



Friday, May 09, 2008

## Night in the ark to benefit animals, children

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On Saturday, the public is invited to attend a major fund-raiser in Locust Grove to support neglected and abused children and animals.

Henry County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jason Harper and his wife, Emily, will host the Noah's Ark Rehabilitation Center event. The county chairman is encouraging people to take part in caring for the well being of the center's residents.

"Noah's Ark provides a valuable service to our community in caring for abused or neglected children, as well as rehabilitating animals," said Harper. "It does so entirely through donations."

The county chairman believes, in order for Noah's Ark to continue to succeed, people who are willing to give, must step up to the plate and assist the organization.

"By visiting the sanctuary for a dinner safari, attendees will have fun, while at the same time, contribute to a worthy cause," Harper said.

The guest speaker for the event is Georgia's first lady, Mary Perdue. Perdue, for her part, has also been a catalyst for a program called "KidsFirst," which is focused on utilizing volunteers to prevent child abuse by providing support for parents.

"If our community truly wants to nurture and build positive futures for children, we must equip and support parents," said Perdue, in a press release. "I have seen today the vast benefits of this program and hope that other Georgians will join me throughout the year as we continue to make a difference."

Perdue, a foster parent and wife of a veterinarian, will give more details surrounding KidsFirst, during the function, a "Night in the Ark."

Ray Lambert of Lambert, Sand and Gravel, will provide dinner for the event. Guests will also be treated to a flashlight safari following dinner.

"A Night in the Ark is a brand new annual fund-raiser for Noah's Ark," said Jama Hedgecoth, founder and director of Noah's Ark. "We are so pleased that our Henry County community is stepping forward to support Noah's Ark's work with abandoned and abused children and animals."

Hedgecoth added that such support ensures that the organization can provide a home to children and animals who have nowhere else to go.

The event will take place at 712 Locust Grove-Griffin Road at 7 p.m. Individual tickets are \$125.00 and tables of eight are \$1,000.

For reservations and more information, call (770) 957-0888.

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