

## *From the Desk of the First Lady*

First, I would like to personally thank all of you who supported my husband in his re-election bid because you have made it possible for me to continue my work. Thank you for putting your trust in us. Because of your loving and compassionate hearts, we are grateful to you, and we will try to serve you and all the people of Georgia with a Servant's Heart.

My personal view of a person with a servant's heart is someone who is innately kind and thoughtful; a person who notices simple needs and moves to help; one who is unbiased regarding those who need assistance and is moved to assist without expectation of recognition or reward; one whose heart reaches out to others and the recipients feel and appreciate the genuineness of the effort. A person with a servant's heart reacts selflessly for the good of others with acts of kindness.

Last year the Georgia Children's Cabinet sought a way to promote the importance of service as well as recognize outstanding young people who selflessly contribute to bettering their community. County commissioners across the state were asked to nominate one youth from their county who exemplified a "Servant's Heart" to be entered into the inaugural statewide competition for the Servant's Heart Award. The Cabinet received twenty-one entries. They began new nonprofits, fed the poor, stood up for the innocent, and worked to be an agent of change within their communities. They are each truly incredible Georgians. Thank you County commissioners for your 2014 nominees and we look forward to reading about your candidates for 2015.

Jarrett Brannen Cartee from Bulloch County was chosen as the first statewide First Lady's Servant's Heart Award winner. Jarrett aided his community in many ways including serving Thanksgiving meals to the needy, volunteering at the Bulloch County Special Olympics, and working fundraisers to help pay for other's traumatic medical expenses, to name a few deeds.

This year the Children's Cabinet decided to add another Servant's Heart award by selecting state employees who go above and beyond expectations in working with children and families. Our goal in honoring

these employees is to highlight outstanding service in government that is voluntarily given in such a way that it is obviously from the heart. The agency heads that sit on the Executive Children's Cabinet will nominate these outstanding adults.

Georgia's Children's Cabinet consists of all state agency heads that work with child populations and select community, philanthropic, education and business stakeholders. The Cabinet collaborates to make recommendations on improving delivery of services to children, increasing effectiveness of child welfare and juvenile justice resources, and ensuring that children are equipped to be successful in school.

The mission of both the Governor's Office for Children and Families and the Children's Cabinet is to build stronger communities through strengthening our children and families. I believe that volunteerism and service will help us reach that goal.

I have traveled across the state and have seen the generosity of Georgians firsthand. This generosity shows the true character of our citizens. They come from all walks of life, but they selflessly serve others with acts of kindness.

You make Nathan and me proud to be Georgians. We will work hard to serve your needs.