



Ben Hill, Cook, Echols, Lowndes and Tift County Health Departments were awarded the 2014 Car Seat Mini-Grant by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention Program. Through the Mini-Grant, the health departments work with community partners (i.e., law enforcement, fire, EMS) to provide car seats and educations to financially eligible families. For more information about the car seat program, contact your local health department.

For local information, please contact Lowndes County Health Department, 229-333-5290.



**(229) 242-1187**

United Hospice is providing support group meetings throughout the holidays on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Support group meetings are open to those in our community who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Counseling is available in a group setting and also for those who would like individual counseling. Anyone who is interested in attending may contact *Dede Wadell*, United Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at **229-242-1187** for questions and meeting locations.



helping Children Celebrate  
Life After Loss

Winnersville Camp Cocoon 2014

When: Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Where: Camp Tygart, Ray City GA

Ages: 5-15 who have experienced heartache from loss due to death, divorce or family separations

Cost: FREE  
18, 2014

Registration Deadline: April

Volunteer Registration Deadline: April 18, 2014

Contact: United Hospice (229) 242-1187

## Camp for Survivors of Suicide

Third Annual Camp SOS is fast approaching. Camp SOS is a wonderful experience for all age groups. Many of our past campers have already expressed an interest in returning to camp again this year!!

To view additional information about Camp SOS, please see the the GSPIN website at <http://gspin.org/campsos>. Here you can download the flyer and registration form. It is important to know that the registration form **must be completed and mailed** back to SPAN-GA. Camp SOS is free of charge, but we request a small registration fee of \$40 per family and \$20 for individual campers.

For more information, contact [Sheri McGuinness](#), President/CEO, Suicide Prevention Action Network, Georgia, [spangeorgia@aol.com](mailto:spangeorgia@aol.com), 770-517-6405 or Diane Petro 404-819-7370

## High Cost Home Loan Counseling

Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat is a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency and can meet your client's need for "High Cost Home Loan Counseling." People in need of this counseling may call 229-245-1330, ext 22, to pre-register for our Home Buyer Education Workshops (held every other month) or Financial/Homeownership Skills classes (held 3 times each year).

## *South Georgia String Project*

The South Georgia String Project, led by Director and Master Teacher Lauren Burns, is a joint venture of the

Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and the Department of Music at Valdosta State University.

Adults and children are welcome to participate.

For more information, go to <http://www.valdosta.edu.sgsp>

### **Toastmasters is growing in our area!**

Citizens have **five** club options in the area to improve our communication and leadership skills. Meetings are open to all. If becoming a more proficient speaker and leader are some of your resolutions this year--or have been for years--now is the time to get started on YOU.

**Valdosta Toasts** Tuesdays, from 12pm-1pm, Ambling Training Room, 348 Enterprise Drive

Contact Stacey Whatley 229-244-2800, ext. 8028

**Moody Talking Tigers** Thursdays, 5 PM, The SPOT-Entertainment Central Bowling/Community Center, 6251 Davis Street, Bld 583 at Moody AFB

Contact Wendy Byrd, 229-244-9400

**TitleTown Toastmasters** Thursdays, 6:00 PM, South Georgia Regional Library (Woodrow Wilson Drive).

**Wiregrass Technically Speaking** Fridays, 9am-10am, 4089 Val Tech Rd, Room 7238

Contact Ron O'Meara at 229-333-2100, ext. 2111

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### **SURVIVOR GROUPS AT THE HAVEN**

Every Thursday, call for information.

The Haven will be conducting support groups for survivors of sexual assault or child sexual abuse. There will also be a men's group for men who have experienced sexual assault. These

groups are for adult women and men over 17 years of age. It is intended for those who are ready to move from being victims to being survivors.

Those individuals who are interested in one of these groups should plan to attend the complete 12-week process. Once the groups are formed, the day will be Thursdays and the time will be after work 5:30 or 6:30 PM. Participants must complete an initial screening.

Groups are free, confidential, and facilitated by trained professionals. It is not necessary to be a current client of The Haven to participate. To join, contact Sheila Rowell, [therapist@valdo.stahaven.org](mailto:therapist@valdo.stahaven.org), 229-244-9056 to register.

## **Georgia Department of Corrections Valdosta Transition Center needs:**

Books, games, men's clothes, men's shoes

Furniture and household items for those who are moving into apartments and homes.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **YMCA Challenger League**

Participants invited regardless of ability.  
Volunteers needed to assist participants.

**Contact Cheryl Marshall at  
229-244-4646 or [cmarshall@valdostaymca.com](mailto:cmarshall@valdostaymca.com)**

## **Learning in Retirement**

Spring LIR classes are open for registration. Hundreds of topics from which to choose. Small annual fee of \$45; most classes free with fee. Click on link for catalog: [http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/extended-learning/continuing-education/documents/lir\\_spring\\_2014.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/extended-learning/continuing-education/documents/lir_spring_2014.pdf)

or call **229-245-6484**

# Valdosta Choral Guild

Spring Concerts:  
Sunday, May 4, 2:30PM  
Monday, May 5, 7:30PM  
Location to be determined



## DID YOU KNOW?

*Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.*

More than 44,000 blood donations are needed every day.

*A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S. (2006).*

The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.

*The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O.*

The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.

*Sickle cell disease affects more than 80,000 people in the U.S., 98 percent of whom are African American. Sickle cell patients can require frequent blood transfusions throughout their lives.*

More than 1 million new people are diagnosed with cancer each year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.

*A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.*

## VSU PLANETARIUM

For times, see this link: [http://ww2.valdosta.edu/phy/astro/planet\\_shows.shtml](http://ww2.valdosta.edu/phy/astro/planet_shows.shtml)

## BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

04/14/14	Hahira United Methodist Church	208 N. Church Street	Hahira	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
04/15/14	Tifton Methodist Church	107 West 12th Street	Tifton	12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
04/15/14	City of Valdosta - Annex	300 N. Lee Street	Valdosta	10:00 am - 3:00 pm
04/21/14	Adel United Methodist Church	214 S. Hutchinson Street	Adel	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
04/21/14	Threatte Center	209 U.S. 221	Lakeland	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
04/22/14	Valdosta State University Student Union	Baytree Rd at Oak St.	Valdosta	12:30 pm - 5:30 pm
04/22/14	Smith Northview Hospital	4280 North Valdosta Road	Valdosta	11:00 am - 4:00 pm

04/23/14	South Georgia Medical Center	2501 N. Patterson Street	Valdosta	8:00 am - 12:15 pm 12:15 pm to 4:30 pm
04/23/14	Georgia Military College	4201 N. Forrest Street Ext.	Valdosta	11:00 am - 4:00 pm
04/24/14	Omega Baptist Church	219 Oak Street	Omega	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
04/27/14	St. John Catholic Church	800 Gornto Road	Valdosta	9:30 am - 2:30 pm

## **Crafters Come to the South Georgia Regional Library**

Calling all...painters, model makers, beaders, knitters, tatters, loomers, leather punchers, quilters, scrapbookers or any other type of craft you do, if you are interested in sharing your craft with others, please come join the Crafters of the Round Table in the Folsom Room at the main library branch located at 300 Woodrow Wilson Drive.

You are responsible for bringing any supplies needed including drop cloths, tape, glue, scissors, needles; whatever your craft may require. This club is meant to inspire others to branch out to other crafts and enjoy teaching others. If enough interest is shown, Crafters of the Round Table will hold a gathering every month on the 3rd Saturday.

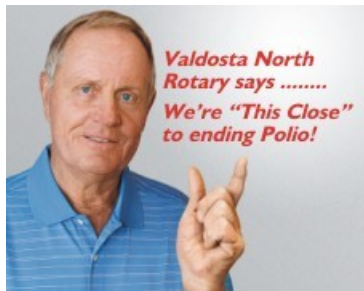
For more information, please contact Debbie Altobello @ 333-0086 x230 or by email [daltobello@sgrl.org](mailto:daltobello@sgrl.org)



# APRIL

## April is Autism Awareness Month

(See related activities below.)



VALDOSTA, GEORGIA  
**VALDOSTA NORTH  
ROTARY CLUB**  
*We're This Close To Ending Polio*  
[www.valdostanorthrotary.com](http://www.valdostanorthrotary.com)

*We welcome you to join us at Valdosta North Rotary.*

*Engage Rotary, Change Lives.*

*Meetings: Tuesdays      Time: 12:00-1:00*

*Location: Valdosta Country Club*

+++++

## As part of Georgia Cities Week:

**Monday, April 14: Customer Service Day, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.,** Customer Service Center, 102 N. Lee Street. Citizens can meet face to face with their city council members and department heads, while browsing city information on the display table, reading “If I Were Mayor” contest essays and enjoying some complimentary refreshments.

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## Valdosta Lowndes Retired Educators Association meets the second Monday of every month (April 14)

(except June, July and August) at the Valdosta Holiday Inn. We start promptly at 11:00 AM with programs of interest to our group, and we're finished by 12:00 Noon. For a modest charge, a delicious buffet is available. All retired public school, college and university employees, their spouses, and others interested in the work of the Association are invited to become members of Valdosta Lowndes Retired Educators Association and the Georgia Retired Educators Association. For information, call President Alice DeVane at 229-244-7066, visit our Facebook page (Valdosta Lowndes Retired Educators Association -VLREA), or email [adevane.vlrea@mediacombb.net](mailto:adevane.vlrea@mediacombb.net) .

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## YMCA Challenger League

- for boys and girls ages 5 through adulthood, with physical and mental disabilities. The most fundamental goal of the Challenger program is to give everyone a chance to play regardless of limitation.
- To help athletes we use a "buddy" system and pair each player with a Volunteer that is at least 9 years of age through adult. This interaction has proven to be a positive experience for all involved and has resulted in lasting friendships. **BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

### BASEBALL

Freedom Park, Field 6  
3795 Guest Road

**\*LAST FIELD ON THE RIGHT\***

**APRIL 14, 2014 - \*MAY 19, 2014**

**\*AWARDS: MAY 19, 2014 (after play)**

Contact Cheryl Marshall at 229.244.4646 or [cmarshall@valdostaymca.com](mailto:cmarshall@valdostaymca.com)



# **Brain Injury Advocate Services of Georgia**

## **Peer Support Group Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 15 6:00 PM**

**NOTE NEW LOCATION**

**Fellowship Hall, First Christian Church**

**1905 North Patterson Street (parking lot side door)**

**Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Services**

**Services include: survivor advocacy, family advocacy, support groups, e-newsletter, prevention, community, education, court.**

**For more information about BIAS meetings, please call 229-671-4977**

**or email: [biasofga@bellsouth.net](mailto:biasofga@bellsouth.net)**

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**Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) Community Care Services**

## **Program Providers Network Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 16 10 AM to Noon**

**Southern Georgia Regional Commission in Waycross**

**1725 South Georgia Parkway, West Waycross**

The agenda will include a presentation by Bonnie Sayles, Director of Programs and Services, Alzheimer's Association (South Georgia Region). Also, George Barnhill, former Chief Assistant

District Attorney, Waycross Judicial Circuit, will discuss safety concerns for staff providing in-home services.

For more information or questions, call Wanda Taft, 912-285-6097 or 888-732-4464



## **Survivors of Suicide Peer2Peer**

**Wednesday, April 16**

**8:00 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1951 East Park Ave, Valdosta**

**(third Wednesday of every month)**

**This month, we will meet in the conference room in the building to the right.**

For more information, write to [sosvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:sosvaldosta@yahoo.com)

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## ***Valdosta Multiple Sclerosis Self Help Group***

***April 17***

***Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm***

***Smith Northview Hospital cafeteria***

***4280 North Valdosta Road Valdosta***

*Contact Info: Barbara 229-247-7792 or [swimfoot9@aol.com](mailto:swimfoot9@aol.com)*

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VSU's Campus Wellness and

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

are hosting a panel event that examines the relationship between chronic illness, spirituality and healing. The event will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 17 in Bailey Science Center Room 3009.

The event will be based on a discussion of the book "Chronic Illness, Spirituality and Healing: Diverse Disciplinary, Religious and Cultural Perspectives." The book analyzes how the mind-body-spirit-environment relationship may be used to attend to the well-being of people living with chronic conditions using a blend of biomedical care and spiritual practice.

Panelists for the event will be comprised of faculty from Philosophy and Religious Studies: Dr. Michael Stoltzfus, Dr. Christine James, and Dr. Lavonna Lovern, in addition Dr. Rebecca Green will represent the College of Nursing and Health Sciences on the panel.

"Anyone interested in the application of spiritual care, disability studies, and cultural studies to chronic illness are especially encouraged to attend," said Dr. Lily Vuong, assistant professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and moderator for the panel discussion.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Lily Vuong at [lcvuong@valdosta.edu](mailto:lcvuong@valdosta.edu).

# Changing Perceptions About Abuse

**Join us for a day of changing perceptions on how we deal with Domestic Violence as a community and its effects on children.**

The day will include presentations from survivors, law enforcement, and social services. Our Key Note Speaker is Mike Mertz, C & M Consulting, Retired Law Enforcement Office, P.O.S.T Certified. CEU's and P.O.S.T. Credits will be available. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

Early Bird registration will be \$20 . Late registration will be \$25. Early Bird registration ends April 7. Remember to register early, space is limited. Please make checks payable to Lanier County Family Connection. After registration, you will receive directions, agenda, and details of the day's presentations.

**Date: April 17, 2014**  
**Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm**  
**Location: Threatte Center**  
**Lanier County, GA 31635**





## **SURPLUS SALE**

Brooks County School is having a surplus sale on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.  
The sale will be at the J.H. Wells Education Center in front of the maintenance shop.  
The hours will be from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm. ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

**Only Cash or Money Orders will be accepted.**

All purchased items must be removed from the campus by 5:30 pm on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of the sale. Items include but are not limited to: air compressor, filing cabinets, piano, water fountain, computer and internet server.



# Autism Awareness 5K Race

April 19<sup>th</sup> Pine Grove Middle School 7:00 am Registration  
For information email Melissa Roe at  
[melissaroe@lowndes.k12.ga.us](mailto:melissaroe@lowndes.k12.ga.us) or see Facebook page  
Autism Awareness 5k

## **The Lowndes Area Adoptive and Foster Parent Support Group, Inc.**

April 21

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30 PM, Park Avenue United Methodist Church, 100 East Park Avenue.

The group offers moral support to foster and adoptive families as well as services and information. There is access for the parents to the Valdosta Food Bank. Child care available as needed. President is Cathy Burks, 229-247-8030.

## **Emotions Anonymous Meeting**

Tuesday, April 22, Greenleaf Center from 4:30 to 5:30 pm

Group is free and open to individuals 18 years of age and older in the community who need emotional support. This group is peer lead and refreshments will be provided complements of Greenleaf.

For further information contact:

Susan Uptagrafft, CPS at 1-404-823-0838

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***Spectrum Connection*** is a group that offers an intimate and safe environment for people of diverse identities to share experiences, ask questions, and express concerns about issues relevant to the **Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual** and **Transgender (LGBT)** community. This group provides a space for members to talk about issues they would not normally be able to talk about in public, covering topics such as sexuality, religion, relationships and identity.

**Who:** Anyone over the age of 17 is welcome to join the group. We invite anyone and everyone to attend, regardless of their affiliation with the university. As this group is conducted in a therapy-like setting, all members must read and sign a confidentiality agreement to take part in the meeting.

**When:** The meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month at 6:30pm, with the next meeting on **April 23**

**Where:** FamilyWorks Therapy Clinic - 903 N. Patterson Street (the corner of Gordon and Patterson: next to the old Georgia Power building).

We welcome you to bring any issues or relevant discussion items to our meeting, and we look forward to making the connection!

For more information please call: 229-219-1281.

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## **Second Quarterly Community Collaborative**

**April 24**

**11 am -1 pm**

### **James H. Rainwater Conference Center**

This is the second meeting of a collaborative effort to better serve individuals with mental health and developmental disabilities. The meeting will be a working lunch which will be catered, so in order to ensure we have a meal for everyone, **please RSVP at your earliest convenience!** You may RSVP to Joni Fulp in person, [jfulp@benchmark-hs.com](mailto:jfulp@benchmark-hs.com), or 404-823-0741. If you have any questions or need directions to the conference center, please ask.

As a reminder, there are four subcommittees working within the Collaborative. They are Safety, Recovery, Community, Judicial, and Emergency Services. If you have not yet joined a subcommittee, please let Joni know to which group you would like to be added.

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## **Behavioral and Sensory Needs**

**Friday, April 25**



**Valdosta City Hall Annex, 300 N. Lee St. Valdosta  
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Presenter: Lynn Adams, PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor  
Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Valdosta State  
University**

**To register, call 229-245-6565 or email [jmjudkins@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jmjudkins@dhr.state.ga.us)**

*This FREE educational workshop is being sponsored by the Babies Can't Wait  
Program-*

*Local Interagency Coordinating Council, South Health District 8-1*

*5 CEUs have been approved by GA State University, Project SCEIs.*

*\*Registration is from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.*

**+++++**

**Buffalo Wild Wings Fund Raiser for  
Family Autism Support Team**

Have a meal at Buffalo Wild Wings on Baytree Road,  
mention FAST and a percentage of your meal price  
will be donated to Family Autism Support Team.

**April 26**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Color Me Free....The Race of  
Faith**

**All proceeds go to South Georgia House of Hope,  
helping women overcome addiction and abuse**

**What:** A fabulously fun run where you will finish covered in beautiful color  
for a beautiful cause

Music, food, colorful faith & fun!! \*\*\* Big Green Egg give away..

Raffle tickets \$10.00 each or 12 for \$100.00.

**When:** Saturday April 26th, 2014 9am -1pm

**Where:** I-75 at Exit 13 Valdosta, Ga.

**Who:** We are encouraging families, friends, schools, church and business groups to send teams to help support a great cause.

”Live your life in **full color** to help others get clean”

**Why:** South Georgia House of Hope is a non- profit 501(c)3 organization helping women and their families overcome addiction and abuse. Your registration donation and all sponsorships are tax deductible. If you would like to help sponsor this event or a runner or team please contact us at 229-241-2707. Thank you for giving Hope!!

**Early Registration:** (before April 10th) \$35.00 per person

Teams of 5 or more: (discount) \$30.00 per person

Day of event: \$40.00 per person

1st 100 to register will receive free T shirt, sunglasses & color pack.

All pre-registered runners will receive a free t-shirt!

There will be prizes for the most creative costume & for the individual that raises the most sponsorships. \*\*\* BE EXTRAVAGANT\*\*\*

**Extra Info:** ~ Please arrive early the day of event- waves of runners will be released beginning at 9am.

~ From Princess to Prom~ Bring your Lowndes High School ID and get ushered to the front of the line. Have a blast with your friends and be home in time to get beautiful.

~ Wear anything and everything white (shirts, shorts, hats, tu-tu's, aprons, etc) for along the walk you will be covered from head to toe with a safe non toxic glorious vibrant color blast every 1/4 mile and a color explosion finale creating a beautiful rainbow all over you.

## **Light the Path of Hope for a Child Walk** **April 26 10 am** **Lanier County Courthouse**

For more information contact Cindy Odum 229-244-4477,  
Amy Lollis 229-563-3606 or Elaine Grice 229-686-6576, Ext 4



# **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tom Town Community Party TOM'S CORNER**

N. Troupe and E. Mary St

April 26      10AM - 2PM

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS, BOUNCY HOUSE, FACE  
PAINTING, VFD SMOKE TRUCK, VPD, MISS PIGGY, FREE  
FOOD & MORE**

To be a vendor please contact Barthaniel Werts at 229-834-9707

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## **Celebrate Recovery Valdosta**

**April 28, Monday at 6:30pm**

**Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery  
program for all types of habits, hurts, and hang-  
ups.**

**We are a community group that is open to all.**

**CrossPointe Church**

**110 Northside Drive, Valdosta**

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## **“Invisible War” Screening**

shown by The Haven's volunteers, Tuesday, April  
29, 7:00 PM in the VSU Student Center Theater.

# MAY

## Valdosta Civic Roundtable

**Thursday      May 1      12:30 PM**

### **Wooden Nickel Pub (Inner Perimeter)**

**Join representatives of community organizations as they share information about the work of their group and networking occurs around the room. You are welcome to come at noon to order your lunch so that you may be prepared to speak. Please bring about 15 or 20 flyers, handouts or other materials to share.**

**Call Jane at 229-630-0924 if you have questions.**

## 2014 Goodwill Week celebration!

The week will begin with our annual COMMUNITY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT DAY on  
**Saturday, May 3      11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Goodwill Career Center.**

We anticipate more than 500+ diverse families in attendance-- making this one of the largest family focused and community resource oriented celebrations held in Valdosta-Lowndes County, Georgia. Community & Family Empowerment Day is an essential key to this region as we continue to "foster planning, funding and administration for programs and activities that strengthen families."

**To become a sponsor or for information, call 229-316-1216 ext. 2.**

### **We are seeking sponsors for:**

Food

Door prizes

Educational workshops

Family focused games and  
crafts

(i.e. bounce houses, etc.)

Music / Entertainment (i.e. Disc jockey, dancing, etc.)

**All sponsorships include:**

FREE Informational table

Mention of sponsorship to media

Recognition during the opening ceremony

Logo placement on all marketing materials

On behalf of the Community & Family Empowerment Planning Committee, we thank the community for your continuous support. Through community support and collaboration, *together*, we can preserve and create STRONG and THRIVING families in Valdosta-Lowndes County, Georgia.

**Deadline for sponsorship is Friday, April 18 at noon.**

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**Lowndes Interagency Coordinating Council**

Monthly meeting, Thursday May 8

**9:00 AM**

**Coastal Plain Building, 1810 West Hill Street, Unit B2**

For more information, contact Jessie Judkins, 229-259-5138

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**Down Syndrome Association of South Georgia**

Monthly meeting, First Christian Church, 1905 North Patterson Street

**Saturday, May 10  
10 AM to 12 NOON**

Enter through the play yard in the back of the church.  
For more information, go to [info@southgeorgiadsa.org](mailto:info@southgeorgiadsa.org).

## LA LECHE LEAGUE OF VALDOSTA

**Sunday, May 11, 3:00 - 4:30 in the nursery at Christ's Fellowship  
Church, 417 Connell Road...**

**directly across the street from the Spanish Mission Apartments sign.**

Refreshments are fun, but not essential.

If you would like to bring a nutritious snack to share, please do!

We know a lot of you moms have babies that are all grown up now and long past the nursing stage. We still welcome you to come and participate at our meetings. The new and expectant mothers cherish your sage advice and wisdom...and it is always fun to just come and have a chat. LLL of Valdosta offers a continuing series of four informal discussion meetings open to all women interested in breastfeeding. We suggest coming to the whole series before your baby is born.

Mothers with babies will find the mother to mother support very helpful and encouraging.

The meeting dates planned for 2013 are: November 11, December 1.

Call 229-244-3393 for more information.

## Prevent Child Abuse Monthly Meeting

**When:** The second Tuesday of every month

**Date:** May 13, 2013

**Time:** 12:00 PM

**Location:** Wooden Nickel Pub 3269 Inner Perimeter Road, Valdosta

**For more information, contact Pam Brewer, 229-244-1707 or**  
[pbrewer@cflfostercare.com](mailto:pbrewer@cflfostercare.com)

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# Tift County Commission on Children and Youth

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 14 at 11:00 a.m. at the United Way office.



## VALDOSTA CIVITAN CLUB

### May 14

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 12:00 - 1:00

Old Times Country Buffet

Open to the public. Community projects benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information contact Emily Joiner at [emilytjoiner@gmail.com](mailto:emilytjoiner@gmail.com) or

Jane Singletary @ 229-251-5630 or [janesingletary@gmail.com](mailto:janesingletary@gmail.com).



## South Georgia Pride Monthly Meeting

Unitarian Fellowship, 1951 East Park Avenue  
May 20 7:30 PM

For more information: email [rwilliams@southgeorgiapride.org](mailto:rwilliams@southgeorgiapride.org)  
or go to [www.southgeorgiapride.org](http://www.southgeorgiapride.org)

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FREE LUNCH AND LEARNS HELD AT

PHOEBE PUTNEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

May 27

Now being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month

So join your colleagues, and gain knowledge from the experts in their fields. For more information or to volunteer to be a presenter in the future, please contact Shelly Patterson, LCSW, Southwest Unit Board Representative at [spatters@surfsouth.com](mailto:spatters@surfsouth.com) for more information.

# Arts, Theatre And Learning Opportunities



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## 2013-2014 VSU THEATRE & DANCE SEASON

THE BOX OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY-SATURDAY, 2-5 PM. (229) 333-5973

**Fourth Annual**

**EMERGINGARTISTSSHOWCASE**

April 17 – 19, 2014 @ 7:30PM  
Sunday, April 20, 2014 @ 3:00PM  
Sawyer Theatre

**CALL NOW FOR TICKETS....**

For ticket information:

<http://ww2.valdosta.edu/comarts/VSUTheatre-DanceTicketsMemberships.shtml>

To contact the box office: (229) 333-5973, Mon-Sat, 2-5 pm.

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To purchase season tickets and for information on upcoming fundraiser performances and events that provide scholarship dollars for students, go to:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/communication-arts/theatre-and-dance/events/tickets-memberships-patronage.php>

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# Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

## Human Inspiration

March 8, 2014 at 8:00 pm in Whitehead Auditorium.

Alasdair Neale, guest conductor

Acclaimed Maestro Alasdair Neale, music director of the Marin Symphony and former associate conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, leads the VSO in Prokofiev's glorious Fifth Symphony, which was composed as a testament to the spirit of humanity.

- Stravinsky *Scherzo à la russe*
- Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet* Overture-Fantasy
- Prokofiev Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major, Op. 100

Ticket price: General adult admission \$25; non-VSU students \$5; VSU students free w/ID  
Senior and Military Discounts Available.

Tickets are available at the Box Office before each performance.

Tickets \$25 Season Tickets on sale soon  
229-333-2150 or [www.valdostasympphony.org](http://www.valdostasympphony.org)



**Theatre Guild Valdosta**  
**at the 'Dosta Playhouse**  
**122 N. Ashley Street**

Membership and patron packages available now:  
Contact the number or website below a complete brochure  
229-247-8423

<http://www.theatreguildvaldosta.com/ticketing.php#slide1>

*Theatre Guild Valdosta is pleased to announce that it is partnering with some of Valdosta's finest restaurants to bring you great food and a great show at a great price!*

*If you are seated by 6PM with your TGV tickets in-hand at any of the following restaurants you will receive a 10% discount off your food bill:*

**306 North**

**306 North Patterson St.  
249-5333**

**The Bistro**

**132 North Ashley St.  
253-1253**

**The Bleu Cafe**

**125 North Patterson St.  
244-2248**

**The Bleu Pub**

**116 West Hill Ave.  
219-2289**



**The Red Door  
136 N. Ashley St.  
469-4339**



**Steel Magnolias**

132 N. Patterson St  
259-0010

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Steel-Magnolias/219876661371439>

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## Turner Center for the Arts

<http://turnercenter.org>

229-247-2787

# BROADWAY SERIES...Get your tickets now !

### Gallery Open

## The DRAWPROJECT

VSU Department of Art exhibition and scholarship fundraising event hosted each year by Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Money raised from this event supports scholarships that assist Valdosta State University Art students. *The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Scholarship* is awarded annually to support a VSU junior art, design, or art education major for meritorious production in the classroom or studio, and a commitment to service within the community. The Draw Project event is an ongoing, annual - and hopefully, never ending Art Project, coordinated and hosted by the VSU Department of Art and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Guardian Bank, Bush Wealth Management, Classic Art & Frame Co., Valdosta State University, and the Turner Center.

The exhibition continues through February 19th, 2014. <http://turnercenter.org>

Over 70 Drawings - Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/DrawProject.VSUArt>

VSU Art Draw Project link: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/art/draw-project.php>

**Free and open to the public!**

# CLASSES

- Pottery Class  
Instructor: Kristen Stengl  
Wednesdays: 6-8 pm – Open Studio  
Thursdays: 10-Noon – Wheel Class
- Painting Class  
Instructor: Fay Hyatt  
Thursdays: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Yoga (FREE)  
Instructor: Roberta George  
Wednesdays: 6:00 pm
- Writers Workshop (FREE)  
Saturdays, 2-4 pm

The Turner Center Gift Shop is open during Center hours:  
Tuesday-Thursday 10-6; Friday-Saturday 10-4\*\*\*\*\*

## VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY PUBLIC PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Take a tour of the far reaches of the night sky without leaving Valdosta.

This series of evening shows is open to all members of the community. The shows are designed for the general public and are suitable for ages five and up. If weather permits, the VSU Observatory will be open for public viewing of celestial objects after each show.

All shows begin at 8:00 pm and at 9:00 pm sharp and usually last 40 to 50 minutes. Seating is limited to 47 visitors for each show and the admission is on a "first-come-first-serve" basis.

The planetarium is located in Nevins Hall on the 3rd floor (room 3004).

Limited public parking is available in front of Nevins Hall and at the Admissions Office on the opposite side of Patterson Street.

For more information about the upcoming shows see the schedule below.

You may also contact the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences at 229-333-5752 for further information.

March 7th	The Future of the Planets
April 4th	The Celestial Zoo



**VSU Continuing Ed** offers classes on many subjects,

some online. Following is a list of the courses related to non-profit management and grant writing:

- [A to Z Grantwriting](#)
- [Writing Effective Grant Proposals](#)
- [Advanced Grant Proposal Writing](#)
- [Become a Grant Writing Consultant](#)
- [Get Grants!](#)
- [Creating Your Own Non-Profit](#)
- [Introduction to Nonprofit Management](#)

Go to this link:

[http://www.valdosta.edu/conted/online/online\\_grant.shtml](http://www.valdosta.edu/conted/online/online_grant.shtml)

+++++

## LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

Become part of the Learning in Retirement program at Valdosta State University. Classes include a wide variety of subjects as watercolors, knitting and crocheting, line dancing, languages, beginning tennis, writing the memories of your life, yoga, antique samplers, gardening, mahjonn, things to know about Medicare, living with diabetes, ukulele, and many other topics.

LIR provides older adults with the opportunity to take part in college level course work on a non-credit basis (there are no tests and no grades). The curriculum is chosen, designed, and often led by the members, encouraging peer learning and active member participation. LIR capitalize on the strengths and experiences of older adults, empowering them to continue learning, expand their horizons, and enhance their personal development.

Pay the \$45 membership and most classes are free. There are classes to attend and opportunities to teach classes. If you have ideas for classes or are willing to teach a class for this series, call 229-245-6484 or go to website at [www.valdosta.edu/conted](http://www.valdosta.edu/conted) .

Participants in Learning in Retirement are eligible to pay a small fee to have access to the VSU pool and exercise equipment at the VSU Student Recreation Center.

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## Arts events in Southwest Georgia

For a listing of arts events from Columbus to Valdosta:

<http://www.southwestgeorgia.net/events>

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# RESOURCES and Volunteer opportunities

**Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America,  
Georgia Chapter**

**Go to the website for online support groups:**

[www.cdfa.org/chapters/Georgia](http://www.cdfa.org/chapters/Georgia)

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## ***Spectrum Connection***

is a group, facilitated by a team of Marriage and Family Therapy interns, that offers an intimate environment for people of diverse identities to share experiences, questions, and/or concerns about issues relevant to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community.

**Who?** Ages 17+

**What?** A few topics covered in the past have included religion, identity, relationships, sex, family, and friends

**Where?** FamilyWorks Therapy Clinic, 903 N. Patterson Street (the corner of Gordon and Patterson: next to the old Georgia Power building)

Consider joining us and bring whatever is on your mind. We welcome you and look forward to making the connection!

**Please call for more information: (229) 219-1281**

**May was National Foster Care Month**  
**You can change a lifetime**  
<http://www.fostercaremonth.org/>

**or**

**INTERESTED IN ADOPTING?**  
**Call 1-877-210-KIDS**

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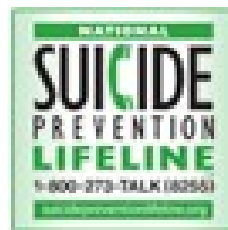
**Several suicide prevention resources:**



**1-800-SUICIDE**

**1-800-784-2433**

**National Hopeline Network** <http://hopeline.com/>



**1-800-273-TALK**

**1-800-273-8255**

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

**<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>**

Contact the Lifeline via TTY by dialing 800-799-4889

**LifeLine Chat .....Click to Chat:**  
**<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>**

**The Trevor Project**

**1-866-488-7386**

**1-866-488-7386**

**Crisis intervention & Suicide prevention**

**For lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
transgender, and questioning youth**

**<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/chat>**

**<http://www.trevorspace.org/>**

**VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline**

**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained mental health professionals prepared to deal with immediate crises. It also offers an anonymous online chat feature available.

**DID YOU KNOW?????**

**Veterans and the family members of veterans are eligible for special rates, exemptions, honorary licenses (fishing, hunting and driver) and other opportunities in Georgia:**

**[http://veterans.georgia.gov/sites/veterans.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/state-benefits-ga.pdf](http://veterans.georgia.gov/sites/veterans.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/state-benefits-ga.pdf)**

**YMCA**

**JAMES M. BECK  
YOUTH & TEEN CENTER  
2424 Gornto Road**



SCHOOL YEAR HOURS

For information, call 228-244-4646

(subsidies available for eligible families)

Challenger League needs volunteers to help with summer programs of bowling and swimming.

Monday - Thursday  
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Friday  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**CREATING FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME**

**VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY FAMILY YMCA**

For information, call 228-244-4646

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Family YMCA**

**2424 Gornto Rd. • Valdosta**

**(229) 244-4646 • [www.valdostaymca.org](http://www.valdostaymca.org)**

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**The American Red Cross**

- helps families who have fires,
- helps people who need to contact loved ones in the military,
- gives fire and disaster safety and other courses to improve citizen health in the community and
  - covers numerous counties in this area.

**Contact Terri Jenkins to find out how your donation of time or money can help this organization that is always ready to help you.**

*Text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation to the Red Cross. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. Msg & Data rates may apply. Reply STOP to 90999 to STOP. Reply HELP to 90999 for HELP*

[terri.jenkins@redcross.org](mailto:terri.jenkins@redcross.org)

**View the new website:** [www.redcross.org/southgeorgia](http://www.redcross.org/southgeorgia)

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**Save your mortgage...if you have suffered an employment-related hardship that has prevented you from paying your mortgage, HomeSafe Georgia may be able to help you.**

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has partnered with GHFA Affordable Housing, Inc. to deliver a statewide unemployment mortgage payment assistance program to prevent foreclosures, under the name HomeSafe Georgia.

HomeSafe Georgia will help by providing "bridge" mortgage assistance to many Georgians who are unemployed or have seen a dramatic decrease in their income due to national economic conditions.

**Who is Eligible for HomeSafe Georgia mortgage assistance?**

First and foremost, the Georgia homeowner must have suffered a hardship due to unemployment or underemployment through no fault of their own. Other hardships, while unfortunate, do not qualify under this program. The homeowner must be able and willing to work, and be seeking new or better employment.

The homeowner must have been current on his or her mortgage before the event of the unemployment or underemployment, and cannot be more than six months behind on the mortgage at the time of application.

Other eligibility requirements apply. Check Eligibility Requirements for details and an eligibility checklist.

<https://www.homesafegeorgia.com/>

The applicant and property must meet all requirements. Additional underwriting criteria may also be established.

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**YOU Can Light the Path of Hope for a Child!**

Imagine you are five years old and unable to live safely at home. Strangers in court are about to decide your future. Life at home may have been bad, but the unknown is

scarier.

When abused and neglected children enter the court system, they may see several different judges, attorneys and case managers who are all working hard to consider their best interests. However, there may not be any one person who will be the same person at every court hearing to speak for the child...unless that person is a CASA Volunteer.

CASA Volunteers are people just like you, who care about keeping children safe and helping them find a permanent home. They've been screened and trained to step in at this defining moment in a child's life. They attend court hearings and speak for the best interest of the child and sometimes make all the difference. Your gift of time, or your financial gift, can help make all the difference in a child's life. Help CASA bring kids home by volunteering or supporting CASA Volunteers.

You may make a donation to CASA of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit **In Honor** or **In Memory** of your loved one at Easter and/or Mother's Day. Please contact Elaine Grice at (229)686-6576 ext. 4 or email [elaine.douglas@berrien.k12.ga.us](mailto:elaine.douglas@berrien.k12.ga.us) for more information on Light the Path of Hope for a Child.

## ***THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE will be in session next year and Georgia Legislators need your input.***

To ensure that your issues are addressed, stay in touch with your legislators. Write a letter, tell a story of your personal experience related to needed legislation, offer your professional information, or provide accurate data on issues while they are home.

To find yours, go to:

## **GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE HOME PAGE**

<http://www.legis.state.ga.us>

### **Lowndes area legislators:**

**Senator Tim Golden 110 Beacon Hill Valdosta , GA 31602**  
**Lowndes, Brooks, parts of Cook and Thomas**  
**229-293-0202 404-656-7580**  
**Brooks, Cook (Pt.), Lowndes, Thomas (Pt.)**  
**[tim.golden@senate.ga.gov](mailto:tim.golden@senate.ga.gov)**

**Rep. Jason Shaw Box 245 Lakeland , GA 31635**  
**Berrien, Clinch, Lanier and Lowndes**  
**229-482-3505 404-656-7859**  
**[jay.shaw@house.ga.gov](mailto:jay.shaw@house.ga.gov)**

Rep. Ellis Black 5900 Jumping Gully Rd. Valdosta , GA 31601  
Brooks, Echols, Lowndes and Thomas  
229-559-1592 404-656-0287  
[blackellis@bellsouth.net](mailto:blackellis@bellsouth.net)

Rep. Amy Carter Box 1535 Valdosta , GA 31603  
Valdosta and Remerton  
229-245-2733 404-656-0325  
[amy.carter@house.ga.gov](mailto:amy.carter@house.ga.gov)

Rep. Dexter Sharper 19 Sharper Circle Valdosta, GA 31601  
Central Valdosta  
[dexter.sharper@house.ga.gov](mailto:dexter.sharper@house.ga.gov)

**To keep up with this year's Georgia legislation go to:**  
<http://web.me.com/gcdd/GCDD/Home.html>

To voice your opinion on Federal legislation or to get assistance with issues with Federal benefits, contact one of our two Georgia Senators or our Congressman:

Senator Saxby Chambliss  
South Georgia Office:  
419-A South Main Street P.O. Box 3217 Moultrie , GA 31776  
Toll free at 800-234-4208 Main : 229-985-2112 Fax: 229-985-2123  
To send an email, go to his website: <http://chambliss.senate.gov/>

Senator Johnny Isakson  
One Overton Park , Suite 970  
3625 Cumberland Boulevard  
Atlanta , GA 30339  
770-661-0999 Fax: 770- 661-0768  
To send an email, go to his website: <http://isakson.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Congressman Jack Kingston  
Valdosta Federal Building  
401 N. Patterson St.  
Second Floor, Room 215  
Phone: (229) 247-9188  
Fax: (229) 247-9189  
To send an email, go to

[house.gov/Contact](http://house.gov/Contact)



**Your**

# Help is Needed!

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## **Lowndes County Senior Center**

1360 East Park Avenue Valdosta

Office 229-259-5469

Email [senlab@mchsi.com](mailto:senlab@mchsi.com) website: <http://www.vlpra.com/NSSeniorCenter.htm>

Hours of Operation Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tuesday Evenings 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

The Valdosta-Lowndes Senior Center is a recreation center which offers an array of services to help meet the social, recreational and educational needs of seniors over 50 years of age. It offers services to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens through education, recreation and physical fitness programs that encourage seniors in our community to remain active and healthy.

Must be a member of the Senior Center to participate in activities. Pool available.

Membership: \$20 for city/county residents -- \$30 for out of county residents

\*Annual memberships begin July 1st, and expire June 30th of the following year.

\*Membership fees are not prorated throughout the year, though anyone 50 years+ may join at any time throughout the year.

## **Valdosta Community Based Outpatient Clinic for military veterans**

**2841 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA 31602**

**Hours of Operation  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Phone: 229-293-0132 or 229-293-0132  
Fax: 229-293-0162**

**Parent Facility: Malcom Randall VAMC (Gainesville)  
Phone: (352) 376-1611 or (800) 324-8387**

## Services Available

The Valdosta Community Based Outpatient Clinic provides comprehensive primary care to veterans who reside in Lowndes County, GA and the surrounding counties. This clinic serves acute and chronically ill eligible veterans. Our veteran patient population requires a complexity of care that ranges from minor health care needs to urgent care. Veterans requiring hospitalization are assessed, stabilized and transferred to either local facilities or to the Gainesville VA Medical Center according to the urgency of their needs. Procedures or specialty care not provided by this clinic are referred to the Gainesville VA Medical Center.

<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=5054>

## BARC Humane Society, Lake Park, GA

Do you have stray animals around your home or need to find a home for an animal to stay? Talk to BARC Humane Society of Lake Park:

<http://www.barchumanesociety.org>

B.A.R.C. Humane Society is a rescue operation. We are NOT affiliated with the Humane Society of Valdosta Lowndes nor the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. We rescue animals from surrounding shelters and place them in foster homes while they wait for their forever home. We are always looking for loving foster homes and volunteers to help us and we are always in need of basic animal care supplies and monetary donations. If you feel you can help please post on our (Facebook) wall and we will contact you. Thank you!

**Check Facebook BARC Humane Society page for details of adoption events**



The Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization, at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, is the regional transportation planning agency for all of Lowndes County, and portions of Berrien, Brooks and Lanier Counties. Your input is important to developing all transportation projects: highways, public transit, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc. The public is invited to attend our quarterly meetings, or visit our website at [www.sgrc.us/transportation](http://www.sgrc.us/transportation) . Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ValdostaLowndesMPO](http://www.facebook.com/ValdostaLowndesMPO) , or on Twitter at

[www.twitter.com/vlmpo](http://www.twitter.com/vlmpo) .

VLMPO staff is available to be a speaker at your next neighborhood, civic group, church group, or other event. You are encouraged to participate in the upcoming effort to plan for Transportation in Lowndes County in 2040 over the next three years, contact Corey Hull for more information [chull@sgrc.us](mailto:chull@sgrc.us), 229-333-5277.

## **AmeriCorps Alumni**

**If you have served as an AmeriCorps member in the Valdosta, Georgia area or if you are an alum living in the area, please join our official chapter network of current AmeriCorps members and alumni in the Valdosta, Georgia region! We are working to attract local members for our new regional chapter. We seek to network, volunteer, and develop our local communities while utilizing our experiences in national service through the various AmeriCorps programs with which we have served.**

***Let's get connected so that we may grow in our abilities to further strengthen our regional communities!***

**REGISTER with us on our homepage on the AmeriCorps Alums website: <http://www.americorpsalums.org/members/group.aspx?id=100114>**

***LIKE us on Facebook: AmeriCorps Alums Valdosta***

***FOLLOW us on Twitter: valdostaalums with other alums!***

**SHARE**

**Call 229-977-6118 or 229-316-1216 Ext. 2 for more information**

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**Resource in Valdosta for people wanting to give or receive needed goods:**

## **Welcome to the Valdosta Georgia Freecycle**

**The Freecycle Network™ is first and foremost a recycling group. We are a grassroots and entirely nonprofit international**

**organization where people give (and sometimes get) stuff for free, thus keeping good stuff out of landfills. The Valdosta Freecycle group encourages all its members to actively participate within our group as we strive to build a strong "circle of giving" type atmosphere within our local community.**

**Membership is free, and everything posted must be FREE, legal and appropriate for all ages. To view the items being given away or sought within the Valdosta area, you must first join the Valdosta Freecycle group as a member. To join our local group, go to the Yahoo! Group linked to below and click on "Join". After you have joined our group as a member, you will be able to view the posts from our group's members and you will be on your way to enjoying interactions with your neighbors! Thanks so much and have fun!**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/valdostafreecycle>

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## **THE HAHIRA/LOWNDES COUNTY COMMUNITY OUTREACH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The Hahira/Lowndes County Community Outreach Development Corporation (HLCCODC mission is to provide programs to assist at risk families with substance abuse issues and prevent or delay initiation of any drug and over a life time create a drug free community. The HLCCODC is the lead organization of the South Georgia Regional Communities Coalition of Hahira.

The HLCCODC currently sponsors the following programs:

Teen Explosion is a youth leadership program. Sheila Warren is the Adult Advisor for this teen leadership program. Asset Builders is the curriculum used and focuses on teenagers planning activities for their peers to get the message out against drug abuse, violence, early sexual activities.

**Cotillion:** Contact: Estell Rose, (229) 630-3120;  
[estellrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:estellrose@bellsouth.net)

The Cotillion's purpose is to present our finest young ladies to society—academically, morally and socially; and to provide positive reinforcements to assist them as they embark upon womanhood. Junior and senior high school students are identified by school administrators from Lowndes, Valdosta, Brooks, Cook, Lanier, Echols, Berrien and surrounding counties with the following criteria:

- Must have "B" average
- Good moral character
- Not pregnant and have not been pregnant



- Involved in community
- Female born-debutantes/hostess; male born-escorts/hosts
- No alcohol or drugs

Escorts are juniors and seniors; sophomores are hosts and hostesses both with same criteria listed above.

Meetings are held every second Sunday. Contact: Estell Rose, (229) 630-3120; [estellrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:estellrose@bellsouth.net)

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New Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs) group with Christian focus in Hahira. Meets at Bethany Baptist Church, 5064 Bethany Road on the first Tuesday of every month for moms and the third Thursday as a playdate for the children. For more information, call Christy Smith, 910-728-2277.

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## Kaleidoscope

Valdosta\*Lowndes Recreation, Parks, and Community Affairs presents after school programs at Clyattville Elementary School and Lake Park Elementary School. From 3:00 to 6:00 there will be homework assistance, structured games, and activities. A snack will be provided. The cost is \$10 a day or \$30 a week. Some scholarships are available. For more information, call 229-333-1861 or visit the website at [valdostasportsandevents.com](http://valdostasportsandevents.com)



## Challenger League Sports

**Sports for all seasons...**

**For children ages 5-21 (some age exceptions) with any level of disability.**

**Call about volunteer opportunities as a buddy to a participating child. Call Cheryl at the YMCA, 229-244-4646 or [cmarshall@valdostaymca.com](mailto:cmarshall@valdostaymca.com)**





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**Need Healthcare, Housing or Case Management for veterans in this area?**

**Contact VA Social Worker Ayanna Sampson  
1-800-308-8387, Ext 3416**

**VA RESOURCE PAGE:**

<http://www.northflorida.va.gov/NORTHFLORIDA/services/homeless/>

**Homeless Veteran in need of help?  
Call 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)**

**NEW VA SERVICE:  
The National Caregiver Support Line -  
1-855-260-3274**

-- will serve as the primary resource and referral center to assist caregivers, Veterans and others seeking caregiver information. It will be open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 11 PM, Eastern time; and Saturday, 10:30 AM to 6 PM, Eastern time. Licensed VA social workers and health technicians will staff the support line.

The support line will provide information regarding **new caregiver benefits**, referrals to local caregiver support coordinators as well as emotional support to those concerned with their ability to provide care to loved ones who are Veterans.

VA also features a Web page, <http://www.caregiver.va.gov/>, with general information on other caregiver support programs available through VA and the community.

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Thomasville, Georgia Activities include concerts on Fridays and Sundays, tours, theater performances, costume parties, walks for charity, and a Native American festival.

Website: <http://www.thomasvillega.com/?m=201010&cat=2>

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**Help Deliver Meals for Homebound People**

***The Break Bread Together Ministry of First Presbyterian is in need of volunteers who can help sort and/or deliver meals on the weekdays (Monday-Friday, except***

**holidays). Presently, we have a waiting list of those in need of meals, but are unable to handle the requests without additional volunteers.**

**If you, your church group, or civic organization is interested in assisting with this important ministry to the Valdosta community, please contact Susan Sheridan, Break Bread Coordinator, at 229-249-0779.**



## **FREE CLINIC IN LOWNDES COUNTY**

The Partnership Health Center is a non-profit, free medical clinic. It provides primary healthcare to the working, uninsured people in Lowndes County who meet the eligibility guidelines. It is staffed by volunteer physicians, physician extenders, and nurses who offer their time to provide healthcare. It is located at 205 Woodrow Wilson Drive, across from the public library. **Clinic is open Tuesday from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, Wednesday from 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM and two Saturdays a month.** These may expand as more staff is added.

### **COLORING BOOKS NEEDED FOR CLINIC TO ENTERTAIN CHILDREN**

Patient eligibility requirements:

- Income under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level,
- between the ages of 18 and 64,
- have no health insurance,
- be a resident of Lowndes County, and
- **patient or dependent must be employed.**

The clinic needs volunteer physicians, nurses and administrative helpers Tuesdays from 6-9 pm and 10 am to 4 pm (times may change depending on volunteer availability). A small amount of your time could help make a difference in the lives of many Lowndes residents.

Please note: Donations are accepted and important to our non-profit organization. We also need donated medical equipment that will be used to help the patients in our clinic. Please call if you can help with either of these needs.

For more information about the clinic, call 229-245-0020 ext. 3.

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## **Mobility and Self Sufficiency for People, Contact:**

GEORGIA TOOLS FOR LIFE

Georgia Department of Labor/VR Tools for Life Program  
Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Atlanta

Phone: (800) 497-8665

TTY: (404) 657-3085

E-mail: [toolsforlife@mindspring.com](mailto:toolsforlife@mindspring.com)

Homepage: <http://www.gatfl.org>

Page listing funding resources:

<http://www.gatfl.org/Resources.aspx>

## **Need a ramp for an older person? Call this number to be screened for help.**

Toll-Free: 1-888-73-AGING (1-888-732-4464)

Southern Georgia Regional Commission - Area Agency on Aging

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **Jacobs' Ladder Therapeutic**

**Riding Center** in Hahira needs volunteers to help with special needs riders.

Please call Leslie at (229) 794-1188.

See the website for a lot more information:

<http://www.jacobsladderriding.com>

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## **Harvard University Announcement**

### **No tuition and no student loans**

Harvard University announced recently that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition.

If you know of a family earning less than \$60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free... no tuition and no student loans! To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than \$60,000 a year, visit Harvard's financial aid website at: <http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/>

or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581 or (617) 495-1581.



**"Be a Foster Parent -  
A Challenging and Personally Rewarding  
Experience"**

**Choices for Life of GA, LLC**

2200 North Patterson Street  
Valdosta  
Phone 229-244-1707; Fax 229-244-1779  
[pbrewer@cflfostercare.com](mailto:pbrewer@cflfostercare.com)

Choices for Life of Georgia is a specialized foster care program that provides in-home treatment for children and youth with multiple psychological, social and emotional needs. The children can accept and respond to relationships within a family but their special needs require more intensive or therapeutic service than are found in traditional foster care. Please contact us for more information if you would like to be part of our professional team touching the lives of children and families.

Choices for Life of GA, LLC also provides outpatient behavioral health services as a CORE Provider focusing on children and adolescents. Services include: individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, and community support individual services, on-site nursing services & psychiatric services.

Referrals may be made by phone or email address above.

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**State Department of Family and Children Services  
resources:**

<http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/>

If you need a state service but don't know which state agency or person to call for help, dial 1-800-georgia (1-800-436-7442) for immediate assistance. Agents are on duty Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-6:00 pm (closed on state holidays).

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**Georgia's Community Care Services Program (CCSP)**

If someone you care for is eligible for nursing home placement but would like to stay in his or her own home, you may want to consider the benefits of the Community Care Services Program (CCSP). CCSP is a Medicaid waiver program that serves as an alternative to nursing home placement. The program provides home and community-

based services to people who are elderly and/or functionally impaired or disabled. By providing these services, CCSP helps recipients remain in their own homes, the homes of caregivers, or in other community settings as long as possible.

To explore your eligibility or the eligibility of a loved one, contact the Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Gateway to Community Resources at 912-287-5888 or toll-free at 1-888-732-4464.

**Are you a caregiver? See the state resource page:**

[http://ada.georgia.gov/00/channel\\_title/0,2094,77499621\\_14613967\\_5,00.html](http://ada.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,77499621_14613967_5,00.html)

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**Atlanta Legal Aid has services for seniors all over the state. Go to this website for a kit for grandparents who need help when caring for relative children.**

<http://www.atlantalegalaid.org/departments.htm>

**Grandparent / Relative Caregiver Project Toll-free: 888-257-9519**

**Are you raising grandchildren or other relatives?**

This project was created in response to the growing number of grandparents and other relatives who were raising children in the place of absent or addicted parents. Its goals are to stabilize the legal relationship between the caregiver and children through adoption or custody and to maximize the financial and medical resources available to care for the children. The project has been adopted by Kilpatrick Stockton, a private Atlanta law firm, and has trained more than 220 volunteer lawyers to take cases; call 404- 524-5811.

**Georgia Senior Legal Hotline**

**Toll-free: 888-257-9519**

Begun in 1998, the hotline is a cooperative project among Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the Georgia Division of Aging Services, the State Bar Pro Bono Project and the Atlanta Bar Association. It offers legal advice, brief services, self-help materials and referrals to seniors throughout the state, handling more than 4200 calls a year. This project serves seniors living anywhere in Georgia .

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**National *Do Not Call* Registry**

Register home or cell phones to prevent mass marketing calls

<https://www.donotcall.gov>

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**Homeless prevention and rapid re-housing (stimulus ARRA dollars) funds are currently suspended for 91 counties in Georgia through the Salvation Army state level toll free number 1-866-387-2657.**

Persons needing assistance may call for pre-screening and information in all counties.

For a printable flier, go to:

[http://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/specialneeds/programs/documents/HPRPSalvationArmyReferrals20100209\\_000.pdf](http://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/specialneeds/programs/documents/HPRPSalvationArmyReferrals20100209_000.pdf)



## Join the advocates for mental health services in Georgia –

2012 has become increasingly challenging for persons needing services for mental illnesses and addictive diseases, and for people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities in the State of Georgia. DBHDD Planning Board advocates are currently becoming very active with our Community Service Boards, Georgia Alliance on Mental Illness, law enforcement, county commissioners, the courts, consumers and other stakeholders to speak with one voice for the survival and improvement of access to DBHDD information and services in our region.

Interested persons may contact Linda Floyd at [lfloyd@valdosta.edu](mailto:lfloyd@valdosta.edu) .

**FamilyWorks** is the brief therapy center for the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program at Valdosta State University. We provided state-of-the-art therapeutic help to families and individuals all over Valdosta, the VSU campus, and surrounding communities, including south Georgia and north Florida.

**Who Goes to FamilyWorks?** Any individual person, married or unmarried couples, children, elderly, couples, families of all varieties, roommates, and LGBT persons—all are welcome at



**FamilyWorks.** Family therapy, sometimes called systems therapy or relational therapy, is a particular way of thinking that helps people make the changes that they want to make. Even though the word, "family" suggests that family therapists work only with whole families, this is not the case. Family therapists work with individuals, couples, groups, and families. Family therapy has been found to be extraordinarily helpful when people find themselves stuck. Here are just a few of the dilemmas that people struggle with:

- relationship problems
- anger management
- pre-marital concerns
- domestic violence
- individual depression
- child behavior problems
- grief and loss
- divorce and separation
- communication difficulties
- parenting problems
- sexual problems

We offer our services to all people who seek them, regardless of age, gender, race, political or religious affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, education, economic status, disability, or ethnic background.

**How Much Do We Have to Pay?** We charge for each session according to a sliding scale that is based on family size and income. When you call for the first appointment, someone will talk with you about your fee, so that you will know what it is prior to your first meeting with your therapist. The really good news: No one is ever denied services because they cannot pay. If your circumstances are such that you can't pay anything at all, let us know. Services are free to Valdosta State University students, faculty and employees.

To schedule an appointment, call (229) 219-1281 Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 11:00 am. If you cannot call during these times, call anytime and leave a message. Let us know the best time to reach you and an intake coordinator will call you back.

**FamilyWorks - 903 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, 31698**

FamilyWorks is housed in the one-story part of the Continuing Ed Building that is on the corner of Patterson and Gordon Streets (directly across the street from the Crescent). You can reach the building by turning in off of either Patterson or Gordon Streets. If you come in off Patterson Street, drive around to the back of the parking lot. We are tucked in the corner of the one-story part of the L-shaped building.

**When you arrive, poke your nose into the Intake Office and ask for a parking permit. If you have a current VSU student, staff, or faculty parking sticker, you are good to go.**

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## **South Georgia Regional Libraries Opportunities**

South Georgia Regional Library  
300 Woodrow Wilson Drive

For information, contact Patrick Spurlock, Community Relations Coordinator, 229-333-0086, ext 216

At the library there are computer classes, children's reading times, beginning Spanish, vampire book club, genealogy, teen book club, game night, and the bookfellows club.

**Check at the research desk for a packet that will enable you to go into state parks for free.**

<http://www.sgrl.org/pages/events.html>

### **Backdoor Bookstore**

11:00am – 2:00pm Tuesdays and Saturdays  
Main Library

Purchase gently used books from the Friends of the Library Back Door Bookstore. All proceeds from your purchases are used to buy new books for the library. The Backdoor Bookstore is located in the rear of the Main Library on 300 Woodrow Wilson Drive in Valdosta.

Visit our website [www.sgrl.org](http://www.sgrl.org) to learn how to join, find information about local and regional elected officials, library programs and the hours of all branches. Start exploring the endless possibilities at your library today! Call 229-333-0086 for more information.

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**Childcare Resource and Referral  
1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS**

For help with finding special needs childcare, resources for parents/teachers, inclusion, staff development and presentations. More information contact Sharon Pilkinton at [sharon.pilkinton@darton.edu](mailto:sharon.pilkinton@darton.edu).

## Children's Medical Services (CMS)

This is a state funded program that provides medical care for disabling conditions or chronic diseases in children from birth to the age 21. The staff of three RN's work actively with primary care physicians to coordinate specialty care for the child. Services through CMS may include family education, social services and case management. They also hold clinics for children in Cardiology, Orthopedic, Hematology, Asthma and telemedicine clinics in Genetics, Nephrology and Pulmonary.

They have an Asthma Educator, Penny Beasley, RN. Enrolled clients have an asthma action plan which includes education, equipment, bed covers and camp for kids 6-12 years old. There is a camp in Tifton and one in Valdosta.

Anyone may make a basic referral to CMS, however to be seen by a specialist the referral should come from the client's primary care physician.

For more information call 229-245-4310 or 1-800-848-5728

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**American Cancer Society**

**1-800-227-2345**

**[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)**

There are many resources through these avenues and the 800 # is "live" 365 days a year, 24 hours a day!!

The American Cancer Society in this area is looking for volunteers to help with the Road To Recovery and Reach To Recovery Programs.

A Reach To Recovery volunteer needs to have completed their treatment for breast cancer in order to be trained as a Reach To Recovery volunteer.

**Reach to Recovery** for women in this area who have had breast cancer, a program designed to help them cope with their cancer experience and assists with transportation to and from treatment.

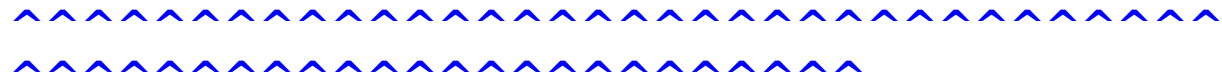
**If you are interested in volunteering for either of these programs,**

please contact Ashley Braswell at 229-834-0709 or 1-800-227-2345.

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**Bethany Hospice is in need of volunteers to provide direct patient care, administrative care, and community outreach. For more information, please contact Susan Doak, Volunteer Coordinator ... [sdoak@bethany-hospice.com](mailto:sdoak@bethany-hospice.com) or 229-249-8687.**



**Hospice of South Georgia Sponsors Grief Support Groups**

All groups are offered free of charge as a community service of Hospice of South Georgia. These support groups are for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to learn healthy ways to deal with their grief.

To register for an upcoming group, call 229-249-4100.

Groups meet throughout the year at the Hospice of South Georgia Administration Building, 2263 Pineview Drive, Valdosta.

[http://www.hospiceofsouthgeorgia.org/volunteer\\_opportunities.aspx](http://www.hospiceofsouthgeorgia.org/volunteer_opportunities.aspx)



Hospice South, LLC

*(all proceeds will be used to support our needy patient fund)*

Visit the new **Hospice South, LLC.**

**CLOTHES CLOSET**

**Used Clothing and Accessories at *Extremely Reasonable Prices!***

125 S Hutchinson St., Adel, Georgia

WE ACCEPT ALL DONATIONS OF CLEAN CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES!

Hospice South, LLC. is a full service hospice agency providing Skilled Nursing, Home Health Aide, Social Work, Chaplain, and Volunteer Services in

Adel and all counties within a 60 mile radius.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for Patient Care, Administrative, and Community Outreach positions.

Call for hours of operation

229-896-6100

## Volunteers needed for Serenity Palliative & Hospice Care

Contact Chaplain Yolanda L. Payne at 229-241-8338.

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# SouthernCare

Where caring is a way of life.

# SouthernCare

**Hospice** is in need of compassionate volunteers who can provide direct patient care or administrative care to our patients and their families. For more information, please contact Sarah Murphy, Volunteer Services Coordinator at 229-217-0523 or [smurphy@southerncaresinc.com](mailto:smurphy@southerncaresinc.com).





# United Hospice

United Hospice has been providing palliative care both in the home and in a care center setting since 1993. Services begin and end with compassion and the preservation of dignity and comfort. Resources are available to patients 7 days a week, and include certified professional consulting on pain management, wound care, pharmaceutical care, and advanced clinical nursing.

Quality of life treatments such as palliative radiation and chemo, blood transfusions, and IV Therapy are covered services. United Hospice also has an on-call policy that allows patients and family to call for a visit from an RN when conditions change—because we believe in hands-on assessment and not a slew of questions over the phone. This on-call process is just part of the proprietary *UniGuard* Program delivered to each patient as a way to prevent unnecessary re-hospitalizations.

More about United Hospice:

- Weeknight, weekend, and holiday admissions
- Centralized intake available for all referrals
- New referral response time of less than two hours
- Increased accuracy and flow of information through electronic medical records
- Language interpretation services available for all nationalities
- Bereavement support services for the patient's loved ones as well as the Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, and Hospital staff
- A non-profit affiliate, United Hospice Foundation, which provides scholarships, hardship grants, and bereavement support initiatives to community members and staff.
- Acceptance of all hospice eligible patients regardless of ability to pay

**Jamie Baltrus, Community Relations  
Representative**

**(229) 242-1187**

**[jlebaltrus@uhs-pruitt.com](mailto:jlebaltrus@uhs-pruitt.com)**



## Pearlman Cancer Center Support Groups

### Holding Hand Support Group- General Support Group

Everyone is Welcome

Meets the Third Monday each month, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Pearlman Cancer Center Conference Room

209 Pendleton Dr. Valdosta

Contact 229-259-4638

No registration required

AND

### Best Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group

Meets every 4th Tuesday each month,

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM January-October

(No meetings in November/December)

Pearlman Cancer Center Conference Room

209 Pendleton Dr. Valdosta

Contact 229-259-4638

No registration required

**GeorgiaHousingSearch.org - A Ready Resource During Critical Times.** Tornadoes, storms, you name it...when disaster strikes, everyone needs help. In many cases, finding a place to live is a top priority. No need to worry or panic as GeorgiaHousingSearch.org offers a FREE, easy-to-use and available resource to help citizens quickly find affordable housing options in their community.

On the site – [www.GeorgiaHousingSearch.org](http://www.GeorgiaHousingSearch.org) -- citizens can search for rental properties statewide. Property postings are detailed, current, and updated bi-weekly. Property managers and independent landlords can post listings for free and reach thousands of potential renters.

The website is bilingual (English and Spanish) and has a toll-free number – 877-428-8844 - available to assist potential renters or property owners and managers. In addition, the site's unique Special Needs Housing Search feature has assisted Georgia caseworkers locate housing for hundreds of traditionally hard-to-place families and individuals.

For more information, please contact Sheila Barry at (404) 679-4855 or [sbarry@dca.state.ga.us](mailto:sbarry@dca.state.ga.us).



**Drop** (the things you don't need)  
**& Shop** (for the things you do need)

# WE PICK UP!

Call 229-333-0063 for more info

285 Norman Drive (Across from Wal-Mart and Sam's Club)  
Open 9-6 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
9-5 on Wednesday

**Ask about RB Bucks!**

Find us on Thrift Store Junction:

[www.thriftjunction.com/repeatboutique](http://www.thriftjunction.com/repeatboutique)

Find us on the web:

[www.RepeatBoutique-GA.com](http://www.RepeatBoutique-GA.com)

Find us on Facebook:

RepeatBoutiqueGA



Options Now is a Christ-centered ministry which advances the sanctity of human life and sexual purity empowering individuals to make life-

affirming choices.

Our ministry has **many different opportunities** for volunteers such as working behind the scenes on events, abstinence teaching in our Wait Now program, computer technology assistance, and peer counseling. Call today to see where you can fit in, 229-333-0080, or visit our partners' website for more information, [www.ONpartners.org](http://www.ONpartners.org). Applications are available at the office at 214 W. Park Ave., Valdosta. Training is provided!

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**Silent Ministries** is offering a class called "Felons- A Special Class of Domestic Violence Victims."

For free assistance for domestic violence victims with public assistance forms and appeals, contact [jharnage7@aol.com](mailto:jharnage7@aol.com)

Read *The Beating Death of Aunt Lilly Mae Thornton* as Told by Her Niece and Silent Ministries' founder Carolyn Thornton Harnage at <http://domesticviolenceaftercare.webs.com>.

Silent Ministries has an ample supply of quality clothing, shoes, and jackets for victims needing help. Silent Ministries is asking for donations of used and broken small appliances to help elderly people who cannot replace such things as toasters and heaters. Will pick up. 229-559-5648.





**Moody Air Force Base Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)** Moody AFB, GA Office - (229) 257-7272 Cell - (229) 560-5085  
For Live 1-on-1 Help Confidential Worldwide 24/7  
CLICK: [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org) CALL:877-995-5247  
TEXT:55-247

**Easter Seals Valdosta Office**  
**Family support/respice care available for families whose children have developmental disabilities**

610 North Patterson Street, Suite A, Valdosta  
229-247-6912, toll free 866-875-4670, or fax 229-247-8549.

December Smith is the Easter Seals coordinator for Valdosta, if you need forms and have any questions regarding the application process for help with family respice care and other assistance. Please remember that the money from Easter Seals is based on the child and not family income. The family support/respice program covers Lowndes, Brooks, Lanier, Cook, Berrien, Tift, Irwin, Turner, Ben Hill, and Wilcox Counties.

**Champions for Children Program**

The Champions for Children Program is designed to assist primarily children and families who do not meet the eligibility requirements for TEFRA/Katie Beckett Medicaid Program

<http://www.championsforchildren.org>

- Have applied for Katie Beckett and received a level of care denial
  - Age 21 and under
  - Live at home
- Have a physical, cognitive, developmental or medical disability

*Current Medicaid recipients are not eligible for this program*

**Megan's House**, respice facility for families with children with special needs is now open in Valdosta and is in need of donations of every kind of household goods.

Megan's House now has services available to military families in need of respice care for special needs family members.

Contact December Smith [dsmith@swga-easterseals.org](mailto:dsmith@swga-easterseals.org) for more information.

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## Newcomer Welcome Service and Community Guide

For decades, The Greeting Service has welcomed Valdosta newcomers with traditional southern hospitality—a personal home visit and a folder brimming with information about schools, churches, cultural opportunities, and a bag chock full of coupons and goodies.

The Greeting Service has expanded its borders to include Adel, Hahira, Lakeland Lake Park , Moody Air Force Base, Nashville , Quitman, and Tifton and now publishes an annual community resource guide acquainting newcomers with relocation information including job opportunities and housing.

We look forward to sharing all the fun and exciting things that Valdosta and the surrounding communities have to offer and hope you enjoy discovering a new place to call home.

**If you are new to the area, be sure to call 229-245-8383 for your Welcome Packet.**

<http://www.southgeorgianewcomers.com>

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## Alzheimer CareGiver Time-Out (ACTO)

ACTO is a social program for clients with Alzheimer's disease, other memory impairment, or the frail elderly. Caregivers may leave their loved ones at ACTO so that they can have some free time to attend to their other needs. ACTO is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The service is free to all clients, funded in part by the United Way. We are located in Park Avenue United Methodist Church, 100 E. Park. Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602. For more information, please call 229-245-9094.

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## My Friend's House

is the name for the Valdosta State University Alzheimer's day care program. There are openings for anyone with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The program, which is free of charge, has the goal of preventing isolation by providing daily activities in a home-like environment for persons with Alzheimer's and dementia. There is a support group for the caregivers on the third Wednesday of every month. Volunteers always are needed. Call 229-293-6146 for more information.



have been designed to help job seekers secure employment, and to assist in the development of micro-businesses.

WORK Connections for the Job Seeker include:

- listings of local job openings to connect job seekers with employment opportunities.
- telephones to arrange appointments and facilitate communications with employers.
- Georgia Work Ready testing
- computers to use in job searches have Microsoft Office and Publisher and internet access
- telephone, basic computer and networking skills classes
- resource library with a variety of materials to assist the job seeker prepare for and secure employment, as well as information regarding Medicaid, childcare, food stamps, training, financial aid and other community resources.
- photocopier, printers and fax machines

In addition to the resources listed above, entrepreneurs can get help to enhance marketing tools, develop a business plan or network with others in the community. Other services include:

- \* **Free English as a Second Language classes**
- \* **Meeting rooms for groups**
- \* **List of community resources**

Open 9 - 6 Monday - Thursday and 9 - 3 Friday

For more information, please contact:

229-316-1216 Fax 229-316-1218

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## **Paxen-WIA Work Readiness Program**

Sponsored by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission

Our program's work readiness component emphasizes acquisition of essential job-search, employability, and life skills for youth ages 14-21. Participants also receive instruction in strategies for seeking, securing and succeeding in a job as well as supportive services to receive a GED and gain employment/enroll in post-secondary education after credential attainment. Qualifying participants receive a stipend for program completion, become eligible for a GED testing voucher, and will receive a \$200 incentive for GED attainment.

For more information Contact: Charmane Thomas, Program Manager,  
[www.paxen.com](http://www.paxen.com)  
Paxen Learning Corporation "We Change Lives"  
221 S. Ashley, Valdosta  
Office: 229-245-2488

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## **South Georgia Council for Youth in the Performing Arts**

Please check our website [www.sgcyoutharts.org](http://www.sgcyoutharts.org).

### *South Georgia String Project*

The South Georgia String Project, led by Director and Master Teacher Lauren Burns, is a joint venture of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and the Department of Music at Valdosta State University. Adults and children are welcome to participate.

For more information, go to <http://www.valdosta.edu.sgsp> or contact

Dr. Gerling at [dcgerling@valdosta.edu](mailto:dcgerling@valdosta.edu) or 229-259-2087.

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## **Employment Program for Seniors:**

Senior Community Service Employment Program, sponsored by the US Department of Labor. This program enables qualified individuals to obtain paid, on the job training within their communities, update their job skills to enhance their marketability, develop new attitudes and gain greater self-confidence. Participants work 20 hours per week earning minimum wage in a non-profit organization or government agency and receive help in transitioning from the program into a new, unsubsidized employment opportunity.

For more information, call Beth Veal at 229-249-4885 or visit her at the Georgia Department of Labor in Valdosta. Program covers Berrien, Brooks, Lanier, and Lowndes Counties.

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## FUND HELPS CANCER PATIENTS

**The Partnership Cancer Fund** is a not-for-profit subsidiary of the Lowndes County Partnership for Health, Inc.

- Cancer can be a financially devastating disease. Even with health insurance, there can be many associated costs that put a strain on patients and their families.
- If you or someone you know is currently undergoing treatment for cancer, *and* lives in Lowndes County, *or* receives cancer treatment from a Lowndes County provider but lives outside Lowndes County, they may qualify for financial assistance from the Partnership Cancer Fund.

Financial assistance is available for:

- Transportation costs for Medical Care
- Nutritional Supplements
- Medications
- Certain types of Medical Equipment

Contact the Lowndes County Partnership for Health, Inc. at 229-245-0020 (option 1) to obtain an application or to request more information. You may also go to [www.lcpfh.org](http://www.lcpfh.org)  
Tax deductible donations are accepted, and all funds remain in the local community to benefit as many cancer patients as possible. Send donations to P.O. Box 1782, Valdosta, GA 31603

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Searching for Section 8 housing in your area? Go to this website:

<http://www.gasection8.com/pa/SearchRentals.aspx?t=1>

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## GET ACTIVE VALDOSTA !

For a listing of opportunities for running, cycling, swimming, walking or other active sports, go to the Get Active Valdosta website:

<http://getactivevaldosta.com/coming.htm>



**Valdosta Camellia Society** Come and learn more about this varied and beautiful local flower. For more information or to join the Valdosta Camellia Society, call 229-242-2965.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Regular giving keeps supplies ready

American Red Cross has set up many public opportunities for blood donation (*see list at the top of the month*).

Please call 229-241-1141, Ext 221, to make an appointment to give the gift of life. To find donor sites throughout the region, visit [www.givebloodredcross.org](http://www.givebloodredcross.org) or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

## Adopt a rescue pet

Lowndes County Shelter

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/GA53.html>

Lake Park Animal Rescue

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/lpaar.html>

Lowndes County Humane Society

[www.humanesocietyofvaldosta.org](http://www.humanesocietyofvaldosta.org)

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## Educational Opportunities for First Time Home Buyers

Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity, a certified Home Buyer Education Agency, has partnered with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the City of



**Valdosta to provide monthly Home Buyer Education Workshops that are FREE and open to anyone considering buying a home. This training is designed to help people explore their options as first-time home buyers and learn how to qualify to receive down payment assistance of \$5,000 up to \$7,500.**

**Participants will learn the advantages and disadvantages of owning a home, the necessity of having a budget in order to know how much house they can afford as well as the importance of a good credit history when applying for a mortgage loan. Information presented also includes how to work with housing professionals like realtors and bankers. Mortgage options such as the Georgia Dream Homeownership Program, Habitat for Humanity and Dream Valdosta are also presented. Pre-registration is required.**

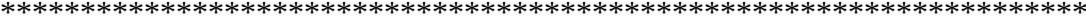
**In addition to these one day workshops, Habitat offers a series of free Homeownership Skills classes that focus on developing good financial management skills, home maintenance skills and a variety of other topics important to new homeowners. These classes are open to all, and are held in a small group setting monthly for two weeks. Completion of this class series may also qualify first-time home buyers to receive a \$5000.00 down payment assistance grant from the City of Valdosta if they purchase a house in the city’s Designated Revitalization Area.**

**To register for a Home Buyer Education Workshop or a series of Homeownership Skills Classes, please call 229-245-1330, ext 22.**



**Habitat for Humanity** Volunteer Coordinator Donnie Radney can give you details about how Habitat uses volunteers to help families become homeowners. Call 229-560-1112 or email at [volunteerhabitat@bellsouth.net](mailto:volunteerhabitat@bellsouth.net) .

**Habitat for Humanity Applicant Workshop**  
January 25, 2014  
Call 229-246-1330, ext 22 for information.



**Habitat for Humanity offers:**

These classes may be required for persons who wish to qualify for certain Down Payment Assistance loans or grants available from the City of Valdosta or the Georgia Dream Program of the GA Department of Community Affairs.

*These classes are mandatory for Habitat Partner Families. They may also be required for persons who wish to qualify for certain Down Payment Assistance loans or grants available from the City of Valdosta or the Georgia Dream Program (GA Department of Community Affairs).*

Bring your credit report, a calculator and a list of the bills you owe.

*These classes are mandatory for Habitat Partner Families. They may also be required for persons who wish to qualify for certain Down Payment Assistance loans or grants available from the City of Valdosta or the Georgia Dream Program (GA Department of Community Affairs).*

## **Attend Homeownership and Financial Skills Classes**

**Classes Are Open to All**

*(Child care is not provided)*

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity**

*You must register before attending classes.*

**To register for classes call Carolyn Selby: 229-245-1330/ext 22.**

**Home Buyer Education Workshop!!! November 16, 2013**

**9AM—3PM**

**Habitat for Humanity**

**To register for classes call Carolyn Selby: 229-245-1330/ext 22.**

## **Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Groups to assist during the week are needed for ongoing projects.**

### **Family Supporter**

Family Supporters must have good people skills and understand the difference between empowering and enabling and understand the importance of confidentiality.

Supporters will be a friend and information source for our Habitat families. They will assist families throughout the entire process of becoming homeowners by answering questions, helping plan Dedication Celebrations, providing follow-up explanations of Homeownership Skills class materials, and identifying other community resources. Once a family moves into their

new home the Supporter will maintain contact during the first year as family faces the challenges of homeownership. Training is provided for Family Supporters.

**Office Angels** (Monday–Friday 9am–4pm): Answer phone, Greet visitors, Perform office duties

**ReStore** (Tuesday–Saturday 9 to 4): Display, sort & price stock, Assist customers, Test & repair large appliances

**Jobsite** (Tuesday–Saturday 8am–4pm): Help build houses, Serve as Site Host/Hostess, Paint, Landscape, Provide meals, Clean up

**Serve on a committee:** Church Relations, Construction, Family Selection, Family Support

**Lunch providers for worksites needed**

To volunteer call Donnie Radney at 229-560-1112 or email at [volunteerhabitat@bellsouth.net](mailto:volunteerhabitat@bellsouth.net)

For more information visit our website: [www.valdostahabitat.org](http://www.valdostahabitat.org)

## Habitat ReStore

...is open to the public every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is at 2010 East Cypress St. For sale are donated new and used home improvement materials, furniture, appliances, and much more. Donations to the store are tax deductible. All sales proceeds benefit Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity and are used to help further the mission of building affordable housing for people in need.

### Workers needed for ReStore...must be able to withstand variations of temperature...

For more information, call the store manager, Bill Ray, at 229-247-8513 or call Donnie Radney at 229-560-1112

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Certain people qualify in Georgia for a free phone:  
[https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/program\\_info.aspx](https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/program_info.aspx)

You qualify for Lifeline Service in your area if...

1. You already participate in one of the following assistance programs:
  - o Federal Public Housing Assistance / Section 8
  - o Food Stamps



Food Bank volunteer hours are as follows:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday- Wednesday

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Thursday

9:00 AM -12:00 noon Friday

8:00 AM - 12:00 noon, one Saturday a month (please call for dates)

Special appointments should be made for groups of ten or more.

We are always in need of volunteers.

Please call to schedule all volunteer work and/or for more information at 244-2678 ext. 234

- Our new name and logo directly convey that we are providing access to food for people who need it- hungry Americans. In essence, "feeding" serves as a double meaning- both providing food and enriching lives.

We are now known as **Second Harvest of South Georgia, Inc.**, and we are a member of *Feeding America- The Nation's Food Bank Network*. This is a very subtle change, as we have had much success over the years with our branding in south Georgia. In the end, the wording in our organization's name is the only change that will be seen by the public. We continue to provide the same goods and services for our loyal members.

**Valdosta/ Lowndes Recreation, Parks and Community Affairs Department**  
**Mildred Hunter Community Center**

All participants must pay an annual membership fee for the Mildred Hunter Community Center.

**The membership fee is as follows:**

**Adults 18 and up: \$30.00 per year**

**Seniors 50 and up : \$12.00 per year or \$1.00 per month**

This membership fee will give you access to all of our recreational programs. Memberships will not cover evening instructional programs (Sewing Classes, Computer Classes, Karate Program, or Basketball Leagues). All participants must also complete and sign an active membership waiver form before participating in any center activity or program.

For more information contact Andre Newson @ 259-5437 or 259-5407.

If you would like to register in classes at the center, contact Andre Newson at the Mildred Hunter Center, 229-259-5407 or 259-5437

**Call for current listing of community oriented classes**

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**Community Friends for International Students**

Help give each new VSU international student a friend in the Valdosta community...become a resource for the student and help the student in times of homesickness and cultural adjustment. A Community Friend also provides the student an opportunity to share his/her culture. The Friend can be an individual or an entire family. By inviting an international student to dinner, taking her to the mall, or participating in other such social activities, a Community Friend helps an international student feel welcome and helps compensate for the separation from friends and family. This is a unique opportunity to learn about another culture and make a difference in the life of an international student. For more information, contact Irina McClellan, International Student Advisor, 229-333-7410.

## **Regularly Scheduled 12 Step Groups**

For information, call 1-800-878-1829

<http://www.aageorgia.org/2a-driving.html>

**Because the times and location of meetings of AA, and Al Anon have changed, I am listing only the website that is up to date on this information. Call the toll free number above to find a meeting. Below are the current listings for this area:**

Group Name/Street Address	General Driving Directions to the Meetings
Alamo Group Alamo Clubhouse 2nd Ave. & 7th St. S.E., Moultrie, GA 31768	33/133/37 confluence at Courthouse downtown. East from Courthouse on 1st Avenue SE/33 for 0.45 miles. South (right) onto 7th St SE for one block. AA signs on Alamo Clubhouse on hill.
Baytree Fellowship Messiah Lutheran Church 500 BayTree Rd Valdosta, GA 31602	East off I-75 at Exit 18 onto 133/94/St. Augustine for 0.4 miles. North (left) onto Gornto Road for 1/3 mile. East (right) onto Baytree Road for 1.8 miles. Lutheran Church on left.
Baytree Fellowship Corner of Toombs and Central Ave Valdosta, GA 31602	East off I-75/Exit 16 onto Hwy 84 which is Hill Ave. Travel approx 2.5mi then left onto N. Toombs St, passing by meeting entrance door take right at 2nd light then right into parking lot.
Conscious Contact Group Alamo Clubhouse 2nd Ave. & 7th St. S.E., Moultrie, GA 31768	33/133/37 confluence at Courthouse downtown. East from Courthouse on 1st Avenue SE/33 for 0.45 miles. South (right) onto 7th St SE for one block. AA signs on Alamo Clubhouse on hill.
Cook County Group Adel United Methodist Church 214 S. Hutchinson Ave., Hwy 41 Adel, GA 31620	East off I-75 at Exit 39 onto Hwy 37 for 1 mile. South (right) on Hutchinson Avenue/41 for 200 yards. Adel United Methodist Church on the right/west side of the road.
Grace Group St. Thomas Episcopal Church 216 Remington Ave. Thomasville, GA	Corner of Dawson St. and Remington Ave. in downtown Thomasville.
Hahira Group	take hwy 122 East out of Hahira go approx 7 miles to Cat Creek Rd. turn



## VOLUNTEER TO HELP VICTIMS OF CRIME

Volunteers are needed to provide assistance for our victims of crime in Lowndes County. Volunteers will assist the District Attorney's (DA) Office by educating the public about victim's rights, attending court proceedings with victims, and providing clerical assistance to the DA's office. The DA's Office handles sensitive information regarding crimes and victimization; therefore issues of confidentiality are vital. To learn more about volunteering, please call Carla Williams, Senior Victim Advocate, (229) 244-7170.

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**Georgia is now rating child care facilities. Go to this website to find out more: <http://qualityrated.org/find-a-quality-rated-program/>**  
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## VSU Small Business Development Office CLASSES

**To register: [http://www.georgiasbdc.org/?page\\_name=view\\_classes&city=Valdosta](http://www.georgiasbdc.org/?page_name=view_classes&city=Valdosta)**

To see all the course offerings, please visit us online at <http://www.valdosta.edu/sbdc>. To register for any of these courses, simply print out the flyer or brochure, clip and mail the registration, along with your payment, to our office. If you prefer, you may register in person at our office during our normal business hours and pay by credit card.

### [LegalAid-GA.org](http://LegalAid-GA.org)

Atlanta Legal Aid Society and Georgia Legal Services Program developed [LegalAid-GA.org](http://LegalAid-GA.org), a public access legal web site.

**Know Your Rights.** Georgians may now know their rights and legal responsibilities in 26 different areas of the law (over 1000 documents and links to legal information and government benefits).

- **Court Forms / Legal Forms.** Georgians may now obtain copies of model complaint letters, legal forms, court documents and online applications for government benefits from a single location.
- **Find a Lawyer.** Georgians may now find lawyers who will provide free and low-cost legal help throughout the state (including legal hotlines, legal aid organizations, lawyer referral agencies and bar associations).
- **Community Help.** Georgians may locate nearby social service providers (including the Dial 211 and other helpline providers throughout the state).
- **Find a Court.** Georgians may now locate the courts in each county (including court web sites).
- **Elderly legal issues handled at this site.**
- 1101 North Patterson Street, Valdosta. 229-333-5232



## Georgia Legal Services schedule in other counties:

**Civil Cases only** excluding tort (fee generating cases), class action, bankruptcy, child support, divorces w/o domestic violence). Call and confirm if it's something that they handle and if its not they can point callers in the right direction.

**Atkinson County** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Willacoochee Senior Center Willacoochee, Georgia

**Berrien County** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month 9:00 AM to Noon  
Berrien County Courthouse Nashville, Georgia

**Clinch County** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 9:00 AM to Noon  
Concerted Services Homerville, Georgia

**Colquitt County** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month 9:00 AM to Noon  
9 South Main Street Moultrie, Georgia

**Cook County** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Cook County Library 213 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Adel, Georgia

**Thomas County** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month 9:00 AM to Noon  
Thomas County Judicial Center 325 N. Madison Street Thomasville, Georgia

**Tift County** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month 9:00 AM to Noon  
State Bar Office 244 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Tifton, Georgia

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## Flu vaccine

"Many people believe that if they have not gotten the flu or the flu vaccine by January, they are in the clear," stated Debra Adams, RN, APRN, District Nursing and Clinical Director. "This is not true.

The CDC recommends certain groups getting vaccinated as soon as possible because they are at highest risk of getting the flu or spreading the flu to vulnerable populations. Those priority groups for getting the vaccine are pregnant women, caregivers for infants younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, persons from 6 months through 24 years of age, and persons 25 to 64 years of age who have health conditions, such as asthma and chronic congestive heart failure. Although priority groups have been highlighted, there are no restrictions on who can get the seasonal or H1N1 vaccines at this time.

For more information on NIVW or receiving your flu vaccine call your local health department, South Health District at 229-333-5290 or visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

**MAY is Foster Care Awareness Month, and we need foster and adoptive parents..."You**

## **don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent."**

There are over 300 Lowndes County children in foster care. There are only 149 beds available in the county, forcing DFCS to send children to other counties while they are in care. There are nine children free for adoption who have not had resources identified for them. Foster parents must take 20 hours of certification and annual refresher courses. If you are interested in information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent, call 229-333-7056 for Rebecca Gilliland  
The state also has a number to call: 877-210-KIDS (5437).

## **BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Valdosta Blood Donation Center (new hours) 2517-A Bemiss Road**

Mondays and Tuesdays 10:00 AM-7:00 PM (3rd Monday each month 2:00 PM-6:00 PM)

Wednesdays 1:00 PM-7:00 PM

Thursday-Friday-Saturday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Sunday Closed

For more information or to set up a blood donation event, contact Tina Tucker, American Red Cross, 229-241-1141, Ext 221 or [tuckert@usa.redcross.org](mailto:tuckert@usa.redcross.org)