

## R14-2

*Resolved*, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta offers appreciation to Vicky Partin on the occasion of her retirement as Lay Missioner of Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, for more than thirty years of showing God's love to those in need and encouraging the Christian community to respond to those needs.

### EXPLANATION

Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry was founded by Vicky Partin, in response to a spiritual call, in 1980. Supported by Bishop Bennett Sims, the Reverend Charles Roper convened a convocational group of clergy and laity, including seven parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta and two in the Diocese of Alabama. The Ministry began in the choir robing room of St. Thomas Church and expanded from there to create ministries of empowerment, service, and advocacy throughout the Chattahoochee Valley.

CVEM was designated a Jubilee Center by The Episcopal Church in 1989 and was reaffirmed in 2000 for its efforts in community development and empowerment of poor persons.

Current CVEM programs include

- Direct financial service to persons needing support
- Infusion - a leadership and advocacy experience for fifteen socio-economically and religiously diverse youth in grades ten through twelve
- Thompson-Pound Art Program - a week-long summer program for sixty religiously and economically diverse children ages six through twelve in both Columbus and Troup County.
- Shedding Our Secrets - a ministry of support and advocacy for victims of incest
- Beallwood Area Neighborhood Development, Inc (BAND) - a grassroots community development organization dedicated to building a safe and secure neighborhood.

In addition, CVEM and Lay Missioner Vicky Partin helped establish the following programs and agencies in the Chattahoochee Valley

- Columbus Alliance for Battered Women
- Wynnton Neighborhood Network
- Interfaith Food Closet in LaGrange, Chambers County, and West Point
- Columbus Habitat for Humanity
- AIDS Network Partnership
- Columbus Jobs Council
- Affordable Housing of Troup County
- Phillips' House Ministry of St. Mark's, LaGrange
- Chattahoochee Federal Credit Union in Valley, Alabama

This resolution comes before council with the unanimous support of the clergy and lay delegates of the Chattahoochee Valley Convocation.

Submitted by the Very Rev. Allen Pruitt, dean, Chattahoochee Valley Convocation