

## Friends Helping Friends Founding Sponsor Appointed by Governor Deal (08-21-2012)

State Representative Tom McCall (Chairman of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities) recommended, and Governor Nathan Deal appointed, Mrs. Sandy Adams of Elberton as one of nine to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation (GVR) Services Board of Directors. The purpose of the new stand alone agency is to assist Georgians with disabilities to become employed and live independently. As an executive branch, the agency's governing board reports directly to the governor and is responsible for establishing policy and determining funding allocations with a GVRA FY13 budget of \$20,184,533.00. The agency established by HB 1146, drafted and submitted to the House of Representatives by McCall, went into effect as of Sunday, July 1st (2012). The GVRA, located on the 6th floor at 2 Peachtree Street in Atlanta ([www.gvra.georgia.gov](http://www.gvra.georgia.gov)) will work with the Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA), a state chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association, and is administratively attached to the Dept. of Human Services with 2,000 employees and 45,000 individuals served. US Senator Saxby Chambliss congratulated Adams with a formal letter stating, "The Board and the people of Georgia are fortunate to have your leadership and insight in this important position. Your experience and background will be of great benefit to the Board." Adams commented, "I am humbled and consider it an honor to be part of this new agency, to be given the exciting opportunity by Tom to offer assistance to Georgians with disabilities." Adams taught in Elbert County Schools (1984-2013) during which she was awarded United States Tennis Association Georgia Teacher of the Year and Beaverdam Elementary Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Jeff, who retired recently from teaching Biology at Elbert County High School, spent three summers as fitness instructors for the Governor's Honors Program at Valdosta State University. Adams received her Masters Degree from the University of GA and her Education Specialist Degree from Piedmont College. She is the first teacher in Elbert County to obtain Georgia Master Teacher Certification and is also a National

Board Certified Teacher. Adams served as Elbert County Schools Adapted PE teacher and PE Department Chair. She is the founding sponsor of a young club established in 2010 at Elbert County High & 2012 at EC Middle School called Friends Helping Friends (FHF), 300 members strong, providing exceptional educational opportunities such as wonderful school trips and special events for students who have special needs.

Included are pictures of the Swearing in Ceremony at the Capitol.

Friends Helping Friends is dedicated to the memory of Bud McCall.