



STAR

**RISING STARS
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2011**

This Page

- 58th graduating class
- GA Work Ready
- The Board of Directors

On Page 2

- STAR Graduate: Gary Beasley
- How are we doing?

On Page 3

- In the workplace: Julie Hutson
- Donations needed
- The Inside Story: Brunswick Housing Authority (BHA)

On Back Page

- Mission Statement
- Contact information
- Board of Directors
- Director's Personal note

Hope. Believe. Grow. Succeed



(1st Row – Left to Right) Barbara Wooten, Cynthia Zanders, Katie Orrel (Instructor)
(2nd Row – Left to Right) Jessica Butler, Maleta Simmons, Marion Simmons.
(3rd Row – Left to Right) Quadeera McKie, Alyssia Watson, Sandra Woodson.
(4th Row – Left to Right) Laura Tyson, Debbie Clarke, Tyshana Dembele.
(Back – Left to Right) Ellen Murphy(Director),

Robert Pinson, Paul Mingo, Delon Lemon, Melissa Curtis

On November 16, 2010,

15 students participated in the 58th graduation ceremony of the STAR Foundation.

12 students never missed a day of class and achieved perfect attendance. In addition to completing the STAR Foundation program, most of the students also earned the Georgia Work Ready Certificate.



Georgia Work Ready Community

STAR initiated the testing needed for Glynn County to become a Georgia Work Ready Community by applying for and being awarded the requisite grant. Tests were conducted at STAR. The required numbers have been tested, indicating Glynn County now has the skilled workforce that businesses demand and the educational back bone to drive economic growth and prosperity.

Even though STAR is no longer administering the test, we wish to thank all those who participated in this program and made it possible for Glynn to be recognized as a Georgia Work Ready Community.

Newest Board Member

STAR Foundation fulfills all of my Personal Mission Statement.

Elaine Auten has a personal mission statement, "asking that doors will open so that I may serve and that the right people will be in my life. What a joy to be on the STAR Foundation board!"



Elaine is a native of Brunswick and a graduate of Glynn Academy; she earned her bachelor's degree from Florida State University. Elaine owns Custom Drapery Shoppe and Interiors.

Elaine and her husband, Dean, are the proud parents of three sons. Recent projects that Elaine has worked on and feels especially proud of are CMAP, Amity House, and special window treatments she has done for individual Habitat Houses.

STAR Graduate Gary Beasley



Originally from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Gary graduated in September, 2010.

Gary has the dream of owning his own business in the food industry, but for now, is working at King & Prince Seafood. Gary started working there after his graduation, and at the end of his probation, received a promotion with a 25% raise in his income.

“I was given the promotion because of my awareness of the big picture and working efficiently, not focusing just on the small part I was playing. I am willing to work until the job is done.”

Students in the STAR program make daily positive affirmations and read a passage entitled, ‘Today I will make a difference.’ When asked if STAR played any part in his recent success, Gary smiled and said, “Everyday I will make a difference!”

While enrolled in the STAR program, Gary was given a bicycle by one of you, our generous sponsors. With employment and diligence, Gary has bought his own truck.

Gary had this to say at the end of the 8 week program, **“The Star foundation means life to me; they have given me a new life and a meaningful one.** They have taught me how to really make a difference in life, how to be sociable, caring, and also helpful to others. They are a very compassionate and lovable group of people; I respect and appreciate them very much.”

In a recent follow up conversation Gary said, “I have learned to love and help others. I loved the team work, how the teachers (at STAR) worked together.” Gary is enjoying success with his new employment by being a great team player.

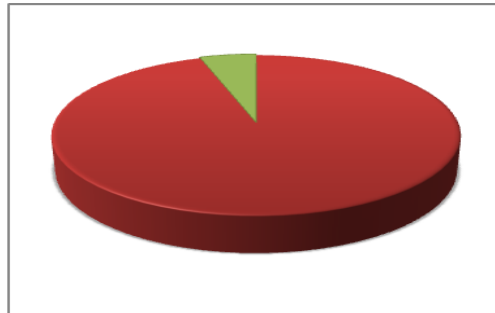
14 Years and 58 Class Graduations

The first class graduated in 1997 and since then 916

students have completed the STAR program and graduated.

		Ethnicity				
Gender		AA	C	H	A	O
Females	869	693	154	16	4	2
Males	47	40	6	1	0	0
Total	916	733	160	17	4	2

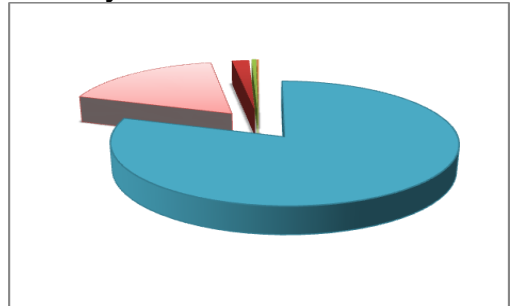
Gender



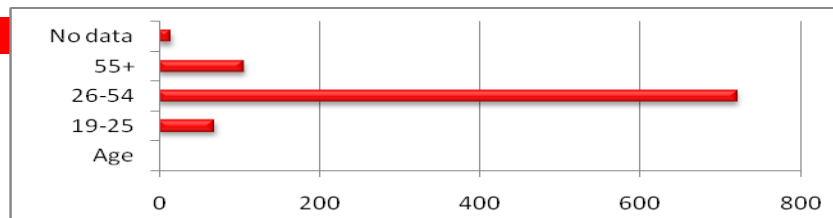
Age		Ethnicity	
19-25	71	African American	733
26-54	722	Caucasian	160
55+	107	Hispanic	17
No data	16	Asian	4
Total	916	Other	2

520 of the 916 graduates still receive a birthday card from STAR each year, a 57% continued contact rate over 14 years!

Ethnicity



Age



How are we doing?

In the workplace: Where are they now?



Julie Hutson
Ruby Tuesday and
attending College

Please assist
our students
realize their
potential with
donations of
money, time or
professional
clothing.

The Inside Story



Julie shared some thoughts recently about her STAR experience and how it relates to her present employment and attendance at college. "It was January 2008 when I signed up and was accepted by the STAR Foundation. Little did I know I was signing up for not only the class, but friends and lifelong mentors.

Going into the class, I was dealing with exhaustion from a newborn, a 3 year old, a husband, a job, and a household to keep up. There were lots of times I thought I couldn't make it another day, fortunately I had not only my teachers, but my classmates encouraging me to keep going and not give up. They gave me hope. I was learning more about myself, what I could achieve and so I stopped focusing on what I could not accomplish."

Financial contributions are a life source that we cannot continue without. Thanks to all of you that help STAR survive and serve in our community. Your donations are tax deductible. Please help STAR to continue the truly life changing work that we do by making a monetary contribution.

Volunteering your time is another way in which you can help STAR create new lives into the community we all share.

In the fall of 1996, Wally and Katie Orrel and Ellen Murphy approached **Don McGlamory, Director of the City of Brunswick Housing Authority (BHA)** with a proposal: offer computer training to the residents of public housing to better equip them to obtain higher paying jobs. He agreed to the plan on a trial basis, and the STAR Foundation was born in January 1997.

Don's trust in 3 strangers to make a difference in the lives of his residents was the foundation upon which STAR was built. This unwavering support under the successive Housing Authority Director, **Angela Strickland** has developed into

The STAR influence continues long after graduation. Months after successfully finishing the course, Julie approached STAR with a tough personal problem.

"They didn't turn me away, and they didn't solve my problem, but they guided me in the right direction to getting started on dealing with my problem. To this day as I write, they still call and check on me!

Thanks to the STAR Foundation for showing me what I can do in life. I am enrolled in school for marketing, I have a great job at Ruby Tuesday with benefits. I am a proud mother of two, a proud wife and an upright proud graduate of the STAR Foundation."

Julie exemplifies the STAR mission.

Please call if you feel you can help us more effectively achieve our mission.

Helping our **students look professional and feel confident** are ways in which you can help your local neighbors find more gainful employment and improve their opportunities, so please help us out. We can use all sizes and styles of professional clothing for ladies in particular, but men's clothing will also be gratefully accepted.

its strongest partner of 15 years.

For the first 3 years all the students in the STAR program were from BHA, but now the program is available for all people who meet certain criteria. In the ensuing years, STAR has been fortunate to receive distinctive funding from the **Department of Labor**; (1 of 20 nationwide for a pilot program); a grant from the **Robert W. Woodruff Foundation** in Atlanta and recognition from **HUD** (1 of 2 in the state).

The spirit of BHA's continued belief in the STAR Foundation has enabled them to help STAR students believe in themselves and change their lives.

STAR FOUNDATION

1907 Gloucester St
Brunswick, GA 31520

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The STAR Foundation is a nonprofit organization that educates and encourages adults in Coastal Georgia to become self-sufficient through an all-encompassing, self-empowering program of computer instruction, job and life skills training.

Lost, but look, listen,
Opportunity's knocking
Vibrant class is rocking.
Empowered I now seek
Success in my life,
Tackling new challenges,
Autonomous I rise up
Resplendent, the new me!

Thanks for helping STAR teach what we do and share the love that so dramatically changes lives for the better. STAR helps many who would not be reached and changed without your kindness. Please share who we are with your friends.

Ellen Murphy

Director

Board of Directors

Ellen Murphy, Executive Director
Pamela Devenney, Chair
Janice Applegate
Elaine Auten
Carlton DeVooght
Steve Holt
Tony Kreimborg
Beckie Manley
Wally Orrel
Floyd Phoenix
Rhonda Wells
Paul Salter – Life Member

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