



# GHAzette

GHA, INC.

ISSUE 78B—2010

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**2010-2011**

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## CSA Subscribers Enjoy the Best of Carolina Farms

For the first time, the creation of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program has brought the freshest of Carolina Farms produce into the homes of many this summer growing season. Essentially, a CSA is an opportunity for individuals to purchase a "subscription" to a farm's harvest.



All produce at Carolina Farms is grown without the use of pesticides, which was a nice attraction to most of the shareholders. Thirty shares were sold and the program kicked off in early June. Each week, shareholders have enjoyed a variety of items from Carolina Farms including farm-fresh eggs from free-roaming chickens, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, okra, cantaloupe, fresh flowers and much more! The program will continue through September 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the Carolina Farms CSA Program, feel free to contact Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at (704) 982-9600, ext. 125 or by email at [betholivieri@ghainc.org](mailto:betholivieri@ghainc.org).



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## GHA Hosts Community Blood Drive

Through a partnership with the Stanly County Chapter of the American Red Cross, GHA is scheduled to host a blood drive on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. The Carolina Blood Services Region large RV will be parked in front of the GHA Central Office for blood donors.

The drive will be open to all GHA employees and any other members of the community. **Please make your appointment by contacting Beth Olivieri at [betholivieri@ghainc.org](mailto:betholivieri@ghainc.org) or by calling 704-982-9600, ext. 125.**

**GHA, Inc. P.O. Box 2487 Albemarle, NC 28002**



**From the Chief Executive Officer**

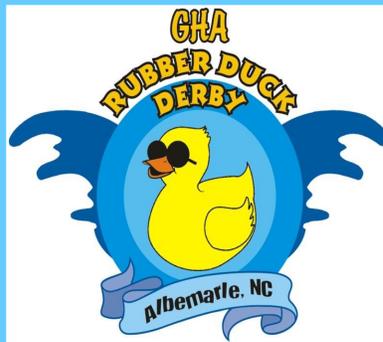
*Dawn Allen*

Summertime at GHA has continued at a breakneck pace like all other times of the year! Like so many health and human service providers, GHA has seen its share of state and federal cuts. We have continued our efforts to educate our elected officials on how critical their support is for the continuation of our programs. I would like to commend our staff for working tirelessly to create environments for our individuals that maintain quality, while operating with less money. Our families may observe our need to cut back on non-essentials as we transition through these challenging economic times. However, we are committed to providing the best of supports for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As reported throughout this newsletter, we are continuing our efforts to explore revenues from private foundations and fundraisers. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see many of you at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual GHA Rubber Duck Derby on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>!

**Savory Samplings  
Cookbook Recipes Rolled In!**

Countless individuals answered our request for recipes for inclusion in the GHA cookbook: *Savory Samplings—A Collection of Recipes and Recollections Compiled By Families & Friends of GHA*. Nearly 800 recipes have been submitted and the final touches are being made on what will certainly be a great holiday gift idea! Slated for availability in late September, the cookbook will feature recipes and recollections from GHA families, friends, employees and from the individuals that we serve.

In addition, congratulations to Jenny Hively for winning our cookbook cover design contest! Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming support that we have received in seeing this project through. A limited number of cookbooks will be available for \$18.00 each. Please contact Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at (704) 982-9600, ext. 125 or by email at [betholivieri@ghainc.org](mailto:betholivieri@ghainc.org) to reserve your copies in advance.



**Scheduled for  
September 18<sup>th</sup>  
Adopt Your  
Ducks Today!**

GHA fundraising efforts continue as we gear for the second annual GHA Rubber Duck Derby!

The event is scheduled for 11:00 am – 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the City Lake Park off of Highway 73 in Albemarle. There will be fun for everyone including food, face painting, inflatables and other games for children, as well as cornhole and snag golf. All ducks that have been adopted will take the plunge into City Lake at 2:00 pm!

A limited number of ducks are available for adoption by contacting the GHA Office at (704) 982-9600 or by visiting our website at [www.ghainc.org](http://www.ghainc.org). You may adopt a single duck for \$5.00, a nest of ducks (6 ducks) for \$25.00, a flock of ducks (13 ducks) for \$50.00 or a duck flotilla (27 ducks) for \$100. Or feel free to adopt any amount in between or any number above and beyond--the choice is yours!

An exciting prize package is up for grabs again this year! The first duck to cross the finish line (Lucky Duck) will receive \$3,000 cash, the second duck (Runner-Up Duck) will receive \$1,000 cash and the Ducky in the Middle will receive \$500 cash. In addition, other prizes include gift cards for gas and groceries, just to name a few.



Mark your calendar and make plans to adopt your ducks and join us on September 18<sup>th</sup>!



**BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE,**  
Governor of the  
State of North Carolina,  
Has proclaimed the week  
Of September 12-18, 2010,  
as **"DIRECT SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONALS  
RECOGNITION WEEK"**  
in North Carolina, and commend its  
observance to all citizens.

# A Night in N'awlins



## Gala Auction Nets Over \$45,000

On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, over 200 gathered at the Stanly Regional Family and Education Center for "A Night In N'awlins" where guests savored the New Orleans style cuisine while pursuing over 150 fabulous items up for bid! Auction planning committee members, including Dawn Allen, Tina Baxter, Sue Bohnsack, Kym Burris, Elaine Denton, Denise Drye, Tonda Forrest, Carroll Holbrook, Gina Martin, Terri Meyers, Maureen Morrell, Jillian Stallings, Shannon Rogers and Nicole Williams, worked tirelessly for months securing items and sponsorships and providing those final touches in creating extraordinary displays the day of the event. Emcee Rob Morrell and Auctioneer Michael Parker energized buyers and jazz musicians from Pfeiffer University helped to set the tone for the evening as families and friends of GHA gathered at the organization's second run of its signature fundraising event. The gala auction raised over \$46,000 to support GHA's initiatives to provide quality services for individuals with autism, a figure that reflects approximately \$8,000 more than the amount raised during the first auction back in 2008. A very special thanks goes to the following sponsors whose support of "A Night In N'awlins" made the event an tremendous success: **Presenting Sponsor:** Ellen Brooks; **Platinum Sponsors:** Bank of Stanly, Camiña Design & Construction and Tim Marburger Honda; **Gold Sponsors:** Albemarle Compounding, J. Holcomb Fine Jewelry, RPM Cycles, South Central Oil Company and Wachovia; **Silver Sponsors:** Bear Insurance Service, Southern Pharmacy and Stanly Appliance Parts and Service; **Bronze Sponsors:** Stephen Aldridge, Davidson, Holland & Whitesell & Company, Deek Mechanical, Forrest Fence, Home Savings Bank, Patriot Systems, Stanly Ace Hardware Company, Starnes Jewelers, Storm Technologies, Inc. and Superior Carpet Cleaning; **Media Sponsors:** Stanly News and Press and WSPC/WZKY Radio. The next gala event is slated for the spring of 2012.



**A huge congratulation goes to  
Stephen Gilbertson on receiving a  
10 Years of Service Award from Wendy's**

## SCCM Grant Received for Carolina Farms

GHA was recently awarded a \$1,900 grant from the Stanly County Community Foundation (SCCM) towards the construction of a second roaming chicken coop at Carolina Farms. The SCCF is a permanent endowment established in 1999 by local leaders to benefit a broad range of charitable purposes in Stanly County. The Foundation assists donors in making charitable gifts to the community, provides services for nonprofit organizations to create new or manage existing endowments and makes grants for new projects. Our very own Dawn Allen was just voted in as a members of the SCCM Board of Directors.

An additional chicken coop will allow for an increase in egg production. These farm fresh eggs from free-roaming chickens supply eggs for several GHA homes and are being marketed to several restaurants located in Stanly County.

Approximately \$10,400 in grants from the SCCF has been awarded to GHA since 2006, which also includes funding for the construction of the barn, the therapeutic horseback riding ring and for the soon to be completed construction of a second greenhouse at Carolina Farms.

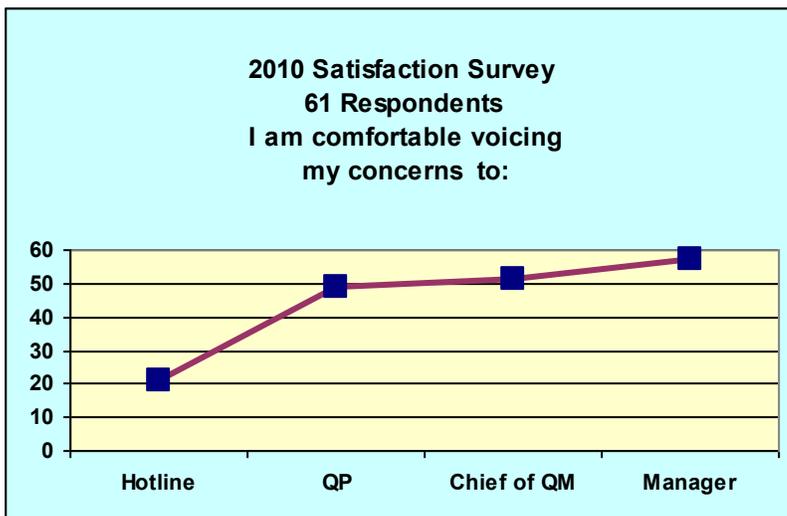
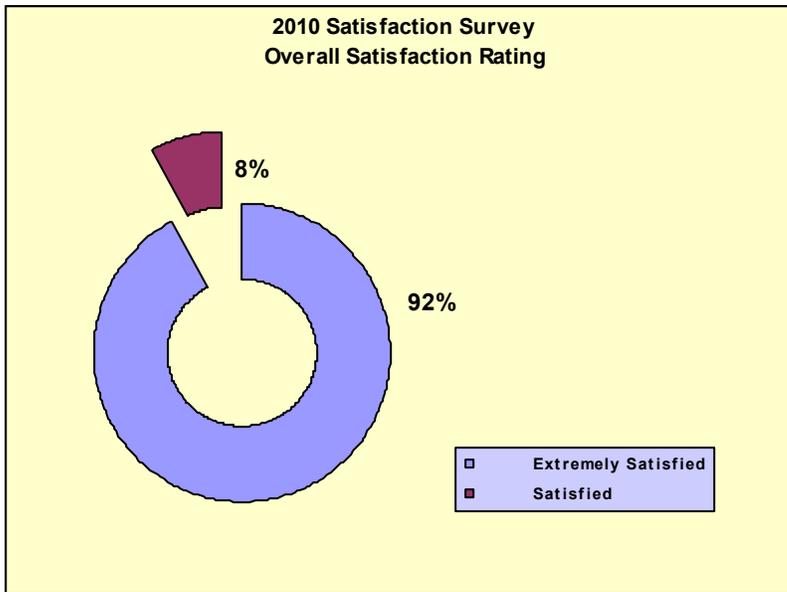


**2010 Satisfaction Survey Results**

In April, 2010, we surveyed all parents and legally responsible persons. Our focus was finding out how satisfied they were with GHA's services. With this important information, we can better fulfill our commitment to providing the best possible services. This year, for the first time, we did a follow-up mailing. With this additional mailing, 62 of 71 surveys were returned. The 86% return rate was our highest response since the survey began in 2005. **We are pleased because your input truly matters!**

Survey participants rated fifteen different aspects of GHA's services. In 2009 and 2010, 98.6% of answers were positive compared to 90% in 2008. In addition, a key survey question asked participants to rate overall how satisfied they were with GHA's services. All 2010 respondents answering the question selected *extremely satisfied* (92%) or *satisfied* (8%). Also, participants were asked to choose individuals they felt they could comfortably express their concerns to. The Hotline (800-624-3004) was also an option. Most respondents had at least three persons at GHA they were comfortable talking with about their concerns. The results for both questions are illustrated below.

GHA, Inc. will continue the annual Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Survey as a part of providing the best possible supports. Our surveys help identify the needs and desires of the individuals we serve as well as those of their families, guardians and natural supports. If you have additional comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Janet Daniels Breeding at 704-982-9600 or through email to [janetbreeding@ghainc.org](mailto:janetbreeding@ghainc.org).



**Upcoming Events**

**August 30th**  
Stanly County Chapter of the American Red Cross GHA Blood Drive

**September 18th**  
GHA Rubber Duck Derby

**October 6th**  
Stanly County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo

**October 16th**  
GHA Family Support Network Yard Sale

**November 19th**  
Albemarle Downtown Christmas

**December 3rd**  
GHA Family Support Network

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