



Partners in Action for Healthy Living, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Belvedere Park, Decatur, GA- Partners in Action for Healthy Living (PAHL), Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization working to improve the quality of life in South DeKalb County, is hosting a community beautification event in the Belvedere Park neighborhood, **Show Us Your Curb, Belvedere!**, on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 8:30am to noon. Residents and volunteers will meet at 8:30am at Knollwood Elementary School, 3039 Santa Monica Drive, Decatur, 30032. Everyone is invited to participate in this unique event!

**Show Us Your Curb, Belvedere!** Brings residents and volunteers together to conduct a mass curb clearing project in the Belvedere Park neighborhood of Decatur in unincorporated South DeKalb County. The beautiful granite curbs along the neighborhood's 17 entrances (off of Memorial Drive, Columbia Drive, Line Street and Glenwood Road) are mostly hidden by overgrown vegetation and trash. It is unsightly and unfitting in a community where so many residents put great effort into making their homes attractive. Some of the streets are noticeably narrowed by excessive vegetation. After this event, the entrances will be clear and inviting, and speak of a community that says "We Care".

There couldn't be a more important statement for a neighborhood to make when it comes to preventing crime. Beautification efforts like **Show Us Your Curb, Belvedere!** benefit the community by improving aesthetics, instilling community pride and creating a sense of care in the neighborhood. While that sounds simply nice, there is a deeper statement being made when a neighborhood comes together to take charge, clean up and beautify. The current state of Belvedere Park, despite the efforts of many residents, gives a general sense of neglect that can feed dumping, littering and criminal activity. "Broken Window Theory", a theory developed in the early 1980's, states that general disrepair in a neighborhood (trash, overgrown vegetation, unboarded broken windows and other signs of neglect) attracts not only vandalism and petty crime, but also major crime like murder. It states that crime prevention results from keeping the neighborhood in good repair and in dealing swiftly with petty crimes. Several major U.S. cities have had success putting the theory into practice. Crime rates in New York and Boston declined sharply after police departments implemented efforts based on the Broken Windows Theory.

Partners in Action for Healthy Living (PAHL), Inc. encourages residents outside of Belvedere Park to come lend a hand in this effort. The intention and hope is that other South DeKalb communities will want to conduct their own “Show Us Your Curb” event. For more information on this event or how to coordinate one in your neighborhood, please contact PAHL at [info@PAHLGA.org](mailto:info@PAHLGA.org) or call (404) 996.6324.

Partners in Action for Healthy Living (PAHL) is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to empower South DeKalb County residents to make healthy choices that support their best quality of life. We do this by increasing access to healthy food and active living opportunities and by promoting community building and environmental changes that sustain a culture of health. PAHL envisions South DeKalb as a thriving area where residents can easily access healthy food and communities are safe for outdoor physical activity; residents are readily connecting to each other and to county resources. The whole environment of South DeKalb County makes healthy living an easy choice for all residents.