



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Keith Fenton, Chief Development Officer
(770) 932-4887 · keith.fenton@annandale.org

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**Annandale Village to Host *Get Ready Gwinnett!*
An Emergency Preparedness Educational Symposium for Regional Disability Community**

July 24, 2012 - Suwanee, GA – Disasters can happen anytime, anywhere, and sometimes without warning. It is important for all Georgians, especially those citizens with disabilities and other special needs, to decrease the impact of a disaster by taking steps to prepare BEFORE an event occurs. For Annandale Village, this is the message it hopes to disseminate when it serves as host of ***Get Ready Gwinnett!***, a day-long disaster preparedness educational symposium and resource fair.

Scheduled for **Saturday, September 15, 2012**, *Get Ready Gwinnett!* is designed to help people who have physical, visual, auditory, or cognitive disabilities to prepare for natural disasters and their consequences. Organizers say anyone who has a disability or anyone who works with, lives with, or assists a person with a disability is strongly encouraged to attend so that they will gain valuable tools, resources and information to effectively organize a personal disaster plan. “The American Red Cross and local government agencies will respond when a disaster threatens and after a disaster strikes. However, they can’t be everywhere at once”, said Keith Fenton, Annandale Village’s Chief Development Officer. “Being ready for a disaster is a part of maintaining independence. Although you may not know when a disaster will strike, if you are prepared ahead of time, you will be better able to cope with the disaster and recover from it more quickly.”

“Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, we made it an organizational priority to develop a robust, comprehensive disaster preparedness program to ensure the personal safety of the men and women we serve”, said Annandale’s Chief Executive Officer, Adam Pomeranz. “Because we have gone through the process of developing an excellent plan, we could not be more thrilled to share our experience with those that will attend this important program.”

According to one recent study, it was proven that people with disabilities who receive adequate preparation for a disaster can become an important resource and role models in effectively evacuating a disaster area. Japan’s experience of the earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011 was testament to the importance of this activity. Some people with disabilities who had in the past created significant challenges for emergency services, through adequate training were able to calmly evacuate and assist many people without disabilities.

-more-

EVENT: Get Ready Gwinnett: An Emergency Preparedness Speaker's Series and Resource Fair

DATE: Saturday, September 15, 2012

TIME: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Registration
9:00 AM – Noon – Seminar
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Resource Fair

LOCATION: Annandale Village, 3500 Annandale Lane, Suwanee, GA 30024

COST: This is a FREE event

PRESENTED BY: The Gwinnett Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GETREADYGWINNETT.ORG

ABOUT ANNANDALE VILLAGE

Located in Suwanee, Georgia, Annandale Village is a nonprofit organization dedicated solely to improving the lives of adults with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. Annandale Village offers a comprehensive range of residential and non-residential programs to help men and women lead lives that reflect quality, value, self worth, and achievement. Characteristically, individuals served at Annandale are 18 years of age or older with a primary diagnosis of Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, an intellectual disability, or have experienced a traumatic brain injury.

The mission of Annandale Village is to perpetuate a Village community to provide progressive life assistance to adults with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries so that they can maximize their abilities and maintain their independence in the least restrictive environment.

###