

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL AND PURE

The Cochran Mill Nature Center serves as a home base for environmental education all across South Fulton County. In 2003, while making preparations for the celebration of its 10th anniversary, the center took on a new volunteer. Michelle Clark, manager of production & marketing at the Hayslett Group, has served as the organization's one-woman design team ever since. Clarke is dedicated to the group because "it shows kids from parts of town something totally unlike where they are from. It shows kids something beautiful and pure, something to be proud of and be a part of." The CMNC provides an alternative to the often confining perspective of urban living. Through this perspective, nature tends to be understood as something "out there," somehow

isolated from the rest of us. The Nature Center's proximity to the city exhibits an effort to debunk this myth; like nature, the CMNC is literally in our backyard.

As often as it plays host to field trips, the nature center brings the wonder and practical lessons of nature to South Fulton schools. When not educating children about nature, the center commits its time to local social and environmental projects. As one can imagine, Clark was a welcome surprise to a small organization so strained for time.

Maribeth Wansley comments, "Having someone of Michelle's

MICHELLE CLARK



talent, passion and thoroughness volunteer to help make our organization more attractive and visible is a gift and a luxury that we are not used to!"

Clark would not have had the space to prove herself such a vital volunteer were it not for the cooperation of the Hayslett Group, whose CFO, Denise Grove, is currently serving on the board of the CMNC. The two organizations share a synergistic bond: Clarke's promotional work draws and maintains patrons and volunteers to the nature center, while the nature center's selfless and persistent work revitalizes Clarke and the Hayslett Group's commitment to their commercial work. Both parties are extremely excited about the work they see each other doing.