

# FACS *Magazine*

FALL 2015

FACS graduate  
program: recruiting  
some of the best and  
brightest minds  
to Athens





## **By the numbers:**

**(all numbers from 2014)**

**346 community members served on  
15 community teams**

**GICH cities provided housing  
counseling to 564 clients**

### **Amount of tax credits awarded to developers:**

**Warner Robins - \$692,668**

**Greensboro - \$923,148**

**Perry - \$974,775**

**Pembroke - \$785,867**

**Total - \$3,376,458**

**Two GICH cities attracted funding  
for housing activities from private  
foundations:**

**Pembroke - \$5,000 from The Home  
Depot Foundation for Veteran  
Porch Repair and ADA Housing  
Rehabilitation**

**Dalton - \$100,000 Lowe's  
Foundation for Community  
Building Renovation**

### **GICH Partners**

**Georgia Municipal Association**

**Georgia Department of Community  
Affairs**

**UGA Public Service and Outreach**

**Georgia Power**

**The UGA Archway Partnership**

**UGA Carl Vinson Institute of  
Government**

**UGA Extension**

**Georgia EMC**

**USDA Rural Development**

Thompson, a 2002 FACS grad who now works as housing outreach coordinator for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and as a GICH facilitator.

"The type of assistance GICH provides is very valuable, especially to smaller communities who may not know where to start. GICH has been that key."

One of the main benefits of a program like GICH, Tinsley said, is it allows communities that are "real go-getters" with abundant resources and experience in community development to share information with towns just beginning to formulate a revitalization plan.

Officials from tiny Greensboro, for example, learned about a program that provided additional points on a low-income housing tax credit development that proved valuable, said Rick Zeier, the town's city planner.

"Some of the (communities) have little local capacity," Tinsley said. "They don't have a community development director, they don't have any experience getting grant funds and have never applied for any state funding for housing."

For the team from Madison, the reputation of the GICH program for assisting with housing plans proved to be well earned. Partly as a result of participating in GICH, Madison now has a standing housing committee that meets weekly to discuss and address ongoing housing needs in the town, Callahan said.

"We were overwhelmed at the (February) retreat at the amazing opportunities to be able to engage with other communities and look at how they went about problem solving," Callahan said. "That in and of itself was inspiring."

Thompson, who worked with the group from Greensboro as a facilitator at February's retreat, has seen these sorts of benefits firsthand in her nine years as a GICH facilitator.

"They unify together on the housing issue and by doing so that makes the biggest impact," Thompson said. "By coming together and unifying, everyone has the same vision and is trying to reach the same goal. When they come to these retreats and discuss it, they set out to do it as a group versus as individuals and that's what makes it so powerful."