and responds to that person's interests, and brings the gifts and concerns of the person into circles of ordinary community life.

We're on the Web!

maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.org

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 January 2012 through October 2013.

INDIVIDUALS

Aurelia Bond Adams	Carl & Connie Flair
Phillip Bean	Bill & Sandy Flatau
Beverly Blake	Bernard & Diana Fletcher
Gwendolyn Booker	Barbara Fischer
Al Bond	Arja Forester
Phil Bond	Julie Fortney
Katina Clay	Richard & Mary George
Irene Cook	Tom & Margaret Glennon
Ruth Cotton	Lindsay & Marie Holliday
Dr. Nannette Crowley	Thomas & Charlotte Hope
Charlie & Carol Dunn	James & Joan Huffman
Bob & Linda Easter	Hetty Jardine
Tom & Thalia Eden	A. Joi Jones
Edgar & Judy Ennis	Richard & Sandra Keil
Donna Eversole	Eleanor Lane
Laurence Fennelly	Cheryl Moore

Alan & Lynn Neal
David Nelson
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Ogburn, Jr.
James & Jodi Palmer
Jeff & Laura Paschke
Ella Proctor
Patrick & Kathy Roche
Jack & Susan Poole
Bert & Edith Schwartz
Ann Senters
Tanya Sharon
Amanda Smith
E. Raymond & Helen Smith
Margaret Symington
Cindy Tengelsen
Emory & Genevieve Whitaker

Marnie Will-Crowley
John Willingham
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Molly's Cafe
New Town Macon
Rodgers Redding & Associates
Sun Trust Bank
Theatre Macon
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Centenary United Methodist Church
Congregation Sha'Arey Israel

<u>GRANTS/CONTRACTS</u>
<u>FOUNDATIONS</u>
The Georgia Advocacy Office
Bibb County Commission
Knight Foundation
Macon Civic Club
Peyton Anderson Foundation
<u>GIFTS IN KIND</u>
Phil Bond
Connie Flair
Lori Johnson
Jeff Paschke
Marnie Will-Crowley