

BIO

Sara A. Fountain, Executive Director, Retired Leadership DeKalb, Inc.

Ms. Fountain was employed as Executive Director of Leadership DeKalb, Inc., a community leadership program that offers leadership training to adults and high school students, from November 2001 until her retirement in September 2012. During that time, she increased the size of the organization and its scope of leadership that led to several honors bestowed on her and the organization. In 2012, Leadership DeKalb created the Sara Fountain *Carpe Diem* Award and she was the first recipient of that award.

Ms. Fountain has been involved with community advocacy and quality of life issues for over three decades. Her primary personal interests are in sustainable and environmentally responsible growth, public health issues, and education. She has held management positions at Agnes Scott College, the Georgia Nurses Foundation, Associated Regional Accounting Firms, and Crumbley & Associates among others. She began her career at the *Savannah Evening Press* newspaper and worked in advertising, public relations and marketing for several agencies. She has received over 40 national, regional and local awards for her expertise in marketing communications.

She is a member of the national Advisory Board of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at her alma mater, Georgia Southern University, and is a founding member of New-Power, a fundraising PAC to elect women to public office in Georgia. She is the chair of the Board of Trustees of the DeKalb Library System and a member of the Advisory Board of Break-Thru House, a treatment facility in Decatur for women with addictions. She is a graduate of the 1992 class of Leadership DeKalb and a 2004 graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute.

Ms. Fountain has served as a member of the Emory University Board of Visitors and on the Clifton Community Partnership, a coalition of citizens working with Emory to help guide the redevelopment of the university and the surrounding area.

Ms. Fountain is an active member of the Atlanta Press Club (recipient of their Distinguished Service Award), Decatur Rotary (former Board of Directors), Sierra Club, Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Organics, Southface Energy Institute, and the Briarcliff Woods Civic Association (Board of Directors from 1995 - 2013). She is a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in downtown Atlanta, a church known for its advocacy for the urban poor. She is also a member of the Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta.

During her tenure with Leadership DeKalb, Ms. Fountain was recognized by the League of Women Voters of DeKalb County with their Community Service Award and by the South DeKalb Business Association with their Visionary Leadership Award. The DeKalb County Commission recognized her with a Community Service Award and the Chinese Community Center of Atlanta gave her their Certificate of Appreciation. She is the recipient of the White Cane Appreciation Award from the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia and the DeKalb Women of Distinction Award from Congressman Hank Johnson and DeKalb County Commissioner Stan Watson. In March 2015, she received the Her Story Award - *Women of Character, Courage & Commitment* from DeKalb County Commissioner Sharon Barnes Sutton and the Office of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs.

###