



Gadsden County
Coalition for Change

Gadsden County Commission
Quincy FL 32351

May 22, 2009

Dear Commissioners:

The Gadsden County Coalition for Change is a public service group of twenty citizens that serves as a catalyst for others to become involved in assisting and improving our community, and a group that defines specific paths to follow in providing assistance to the community. We are involved with the schools, libraries and food banks in Gadsden County.

We are currently organizing a "near extreme makeover" of Shanks Middle School, to start at 8 a.m. on July 11, 2009, and to be completed by the end of July 18, 2009. This will entail cleaning every room of any size that requires cleaning, and painting any room that needs painting. This includes all buildings except portables and the clinic.

After fully documenting what is needed in each room, we have requested an inmate detail from Liberty Corrections prior to the start of the project to do specified cleaning and minor carpentry repairs. We are pursuing volunteers from Work America to assist with labor. We are seeking supplies and volunteers from local and national companies, as these supplies will be needed in many rooms at one time, and can be passed on to the next school community for similar use. The Chamber of Commerce is helping to educate businesses of this makeover, and is spreading word of the need for volunteers. The media are being asked to assist as well.

If each volunteer came for only one day we would need 2,010 volunteers to do the work involved (there is a lot of prep work to be done). We are using the phrase "2010 for (the school year of) 2010".

We are asking the County Commission to aggressively broadcast the need for many volunteers for this project. We wish to create a "stir" to focus attention on this school as an example of what a community can do when it works as a team to encourage parents and grandparents and neighbors to become more involved in students' education, thus raising the bar for the students. This makeover is a first step intended to supplement the powerful efforts being made by many others towards creating an exemplary learning environment for students and teachers alike.

Thank you for including us on the agenda for the meeting on June 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m..

Sincerely,

Gadsden County Coalition
for Change

Note: This letter was submitted by Rick Soskis.