



Community Environmental Health News

Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc.

P.O. Box 3841

Albany, Georgia

agtconline.org

May 2010

Volume I, Issue I

CARE Steering Committee

Officers

Carl A. Dukes, President
Barbara Carroll, Secretary
Carolyn Smith, Community Coordinator

Albany, GA Tools for Change

Leadership

Ellis Harris, President
Dr. Michael Rogers, Vice President
Nedra Fortson, Secretary
Edgar Davis, Treasurer
Rebecca F. Reid, Administrative Officer
Jacqueline Jenkins, Technical Advisor

NEIGHBORHOODS

Country Club Estates

Evergreen

West Town

Town & Country

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Events

Forums, Dialogue Sessions,
Focus Groups

Community Forum

May 28, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.

West Town Elementary School
1113 University Ave., Albany, GA

Speaker—**Dr. Mildred McClain**,
Harambee House, Savannah,
GA, CARE, Level 1 and 2.

Leadership Training

Dr. Mildred McClain

May 29, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

New Hope Full Gospel Ministry
1610 W. Oakridge Dr., Albany, GA

PACE-EH (Protocol for Assessing

Community Excellence in Environ-
mental Health)

June 11-12, 2010

Tom Struzick, Trainer

University of Alabama

Albany State University—Peace Hall,
Rm. 121

reid_agtfcao@bellsouth.net

From the Desk of the President of AGTFC

Greetings Residents of Country Club Estates, Evergreen, Town & Country, and West Town:

Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc. (AGTFC) welcomes each of you as partners in helping OUR community become healthier. Your input as a stakeholder in the community is valuable in identifying potential sources of environmental exposures and establishing priorities for risk reduction. Residents are concerned about overall air quality and water pollution and past dumping of toxins and other contaminants in the area. We want to improve overall community health by increasing our environmental awareness of environmental pollutants, creating as much green space within our communities as possible, and focusing on healthy lifestyles including more locally grown healthier products.

AGTFC is an incorporated 501 (c) 3 organization started in 2003. We are part of a Georgia four-city collaboration, which includes Albany, Augusta, Ft. Valley, and Savannah. The mission of AGTFC is to engage and empower the community with respect to eliminating health disparities, promoting environmental justice, and providing health education throughout south-west Georgia. We are now attempting to identify the extent of environmental pollution and the possible impact of such pollution on the overall health and well-being of our residents. To help us reach our goal we have partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and have secured a Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program grant.

Please join with us - Participate, Engage, Lend a Hand to help identify YOUR community concerns about current or past environmental issues so we can eventually improve our overall health and well-being. Your participation in the work of AGTFC is vital to reaching the mission to substantially improve the health of residents who live in our communities.

If you have questions please contact: Carl Dukes, President, CARE Steering Committee c.a.dukes1@gmail.com; Carolyn Smith, Community Coordinator (229-888-1040); Rebecca F. Reid, Project Manager (229-432-8499); Jacqueline Jenkins, Technical Advisor (229-420-1157). The CARE Steering Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday of each month at the New Hope Full Gospel Ministry at 1610 West Oakridge Dr., Albany, Georgia, 31707.

Sincerely,

Ellis Harris
President/CEO
AGTFC, Inc.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) program, TASC is currently providing help for our community in dealing with questions such as:

Are there potential sources of toxic exposure in our community?

How may these exposures affect your family's health?

How do we build community capacity?

How can AGTFC more effectively engage our business and university partners?

TASC provides educational and technical assistance to communities with hazardous waste site concerns. This program, developed by EPA, provided AGTFC with independent experts to conduct trainings in environmental health issues, team-building, and community organization and outreach. EPA also offers assistance to help our community to better understand the potential sources of toxic/environmental hazard

exposures confronting us so we can become well-informed, while participating in the decision-making process.



EPA Representatives, Albany CARE Leadership and Michael Lythcott of E² Inc.