

COALITION REPRESENTED AT SUCCESSFUL RCI SUMMIT 09

"Crossing the Bridge from Science to Service" was the theme of this year's Rosalynn Carter Institute National Summit and Training Institute. Georgia CARE-NET Coalition members were well represented at the conference and participated in several events relative to the Coalition:

Caregiver of the Year. Nominees from the 12 member CARE-NETs were recognized at the Georgia Caregiver of the Year Awards ceremony on October 22. Awards went to:

Family Caregiver:

Starling Mercer, Southern Georgia CARE-NET

Volunteer:

Larry Russell, Northwest Georgia CARE-NET

Para-professional:

Jeannie Adams, Northeast Georgia CARE-NET

Policy Planning Breakfast. Several Coalition members were able to attend a policy breakfast with speaker Peter Spuit and begin planning a Coalition policy agenda. (See article on page 2 for further details.)

Evidence-Based Practices. Coalition members had the opportunity to participate in a pre-conference day of train-the-trainer activities for caregivers dealing with developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's, and cancer. At the conference, researchers who developed the REACH and NYU Caregiver support models gave presentations. The REACH VA and NYU programs are currently being implemented or developed in three AAAs across the state in partnership with RCI.

To obtain copies of conference presentations and see a slideshow of activities, visit the conference website at :

<http://www.rcisummit09.org/conferencehome.html>.



Nancy Harper, I, presented gilded rose by Rosalynn Carter.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION GIVEN TO COALITION MEMBER

At the October 22 awards banquet, Nancy Harper, outgoing chair of the Southwest Georgia CARE-NET, was given special recognition by the RCI and former first lady Rosalynn Carter. At the surprise presentation, her efforts on behalf of caregivers, her local CARE-NET, and the Coalition were acknowledged.

As many Coalition members know, Nancy, who serves at the Family Caregiver Program Coordinator with the SOWEGA Council on Aging, is retiring in January and moving out of state to be closer to family. Because she is such a tireless advocate for caregivers in south Georgia and active Coalition member, her absence will be strongly felt.

Thanks, Nancy, for your leadership, and congratulations on this well deserved honor!

GEORGIA CARE-NET COALITION

NEWS FOR THE CAREGIVER'S ADVOCATE.

NOVEMBER 2009

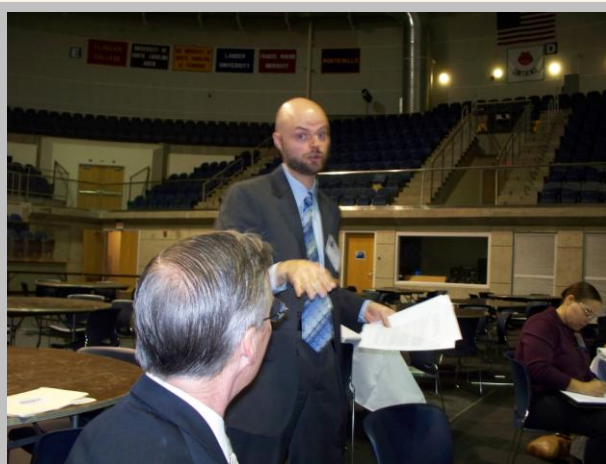
MINNESOTA POLICY AUTHOR MEETS WITH COALITION MEMBERS

Peter Spuit encourages greater caregiving partnerships in Georgia

On October 23, Coalition representatives at the RCI annual Summit and RCI staff participated in a breakfast discussion on setting a policy agenda for state caregiver advocacy with Peter Spuit, MSW, author of the Minnesota state policy document, "What Will Keep Family Caregivers Caring? Policy Alternatives for Minnesota." Spuit, a project consultant for the state of Minnesota, worked with its Department of Human Services, Board of Aging and Department of Health to develop caregiving policy alternatives as a part of *Transition 2010*, Minnesota's effort to examine and plan for issues critical to the age wave.

Spuit described his state's model for setting caregiving policy and offered suggestions to the Coalition regarding strategies for Georgia. Among his recommendations: offering options rather than single choices to policy makers, linking with other organizations on common issues of interest, and looking for "low-hanging fruit." Spuit challenged the group to identify Georgia's strengths and advocate for their preservation, in a time when new monies are not likely available. He also stressed the importance of identifying other organizations with similar goals, as well as forging internal state partnerships and legislative relationships. Spuit commended the Coalition for its beginning efforts to organize a policy agenda for the state of Georgia.

You can read a copy of his full conference presentation on Minnesota's policy agenda at: <http://www.rosalyncarter.org/UserFiles/File/Conference%20Presentations%20/Spuit.pdf>.



Peter Spuit provides policy feedback at Coalition breakfast.



Rapt Coalition members and staff listen to speaker comments at breakfast presentation.



Southwest Georgia CARE-NET members enjoy their quarterly luncheon meeting at the Grand Island Golf Club in Albany.

FEATURED CARE-NET OF THE MONTH: SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

As part of the continuing efforts to recognize the activities of individual member CARE-NETs throughout the state, each month we will feature one CARE-NET organization. This month, in keeping with the state recognition of its chapter chair, Nancy Harper, we feature the Southwest Georgia CARE-NET.

One of the more active chapters in the state, Southwest Georgia was one of the early CARE-NETs established in conjunction with the AAAs in the early 1990s. A recent visit to its quarterly meeting in Albany confirmed that it continues to be a vital presence in southwest Georgia. Among other activities, the group was planning both a new logo competition and a spring fund-raising event. As Sowega AAA has just received funding to be an ADRC – Aging and Disability Resource Connection, even greater community outreach is anticipated from this area council.

Southwest Georgia Coalition has seamlessly integrated its local mission into that of the larger Coalition. For example, the executive committee has already agreed to base its advocacy platform on that of the Coalition in the coming year.

It was noted that new members and guests were readily in evidence. According to members, the organization thrives at least in part because of its efforts to recruit new members on an ongoing basis. While members clearly have looked to the past leadership of outgoing chair Nancy Harper, a new slate of officers has recently been elected, and the membership has its sights set on the future.

ACTION ALERT!!

- ✓ **November is national Family Caregivers Month. Do something today to honor a loved one.**
- ✓ **Former first lady Rosalynn Carter will be attending the December 18 Coalition meeting in Macon. Attendees will work on the draft of a 2010 action agenda, to include setting top priorities for the year and related strategies. Each CARE-NET needs to have a voice at this important meeting.**

Come meet the Coalition's new administrative assistant and liaison, DANNY LUQUE, in December. Danny will be working with Pam Davis to support the Coalition. See his profile in the December issue!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 2009 –

National Family Caregivers Month

December 9 –

West Central Georgia CARE-NET planning meeting, Pastoral Institute, Columbus, 10:00 a.m.

December 18 –

Quarterly Georgia CARE-NET Coalition meeting, Methodist Children's Home Macon campus, 10:00 a.m.

GEORGIA CARE-NET COALITION

www.rosalynncarter.org/CaregiverCoalition

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