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Governor Perdue Awards State Hands On Challenge Grant to Hands On Columbus

ATLANTA, March 19 -- Hands On Georgia and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs today awarded \$101,000 in state challenge grants to 14 Georgia communities seeking to build organizational capacity and develop greater volunteer opportunities. During a presentation at the State Capitol, Hands On Columbus received a \$5,000 grant.

Hands On Georgia and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs received funding for the State Challenge Grants from the Georgia General Assembly as a challenge to communities across the state to better engage residents in volunteer service. Communities receiving grant are required to raise matching funds from a local government or private sponsor. Those matching funds will bring the leveraged amount of funding for volunteer programming in these communities to \$202,000.

““Since its inception, Hands On Georgia has worked tirelessly with communities across the state encouraging Georgians to participate in volunteer service and the response has been considerable,” said Governor Sonny Perdue. “With state and local funding, community volunteerism has an even greater opportunity to flourish.”

Hands On Columbus will use the grant to establish a corporate volunteer program. The number of volunteers from the business community has increased significantly in the past year. The program will allow Hands On Columbus to educate area business leaders about the intrinsic value of volunteerism to not only the community at-large, but to their employees as well.

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In addition to supporting the implementation of Hands On programming, grants may be used in engaging volunteers as leaders in all aspects of programming; engaging corporate partners, including employee volunteer programming; customized project development and management; development of volunteer leaders, including issue-education, project reflection, infusion of civic engagement strategies; and skill-building opportunities for volunteers.

About Hands On Georgia

Hands On Georgia is a statewide network that supports innovative volunteer approaches to meeting Georgia's critical needs through service and civic engagement. Hands On Georgia calls upon the citizens of Georgia to help tackle tough issues in our state through volunteer service and engaged citizenship. Hands On Georgia currently has 18 affiliates including the communities of Adairsville; Athens/Clarke County; Atlanta; Coastal Georgia (Glynn and McIntosh Counties); Columbus; Dalton; Dooly County; Forsyth County; Hall County; Harlem; Liberty County; Macon; Milledgeville; Rome/Floyd County; Savannah; Statesboro; Thomas County and Wayne County.

For more information about Hands On Georgia call 404.979.2888 or email info@handsongeorgia.org.

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