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## **Homelessness: Preparing to Solve An Existing Problem**

“Reaching through the cracks”

**Macon, GA November 17, 2008** – Long before the current round of economic woes and financial failings, we have been failing to reach through the cracks and fix the issue of homelessness. The Open Toolbox has reached through the cracks and is providing solutions and awareness to this issue. “Homelessness comes from people falling through the cracks in society. We need to focus on finding ways to reach into those cracks to pull people back out,” says Vinay Gupta, lead international consultant and a vital part of the Open Toolbox team of paradigm pioneers.

November is homelessness awareness month and The Open Toolbox in partnership with local organizations and individuals to sponsor a Homelessness Awareness Event: Hexayurt Demonstration Build and Tent In on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, November 28-29, 2008 beginning at 10:00 am on Poplar Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. This event will include a demonstration build of the Hexayurt design developed through the Hexayurt Project ([www.hexayurt.com](http://www.hexayurt.com)). The Hexayurt is a single room occupancy structure that can be constructed as a semi-permanent structure for about \$50 and as a permanent structure for about \$300. These structures can be equipped with infrastructure connections including water, sewer and power systems. This is an affordable, permanent solution to homeless that requires a one time investment, which can drastically free up community resources, allowing communities a greater capacity to serve those in need.

When asked “why homelessness?” LaRahna Hughes, the domestic lead consultant of the Open Toolbox commented, “homelessness is a problem that impacts most communities, and it is one that we have all of the necessary resources to solve.” This event is intended to bring awareness to the Central Georgia community about the issue of homelessness and to inspire individuals to take charge in making steps towards creatively solving the issues within our neighborhoods and communities.

If you are interested in knowing more about this event or other services offered by The Open Toolbox, please contact LaRahna Hughes at <http://theopentoolbox.com> or by phone at (678) 749-2707.

The Open Toolbox utilizes the power of open source to provide vital keys for building life-embracing communities at all levels of economic welfare and risk exposure. The Open Toolbox assists with creating sustainable change, building resilient communities and anticipatory preparedness. For more information about Open Toolbox and their services you may contact Vinay Gupta or LaRahna Hughes at <http://TheOpenToolbox.com>.

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