**Prevent Child Abuse Bulloch County Agency Overview 2019**

**Back to School Supply Drive**

This is a program that provides back to school supplies and clothing vouchers to families in need in the Bulloch County School System. The program originally only provided school supplies at the beginning of the school year, however, this year the agency provided school supplies at the midpoint of the school year when students returned from the holiday break in January 2019.

**Diaper Drive**

This is a program that provides the basic necessity of diapers to families in need while partnering with Consumer Credit Counseling to educate families on budgeting. Families are able to request diapers once per six month period—the second request must include documentation of a completed budget counseling session with Consumer Credit Counseling. The counseling session is free of charge. If a family has a critical need for assistance, staff may provide diapers to the family on a more frequent basis. The agency is exploring creating a diaper bank to partner with other agencies to provide diapers to more families. The agency is being advised on diaper bank creation by the National Diaper Bank Network.

Recognition of National Diaper Need Awareness Week (September 23-September 28, 2019) is scheduled. The agency will be partnering with Choices of the Heart Pregnancy Resource Center for awareness campaign and diaper drive.

**Christmas Presents**

This program aids families in need with Christmas presents for their children and all items needed for Christmas dinner.

**First Steps**

The First Steps program offers services to Bulloch County families that deliver their babies at East Georgia Regional Medical Center. The target population is all Bulloch County families giving birth at East Georgia Regional Medical Center. The Bulloch County community consist of local residents and a substantial student population from Georgia Southern University, East Georgia State University, and Ogeechee Technical College. This target population is very important since child abuse occurs in all ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Volunteers and staff visit the parents at the hospital to provide support, educational materials, and referrals to community resources as appropriate. Families are provided with a wealth of information covering topics pertinent to new parents (i.e. maternal health, newborn/child health and development, child care, community resource list).

Access for First Steps services is provided by East Georgia Regional Medical Center. First Steps staff and volunteers are permitted to visit patients in their rooms in the Women’s Pavilion.

**Blue Bow/Pinwheels for Prevention**

Since 2003 the agency has been allowed to display blue bows and signage throughout downtown Statesboro during the month of April in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The agency also plants pinwheels in the lawn in front of the building that houses the agency’s office and asks other agencies to do the same for the month of April. Signage explaining the meaning for the pinwheels is also displayed. Letters to the editor and information on child abuse prevention are provided to the local media. In the past the agency has held a “picnic for prevention” during the month of April. The agency is working on hosting a Kite Festival to kick off or be a part of Child Abuse Prevention Month 2020.

**Collaborations**

\*East Georgia Regional Medical Center-First Steps

\*Bulloch County Health Department—materials

\*Children’s Medical Services—Diaper Drive provides diapers for families who receive services

\*Georgia Southern University—professors, students, and student organizations—speaking to classes, Diaper Drive

\*Board of Education--Back to School Supply Drive, Christmas Presents--Working closely with the school social workers to provide assistance to families in need, Serving on committees

\*DFCS- efforts as needs arise

\*ACTS-refers families in need of assistance

\*Area churches—Back to School Supply Drive, First Steps, Diaper Drive

\*Fostering Bulloch—providing clothing and other needs for families

\*Northland Cable—Awareness and Advertising

\*Statesboro Herald—Awareness and Advertising

\*United Way—Back to School Supply Drive, Christmas Presents

\*Consumer Credit Counseling—educating families served on budgeting

\*Franklin Toyota—Christmas Presents—meals and jackets

\*Head Start—Christmas Presents—meals and jackets

\*Downtown Statesboro Rotary Club—Back to School Supply Drive

\*Statesboro Rotary Club—Back to School Supply Drive

\*Choices of the Heart Pregnancy Resource Center—National Diaper Need Awareness Week and Diaper Drive

**Service/Participation**

\*Bulloch County on Human Services—Family Connection Collaborative

\*Statesboro Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Team—serving at the request of Mayor to address issues related to homelessness and affordable housing