



Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Love-Hendrickson
Associate Director
(770) 995-3339
nicolelove@gwinnettcoalition.org
www.gwinnettcoalition.org

Gwinnett Leadership Institute to Host *Opportunity Lead*

Program Aims to Address Nonprofit Leadership Gap Through Effective Board Training/Opportunities

Gwinnett County – February 21, 2014 – According to a study by Booz Allen Hamilton, there are more than 1.2 million "vacancies" on non-profit organizations' boards of directors in any given year in the United States. That's right - 1.2 million. An average of 1.8 million board seats are available annually, and only an estimated 600,000 people step forward to fill those board seats - meeting one-third of the need. In Gwinnett County, most of these vacancies occur at smaller and medium-sized non-profit organizations that desperately need strong board governance and support to survive, let alone thrive to meet their specific mission of service to the community.

In response, the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute is hosting ***Opportunity Lead***, a two-hour workshop specifically designed to encourage and train emerging community leaders in effective board leadership. Scheduled for **Thursday, March 27, 2014** from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Cultural Arts & Community Center in Historic Downtown Norcross, *Opportunity Lead* presents the role of board governance more from a practical viewpoint, with real-life scenarios and examples. The focus of this workshop will be effective board operations, expectations of board members, governance, financial and legal roles and responsibilities of board members, and finding the right fit. Organizers say anyone who currently serves on a board or is interested in serving in a volunteer leadership role within a nonprofit organization will gain great benefit from attending. "Our primary purpose for presenting this workshop is to help Gwinnett's social service and civic organizations perform at their highest level. We encourage our partners and others to participate in this valuable training," said Ellen Gerstein, Executive Director of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services. "*Opportunity Lead* is a great way to hone your skills as a board member. Whether you are new to board work or experienced, the tools learned in this workshop will increase the value that you will bring to your organization."

The workshop's main presenter is Terri Theisen of Theisen Consulting LLC. Theisen has more than 35 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, and is a nationally-acclaimed consultant, speaker and trainer, with special emphasis on nonprofit board governance. Theisen says "anyone can contribute to the enhancement of our community through service on a non-profit board. Everyone has something to offer. With the encouragement of our employers, colleagues and families, and with non-profit organizations seeking a broad cross-section of individuals to serve on their boards, we can move forward closing the board vacancy gap. Closing this gap will strengthen the mission output of non-profits, continue to build a strong sense of community, enhance skills and improve quality of life."

Co-presenting is Keith Fenton, a 23-year year veteran of the nonprofit sector and current Chief Development Officer for Annandale Village. Fenton said, "the non-profit sector fills both the

community's need for the social service and the individual's need to contribute to society. This unique combination affords us the opportunity to support the work of organizations that are making a difference for our community's quality of life, while also growing leadership skills that are applicable in all areas of our personal and professional development."

There is a \$15 per-person fee for alumni and \$20 per-person fee for non-alumni to help defray the costs of the facility and catering. Registrants can pay online when they register by credit or debit card. To register or for more information, please call Miranda Marlowe (770) 995-3339 or online at <http://www.gnli.org>.

PRESENTERS

Terri Theisen, Theisen Consulting LLC

Keith Fenton, Annandale Village - Chief Development & Marketing Officer

Brenda Horne, Community Health Charities of the Southeast, Executive Director

ABOUT THE GWINNETT NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (GNLI) is a program of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services. GNLI is an intensive, 8 month program that trains, empowers and supports everyday citizens and community leaders to promote positive changes in their neighborhoods and communities. The program develops community leaders who will assist others in understanding their government and effectively identify and address community issues.

GNLI recognizes and respects the expanding diversity that strengthens our county and actively seeks students who represent Gwinnett's racial, ethnic, age, social and economic mix.

###