COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	November 14, 2013	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Giving Thanks and Donating in Fayette County: Recognition of a few organizations in Fayette County that provide food and clothing donations and thanking them for their service to the community.

Background/History/Details:

There are organizations within Fayette County that offer food and clothing donations to those in the community. The Board of Commissioners would like to recognize these organizations and encourage others to support the efforts of these organizations by giving to their food pantry. Those being recognized include: Fayette Samaritans, Real Life Center and Grandparents and Kin Raising Children, Inc, Midwest Food Bank and Bloom.

See attached document for further information on these charitable organizations.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Recognition of a few organizations in Fayette County that provide food and clothing donations and thanking them for their service to the community.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	Yes	Backup Provided with Request?	No

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	No
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

Fayette County is proud to recognize and support the many charitable organizations located throughout the County and who contribute from their own time and effort to make a difference in the lives of fellow citizens.

Across our county, there are churches, houses of worship, non-profit organizations, neighbors and families who have stepped up in these hard economic times to help those who are in need. Many of these organizations serve as unsung heroes to those who need help, and they quietly effect change in all of us.

The Fayette County Board of Commissioners would like to take time to thank a few of the charitable organizations who have chosen to call Fayette County home.

Fayette Samaritans is a Christian ministry serving those in need in Fayette County, Georgia. They provide food, clothing, and financial assistance for selected emergency needs. The Fayette Samaritans were charted in 1991, with representatives from eleven Fayette County churches, to assess and coordinate the critical needs of area residents who may not qualify for assistance from other agencies. They are primarily supported by more than 65 churches on a daily basis. Additional information about Fayette Samaritans can be obtained by going to their website at www.fayettesamaritans.org, or by calling Fayette Samaritans at (770) 719-2707.

The Real Life Center is a non-profit organization designed to help hurting people by giving them a means to cope with the financial, emotional, and spiritual hardships of life. The mission of The Real Life Center is to help those facing life's unanticipated challenges by offering hope, guidance, and encouragement. The Real Life Center was founded in 1998 by Dogwood Church and partners with additional churches, community organizations and businesses. By collaborating with supporting community referrals, The Real Life Center helps equip individuals and families to navigate through their situation. Additional information about The Real Life Center can be located at their website at www.reallifecenter.org or by calling the organization at (770) 631-9334.

Grandparents & Kin Raising Children was established in 2006 when Fayette FACTOR parents, recognizing the special needs of caregivers who have chosen to parent again, established the organization by offering support groups, newsletters, training seminars, and assistance in navigating the local and state agencies. In Georgia, there are 102,000 grandparents who are solely responsible for their grandchildren, and there are over 1,000 grandparents in Fayette County who have made this life changing decision. Grandparents who are raising grandchildren and kin are often unprepared for the challenges associated with this decision, and they often look for support from the community. Grandparents and Kin Raising Children provides support groups, information and resource connections, scholarships, an annual summer camp, back-to-school supplies, holiday support and family activities. On May 9, 2013, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners recognized Grandparents & Kin Raising Children for their voluntary work. Additional information can be obtained about Grandparents and Kin Raising Children by going to their website at www.fayettefactor.org/gkrc----grandparents-and-kin-raising-children.html or by calling (770) 716-9711.

Midwest Food Bank is a faith-based, non-denominational, nonprofit organization that was started in 2003 when the Kieser family began providing food out of a building on their family farm. With a beginning of serving about 10 food pantries in McLean County, Illinois, Midwest Food Bank now serves approximately 500 organizations across the Midwest with food provided to over 100,000 people monthly. Midwest Food Back stepped in to help with the Hurricane Katrina disaster, supplying food and supplies to the residents of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Throughout the years, Midwest Food Bank has continued to steadily grow, distributing over $1 million in food each month. Midwest Food Bank is a spiritually directed community organization consisting of hundreds of volunteers, donors, and corporate partners, all operating to serve those in need. The Georgia Division of Midwest Food Bank, which is located in Peachtree City, helped in the recent disaster left behind by the F5 Tornado in May 2013. Additional information can be located at www.midwestfoodbank.org or by calling (770) 486-1103.

Bloom is a private, non-profit organization that was founded in 1986 by Fayette County citizens recognizing the need for children to have safe refuge from abuse and neglect. Through its history, Bloom has worked in a relationship with Georgia Baptist Children's Homes to provide the clinical services and staff for children. A second facility opened in 1998, and in 2005 the locations were consolidated into one home, the Friday-Johnson Home located in Brooks, Georgia. Bloom has responded to the rising number of displaced children under the age of six in need of care, and it further expanded its services in 2007. Bloom is licenses to recruit, train and support a network of family foster care homes serving children of all ages. Bloom's mission is to provide safe shelter and physical, educational, and emotional support to children who have been victims of abuse, neglect, or other tragic circumstances, in order to strengthen them for the next phase of life. Their programs are based on the conviction that each child is an individual with the right to the kind of care that meets his or her needs regardless of sex, race, creed, national origin, or social circumstances. Bloom works to preserve and strengthen a child's relationship with family members when possible, and holds that each youth has a right to stability, security, continuity, and a plan for permanence. Additional information may be located at www.bloomouryouth.org or by calling (770) 461-7020.

(All information provided in this report was obtained from the various websites previously cited.)