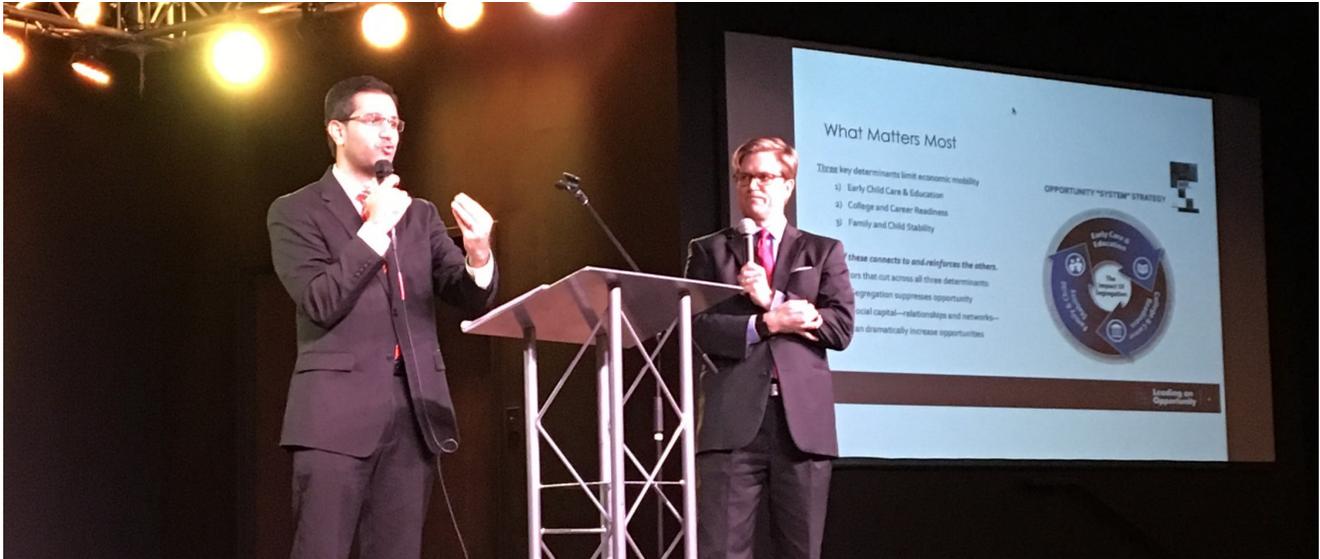


CHARLOTTE AREA FUND, INC.

HAPPENINGS

Helping People. Changing Lives.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Council Members, Mr. Mujataba Muhommed (left) and Mr. Edwin Peacock (right)

Leading On Opportunity for Economic Mobility

Charlotte Area Fund hosted its 34th Annual Business Seminar Luncheon on December 7, 2017 at Project 658. The theme was: "Leading on Opportunity for Economic Mobility". The focus was on The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report which provides strategies and solutions to increase economic mobility in Mecklenburg County. The purpose of the annual seminar luncheon is to create an awareness of issues impacting our community and acquaint businesses with the benefits of partnering with each other to enhance our combined efforts. Over 70 guests attended the event, which was facilitated by David Hollars, Executive Director, Centralina Workforce Development Board. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Council Members, Mr. Mujataba Muhommed and Mr. Edwin Peacock presented the report along with providing the audience with a summary of the strategies developed and the next steps that we can take as a community. During the luncheon, CAF recognized entities that have consistently partnered with the agency to achieve its mission. Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont was honored for over 20 years of partnership with CAF. The recipient of the 2017 Ten Year Service Award was Charlotte Metro Credit Union. Dress for Success received acknowledgement for 5 years of service partnering with to CAF to encourage it's continuation of partnering. Will Peters, CEO of Northlake Digital received the Donor Service Award for his continuous support of CAF's mission.



5 Year Service Recipient, Dress For Success (left) and Karen Brackett Browning (right)

In This Issue:
 Annual Business Seminar Luncheon - P.1
 Connecting Job Seekers to Employers - P. 2
 Spotlight on Success - P.3
 How to recover from the holidays - P.4



Connecting Job Seekers to Employers

Charlotte Area Fund held its 25th Annual Career & Healthcare Expo on November 2, 2017 at Arbor Glen Community Outreach Center. The purpose of the event is to connect job seekers to employment/training opportunities and other wraparound services. This year 55 hiring and training agencies filled the gymnasium along with over 170 job seekers. This event was co-sponsored by Bethlehem Center Head start, Urban League of Central Carolinas, Job Finder Publication, Vocational Rehabilitation, Charlotte Housing Authority, Grace-Mar Services, Inc., and ResCare Workforce Services.

Featured workshops included job readiness workshops, financial literacy workshops conducted by Fifth Third Bank, and expungement workshops lead by attorneys at Freedmen Law Group. CAF's Nutrition Staff conducted an interactive workshop on healthy eating that included a food demonstration to show participants how easy it is to prepare healthy meals. Participating vendors included representatives from: Carolinas Healthcare System, AppleOne, Sodexo, Faithful Nurses, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Some highly qualified candidates were even hired on the spot.

New Training Opportunity in High Growth Industry

Charlotte Area Fund has partnered with the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM), Western North Carolina Chapter to offer a FREE training opportunity in Residential Property Management. IREM candidates must have at least a high school diploma/GED, no prior felonies, and they must pass a drug screen. The ideal candidate is customer service driven and has basic math skills. **Once participants are accepted into the program, they begin a rigorous five (5) week classroom program and four (4) week paid internship. Classes begin February 12th. Application are being accepted now. Call 704-372-3010 or visit www.charlotteareafund.org for more information.** The mission of RESTART is to help break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage through training, mentoring, and assisting individuals with job placement in the career of residential property management.



Casey Perkins, Advanced Home Care (left) and Earl Capers, Employment Case Manger/Education coordinator, CAF (right)



Expo attendee (left) and Debra Williams, Faithful Nurses (right)

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 our CSBG Programs.

To apply, bring:

- Identification with current address
- Social Security Card
- Proof of total household income for the past 90 days or 12 months.



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.



Spotlight on Success

On December 29th, 2016, Mejih Ache arrived in Charlotte from Africa. In, less than a year he has secured not one but two jobs, purchased a car, and moved into his own apartment. Mejih, was introduced to Charlotte Area Fund while attending a community resource fair held at the Men's Shelter of Charlotte. He enrolled in the Self-Sufficiency Project and began Work Readiness Classes in January 2017. Mejih was hired at his first job in May at FedEx. Determined to save enough money to move out of the shelter and into his own home, he started his second job as a welder at Watson in June. Mejih saved enough to purchase a car to get back and forth to work. He faithfully attends budgeting sessions with CAF staff in an effort to work towards his goal of owning a home. Mejih Ache completed the Heavy Equipment training course at the Heavy Equipment College of America, in Fayetteville, NC on January 18. His goal is to obtain employment as a heavy equipment operator in the construction industry.



A Season of Giving

It has truly been a season of giving! Les Bless from V 101.9 FM surprised CAF with a turkey giveaway. We received 15 turkeys to give away to our clients in need.

BLOC N Bowl Raises \$36K for Families in Need

On December 2, 2017, the Business Leaders of Charlotte (BLOC) raised \$28,771 to support local families in need, which is a first in the organization's history. As a result of this successful effort, fifteen CAF families received Christmas gifts and a grocery gift card estimated at \$1,000 per family. In addition, as a result of CAF being selected as beneficiary of the event, BLOC made a \$13,771 donation to CAF to further support our agency. This was the most funds raised and donated by an entity during a single event. Please join us in expressing much appreciation to Board Member Mike Waite who initially connected CAF to BLOC. Through his affiliation with BLOC, they have for several years supported CAF families for Christmas and provided cash donations to the agency. CAF has benefited greatly from BLOC's generosity.

"It was such a powerful experience! We are so grateful to BLOC and the Charlotte Area Fund. My heart is still smiling..."
-Iretha, BLOC Recipient



Our Programs:

Self Sufficiency

The Self-Sufficiency Project provides comprehensive case management services to low-income clients for the attainment of employment and ultimately, self-sufficiency.

Nutrition Assistance

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.

A New Year, A Fresh Start. Let's Get Reacquainted!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season! It's the start of a New Year, and we would like to send our best wishes to you. May you achieve all your goals in this chapter of your life and business. Like previous years, our resolution is pretty straightforward: We want to support you by being the reliable resource for helping families in Mecklenburg County become self-sufficient and we plan on doing it better than ever. To accomplish our goal, we'll place more of our focus on you. Over the next couple of months you will hear about changes that will be taking place at the Charlotte Area Fund. Additionally, we bid farewell to Karen Brackett Browning. Karen served as Charlotte Area Fund's Executive Director for 21 years. We want to wish Karen much success in her new role as the Executive Director of the South Carolina Community Action Agency and thank her for years of dedication to the Charlotte Area Fund, and our motto of "Helping People and Changing Lives". We are pleased to announce that Pamela Henson will be serving as Interim Executive Director until a new Executive Director is named. We look forward to continue shaking up the sector with you! As always, we welcome any questions you might have for us. And please stay connected with us about the exciting work that will be taking place this year.

Reginald Johnson,
Charlotte Area Fund, Board Chair

Upcoming Events

- 1/8** • Job Readiness Class
- 1/15** • Agency Closed in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/22** • Money Management Class & Onsite Basic Computer Class
- 2/12** • RESTART Begins
- TBA** • Business Breakfast

Our Board of Directors

Annie Pearl Anderson
Abbie Butler
Dorothy Counts-Scoggins
Darrell Cunningham
Angela Edwards
Perlinda Gabriel
Reginald Godette
Hattie Griffin
Reginald Johnson
Stephen Kearney
Shauna Smith
Sonia Smith
Mike Waite
Alvin Gene Winchester

How To Recover Financially After The Holidays

The Christmas tree with presents beneath, the New Year's Eve dress, the plane tickets and all that shopping caused you to over extend your budget. You had a great time, but you over spent. Here are a few suggestions on how to recover before the Easter expenses.

- 1. Take a break from hanging out.** Eat dinner at home instead of eating out. This could simply save you by 50%.
- 2. Keep a soup and salad based diet.** After the holidays and all the good food and sweets its time to detox the body to help you get slimmer and regain your waistline.
- 3. Spend time with your friends.** The post-holiday depression occurs as soon as the shopping stops and the parties are over. Talk with friends often by phone or visiting. Forget about shopping until the sales. Wait for the 50% and up sales, this will help you prepare for you next year budget.
- 4. Pamper your skin.** Use natural home ingredients for a facial mask, such as honey, cucumbers, citrus fruits, and for fighting cellulite, exfoliate the skin with coffee grounds while showering.



Charlotte Area Fund Inc.
901 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28206
Office: 704.372.3010
Fax: 704.344.1655
www.charlotteareafund.org