



E-Newsletter

October 2008

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This monthly e-mail is one of your many benefits as a member of the statewide microenterprise industry association.

GMEN Website: Members Only Section

One of the benefits to being a member of GMEN is access to the "Members Only" section on the [GMEN website](#). There you will find the latest GMEN News, Grant Funding Opportunities and archived news. The log-in information is:

username = admin
password = adminpass

Membership Renewals for 2009

GMEN 2009 Membership renewal notices are coming out in a few weeks. Be on the look out for yours.

Business Development Training & Technical Assistance

Marketing opportunity for your clients: (If you have a current or former TANF client that would like to participate in one of these events, a portion of any fees & expenses may be reimbursable by GMEN, contact pcwill@bellsouth.net)



Executive Director's Corner

Thank you all for a fantastic 2008 Summit on Entrepreneurship. The summit highlights newsletter will be published soon, but in the meantime I want to thank all GMEN members from across the state for their support of and participation in this event.

Jan 24-28 **Lyon, France.** International food show opportunity - cost savings opportunity. Register by December 19. See [event flyer](#) for more information. Contact Beth Miller at bmiller@agr.state.ga.us

Mar 3-6 **2009 FOOD EX Japan.** Present your food service products to Japanese importers. Registration deadline December 10. See [event flier](#) for more information.

The Virtual Trade Show

The Virtual Trade Show is part of the SUSTA website and acts as a showcase of southern products. An index page directs visitors to available company pages, or "booths". Each company page is solely devoted to that company's products and information. Participation in the tradeshow can develop a web presence for your clients, or drive traffic to their existing website. This is an excellent low-cost form of internet advertising, reaching customers across the country and around the world. For more information go to www.susta.org/tradeshow.

Export trade leads can also be found at www.susta.org/foreignbuyers/trade_leads.html

Georgia Made Georgia Grown. Check out this [website](#) for marketing your



We had almost 200 attendees attending 12 workshops and two plenary sessions. The speakers from across the country have provided written feedback on their excitement in being a part of this event. Many of you have called and written your comments about this impactful event. I personally appreciate this feedback, but don't want to forget to thank Deborah Barnett, Pat Moore, and Elizabeth Penney for their instrumental role in making it all happen. I also want to thank EDGE Connection and their staff for volunteering to help on the micro fair; as well as Conner Stone and Christopher Stallings for their help on registration and photography.



In addition to the summit we have five other events going on: annual membership meeting, annual awards reception, marketing competition, micro fair, and China trade mission trip brainstorming.

We didn't slow down after the conference!!! During October we implemented phase two of the access to markets project with entrepreneur focus groups across the state. These entrepreneurs gave us important perspective on what they have done and what they need in terms of marketing support. We want

client's "Georgia Made Georgia Grown" business and products.

Micro Finance

AEO Webinar - Building Microenterprise Credit in Today's Economy
November 19 - 2:00 to 3:00 pm EDT. How to help your client not only survive, but thrive in today's credit dependent economy. [Register here!](#)

NBAI Private Equity Investor Forum - Call for Companies
December 3 - 2:30 pm at the Ravinia Club Atlanta. An exclusive event for investment and business professionals. [Click here](#) for more information and to see if you qualify to enroll in business plan review or funding application.

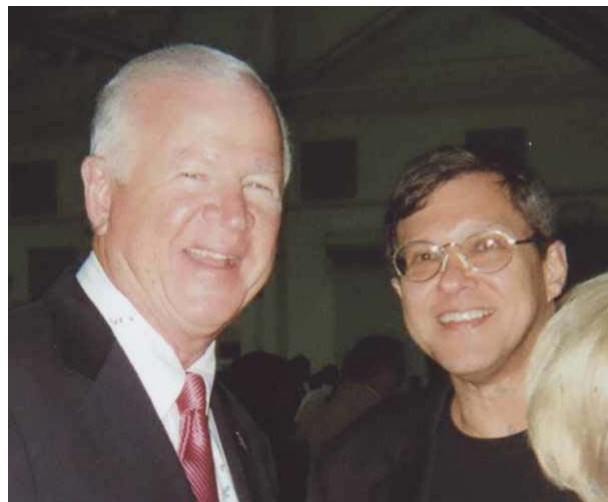
Next Angel Investing Workshop - Advance Notice
February 5, 2009 - 7:30 am to 6:30 pm in Athens (probably on the UGA campus). Hold the date, more details will be coming. Contact Don Betts at betts@gatech.edu.

Funds Boost Entrepreneurial Success for Veterans
The Veterans Corporation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting entrepreneurial programs for veterans, service-disabled veterans, and members of the National Guard and reserve nationwide. The **Veterans Corporation's Development Grant Program** supports educational and outreach organizations that help veterans pursue business opportunities and careers. The focus is on supporting programs for veterans who are starting or growing a small business. Applications may be submitted throughout the year. Grants of up to \$50,000 are provided. Visit the Veterans Corporation [website](#) for application guidelines and forms.

Standards & Accreditation Support

GMEN attends Georgia Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
GMEN's representatives P. C. Williams and Charles B. Jones, Jr. were in attendance at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Luncheon in Perry this past August.

U.S. Senator Chambliss was the keynote speaker. The Senator spoke on the recent mortgage situation and the new package that would assist and stimulate mortgage activity. This would be a multi-billion dollar fund to assist keeping persons struggling in their homes as housing is a major part of the economy. This is not a bailout of the lenders, it is a cooperative effort where mortgage lenders must agree to take



to thank the following organizations for their participation: Early County CDC, East Athens Development Corporation, EDGE Connection, Goodwill of North Georgia, Greater Rome Area Community Enterprise, and Small Business Assistance Corporation.

Again thank you and we look forward to continuing to meet your support needs in 2009, including use of the feedback from the 2008 membership survey and implementation of the Practitioner Advisory Committee. Feedback will be provided in early December.

Thanks, PC

less than the mortgage amount and homeowners must share the future gain back with the U.S. Treasury. This repays the government for its program costs. The credit would be \$7,500. The fund would be \$300 billion. The mortgage lenders would take a 10% cut and Treasury would receive 15% gain. This will go far to address the worst housing slump since the 1970's.

To stimulate the economy overall, there is no reason for the government to interfere in private enterprise systems. The need of government is to provide less bureaucratic red tape and tax credits and other incentives that stimulate employment and investment in growth. This includes modifications to depreciation schedules that permit rapid credit immediately and accelerated schedules to stimulate capital expenditures and investment in industry.

There were several examples given as to the industrial changes that have occurred in middle Georgia and efforts at energy production, including a biofuels plant that would use bio inputs from the farming and lumbering industry in the region. The company was named Range Fuels. Noted was a company that is working to put chicken fat as an input into bio-diesel fuels.

- by Charles B. Jones, Jr.

Community Outreach Luncheon in Athens

GMEN Board Members attend a community outreach luncheon following the recent board meeting in Athens.

Entrepreneur Corner



Jacqueline Sims
ChroniclesIII.com

Jacqueline Sims, owner of ChroniclesIII.com (and candidate and colleague of AMEN), recently published her website. This step represents the culmination of more than a year long effort on the part of Jacqui to get her business operating.

Jacqueline Sims dba ChroniclesIII is an online community events directory that is designed to be a place on the Internet where a person can find an exhaustive listing of wholesome community events. Imagine yourself on



GMEN attends Assets Learning Conference in Washington DC

This September, GMEN's Pat Moore joined nearly 400 ALC attendees to march Capitol Hill to visit representatives, senators and their staff members, thanking them for their support of asset building legislation and urging their support for other measures to advance economic opportunity for all Americans.

Saturday thinking about taking your family out for some meaningful experience. You have in mind being entertained - maybe even inspired - by some wholesome event. Maybe a production by a local church group, a concert by a local or national singer or choral group, or a street festival in your area. Where do you look for a complete listing of events that may interest you? ChroniclesIII is the website for you.



ChroniclesIII can be thought of as the combination of three directories: events, churches and businesses. For churches, it provides a basic listing, and then a fee based enhanced listing that includes a page for the church - generally more up-to-date than the church website - plus a link to the church website. For businesses, ChroniclesIII provides another place for the local business to have exposure to potential customers looking for products or services by location and category. A business can receive further representation by underwriting their church listing.

ChroniclesIII byline is "Building the Ark of Community." Jacqui has a desire to help communities - families, churches, businesses, events - come together through the service of ChroniclesIII. Yes, there is competition out there, but Jacqui has done an excellent job in research. She has found no one who has all that ChroniclesIII provides in one place with the ease of finding up-to-date information on a church if you are a visitor to town, a business whose service you need, or an event you would like to attend.

Jacqui joined AMEN as a

2009 Georgia Economic Outlook Luncheon, Atlanta Wednesday, Dec 3, 2008 11 AM - 2 PM

Head to the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta on Wednesday, December 3rd to see magazine publisher and two-time presidential candidate Steve Forbes speak at the 26th annual Georgia Economic Outlook luncheon. Gov. Sonny Perdue will lead with opening remarks and Terry College of Business Dean Robert T. Sumichrast will follow Forbes with the state economic forecast from the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth. UGA President Michael F. Adams will emcee the program. As the state's premier economic forecasting event, the annual luncheon draws more than 1,000 of the state's top business and governmental leaders. Following the opening program at the Georgia World Congress Center, the Economic Outlook goes on tour around the state, stopping in Columbus (Jan. 9), Swainsboro (Jan. 15), Jekyll Island (Jan. 16), Macon (Jan. 20), Savannah (Jan. 21), Augusta (Jan. 23), Thomasville (Jan. 27), Albany (Jan. 28) and Athens (March 4). This year's gold sponsor of the Economic Outlook series is Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

Event Information:

media.terry.uga.edu/documents/exec_ed/eol/brochure_atlanta.pdf

Event Link: www.terry.uga.edu/exec_ed/eol/

\$3.9 Billion in Community Stabilization Funds Awarded; HUD Releases Distribution Formula for Grants

\$3.92 billion in emergency funds will soon be available to states and localities from the [Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008](#) (PL 110-289) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The funds, treated as emergency [Community Development Block Grant](#) (CDBG) funds, will allow states, tribes and localities to purchase foreclosed properties that might otherwise become abandoned and sources of blight within their communities. The purchase of these homes can also help stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes. Grantees have until December 1, 2008 to submit a proposed Action Plan Amendment application to HUD. The proposals must be in the form of an amendment to their CDBG Annual Action Plan outlining how they will distribute and use funds. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Georgia Center for Nonprofits introduces CEO Central 100 - Class of 2009

CEO Central is specifically designed to provide CEOs of small to mid-sized nonprofit organizations with greater knowledge, capabilities and confidence to manage the complexities of nonprofit leadership, make the toughest decisions

candidate in 2007. She completed her initial business plan on the ChroniclesIII concept and met the AMEN board in June of this year. The board felt that her idea was sound, but it needed testing. AMEN agreed to provide seed money to develop her website and marketing tools.

Jacqui continued her research and refined her plan. In the process, she found InThySite.com, a website developer who developed the ChroniclesIII website and now functions as the webmaster.

During 2008, Jacqui also worked for AMEN as our community relations person.

Her initiative and her communication skills have gotten her to places that AMEN only dreamed of in previous community relations efforts. Her work has produced a steady stream of potential candidates in the first half of the year, which still continues even to this date.

If you have stayed with me reading to this point, I ask you to go the extra mile and consider three things: (1) Check out Jacqui's website - ChroniclesIII.com, (2) if you like what you see, congratulate Jacqui - email is publisher@ChroniclesIII.com, and (3) Introduce your church and business acquaintances to ChroniclesIII.com. There is a place on the website to recommend ChroniclesIII to others.

Art Druckenmiller
AMEN, Inc.

Spread the News!

Do you have news about your program that you would like to share with other members? If so email pcwill@bellsouth.net by the

skillfully and confidently, and bring a greater understanding of nonprofit business performance to the organization. Over 250 nonprofit CEOs in Georgia have participated in CEO Central™ creating one of the most powerful networks for nonprofit leadership in the region. **Applications must be received by December 1, 2008.** A limited number of partial scholarships are available. [Detailed information on the program along with the scholarship application can be found here.](#)

Events of Interest

... 2008...

- Nov 14-15 [CBWW's](#) awards reception and Women's Health Expo at the Twelve Hotel at Atlantic Station in celebration of its **20 year Anniversary**.
- Nov 17-23 **EntrepreneurWeek USA** focus is on global entrepreneurship www.unleashingideas.org
- Nov 20-21 [CDFA - RLF Essentials Course](#) in Washington DC
- Dec 3 [2009 Georgia Economic Outlook Luncheon](#) at the Georgia World Congress Center.
- Dec 3 [NBAI Private Equity Investor Forum](#) at the Ravinia Club Atlanta
- Dec 9 [Green Communities: It Is Easy Being Green](#) - Chamblee Civic Center
- Dec 9-12 [Opportunity Finance Network Conference](#) at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque (Wachovia NEXT awards announced)

... 2009...

- Feb 5 **Angel Investing Workshop** in Athens
- May 11-12 **GA Center for Nonprofits 18th Annual Summit** at the AmericasMart in Atlanta.

Success Story!

Do you have a microentrepreneur "Success Story"? Share it with us and it may be featured as our **Entrepreneur Highlight**. Email it with the subject line "Success Story" pcwill@bellsouth.net

Spread the News!

Do you have news about your program that you would like to share with other members? If so email pcwill@bellsouth.net by the

last calendar day of each
month.

GMEN's Mission

To create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia.

GMEN Website

www.georgiamicroenterprise.org

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Email Marketing by



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