



CAM

Citizens Against Methamphetamine And Other Addictive Substances

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Jan Hammond

770.548.4876

citizensagainstmeth@gmail.com

www.citizensagainstmeth.org

CALHOUN WOMANS CLUB AND CAM JOIN FORCES

Thanks to the Calhoun Woman's Club, The Citizens against Methamphetamine (CAM) and Other Addictive Substances will have the opportunity to apply for future grants requiring matching funds to continue the important work of the organization. This year's CWC Sequoyah Ball Theme "Hope and Healing" is the message that CAM wishes to convey to the community. We invite each of you to join us.

With increasing collaboration between groups affected by the ravages of substance abuse – legal, judicial, insurance, families, healthcare, economic development, social services, schools and more - Gordon County can experience 'hope and healing'. Funds from this year's Ball proceeds will enable the organization to move ahead to hire its first paid employee to direct the organization's work and secure sustainable funding. Responsibilities would include volunteer coordination, administrative duties, collaborating with other regional and state groups to gather statistics and new information, and fundraising to sustain the organization.

CAM's goal is to raise awareness regarding the consequences of methamphetamine abuse, the effects of this drug on Gordon County, and to encourage those families and individuals suffering from substance abuse to seek

help. Over 100 people have volunteered support to the organization. This is an indicator of the growing impact of drug abuse on our community. We know that we have only just begun to engage volunteers in CAM's work – volunteers who care about this growing problem. The problem has no socio-economic boundaries.

CAM's Board is led by Larry Roye, Chairman. Other board members include Randall Fox, Jan Hammond, Jim Franklin, Judge Suzanne Hutchinson Smith, Dr. John Bledsoe, and Lynne Reese. We are especially indebted to Superior Court Judge Scott Smith who presented the scope and seriousness of the Methamphetamine problem in Calhoun and Gordon County to the CWC membership. CAM has stressed the need for a Drug Court and fully supports Judge Scott Smith as he seeks funds to make the Drug Court a reality. CAM would also like to thank its dedicated volunteers who worked with the board on the presentation to the Calhoun Womans Club membership: Trace Vaughn, Nancy Weaver, Patches Wilcox, Dr. Brent Box, Judy Howerton, Shawn Mashburn and Joe Naymick

We encourage each of you to join us – through your support of the 2008 Calhoun Womans Club Sequoyah Ball and as a CAM volunteer as we continue our efforts to educate the public, provide resources for our schools, and coordinate a referral service for individuals addicted to methamphetamine or other addictive drugs. We welcome your time, donations, items or activities to be auctioned at the Sequoyah Ball, sponsorships, or tickets to the Ball. Please contact Jan Hammond at 770.548.4876 or citizensmeth@gmail.com to participate.

For more information about the work of CAM or to volunteer please visit the organization's website at www.citizensagainstmeth.org.

Citizens Against Methamphetamine (CAM) is a non-profit grassroots organization. Its mission is to reduce the impact of methamphetamine and other addictive substances through public awareness, education, prevention and rehabilitation, making Gordon County a safer and healthier community.

QUOTES

"Parents that started out being good, once on meth, start neglecting, abusing, and losing their children." **Dottie Jarrett, DFCS**

"We are a drug free workplace. We have had success in hiring rehabilitated addicts – giving them the means to fulfill responsibilities and build a better life and are doing so." **Randall Fox, Fox Systems**

"We have seen significant adverse medical effects on both individual patients and their families in our community because of methamphetamine."
Dr. Brent Box, M.D., Northwest Georgia Medical Group

We have seen the effects of meth use on our clients and their families across the range of services we provide. It is no longer a threat: it is a reality."
Judy Howerton, Gordon County Health Dept.

"CAM has been a driving force-encouraging progress toward the establishment of a drug court in Gordon County"
Scott Smith, Superior Court Judge

"Chamber member businesses are learning a great deal about the meth epidemic and how to deal with it from CAM."
Shawn Mashburn, Chamber of Commerce

"As a former meth addict, I am so thankful to have an organization such as CAM working to prevent others from suffering the pains I endured." **Patches**

"There is strength in numbers. Families Anonymous and CAM are instrumental in recovery"
Nancy Weaver, Founding Member CAM

As middle school teacher I am blessed to teach young influential children on a daily basis. The key word is influential. What these children see and hear usually become part of their behavior and habit in their young adult lives and then carry over to their adult lives. We like to think that positive role modeling by parents and relatives at home is a normal occurrence, but the truth is that in Gordon County, I have had way too many students tell me about Methamphetamine use in their families. One of my units I cover in Health Class is drug resistance and awareness and every time I cover Meth there is a student who approaches me about what they see in their homes, how it looks like Meth and what they should do about it. This is a two edge sword because if they try to ignore it they will become caught up in the Meth mess and if they report it they become the victim of being taken away from their family and usually moved out of the area to live with a safe family member or a foster parent. We need more positive outside influence in our schools and we need to create a community safe net for these children and a society that rejects illegal drug use and embraces action groups that will educate and play a positive roll in the community. **Coach Joe Naymick, Health Instructor, Ashworth Middle School**