



Sat, May 17, 2008 09:46 PM



Alpharetta News
Roswell News
Johns Creek News
Milton News

AnswerBook



Unique Furniture, Fine Accents, Designer Fabrics.
Coupon must be present at purchase.
Valid Thru May 31, 2008.

Leadership class offers hope to homeless

By Hatcher Hurd

by Chris Dekle

July 29, 2004

By HATCHER HURD

hatcher@northfulton.com

It began with a simple statistic, but behind the numbers is a sad reality that may now have an answer.

Each year the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce engages a class of around 30 business people in its Leadership North Fulton program. The program engages the class in a nine-month process in which they become more aware of how their community works, socially and politically. During the course of the year, they are also challenged to take on a project of their own devising that will improve the quality of life in the community.

The 2004 Class looked at that single statistic. From February 2003 to February 2004, the United Way's Call for Help 2-1-1 hotline took calls from 1,878 single women with children who were seeking housing in the North Fulton area.

Amid some the highest end subdivisions and highest per capita incomes in the state, North Fulton hides a dirty little secret. There are women trying to keep families together as single parents and there are few if any places to turn in a time of crisis.

In the 2004 Class the idea for The Drake House was born.

Instead of living out of their cars, these women need a place of temporary housing where their children will be safe while they get back on their feet. Like many classes

General

- A Salute to America's Military
- Alpha has sights set on Deerfield annex
- Angry homeowners meet with Wal-Mart
- Bank of North Georgia grows by \$500M
- BOA to build Habitat home in honor
- Business Briefs
- Canadian prescription drug store folds
- Chief magistrate's race may be contested
- City dumps environmental center plans
- Clyde Mays passes at 24
- Cumming approves water rate increase
- Dean's List
- Developer shifts amenities to move homes
- Developers want more work done on mixed-use

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME



Click here for the local Real Estate Report

Search Archives

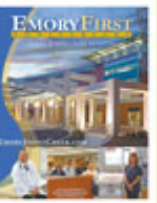
ADVERTISEMENTS



before them, the members did not think small. Their goal is to raise around \$1 million to buy suitable apartments or duplexes under the aegis of a non-profit organization to provide the help and the shelter for these women and their children.



Kathy Swahn, president of The Drake House said she knows it will be an uphill battle, but she believes this is a caring community and will see the need for this.



"First, we need to identify a physical space, a house or an apartment complex. That will give us a tangible goal," Swahn said.

She, along with fellow board members Tedra Cheatham, Phil Baldwin, Margaret Pupillo, Nancy DeLoach and Emmett Shaffer will head up the team to make The Drake House a reality.

low interest rates

There's never been a better time to buy your dream home than now!
Contact your REALTOR® to learn more about:

- Building wealth through homeownership
- Historically low interest rates
- A variety of inventory from which to choose
- Georgia's stable home values

Discuss your housing needs with your REALTOR® and make your dream of homeownership become a reality!

Contact a REALTOR® today!

advertisement

Jamie Hogan, chairwoman of the 2005 Leadership North Fulton said the initial campaign will target local churches, businesses and organizations to provide \$5,000 apiece to get the ball rolling.

"It is going to take more than just start-up money. It is going to take the community embracing this effort, but we believe it is one the community will take to its heart," Hogan said.

The foundation is named in honor Mary Drake, who was recently recognized by the city of Roswell of one of its 15 leading citizens of all time. She has spent more than 40 years of her life helping others. As director of Economic Opportunity Atlanta, she brought federal, state and county governments together with local donations to help start North Fulton Community Charities, the first charitable organization north of the Chattahoochee dedicated to helping families in need.

"I'm very flattered and excited that this is going to happen," Drake said.

NFCC Director Barbara Duffy said The Drake House is the "missing piece" in the community's social network.

"It won't be a safe house. It is temporary, emergency housing for women alone with children. It is something we hope the community can get behind and a part of," Duffy said.

"What happens now is, we lose those families. The kids leave their schools. That is a loss for our community and for their lives."

Habitat for Humanity and HomeStretch are two programs working for long-term solutions for working families. But short-term, there is nothing for these women.

"Motels are very expensive," Duffy said. "If we can give them a chance to get back on their feet, give them some hope again, they will be working families again. We see families every day who

- Directed E-mail is effective marketing tool

Article Tools

- e-mail this article link to a friend
- letter to the editor about this article
- print this article

RSS Feeds

- Add us on Myspace
 - Add us on Del.icio.us
 - Follow us on Twitter
 - Follow us on Blogger
- what are these?

ANNUAL TENT SALE

AT
Home Fashion CENTER

May 8 - May 26

Great Deals on All Furniture, Including: Sofas, Chairs, Tables, Beds, Armoires, Rugs, Desks & Much More.

High End Brand Name Furniture

TAYLOR & KING MotionCraft

KINCAID FAIRFIELD W&S

HOOPER BRADINGTON-YOUNG HOOPER

Everything Near Cost, At Cost, BELOW COST!

Home Fashion CENTER

230 S. Main Street
Alpharetta, GA 30004
770.664.9544
homefashioncenter.com
Store Hours:
10am - 6pm
Mon - Saturday

Email Newsletter

Watering Restrictions

SEARCH ARCHIVES

REGISTER / LOGIN

working but without housing."

For information call the North Fulton Chamber of Commerce at 770-993-8806 extension 315 or write to the chamber at 1025 Old Roswell Road, Roswell 30076.

[Print](#) [Email Link](#) [Feedback](#) [Digg](#) [Del.icio.us](#) [Facebook](#)

Alert! The allowed time limit for adding new feedback to this item has expired.

Appen Newspapers Inc. | 319 N. Main St. | Alpharetta, GA | 30004

	Brian Patton 770-883-9662, Alpharetta	ALPHARETTA – ROSWELL – NORTH FULTON – CHEROKEE – FORSYTH – GWINNETT In-depth local knowledge and 18 years of commercial experience with government and private sectors.
		 CAPITAL REALTY ADVISORS COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



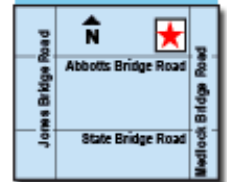
**Godwin
Automotive**



**Mercedes
& Audi
Sales &
Service**



**Sales &
Leasing
Available**



678-474-0646

10960 Medlock Bridge Road
Duluth, GA 30097
www.godwinautomotive.com



powered by
Linear Publishing
copyright 1999 - 2008

***I lost 56 pounds
in 4 months!***



Rebekah Olsen after

FT
FITNESS TOGETHER
1 Client 1 Trainer 1 Goal



5530 Windward Pkwy.
Bldg. A, Suite 120
Alpharetta, GA 30004
678-393-1355

LOCAL & AFFORDABLE

**ADVERTISING
THAT WORKS**

[CLICK HERE](#)

APPEN
NEWSPAPERS