

# 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.

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## Self-Sufficiency Breaking the Chains of Poverty



Self-Sufficiency Graduate Arturowe P. Robinson provides his testimony.

Charlotte Area Fund held its 14th Annual CSBG Self-Sufficiency Graduation on June 22, 2017 to recognize 40 individuals for achieving the project's goal. The focus of CAF's Self-Sufficiency Project is to assist low income individuals with achieving financial independence through a combination of certified educational and vocational skills training, job search, and the attainment of employment. The preliminary estimate based on employment figures reveals that this year's 40 graduates' earning potential will be \$805,132.80, with a return on investment of \$564,172.80. One of the most memorable moments of the graduation was the testimonials of two former participants: Teresa Hughes and Arturowe P. Robinson. Through the guidance, trainings and services they received at CAF, both are now 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.

This year's graduation was also significant because for this very first time, we had a mother and daughter graduate together.

## On The Job Training Leads To Increased Skills Development



Ashley Nyagbona has been working as an Intern with Charlotte Area Fund in the Nutrition Assistance Project. "She has been an asset to the Consumer Education Department.", says her supervisor, Teresa Hughes. Ashley has been dedicated to the mission of Charlotte Area Fund, "Helping People. Changing Lives." and she is committed to serving those in need. Her duties included conducting inventory and performing data entry, which she did with proficiency. Ashley exhibited professionalism while working with customers in need of services. Ashley is also currently enrolled in the CHSC Dental Sterilization Tech Program with aspirations to becoming a dentist.

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.*

## CAF Board Members Inducted in the 2017 NCCAA Hall of Fame During Annual Conference



CAF Executive Director, Board of Directors and Hall of Fame Inductees  
(Back Row L to R) Reginald Godette, Shauna Smith, Abbie Butler, ED Karen Brackett Browning, Sonia Smith (Front Row L to R) Aaron McKeithan, Jr., Dorothy Counts-Scoggins, Evelyn Newman and Perlinda Gabriel

The North Carolina Community Action Association (NCCAA) Conference was held in Concord, North Carolina from May 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the 2017 NCCAA Annual Conference was, "*Thrive: Facing the Future and Embracing Change.*" This theme recognized the changing landscape in North Carolina and challenged conference attendees to embrace the changes to their advantage to improve the lives of low-income people. This conference featured interactive and educational workshops on topics such as Organizational Standards, lobbying, poverty and advocacy.

On Thursday of the conference, seventeen individuals were inducted into the NCCAA Hall of Fame during the Awards Luncheon. This esteemed group of inductees were honored for having made exemplary contributions in the war on poverty declared more than 40 years ago by President Lyndon B. Johnson. CAF Board Member Evelyn Newman along with former Board Member Aaron McKeithan, Jr. were among those inducted into the Hall of Fame. Both of these astonishing individuals were recognized for their outstanding leadership and service in their communities and in particular, to the CAF Board of Directors. Approximately 400 people attended the Awards Luncheon for this occasion.

## 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         | \$12,060     |
| Two         | \$16,240     |
| Three       | \$20,420     |
| Four        | \$24,600     |
| Five        | \$28,780     |
| Six         | \$32,960     |

Revised 07/2017

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 for the past 90 days or 12 months.

We have officially launched our new website! Check it out at [www.charlotteareafund.org](http://www.charlotteareafund.org)

The website features a header with the organization's logo, address (1000 Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202), and social media links (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn). The main banner image shows two people in professional attire. Below the banner, text reads: "Participants receive services that lead to self sufficiency through training and employment." A pink navigation bar at the bottom includes links for "OUR AGENCY", "UPCOMING EVENTS", and "HISTORY OF AGENCY". Key statistics about poverty are listed: "30.9%", "\$7.25/hr", and "174,000".

## Apprentice to Employee

Our apprenticeship activity offers CAF participants a structured system of training to prepare them for employment within a specific industry of their choice. This opportunity allows each participant to work at the training site for 8 hours per day/40 hours per week, for up to 12 weeks. This edition's featured work site is the Mt. Island Goodwill Store.

Mrs. Bonita Jackson enrolled in CAF's Self-Sufficiency Project in September 2016. She started the Work Readiness Classes in October 2016 and was one of the star students of the class. Bonita exhibited maturity and a calming disposition in each session. She was exemplary in learning the materials provided in the workshops. While attending the training, Mrs. Jackson was working a warehouse position. Although the job was physically demanding, she showed up every day on time for the Work Readiness Workshops. When the opportunity to be considered for an apprenticeship with Goodwill Industries was presented, Mrs. Jackson was one of the first selected. She has received high praises from the management team at the Mt. Island location for her reliability, professionalism and great work ethic while being an asset to the store. When the Goodwill leaders heard about her work, she was recommended to become a permanent, full-time employee with Goodwill Industries at the Mt. Island Store.



*"Having the opportunity to allow the Charlotte Area Fund clients to work here at Mt. Island was a big support to our team. These ladies not only model exemplary work ethic and business etiquette they were willing and excited about learning. They are definitely a big part of any success Mt. Island has had since their tenure here. We appreciate you for such a wonderful opportunity. These ladies came here in extremely difficult circumstances and were able to be positive, lift moral and be on time as well as always on task. Please continue to consider us for any future opportunities."*

LaKechic Hearn Store Manager, Mt. Island Goodwill

## Charlotte Area Fund Named 2017 AACF Grantee

### Addressing Health Disparities Among African Americans in Mecklenburg County

Charlotte Area Fund was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the African American Community Foundation (AACF). We were one of five out of approximately 60 applicants selected. This grant will allow us to expand our services to assist low-income citizens, who have chronic illnesses/conditions, with a variety of health and nutrition activities/services to manage their condition and improve their wellbeing. The Healthy Choices Project will address the health disparities gap relevant to the chronic conditions of diabetes and hypertension, which leads to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. The project will seek to provide guided and professional services that focus on nutrition education for better health management. Participants will receive personalized meal planning with a certified dietitian, health aids, food demonstrations and a monthly food box packed with fresh and nutritional food.



To learn more about The Healthy Choices Project, contact Terese Hughes at 704-372-3010 ext. 205

## "Happenings"

A publication of the Charlotte Area Fund, Inc., funded by the Community Services Block Grant.

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### STAY CONNECTED:



## Upcoming Events

| Date                  | Event Details                                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| August 14-25          | Job Readiness Class                                  |
| August 28-September 1 | Onsite Basic Computer Class & Money Management Class |
| September 4           | Observance of Labor Day-Agency Closed                |
| September 7           | Business Breakfast                                   |
| September 11-22       | Job Readiness Class                                  |
| September 25-29       | Onsite Basic Computer Class & Money Management Class |
| Oct./Nov.             | Career & Healthcare Expo                             |

## Our Programs

Funded by The Community Service Block Grant

### 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.

## 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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