

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



Helping People. Changing Lives.

**community
Action**[®]

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc.

OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Message from our leaders

Greetings,

Herein, we present the annual report of the Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. (CAF) for the 2014-2015 Fiscal and Program Year. It was a year of ever evolving changes that resulted in growth and created opportunities for us to expand our capacity to serve our neighbors. The entire community benefitted greatly from the successes of CAF as we provided services to Mecklenburg County during the completion of our 51st year.

As CAF continues to fight in the "War on Poverty", there are still too many Mecklenburg County residents who are impoverished. Although the economy may be better in some respects, we realize that many individuals are still struggling with obtaining employment that will yield the income for financial independence and a better life. Therefore, CAF is as committed as ever to ensuring that we identify and locate the resources to assist our neighbors who are seeking a better life.

Some of CAF's achievements this year included:

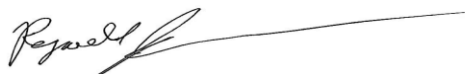
- Expanded educational preparedness and vocational skills training activities.
- A very successful 31st Annual Business and Seminar Luncheon event with a theme of "Poverty is Everybody Business". The event created additional community partnerships that augmented our ability to accomplish our mission.
- Leveraged funds, goods and services of \$97,815
- As a result of increased funding, we were afforded the opportunity to increase services and employ additional staff to enhance our efforts and effectiveness.
- Piloted the "Moving Towards Economic Independence Through Career Development Initiative" in partnership with several workforce development agencies to generate immediate employment opportunities while enhancing the skills of those who lack education/training and work experience.

Consistent with our purpose of advancing the general welfare of the people in Mecklenburg County, we will continue to study and analyze the community's problems resulting from poverty to determine resources in addressing the issues. We most humbly express appreciation to:

- Our customers who entrust us to further develop their employability skills and guide their employment search to break the chain of poverty.
- Our funders and community partners who support our efforts and worked diligently with us to "help people and change lives."
- Our Board of Directors who skillfully direct the agency towards the fulfillment of the vision and achievement of the mission.



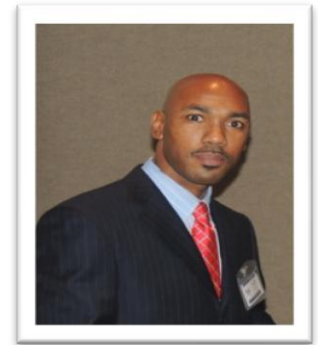
Karen Brackett Browning
Executive Director



Reginald Johnson
Chair, 2015 Board of Directors



Karen Brackett Browning
Executive Director



Reginald Johnson
2015 Board Chair

Our Agency

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. (CAF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established on August 29, 1963 "to do such things as are necessary or desirable for advancing the general welfare of the people in the area of Charlotte, North Carolina, or for educational, scientific or charitable purposes in such area." The agency pre-dates the Office of Economic Opportunity and is one of the first five agencies funded by the North Carolina Fund in 1963. With the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964 that was to implement equal opportunity for all in the economic sector, new entities at the local level called Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were created to fight the local War on Poverty. CAF was designated as the Community Action Agency for Mecklenburg County. The basic purposes to which CAAs are dedicated are as follows:

- To aid the poor in their ability to influence social decision-making processes.
- To expand the participation of the disadvantaged, or their representatives, in anti-poverty efforts.
- To promote changes in the method of providing local services so that they are more conducive to target area conditions.
- To mobilize the community resources -- in terms of dollars and in-kind matching contributions -- behind anti-poverty efforts.
- To provide professional expertise and service to anti-poverty efforts where such expertise and/or service is needed and is not commonly available in the community.
- To coordinate the anti-poverty efforts of private and public agencies currently providing services to target area residents.

Since its inception over 52 years ago, some of the initiatives developed and programs operated by CAF include Food Stamp Outreach, Community Organization/Leadership Training, Outreach and Referral, Community Development, Summer Youth Recreation, Manpower Training Program, Summer Garden & Canning Project, Head Start, Credit Union, Youth Programs, Consumer Education/Counseling, Senior Citizens Program, Feeding and Nutrition, Energy Conservation (Weatherization), Fuel Assistance, Day Care Program, Legal Services and Food Bank.

The Charlotte Area Fund currently operates the Self-Sufficiency and Nutrition Assistance Projects for Mecklenburg County that is funded under the Community Services Block Grant and administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Social Services, Office of Economic Opportunity.

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.

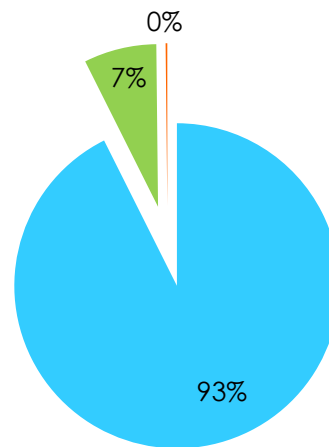
Vision
To be Mecklenburg County's recognized community action agency, empowering residents while ensuring equal opportunity for all.

Financial Overview

The funds received for Program Year 2014-2015 (July 1st – June 30th) were \$1,353,705. The expenditures were \$1,335,815. The majority of funds that CAF received were expended on program services, which exemplifies our stewardship of the entrusted funds as exhibited in the charts below. An independent audit that authenticates this financial information has been conducted and IRS Form 990 filed, as is the requirement.

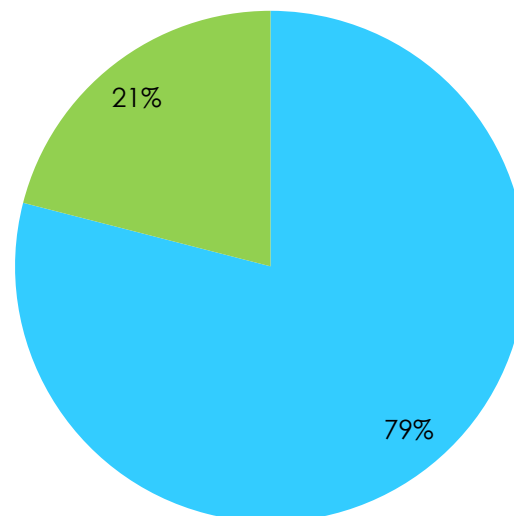
FY 2014-2015 Sources of Income

■ Grant Revenue ■ Donated Goods/Services ■ Other Income



FY 2014-2015 Expenditures

■ Program Services ■ Management/General



Our Programs

Self-Sufficiency Project

(Community Services Block Grant)

- 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

(Community Services Block Grant)

- 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.

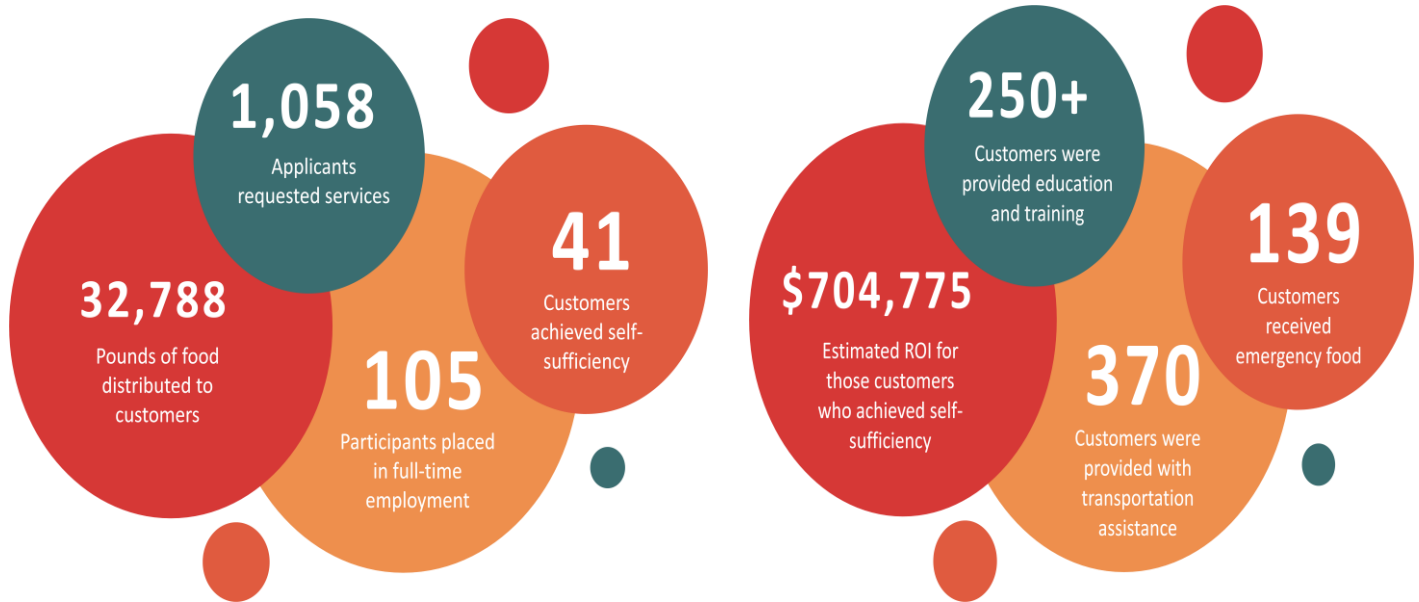
Moving Toward Economic Independence Through Career Development Initiative

- The Charlotte Area Fund and Charlotte Works partnered to pilot a program for those CSBG enrolled clients with multiple barriers to employment, particularly ex-offenders, single females with children and/or those who were unemployed for 6 months or more. Components of the initiative were sponsored educational and training activities that included classroom occupational training and/or a payment of wages while in a work experience at an employer-training site. The program's goal was for the participant to obtain training for the attainment of suitable career ladder focused employment that led to economic independence.

2014-2015 HIGHLIGHTS & TOP ACHIEVEMENTS



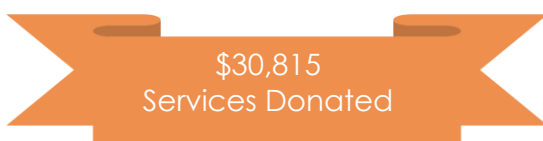
Our Self-sufficiency and Nutrition Assistance Projects have been successful in meeting the needs of the community.



Charlotte Area Fund strives to positively impact the lives of families in our community.



Other efforts in support of our programs





Presentation of the 10 Year Service Award to Convergys at the 21st Business Seminar Luncheon



Ms. Hughes, a former participant has now been employed as the Nutrition Assistant with CAF.



CAF Executive Director with former CAF participant now employed at Charlotte Area Transportation



Dr. Gene Nichol, Keynote Speaker at the 31st Annual Business Seminar Luncheon.



Work Readiness Training customers receiving employment tips during vendor presentation.



Les Bless with radio station V 101.9 giving away turkeys to CAF customers.

2014-2015 BOARD MEMBERS

Reginald Godette

Mecklenburg Co. Commissioner
Vilma Leake

Reginald Johnson

NC House Member
Kelly Alexander, Jr.

Stephen W. Kearney

Charlotte City Council Member
David Howard

Aaron McKeithan

Mecklenburg Co. Commissioner,
Dumont Clarke

Evelyn Newman

Charlotte City Major Office

Sonia Smith

Charlotte City Council Member,
John Autry

Dorothy Counts-Scoggins

Biddleville-Smallwood Community

Ms. Angela Edwards

Reid Park Neighborhood
Association

Perlinda Gabriel

Beechwood Acres II Community

Hattie Griffin

Lakewood Neighborhood Alliance

Beverly H. Smith

Charlotte Communities of Shalom

Abbie Butler

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Darrell Cunningham

Mecklenburg County Department
of Social Services

Debora Hopkins Ferguson

Cavalier Management

William (Bill) Sparks

Disability Rights & Resources

Mike Waite

Plexus Business Development, Inc.

Alvin Gene Winchester

Local Barber's Association

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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