Korbyn Kares fundraiser continued from page one

Again, I never expected it to be as big as it was and I am forever grateful for the support to be extended beyond my position at Chatham Area Transit. I would like to thank everyone, EVERYONE, who made this event a success. I am beyond grateful.

Thank you for your being someone I can count on! You are ALL amazing!! Be on the lookout for more from Korbyn Kares.

Respectfully,
Korbyn J. Mingleford
CAT Transit Advocate

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CAT Inbound
Employee Newsletter
April 21, 2021

CAT hires former City Manager as Chief Financial Officer

We are pleased to announce the hiring of former Savannah City Manager Stephanie Cutter as CAT’s Chief Financial Officer.

As an established and active member of the Savannah community, Cutter brings a wide range of experience and knowledge to CAT, said interim CAT CEO Valerie Ragland.

“We are fortunate and excited about Mrs. Cutter’s arrival,” Ragland said. “She shares my vision of stabilizing and sustaining the operations of CAT and we look forward to her effectively working with our staff to positively move the organization forward.”

Cutter joins CAT after a 29-year career with the city of Savannah, where she started as a budget analyst before rising through the ranks to become the city manager in 2013. Her professional background includes research and analysis, budgeting, accounting, and program and financial management.

Upon her retirement from the city in 2016, Cutter was credit ed with helping to transition the city out of a challenging period that had resulted in the the previous city manager’s resignation.

Cutter has also served the Savannah community by working with numerous boards and non-profit organizations, including the Tremont Temple Pre-School Learning Center Board, the Parent University Board of Directors, and the Ralph Mark Gil bert Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board.

Cutter’s first day with CAT was April 19. As CFO, Cutter is charged with overseeing CAT’s finance department, delivering a balanced annual budget and ensuring the agency’s financial compliance with state and federal regulations.

CAT employees step up for Korbyn Kares fundraising effort

As everyone knows, for my birthday I held an event to give back to my community of Savannah. The idea was put into motion in late February with zero expectations on how everything was going to come together. I saved money over the past months to purchase items needed to make the event a success but ends were not meeting properly. After speaking with my trusted Leadership, the idea was presented to my team and then opened companywide. Immediately, I began receiving responses from my team, drivers and admin on how to help, volunteer, and where to drop off donations. The turnout, the outpour of donations (both monetary and items purchased from my Amazon Wish List) began to overflow.

With the generous support from CAT, I was able to exceed my goal of making 100 bags for the homeless. In the end, we made a total of 209 bags filled with food, personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies.

Some of the places we handed out bags to were Tent City, Social Apostolic, Bull Street library, Forsyth Park and different squares within the downtown area. We were also able to give a few bags out around the area of the transit center. The access bags that were not passed out were donated to the Women and Children Shelter. Just to be able to witness the gratitude of faces, hear the many thanks and listen to the personal testimonies of so many citizens of the community was absolutely amazing.

Continued on page 4
Fixed-route Operations Director Wendy Arden wanted to make sure we recognize the outstanding contribution of the relief supervisors and select street supervisors in the security efforts at the ITC over the past weeks. The fixed-route transportation department volunteered to assist with safety and security issues at the ITC until a security guard service can be found. The Street and Relief Supervisors offer security to both passengers and operators, Arden said. Thanks for going above and beyond at CAT!

“We would like to extend a huge thanks and congratulations to Bus Operator Christopher Blake who celebrated his 48th anniversary with CAT on April 16. We commend Mr. Blake for his commitment to CAT and to doing his job well. Thank you Mr. Blake for all that you do!”

Photo Caption (L-R): Earl Mason, Darius Postell, Bill Horan, Christopher Godfrey, Veronica Smalls, Waki Reid

3) Bus Operator Katherine Dukes brought in food on Wednesday, April 14 for CAT employees as a show of appreciation.

Transportation Supervisor Demetria (De-De) Freeman recently drove a resident out to the mass vaccination site at Gulfstream, as part of CAT’s partnership with Chatham County. The trip on April 15 was the first ride CAT was called upon to provide through the free-ride program that is meant to help bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please help spread the word to those who may need transportation for their vaccination site. Chatham County residents who have no means of transportation can call (912) 856-4563 to reserve a ride to the site. Reservations must be made by 3 p.m. for next-day transportation. Vaccination appointments are required to reserve a free ride and residents can book a vaccination appointment through www.myvaccinegeorgia.com prior to calling for transportation.

With the weather becoming more enjoyable and most of us yearning to be outdoors and active, now is a good time to think about musculoskeletal conditioning... that’s right, the importance of stretching and the proper use of your muscular system. At work, rest or play, our muscular system is always at work.

Whether a Charlie Horse while sleeping, or a strained back while securing a wheelchair, are muscles always remind us of how important they are.

Musculoskeletal conditions, like back pain affect more than 50% of American adults. With these conditions so widespread, taking a proactive approach to improve and protect employee musculoskeletal health is one of the best things that we can do to reduce these injuries in the workforce. This is why using correct techniques while securing wheelchairs is important. This is why using handrails when boarding buses is important. Using proper lifting techniques and safety equipment are all designed to mitigate harm or injury.

Musculoskeletal conditions — the most common of which are trauma, back pain and arthritis — affect more than one out of every two persons in the United States age 18 and older and nearly three out of four age 65 and older, and cost $332 billion between 2012 and 2014 (Luckman, 2021). Our commitment to Safety at CAT is designed to reduce the likelihood that our employees will add to these numbers. We are looking to partner with a healthcare provider to assist with some of our training in the future. For example, when certain physical training is conducted, we hope to have a physical therapist present to discuss proper techniques to avoid injuries when bending, stooping, reaching and lifting.

Since muscular injuries can occur anywhere at any time, it is critical that we all do our part to prevent them. Here are a few tips that can be used to prevent muscle strains. Try not to sit in one position for too long, even when driving. It would get a good idea to stretch your legs on your route when and where time allows — like at the mall on the 14. Take frequent breaks as time allows to move and change positions. Use a chair that provides good support for your lower back, or use a pillow for support. Try to keep your knees level with your hips. Maintain good posture when standing and sitting. Stay hydrated and stretch your muscles often.

As always, be careful and stay safe as we continue to build this awesome culture of Safety and Security at CAT.

Safety Spotlight with Chief Safety Officer Charles Hall

After visiting CAT Central recently, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Sara Feldman wanted to shine some light on some of the great things she saw. She noted that:

1) Ed Denson, Facilities Coordinator, has been doing some great improvements around Central like painting the wall of the yard green.
2) The Passenger Amenities Technicians did an amazing job improving the table/hang out area outside the Ott St. door at Central. They added a cool bus stop shelter and stop flags, as well as umbrellas and painted tables.

CAT assists in COVID-19 vaccination effort

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