

Conference Call Highlights

March 11, 2011

Please note: the Community Involvement Group Conference Call time is now **12pm -12:30pm on the second Friday of each month. Toll-free dial-in number: (888) 295-6951, Conference code: 7851936107. Our next call is April 8th.** Add this to your calendar as a recurring appointment to keep up on the latest volunteer opportunities and community involvement projects.

- ☑ **Karen Siczka** led the call for **Cecil Fricano**, who was out of town. No new members were on the call this month.
- ☑ **Jennifer Williams** updated us on the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Computer Training Classes. Next class is on April 2nd. See comments from the March 15 class below.
- ☑ **Susan Johnson** updated us on the Atlanta Community Food Bank Food Drive 2011 and Hunger Walk on Sunday, March 13th! Looking for ways to remind members to bring food items, including a possible phone campaign to help members remember to bring items to meets. May have some last minute additions to the walk. “Jay” Brewton is working on a new logo for 2011.
- ☑ **Cindy Smith** updated the Goodwill conversations and gave an overview of all the courses Goodwill currently offers, from computers to soft skills. Hopefully we can get more members involved once this partnership is set up.

Habitat Computer Training

Habitat for Humanity Homeowner basic computer education classes are being held every month until the end of the year. We need instructors once each month as well as “technology partners” to assist during the classes.

Help! We need 5 “technology partners” on Saturday, April 2nd, from 1- 5 PM at the Habitat at offices in Atlanta. In this role, you are partnered with a homeowner during the class to help them with the guided exercises provided by the facilitator.

If you are interested in participating, we would welcome you to get involved. If you choose to join us, you will need to sign and submit a confidentiality agreement and participate on the pre-course call on **March 31st**.

Upcoming class dates:

- ☑ Saturday, April 2, 1-5 pm (**We still need 5 “technology partners”**)
- ☑ Saturday, May 14, 1-5 pm
- ☑ Tuesday, June 21, 5-9 pm
- ☑ Saturday, July 30, 1-5pm
- ☑ More dates to come...

Mark your calendars and plan to help with the training. Please [email](#) Jennifer Williams, the ASTD Habitat Project Manager, to get involved. Sign up for one or multiple dates.

An Inside View of Habitat Homeowner Computer Training

Below are their comments for the March 15th session from the some of the technology partners, volunteers who work alongside the homeowners to help with the practice exercises delivered by the class facilitator.

Christie:

What you liked about the class: I really liked the opportunity to support a homeowner who wanted to be in class and learn about the personal computer. I wish there were more hours in the day because there is so much information to cover and our time is limited.

Why you got involved? It is a worthy cause and an opportunity to network with other members of ASTD.

What you got out of the session? Other than an opportunity to meet some wonderful people (homeowners and ASTD members), I also learned some tidbits of information about Word and Excel. I also enjoy watching and learning from other facilitator's style.

Plans to continue volunteering? Yes, I would like to do this once a month.

Anything else you would like to say about the course? The leadership has done a great job analyzing the possible needs of the homeowner and designing and developing the



ASTD volunteer Brian Ellis facilitates the email and internet portion of the training on March 15th.

material. There is a very knowledgeable and professional team delivering the material and it seems the evaluation process is thorough and enough to fine tune the training for future classes. All in all-- a great experience for the students and the training team.

Maureen:

What you liked about the class: I liked that the atmosphere was very laid back and easy. People who hadn't used a computer were not intimidated at all and really learned the basics. This is a great service to help using our skills. It's exciting to see the light bulbs go off when it just clicks for them learning something new.

Why did I get involved? I have done Habitat from the building side but I like that this is a different program and see another side of Habitat that I can help volunteer.

What did I get out of session? The satisfaction of helping someone and serving. What's 4 hours when this could change someone's life?

Anything else you would like to say about the course? I've enjoyed my involvement and look forward to helping in the future sessions.

Kevin:

This is a GREAT program!

Richard:

Thanks for putting on this much needed and very worthwhile class.

Sound interesting? We would love to have you on our ASTD team. The next session is on Saturday April 2nd and we are still need volunteers. Can't make it on the 2nd? We have a training session each month throughout the year. For more information email [Jennifer Williams](mailto:Jennifer.Williams@astd.org), the Habitat Project Chair.

ASTDATLCIG Website

Check out the ASTD Atlanta Community Involvement Group (ASTDATLCIG) [website](#) for easy to access volunteer information, newsletter archives, training documents, templates, and much more.



Want to read a previous edition of the Group's newsletter? Visit the archives and download newsletters at our [ASTD ATL CIG newsletter](#) archive page.

Activities, Projects & Events Food Drive

Food Drive Kick-off! At the February 22 meeting we had our kick-off for the 2011 food drive to benefit the [Atlanta Community Food Bank](#) (ACFB).



Kimberly Hays de Muga from ACFB with Susan Johnson in the back ground, gets the 2011 started at the 2/22 Chapter meeting

ACFB currently distributes nearly two million pounds of food and other donated grocery items each month to more than 700 nonprofit partner agencies in 38 counties in Metro Atlanta and North Georgia.

We have 41 items collected to date. Our goal for 2011 is 1,000 food items. We are challenging our membership to rise to the occasion and be even more generous. ***Please donate your food items at any Chapter, SIG or GIG meeting to help us meet our goal of 1,000 food items for 2011. Plan to bring items to each meeting you attend.***

Hunger Walk

Susan Johnson completed the 2011 Hunger Walk to benefit ACFB on March 13 and raised \$425 for the food bank. **Thanks to all the ASTD members who donated!** Look for dates and more information for volunteer service day events for ACFB coming soon. For more information on the Food Drive or volunteer days, [email](#) Susan Johnson, Food Drive Project Manager.

Goodwill Partnership Update

Cecil Fricano and **Cindy Smith** have been working to open a dialogue with Goodwill of North Georgia to establish a partnership with ASTD Atlanta. At this point we are exploring how Chapter members can help at Goodwill Career Centers.

Some possibilities include:

- Volunteers/Instructors
- “Job Club” support
- Training document support
- Potentially Spanish instructors

The mission of Goodwill of North Georgia is to put people to work. They establish many relationships in the communities with employers, with local, state and federal agencies, and others to help meet their goal of putting people to work. Some Goodwill locations teach construction, custodial skills, computer skills, and a variety of other skills to help people become employed. Other locations include Career Centers.

For more information visit the [Goodwill web site](#) including Goodwill Career Center locations, calendars and course descriptions. View Career center monthly calendars and flyers [here](#).

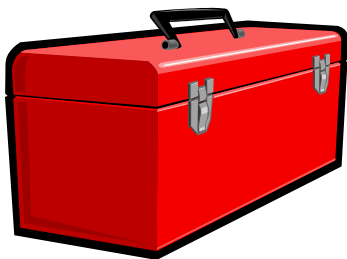
Goodwill Career Centers are wonderful resources for job seekers who can use computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, and telephones at those facilities at no cost. The centers also have a variety of meeting rooms available to the public at no cost (must be reserved to ensure availability). In addition to meeting rooms, each facility has a computer training room, with computers.

Goodwill Career Centers are spread throughout the area and include: Athens, Oakwood, Decatur, Northeast Plaza in Atlanta, and also Duluth, Woodstock, and Elijay.

How can ASTD members help?

Let us know if you're interested in volunteering to teach courses or help with document support! Email [Cecil](#) for more information.

Cool Tools



Add some of these creative & training tools to your toolbox. Have some you would care to share? [Email](#) them to us and they will be included in a future issue.

Skype

Technology has brought so many great tools right to our desktop including the ability to make phone calls and share your desktop using Skype. Since 2003, Skype has been giving millions of internet users the opportunity to make voice and video calls for free. It is estimated that just in 2010, Skype users made 95 billion minutes of calls. Read more about Skype [here](#).

Read about Skype as a learning tool in this article in [LearningSolutions Magazine.com](#) (requires free registration to read full article but site has many other great resources).

Want more tools? In addition to including tools in the newsletter, we are looking at having a series of short training/informational sessions based on different tools and technologies to enhance training as part of our service to you Chapter members. If you are interested in conducting a session, have a topic you would like to see covered, have ideas to share, or would like more information, [let us know](#).

Next month: Social Mediaologist and ASTD Atlanta member Dawn Gartin will share some of her insights into social media tools for learning.

We need volunteers!

First of all, what's the **WIIFY** (*what's in it for you*)? Although you don't get paid for your efforts, the non-monetary rewards are many. Add to your existing job skills, network, and make a difference within the community. If you know an organization that could benefit from our members' workplace training and performance expertise, [email](#) us.

Our Community Involvement Group has partnerships with many different organizations in the Atlanta Metro area, ranging from Atlanta Habitat for Humanity to the Atlanta Community Food Bank to Dress for Success. Some of the opportunities are on-going and some are one-time events. In addition, the Chapter's SIGs and GIGs have many volunteer positions available. You can find information listed on the [ASTD Atlanta website](#). Or email [Cecil Fricano](#), VP of Community Involvement.

P.S.

Follow the Greater Atlanta Chapter on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#). You can also join our **ASTD Community Involvement [LinkedIn](#) group**, a subgroup of ASTD Greater Atlanta to view the latest news from the group, post your news, ask questions, and keep up with the conversation.

We need reporters! Are you attending an ASTD SIG or GIG event? Attending a volunteer event? Share your pictures and give us a [brief update](#) to be included in a future newsletter. Share your excitement with the rest of the Chapter!

Group members are always welcome to submit news, articles, and information for distribution in the group news at any time!

“See” you next month!