

# CHARLOTTE AREA FUND, INC.

# HAPPENINGS

Helping People. Changing Lives.



Class of 2018 RESTART participants

## PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Meet our 2018 RESTART class. RESTART is a unique Residential Property Management training program that provides the skills necessary for an individual to obtain stable employment.

Charlotte Area Fund recently partnered with the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM), Western North Carolina Chapter to offer FREE training opportunities in Residential Property Management. 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.

This remarkable group of motivated future Property Managers have already completed the rigorous five (5) week classroom segment and have entered their twelve (12) week apprenticeship program, where they will experience the day to day duties of a residential property management. They are scheduled to graduate on May 17th. To follow their pathway to success visit [www.charlotteareafund.org](http://www.charlotteareafund.org).



David Martin, Director of Management Services at Collett & President of IREM Western North Carolina Chapter 40 welcoming the 2018 RESTART class.

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## SAVING ENERGY CAN SAVE YOU MONEY



Improving the energy efficiency of a home can significantly reduce energy bills. Not everyone, however, can afford to make these updates. That is why Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. offers the Energy Savings Assistance Program. It provides qualified customers with energy-saving refrigerator replacement at no charge.

### Customer Eligibility

This program is open to low-income customers located in Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC) North Carolina service territories.

Customers are eligible to participate if:

- They are a DEC customer with an active account; and
- Customer household income must be at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines of 200% of poverty income qualifications. Call 704-372-3010 x 216 for more information.

*Appliance Replacement Services Include:*

*Replacement of a refrigerator, if it is inoperable and/or greater than 10 years old. Inefficient appliances will be replaced with ENERGY STAR appliances. All old appliances will be picked up and recycled.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

When La'Donna first came to CAF her top three goals were to find a job, move into her own apartment and enroll in school. After completing Charlotte Area Fund's Work Readiness Class, La'Donna has achieved all three of her goals. With the assistance of the CAF, La'Donna was able to enroll in the Phlebotomy Class at Divine Healthcare, which started in February. Shortly after, she secured a full-time warehouse position and her own apartment. Ms. Lewis plans to attend Phlebotomy Classes during the evening for the next several weeks, and will start her internship this spring.

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



On Monday, April 9th at the City Council Business Meeting, the Mayor read a proclamation in honor of Volunteer Month in recognition of all board members that serve the Charlotte community on behalf of the City Council and Mayor. Several of our board members and staff were honored with a commemorative coin with a special note for their service which was also in recognition of the Charlotte Sestercentennial (250th anniversary).

## MEET OUR INTERNS

Alexis and Alexis are seniors at Johnson C. Smith University scheduled to graduate on May 20th with Bachelors Degree in Criminology and Psychology. In search of a community service agency for their required 120 hour internship, their School Advisor recommended Charlotte Area Fund. They enjoyed working with Case Mangers in the Work Readiness class. Their future plans include joining the US Army and enrolling into Law School.



## 2018 NCCAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEATURES COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY, OPIOID FORUM AND MORE.

Poverty is everybody's business! Everyday our agency works to end the effects that poverty has on families in Mecklenburg County. This year's NCCAA (North Carolina Community Action Association) Annual Conference focuses on new insights to tackle poverty issues. The week of May 8th-11th the NCCAA 2018 Annual Conference will convene at the Crown Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC.

Some of the conference highlights will include; the NC Opioid Forum & Resource Fair, a Day of Service for the Asheville CAA in which needed toiletry items will be collected on behalf of families in crisis and concluding the week with a 2018 Statewide Board Leadership Summit. Select staff and board members will be attending this years event to learn best practices, strategies and tools to better service our community. Our nominee, Faye Jones, has been selected as the winner for this year's Roselle Copeland Stewardship Award and Business Leaders of Charlotte (BLOC) has been named for the Gloria M. Williams Award. They both will be personally recognize at the 2018 NCCAA Awards Luncheon on Thursday, May 10th.



The main focus of this quarterly Business Breakfast is to connect and collaborate with local businesses to better serve those in need in Mecklenburg County by forming partnerships with companies that will hire our clients and/or provide training opportunities. This year we are adding unique component to this event by having an open conversation on the future of tech careers in Charlotte.

Hear from industry experts regarding the current and future state of tech careers iour area. **8:30am-10am** on **May 22** at **Queens University of Charlotte**.

**Panelist:**

- **Dana McDonald**, PhD., Director, Goodwill University
- **Sherrell Dorsey**, Founder of BLKTECKCLT
- **Simone Suber**, Tech Talent South
- **Will Peters**, Founder, North Lake Digital

**Moderator:** Keva Walton, Chief Growth Officer, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: LIFE OUTSIDE OF CHARLOTTE AREA FUND



Our phenomenal Work Readiness Case Manager, Olaniyi Zainabu, has volunteered with Changed Choices since arriving in Charlotte from Ohio, 5 years ago. She sought out this organization because there primarily focus is on holistically serving women who are currently incarcerated or in transition after being released. She has served as a Card Writer and Mentor. This volunteer role enables her to provide an introduction of the services that CAF provides, such as Work Readiness (interviewing skills/how to complete applications) as well as how they can benefit from the numerous resources once released from prison. When asked why she volunteers, Olaniyi stated "It is a joy to inspire these young girls/women and assist them in releasing their full potential."

## 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.

## OUR SERVICES

#### Education

Work towards a short term certificate or degree in a growing field to earn a living wage.

#### Employment Assistance

Plan a sustainable career path, develop a resume and enhance interview skills.

#### Financial Literacy Training

Learn how to create a budget and manage money to work towards financial independence.

#### Counseling

A success coach is available to provide support, advice and resources along the journey.

#### Support Services Assistance

Additional assistance for childcare, transportation and more, to remove barriers to self-sufficiency

*CAF is not an emergency assistance program*

## YOUR SUCCESS BEGINS TODAY!

Charlotte Area Fund programs provide comprehensive services geared to help low income individuals remove barriers to self-sufficiency.

#### To qualify:

Individuals seeking assistance or services must have an annual family income which does not exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the CSBG Projects.

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.

Visit [www.charlotteareafund.org](http://www.charlotteareafund.org) to learn more or call us 704-372-3010

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We strive to provide useful and relevant content for our readers. We want to know what are some issues, topics and content that you would like to see. Send us an email at [info@charlotteareafund.org](mailto:info@charlotteareafund.org) to let us know.

### 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5/7-5/9** • NCCAA Conference
- 5/7** • Work Readiness Class
- 5/10** • NCCAA Awards Luncheon
- 5/17** • RESTART Graduation
- 5/17** • CPCC Graduation (HSE)
- 5/21** • Money Management Class & Onsite Basic Computer Class
- 5/22** • Tech Talk: Business Breakfast
- 6/22** • CAF Self-Sufficiency Graduation

# Stay connected



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