

2016
Summer
Edition

MISSION:

It is our mission to identify and address poverty causes by providing programs and services that assist economically disadvantaged citizens with gaining the skills and abilities necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

COMMUNITY ACTION

PROMISE:

"Community action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."



IBM Community Grant

CAF received an IBM Community Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to continue its mission of helping people and changing lives. Mr. Jack T. Williams at IBM was instrumental in requesting the grant for CAF. Mr. Williams submitted the grant on his birthday and stated that this was his birthday gift "as we are all called on to do for others before self." The Board of Directors, Staff and Customers are appreciative for the receipt of funds.

23rd Annual Career & Healthcare Fair



Charlotte Area Fund, along with community partners, hosted the 23rd Annual Career & Healthcare Fair on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at the Ivory/Baker Recreation Center and the Double Oaks Masonic Community Outreach Center, where the Health and Nutrition activities were conducted. This event was co-sponsored by Bethlehem Center Head start, Urban League of the Central Carolinas, Job Finder Publication, Vocational Rehabilitation, Charlotte Housing Authority, Grace-Mar Services, Inc., ResCare and Zachariah Alexander Senior Lodge #833.

The purpose of the Annual Career & Healthcare Fair was to connect jobseekers with employers and training providers and to offer health and wellness screenings that may not be otherwise accessible to some members of the community. The event increased awareness about programs and services offered throughout Mecklenburg County by different service organizations and agencies. Many of which were made available at the fair. Over 150 patrons and 55 vendors attended this event. Some of the participating vendors were: Carolinas Healthcare System, American Airlines Express, FedEx, Fifth Third Bank, HMS Host, AFLAC, United Parcel Services, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Many of the vendors expressed satisfaction with the format of the event, which allowed them the opportunity to spend time with individual job seekers to review resumes and to set up subsequent interviews and/or conduct direct hires on the spot.

Event activities included employment and training opportunities, mock job interviews, job readiness workshops, financial literacy workshops, resume assistance, and background checks. Nutritional and health information were also provided to the attendees along with ample samples of healthy sandwich wraps and visual presentations on the effect that unhealthy food choices have on the body. We also provided door prizes generously donated by local businesses.

2016 Self Sufficiency Graduation

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. held its 13th Annual Community Service Block Grant Self-Sufficiency Graduation on Thursday, June 16, 2016. The event acknowledged the achievements of 29 individuals, who reached CAF's project goal of self-sufficiency. The focus of CAF's Self-Sufficiency Project is to assist low income individuals with achieving financial independence through a combination of certified skills training, job search, and the attainment of employment. One of the most memorable moments of the graduation was the testimonials of two former participants: Davious Lee and Robin Gregory. Through the guidance, training and services they received at CAF, they are now both totally self-sufficient. Family members, community partners, CAF Board Members and staff were present as the graduates received certificates and awards for the completion of the self-sufficiency project.



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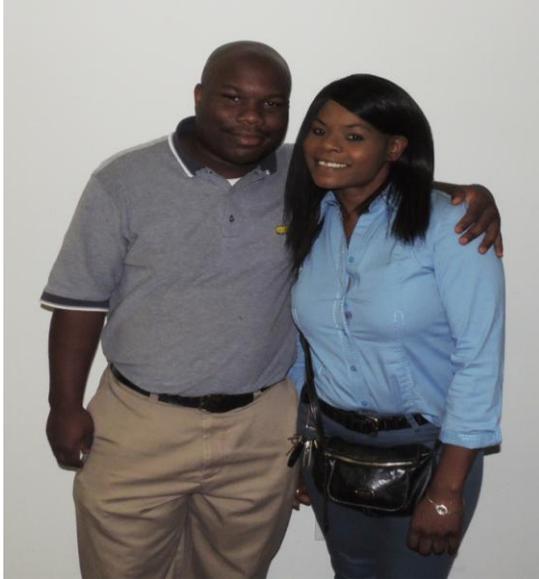
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From Second Generation Poverty to Second Generation Success

Davious Lee Story

Davious first found out about Charlotte Area Fund from his mother, Belenna Green, who was a former graduate of CAF's Self-Sufficient Program. He is the second generation of individuals born into poverty. With his mother's encouragement, Davious sought services at CAF when he was released from jail in the hopes of ending the cycle of poverty that had plagued his family. After participation in the initial activity, Work Readiness Training Class, Davious was enrolled in CAF's apprenticeship activity. Davious began to see the possibilities for a better future. The training allowed him to open his eyes to new opportunities and resources for a better way of life.



With the guidance and encouragement from Charlotte Area Fund, Davious began to change his vision of what life could be and worked to achieve his goals. His family was also directly impacted while watching him change the direction of his life during his apprenticeship. Davious obtained full time employment and is currently employed at Promise Resource Network as a Transitional Age Youth Specialist. PRN is an organization dedicated to transforming our community by providing education, consultation and peer support. It is through this opportunity that Davious credits getting a second chance to help change the system and a person's outlook by inspiring hope.

Davious was recently a guest speaker at the 2016 Self Sufficiency Graduation, where he shared his story about his road to success. Congratulations Davious!



Since CAF receives State and Federal funds, you must meet certain income guidelines to receive services. Individuals seeking assistance or services from CAF must have an annual family income which does not exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the CSBG Programs. The current guidelines are as follows:

Family Size	Income Limit
One	\$11,880
Two	\$16,020
Three	\$20,160
Four	\$24,300
Five	\$28,440
Six	\$32,580

Revised 07/2016

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional member.

To apply, bring:

- Identification with current address
- Social Security Card
- Proof of total household income



The Charlotte Area Fund's Nutrition Assistance Project provides a one-time emergency food box valued at \$150 to qualifying families.

Who Qualifies?

- Anyone who is not able to work at least 30 hrs per wk due to health reasons; and
- Whose proof of household income is at/below 100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Call 704-372-3010 ext. 205 for more information.

Saving Money on Utilities, Preserving Dignity and Pride



We're social!

Check out the Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. facebook page and follow us on Twitter @cltareafund to stay connected with all the new and exciting things going on.



Charlotte Area Fund believes the following are necessary to effectively network and build community partnerships.

Connect



Collaborate



Coordinate



Taking networking to a higher level!

Since launching **The Duke Energy Helping Home Fund (HHF)** in May 2016, Charlotte Area Fund has replaced over 35 new energy efficient appliances in the homes of fourteen families.

Sandra, a former CAF Self-Sufficiency graduate, shares her story about how the HHF program made a difference in her life. "I really did not know what I was going to do! For almost 5 years, my washing machine had been leaking, it took more than 2 hours for 1 load of clothes to dry, my refrigerator made a "humming" noise, and my oven door was broken.... the whole house was falling apart and honestly so was I! ... I was barely making enough money to survive and just the thought of trying to replace worn out broken appliances was almost too much to bare. And then.... I read the article in the Charlotte Area Fund Spring 2016 Newsletter about the Charlotte Area Fund and Duke Energy Replacement Appliance Assistance Program and like an **angel** you helped a struggling resident obtain new appliances!"

-Sandra

Sandra is so excited that she now can cook in a new modern oven, wash her clothes in an energy efficient washer and it now only takes about 15 minutes for a load to dry.

The HHF is designed to assist low-income customers with managing their energy costs by replacing old or inoperable appliances with energy



In with the new...A new Energy Star refrigerator being installed by Lowe's employees.



Sandra admiring her new refrigerator and range.

Duke Energy's Helping Home Fund is administered by the North Carolina Community Action Association. The program is available to owner and renter occupied residences and to apartment dwellings with owner approval.

To qualify:

- You must be a North Carolina Duke Energy customer with an active account, and
- Have household income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

To see if you qualify for **appliance replacement**, please contact **Shanell Varner**, Special Projects Coordinator at 704-372-3010 x 216.

For **weatherization services**, contact **Blue Ridge Community Action** located at 601 East 5th Street, Suite 255 or call (704) 248-3750 or 704-248-3752.

"Happenings"

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Upcoming Events

- **August 15-September 12, 2016** - Work Readiness Class 2 in Session
- **September 5, 2016** - Agency Closed for Labor Day Observance
- **September 6-7, 2016** - Agency Closed for Staff Development
- **September 12-16, 2016** - On-site Computer Class
- **September 19-October 14, 2016** - Work Readiness Class 3 in Session
- **October 17-21, 2016** - On-site Computer Class
- **October 24- November 18, 2016** - Work Readiness Class 4 in Session

October 21, 2016 from 10am-1pm

CAF will host its 24th Annual Career & Healthcare Fair, Location TBA

Charlotte Area Fund Community Service Block Grant Funded Programs

Self Sufficiency Program	Nutrition Assistance Program
Self-Sufficiency Project provides comprehensive case management services to low-income clients for the attainment of employment and ultimately, self-sufficiency. Components of the Self-Sufficiency Project include employment, education, consumer education/money management, and nutrition activities.	Nutrition Assistance Project provides emergency food for clients who were in need and unable to participate in the Self-Sufficiency Project to seek employment. Through nutrition counseling, clients are able to identify other low-cost food sources in the area and realize that health and nutrition are relevant to becoming self-sufficient, economically and physically.

The Promise of Community Action

"Community action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."



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