



CHARLOTTE AREA FUND INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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# MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATION



Welcome Community Partners, Citizens of Mecklenburg County, members of Local and State Government, Past, Present and Future Clients of the Charlotte Area Fund and Friends, to the 2017 Annual Report of the Charlotte Area Fund, Inc.

The Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. (CAF) is the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established on August 29, 1963 and recognized as the designated Community Action Agency (CAA) for Mecklenburg County by annual affirmation of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners.

Community Action programs came into existence as an initiative of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, designed to be part of the then President Johnson's comprehensive declaration of war on poverty. The community action program was a bold idea, in that it handed control to the local level, so that programs could be geared specifically for target population needs. This original concept of "maximum feasible participation" remains a primary feature in program development and implementation of community action programs at the local level with the highest priority placed on helping people achieve permanent self-sufficiency.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are unique in the requirement to have a tripartite board consisting of equal parts of local private sector, public sector and low-income community representatives. This structure brings together diverse community leaders to collaborate on identifying and responding to local needs and supports the principal of "maximum feasible participating" in both the creation and administration of Community Action programs. In addition, the federal Community Service Block Grant funds give CAAs the flexibility to leverage other community resources to provide a broader comprehensive response to community needs.

Using public hearings, community surveys, current economic studies and participation in a wide number of local, regional and state level organizations and a variety of other resources, CAF identified five primary areas of program focus:

- Employment
- Job Skill Training/Education
- Nutrition (food assistance and counseling)
- Housing
- Consumer Education.

The 16-17 program year was highlighted by the introduction and expansion of program opportunities designed to address significant barrier to breaking the cycle of poverty. These included:

- Childcare support during training
- Apprenticeships with opportunity for job hire upon completion
- Healthy Choices Project to address health disparity gap
- Helping Homes Project to replace/provide new major kitchen appliance

CAF also took significant steps in expanding access to the community through:

- Redesign of the agency website [charlotteareafund.org](http://charlotteareafund.org)
- Social media presence on twitter \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_\_\_
- Quarterly Business Breakfast held through various location in Mecklenburg county.

And last but not least two CAF Board Members, Mr. Aaron McKeithin and Ms. Evelyn Newman, were inducted into the North Carolina Community Action Association Hall of Fame in recognition of decades of commitment to the community action in action.

As the Charlotte Area Fund honors the tradition of our origin, we welcome you to be a part of our future of Changing Lives and Helping People.

# CREATING OPPORTUNITY

ELIMINATING POVERTY

## ABOUT CHARLOTTE AREA FUND

In operation since 1963, the Charlotte Area Fund (CAF) is a non-profit organization and the designated community action agency for Mecklenburg County whose:

**Mission** is 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** is to be Mecklenburg County's recognized community action agency, empowering residents while ensuring equal opportunity for all.



## OUR PROJECTS

The focus of our projects are to assist low income individuals with achieving financial independence through a combination of certified skills training, job search, and the attainment of employment.

### SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECT

Our **Self-Sufficiency Project** provides comprehensive case management services to low-income clients for the attainment of employment and ultimately, self-sufficiency. Some of the components of the Self-Sufficiency Project include employment, education, consumer education/money management, and nutrition activities

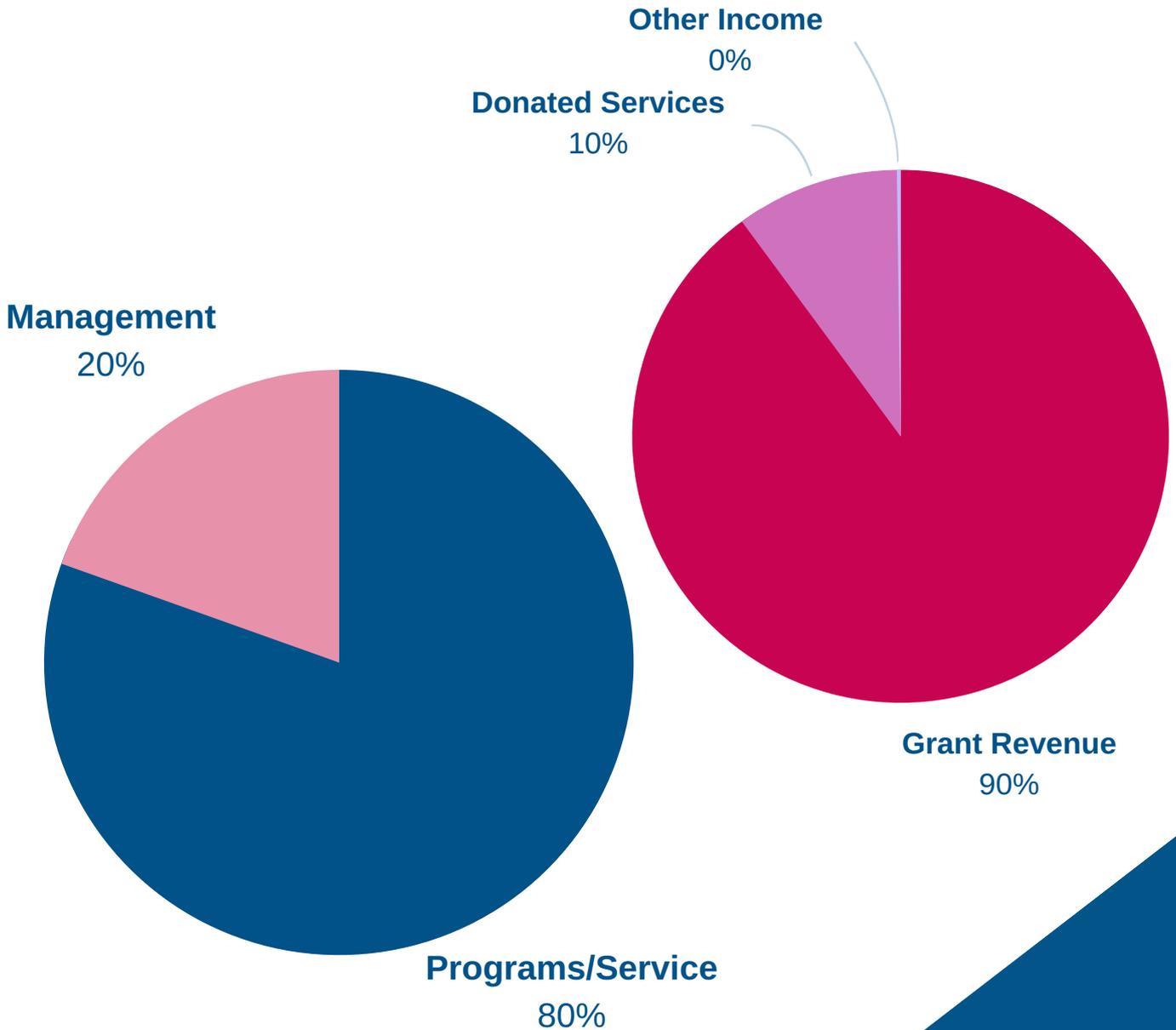
### NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Our **Nutrition Assistance Project** provides emergency food for residents of Mecklenburg County. 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.



# OUR FINANCIALS

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is funded by the Community Services Block Grants. CSBG is administered by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. The funds received for Program Year 2015-2016 (July 1st - June 30th) was \$1,451,525. The expenditures were \$1,444,446. 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.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

71

OBTAINED  
EMPLOYMENT

367

APPLICANTS

COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS

189

635

FAMILIES  
SERVED

145

CLIENTS  
COMPLETED  
EDUCATION &  
TRAINING

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

1006

\$276

AVERAGE VALUE  
OF NUTRITION  
ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED

199

FOOD BOXES  
PROVIDED

# MAKING AN IMPACT

## SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT



### Pathways to Success

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.



### Addressing Health Disparities Among African Americans

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

## STAY CONNECTED



**CONNECT  
COLLABORATE  
COORDINATE**

# 2016-2017 Board of Directors

## Board Officers & Members

### **Reginald Johnson, Chair**

NC General Assembly Member Kelly Alexander, Jr.

### **Mike Waite, Vice Chair**

NARI of Greater Charlotte

### **Dorothy Counts-Scoggins, Secretary**

Biddleville-Smallwood Community

### **Reginald Godette, Treasurer**

Mecklenburg Co. Commissioner Vilma Leake

## Board Members

### **Annie Pearl Anderson**

Greater Enderly Park Neighborhood Association

### **Abbie Butler**

Mecklenburg Co. Commissioner Dumont Clarke

### **Darrell Cunningham**

Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

### **Angela Edwards**

Reid Park Neighborhood Association

### **Deborah Hopkins-Ferguson**

Cavalier Management

### **Perlinda Gabriel**

Beechwood Acres II Community

### **Hattie Griffin**

Lakewood Neighborhood Alliance

### **Stephen W. Kearney**

Charlotte City Council Member James Howard

### **Evelyn Newman**

Charlotte City Mayor Office

### **Shauna Smith**

Bethlehem Center

### **Sonia Smith**

Charlotte City Council

### **William (Bill) Sparks**

Disability Rights & Resources

### **Alvin Gene Winchester**

Local Barber's Association



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Follow us on:



Our annual report presents the highlights of our program year. For details about all our accomplishments, visit our website  
[www.charlotteareafund.org](http://www.charlotteareafund.org).