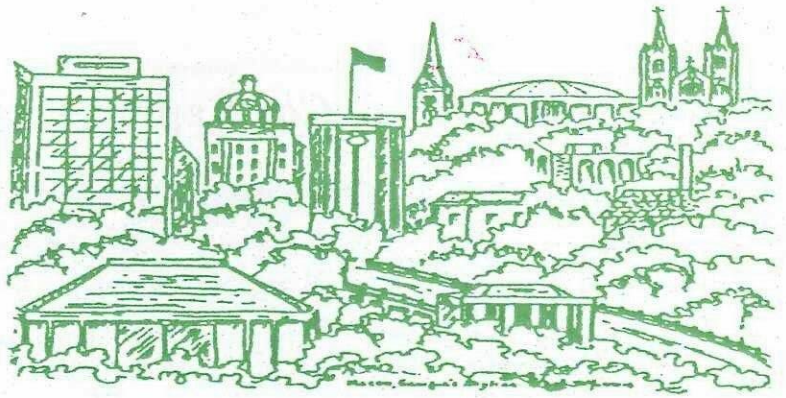


COMMUNITY CURRENTS

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

February 2008



“November 17th, 2006, 6:00 p.m.”

“Brian’s just like one of my own sons,” says Joel as he sits at the table across from Brian. Brian recalls the date, time and place he and Joel first met. “It was November 17th, 2006, 6:00 pm at Cheddar’s,” says Brian. Ever since that first dinner at Cheddar’s and a movie later, Brian and Joel have been friends, family and confidants.

Brian was born in Chamblee, Georgia and has lived most of his life in Roswell. Because of unfortunate circumstances, Brian ended up at a homeless shelter in Macon. It was during this time that Joel entered Brian’s life as his Citizen Advocate. With Joel’s support, Brian now lives in a one bedroom apartment with the fine leather smell of furniture from Ashley’s. His apartment is on a bus line near banks, stores and restaurants. “It’s rewarding to see him being a part of the community,” Joel said.

Joel and his lovely wife, Barbara, have two sons and one daughter, who have all met Brian and made him part of their family. Joel talks about the first holiday Brian shared with his family. There was the traditional shopping for a Christmas tree, hauling it home and getting it trimmed. Joel smiles as he recalls having to remind his son, Jason, and Brian to get back to work.

Brian talked with Joel about wanting to get his GED. With help from Joel, Brian is now enrolled in GED classes. “Next, I want to get my driver’s license and learn how to drive,” says Brian. “We’re going to get there,” Joel says with a smile on his face.

Each Citizen Advocate looks for ways to bring their protégé’s interests, gifts and concerns to the community in ways that are dignified and enhancing. Since that first meeting, life has taken on new meaning for Brian and Joel. The ease with which Brian and Joel



Michael

Brian

Joel

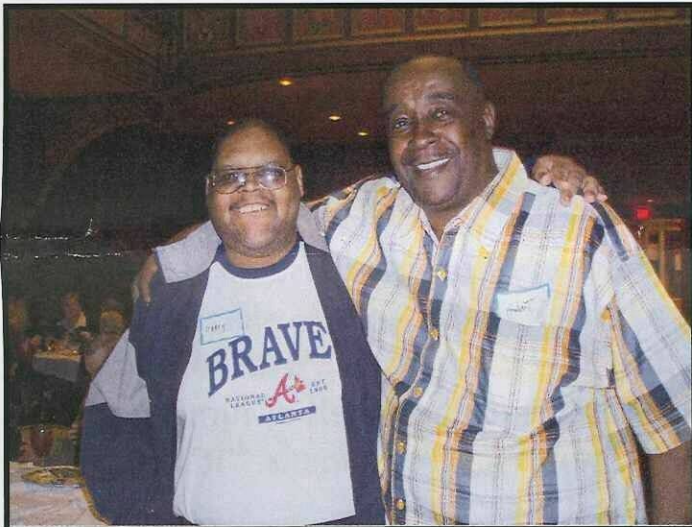
Rodney

converse and laugh is a testament to their relationship. This is at the heart of Citizen Advocacy; two people standing shoulder to shoulder sharing life’s joys and struggles.



30 Year Celebration at Cox Capitol Theatre

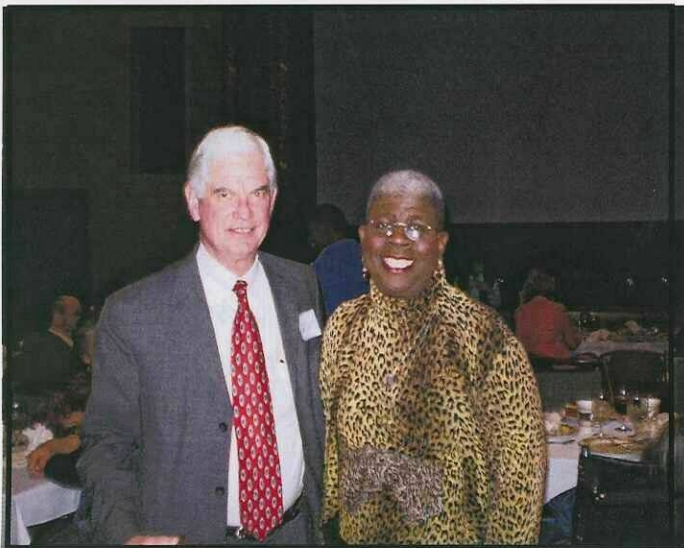
More than 130 people filled the Cox Capitol Theatre on the evening of November 6, 2007. We are thankful for advocates, protégés, board members, friends and supporters who came and celebrated together. A slide presentation took the audience on a journey back thru time to the beginning of Macon Bibb Citizen Advocacy. The amazing photos brought tears in the eyes of those who remember and a sparkle in the eyes of those who have come to know and support Citizen Advocacy. As we shared dinner and stories, it was clear that these citizen advocacy relationships are one way of transforming the community into one where everyone belongs, where no person is excluded from a full share in the hospitality, friendships, associations and economic life of the community...our community.



James Greene and Herbert Dennard



Linda Easter Janet Davis Bob Easter



Ed Sell and Catherine Meeks

“Do small things with great love.”
Mother Teresa

“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

“When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.”

William A. Ward

ART AUCTION

Friday, March 7th, 2008
7pm - 10:30pm
@ the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame
301 Cherry St, Macon

30th Anniversary Celebration
Macon Bibb Citizen Advocacy

Live/Silent Art Auction with
Various Food Samples from
Local Restaurants
and
Complementary Wine / Beer
\$20 admission

Live Music:
By
**“Mark Brooker
and The
Soul Proprietors”**

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GEORGIA
SPORTS
HALL OF FAME

Vital Signs
517 Cherry St., Macon
743-3378

For more Information call: 743-1521

Upcoming Events.....



Father Adam Hildebrand, former Coordinator of Citizen Advocacy in Beaver, Pa., will visit Macon on April 14-17. Father Adam, author of "One Person At A Time"/ Citizen Advocacy for People with Disabilities, speaks passionately about the need for citizen advocacy in today's culture. He will be speaking on April 15, 2008 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the social hall at 7:00 p.m. There will be additional opportunities for citizen advocates and others to meet Father Adam. Please call the office for more details on planned speaking engagements. 743-1521

Excerpts from ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Someone has said that Citizen Advocacy opens a window through which one sees realities one would not otherwise see. I am grateful for that window, in spite of the difficult things I have seen in contemplating how human beings devalue and oppress one another. Citizen Advocacy offers a positive way to respond to these realities and to bring out and build upon the goodness we can call forth in one another.

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.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE CITIZEN ADVOCATES?

Brandi Holtman—Sr. Elizabeth Greim—Howard Harper—Tracy Brown—Lori Johnson—John Saikas—Zita Portillo—Herbert Dennard—Arlow Brantley—Marvella Ivery—Kimberly Welch—Linda Brennan—Jo Ann Huskey—Phillip Bean—Loretta Grier—Craig Burkhalter—Ken Bunch

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 1, 2007 thru January 31, 2008.

INDIVIDUALS

Aurelia Bond Adams
Nettie Allmon
Phillip Bean
Suzan Bennett
Cathy & Steve Bernhardt
Phil Bond
Bob & Linda Brennan Easter
Judge & Mrs. Phillip Brown
Dr. Rodney & Linda Browne
Dr. Frank & Cathy Bowyer
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Marnie Will
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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

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.

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E-mail: mbcai@bellsouth.net