

# THE AFTER GATEWAY ADVOCATE

A Newsletter Published by After Gateway Inc.

February 2011

## From the Director's Desk

It continues to be a time of growth for After Gateway. We have added several more participants – and have nine individuals who will be joining us this summer (most permanently!).

We have talked about our need for an additional van – that need only continues to grow. Please see the Van Challenge article at the bottom of this page for more information about our van.

The Human Race is coming up in March. Currently, this is the single biggest fundraiser we do each year. Last year, we allocated the money to our van fund – and we have raised 75 percent of what we need. Our hope this year is to raise enough money to complete the purchase of our van AND have enough money to fund some special things for the program. Contributions and fundraising are the only way we have of making those special purchases – like changing tables, adaptive toys and games, special outings, and more – that help make After Gateway the special program it is.

We've had a lot of wonderful things happen over the last several months. The reality is that those things that make After Gateway the special place it is for our participants happen because of the generosity of our friends and extended family – you! We invite you to come visit us – we love to see friends and family!!!

**Carolyn McManus, Director**

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## Human Race - March 26, 2011

**\*\*\* New Location \*\*\***

Wow! Time flies! It's almost been a year since we walked in the Human Race in 2010, but it's time again for this exciting event which is one of our biggest fundraisers! Again this year we are working towards purchasing a second van for our program (see the Van Challenge article).

This year's Human Race is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the **GREENSBORO COLISEUM COMPLEX**. We invite all our participants, their families, AGI staff, AGI Board members and all our supporters to join our team. The walking/running route will begin and end on Coliseum Boulevard. Besides walking or running, there is also free food, music, entertainers, t-shirts, and even free massages all taking place **INSIDE** the Pavilion! We have ordered blue skies and sunny weather for this spring event. Wouldn't it be great to have a "ginormous" crowd walking for AGI? Come join us. The first 1,000 participants who turn in \$50 will receive a free Human Race t-shirt.

Our goal for the Human Race is to raise a minimum of \$15,000. That would allow us to purchase our new van (see article below for more details).

The easiest way to do that – help us form teams to walk for After Gateway. Think about it this way – you could write us a check for \$50. That would be awesome. OR, you could form a team of 10 people who each raise \$50 for us. That's a total of \$500! For information on how to form a team, please give us a call at 379-7670 or visit The Volunteer Center's website at [volunteergso.org](http://volunteergso.org), click on the Human Race artwork, and look for After Gateway.

## **VAN CHALLENGE**

We need a second van for our ever-growing participant population! Our first van is great, but it can only transport five participants in wheelchairs along with a driver and one caregiver – the other

caregivers must drive separately. We have outings for one group or another every day. Now because of our growth, sometimes we cannot transport an entire group in the van. So we desperately need a second van!

But good things are happening at AGI! We are getting closer to that big number we need to purchase a second van for our participants. Our target figure is \$60,000. With our fundraising efforts, pledges, and grants, we have secured \$45,000. *We only need \$15,000 to reach our goal!*

Now we need your support. We are appealing to all our families, friends and supporters to send your most generous tax-deductible contribution today. Remember, the more you can give, the more we can accomplish. With your help, we can continue to take all our participants on outings every week!

*You can make a difference!*

## ***NEW! NEW! NEW! AGI Website***

In 2010, Tech Triad chose After Gateway for a website “makeover” which was desperately needed. The goal was to make it “user friendly” to potential applicants while giving detailed information about the AGI program to families, case managers and community leaders, and listing resources for families with individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Sue Polinsky worked tirelessly with our administrators and board members to develop a superb product! The process was laborious and frustrating due to our very outdated equipment, scheduling conflicts and privacy constraints. To help with this, Tech Triad arranged for After Gateway to receive a \$5,000 grant from The Weaver Foundation for hardware and software upgrades.

Additionally, Simple Network Solutions (SNS) of Kernersville provided all the labor necessary to set up our new computers, including transferring data, and a back-up storage device.

Tech Triad received almost 40 nominations for the 2010 makeover. We are very appreciative that After Gateway was chosen for this honor. Tech Triad annually gives back to the community by helping non-profits develop community resources through their websites. Tech Triad is the oldest female-owned technology business in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina.

Thank you, Weaver Foundation for our much needed equipment upgrades, thank you SNS, and thank you, Tech Triad for making this possible!

Our website is [www.atergateway.org](http://www.atergateway.org). Please check it out!

## **Spaghetti Dinner Success**

The Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser held in October was a big success. We raised just short of \$4,000. We served lunch and dinner and held a Silent Auction during serving hours. We also sold a hand-made quilt that was partially made by AGI participants and finished by an experienced quilter. During the dinner hours we were entertained by vocalist/musician Derek Chase, who donated his time and talent. We hope to repeat this event in the fall of 2011.

Thanks to everyone who supported this event!

## **New Staff Members Join Our Growing Family**

New full-time staff members are April Herron and Deanna Sanders, both working with the Vikings Group; and Brandon Timpson and Linda Wolfe, both working with the Champions Group. New part-time staff members are Tiffany Joseph, working with the Gladiators Group, and Phyllis Lopez, working with the Phoenix Group.

April loves to sing, go to the movies and go roller skating. She has worked with this population for more than five years. Deanna likes to read and spend time with her son. She is in school studying health care administration. Brandon sings all the time – he claims he knows thousands of songs! He also played basketball at St. Augustine College. Linda loves to “dig in the dirt,” loves Welsh Corgis (she has two, plus a lab/Basset Hound mix), and loves the outdoors. She has climbed Mt. Mitchell two times! Tiffany just got engaged! She loves to spend time with her three kids, and loves to be outdoors. Phyllis likes to cook and sing (anyone else noticing a trend here – maybe we should form an After Gateway Choir!) and spend time with her family. She has more than 18 years of experience with this population.

Our substitutes are Doris Gardea and Lakiva Bryant, who work wherever/whenever they are needed. Doris is also a substitute teacher for Gateway and McIver. Lakiva is in graduate school.

Scott Logan has returned full time and works as a Clinical Supervisor. Prom attendees will remember him as our “most excellent” DJ! Scott worked for more than 10 years with individuals

with autism and also was a special education teacher with Union County Schools. Scott also has a family member with a developmental disability.

Welcome to all!!!

## Grant Announcements

Several organizations have made substantial grants to After Gateway. **Bank of America** made a grant of \$10,000 to be used for the purchase of a new van. **Evergreens Foundation** also made a \$10,000 grant for the van purchase. (See the article titled VAN CHALLENGE.)

**Blessings Project Foundation** made a \$2,000 grant to After Gateway to outfit the newly-created Gladiators Group. This money will be used to purchase therapy and sensory equipment for the Gladiators participants.

In addition to organization grants, there are many individuals who make regular donations so we can continue the AGI program that is critically needed in the Triad. Some people send a check once a month and others make a large annual donation. Without this continuing support, we could not provide the quality care that is part of our mission. We deeply appreciate each grant and donation that comes to After Gateway. Please consider joining our regular contributors by making regular donations to AGI.

## Upcoming Fundraiser

After Gateway will be participating in the Belk Charity Sale scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Belk Four Seasons from 6am-10am. We will be selling \$5 tickets for use towards your Belk purchases that day. To purchase tickets, or for more information, please give us a call at 379-7670.

## Board of Directors News

The AGI Board of Directors announces changes to the board membership. Lem Cox served on the After Gateway board for eight years as a representative of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant but now has rotated off the board. We thank him for his long and dedicated service to After Gateway. Amy Lytle, who served as board vice chair for a year, in addition to her three years as a board member, also has rotated off the board. Kendra Williamson has assumed responsibility for her niece in addition to attending graduate school,

and felt that she could not make the commitment necessary to make a difference for After Gateway. Trudy Winslow also resigned because she has assumed additional responsibilities at her job.

We are fortunate that we have three new board members who were elected in January to serve one-year terms.

Jane Maydian is the Director of Allegro Music, and a licensed music therapist who works with the elderly and disabled populations, including serving as our music therapist. Jane has served on the PTSA at the Weaver Academy for Performing Arts. She is committed to raising community awareness of After Gateway's program.

Lavonne Pickens is an Account Manager for Craft Insurance Center and has a special love for individuals with developmental disabilities. She is a member of the Guilford Merchants Association and Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church. She has served on the board of GMA and the Triad Division of the March of Dimes. She volunteers as a committee member for the March of Dimes Signature Chefs Auction fundraiser and serves on various church committees. She also would like to see the community made more aware of After Gateway and the growing needs of developmentally disabled adults in Guilford County.

Joanna Rudder is the special populations coordinator for Haynes-Inman Education Center and was previously in the same position at Gateway Education Center. She serves on the PTA of GTCC's Middle College and volunteers with the animal shelter. She is interested in increasing awareness of After Gateway's program among students in the Guilford County school system and in fundraising.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or in helping with one of our committees, please contact Susie Kearns, board chair, at the email address below.

### 2011 AGI Board of Directors

Chair .....	Susie Kearns
Vice-Chair/Board Dev.....	Mathew White
Secretary .....	Sherrie Wyrick
Treasurer .....	Trent Deyton
Fundraising .....	Stephanie Kurts
Newsletter & Public Relations .....	Karen Price
At-Large Members .....	Whitney Butcher, Monique Johnson, Jane Maydian, Lavonne Pickens, Joanna Rudder
AGI Participant Representative.....	Trev Wyrick

Board email: [board@aftergateway.org](mailto:board@aftergateway.org)