

# Happenings



“Helping People, Changing Lives”

**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.

**In This Issue:**

- Creating Partnerships to Overcome Barriers P.1
- Strategic Planning P.3
- Money saving apps P. 2
- Upcoming Events P.4

## Creating Partnerships to Overcome Barriers.



*Brian McCorkle, CAF's Employment Component Manager presenting to Business Breakfast attendees.*

CAF's **Business Breakfast** creates opportunities for partnerships with area businesses. The event allows CAF to introduce and, in some cases, reacquaint ourselves with potential community partners who are interested in “helping people and changing lives” while also meeting the needs of their business. The Business Breakfast is held each quarter at various locations throughout Mecklenburg County.

On Thursday, February 23, 2017, Charlotte Area Fund hosted its quarterly Business Breakfast at the Mahlon Adams Pavilion located in the beautiful Freedom Park. The Business Breakfast attendees represented a cross section of employers who obtained valuable information on CAF's programs and services that were presented by CAF's Management Team and the Executive Director. This platform also provided an excellent opportunity for employers to become aware and connect with available community resources which address hiring concerns as it relates to some unique barriers of potential employee.

CAF's community forums and seminars focuses on interactive discussions regarding current issues and trends relevant to employment and training in Mecklenburg County. These discussions seek solutions that directly impact CAF's targeted population, the economically challenged in the community.

Approximately 20 people representing 14 companies were in attendance.

## Professional Development Leads To Better Serving Our Clients.



*Financial Literacy Specialist Deborah Frink and Nutrition Assistant Teresa Hughes became ServSafe Certified. ServSafe is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the National Restaurant Association.*



*Brian McCorkle, Employment Component Manager, became a master trainer of the Working Smart Curriculum. The Working Smart Curriculum is a five-module, 16-lesson curriculum that is designed to enhance skills such as communication, problem-solving, time management and accountability for job-seekers.*

We use our **3 C's** to develop a system of resources that create positive change.

**CONNECT**

**COLLABORATE**

**COORDINATE**

*Taking **NETWORKING** to a higher level.*

## Saving Money Is Just a Click Away

Whether you're saving to pay off a credit card bill, to purchase a new appliance or a family vacation, these money saving tools are sure to put a few extra coins back in your pocket.

### Money Saving Website

**Ebate:** [www.ebates.com](http://www.ebates.com)

Find coupons and earn cash back at over 2000 stores when you shop at **Ebates!** Save with online rebates, deals, promo codes and discounts.

**Groupon:** [www.groupon.com](http://www.groupon.com)

Sign up for this site and get daily specials on just about anything in your area — products, services, restaurants, and more.

**LivingSocial:** [www.livingsocial.com](http://www.livingsocial.com)

Check out all of the best deals in the area where you live with this website.

### Money Saving Apps

Available in *Apple and Android App store.*

#### Digit

Save money automatically without a budget.

#### Out To Eat With Kids

Find restaurants where kids can eat for free using this app. Save money on food that will probably just end up all over the floor anyway.

#### Cartwheel

With this Target exclusive app, you'll find hundreds of offers. Find a sports bra that you want to buy? Scan the barcode, and the app will tell you if there's an available coupon for it!

## Am I Eligible?

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

## New Employee Spotlight

### Staffing for GROWTH

Charlotte Area Fund recently expanded our team to accommodate actual and anticipated growth. Here are our two recently hired staff members.



**Alvenice Simmons, Administrative Assistant**  
Alvenice is a native Charlottean and graduate of CPCC with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. She has work experience in both corporate and human services. She is very excited about the opportunity to further extend her experience and help CAF continue efforts to be of service to the community. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, sports of all kinds and reading a good book.



**Rachelle Strobe, Fiscal Officer**  
Rachelle feels that CAF is the perfect place to blend her years of accounting experience with her desire to help others help themselves. She believes her greatest skill is her attention to numerical details. The biggest priority, at this time, is to learn CAF procedures. It is important for the role of oversight and accounting, to assist in being the best steward of the funds that are received. Originally from Pennsylvania, Rachelle and her family live in Kannapolis.

## In the Works- CAF to Launch New Website!



## Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session



*What do our customers need? How can we better serve to impact the identified needs of the low-income in the community? Who do we need to partner with to meet the needs?*

These are some of the questions explored on Saturday, February 18, 2017, during the Charlotte Area Fund Board of Directors' Strategic Planning Session. Board members discussed the needs of the community, agency and families in Mecklenburg County for the development of strategies to address the needs. The session was facilitated by a ROMA (Results-Oriented, Management and Accountability) Facilitator. "Based upon principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, ROMA provides a framework for continuous growth and improvement among more than 1000 local community action agencies and a basis for state leadership and assistance toward those ends. Since 1994, the Community Services Network has been guided by six broad anti-poverty goals:

- Goal 1:** Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- Goal 2:** The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- Goal 3:** Low-income people own a stake in their community.
- Goal 4:** Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.
- Goal 5:** Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- Goal 6:** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

To accomplish these goals, CAF's Board has developed programs/services and is initiating efforts to ensure "results-oriented management and results-oriented accountability" within their processes. The CAF Board will continue to meet for further development and implementation of strategies to meet the specific goals relevant to our community.

## Charlotte Area Fund Launches Social Media Initiative

Charlotte Area Fund recently launched a social media initiative, reinvigorating the agency's presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. In 2017, there is no doubt that social media is a premier resource for sharing and collaborating with customers, prospects, partners and the general public.

Charlotte Area Fund sees its multi-channel presence as both a communication and an education vehicle for followers. There is a whole new audience for our message, as well as offering a new channel to a group of clients and partners who simply prefer to interact by social media. Social media offers a platform by which to interact, share our business philosophy with other companies, talk about industry trends and collaborate with others who share our mission. .

Success in social media – increasing reach every day – is all about quality content, timeliness and interaction opportunities. Toward this end, the signature block of every companies email now provides icons linking to our social media sites, as do our newsletters and marketing campaigns.

We post weekly content to our pages, offering a mix of agency updates, client successes, announcements and special information from our community partners. We hope there is something for everyone. More and more friends, partners, customers, prospects and employees are joining our discussions and receiving the latest news from Charlotte Area Fund.

So "like" or "follow" Charlotte Area Fund on Facebook, Twitter @cltareafund, and LinkedIn today.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event Details
April 24-May 19	Work Readiness Class 9
May 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nutrition Workshop & Food Demonstration Session 12-2pm
May 11	2017 NCCAA Conference Politics of Poverty 8am-10am Visit <a href="http://www.nccaa.org">www.nccaa.org</a> to register
May 25	Business Breakfast 9am-11am Location TBD
May 22-26	On site Computer Class
May 22-26	Money Management Class 9
May 22-June 19	Work Readiness Class 10
June 20-26	Money Management Class 10

### "Happenings"

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## Our Programs

### Self Sufficiency Project

The 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

The 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.

## Community Service Block Grant Funded

### 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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