



Charlotte Area Fund, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year

2016

Message from our leaders

“To do such things as are necessary or desirable for advancing the general welfare of the people in the area of Charlotte, North Carolina, or for educational, scientific or charitable purposes in such area” was the purpose defined in the charter for the Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. (CAF) on August 29, 1963. We are elated to report that during these past 52 years, CAF has continued to follow that mission.

Herein, we present the annual report of the Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. (CAF) for the 2015-2016 Fiscal and Program Year. Many enhancements were implemented during the past year to ensure more efficient operations and effective service delivery to Mecklenburg County. One of which is CAF’s marketing and networking strategy which emphasizes a 3-C Concept: Connect, Collaborate and Coordinate. Partnerships were expanded as a result of the ability to connect with each other for discussion and collaboration on issues. An execution of ideas and coordination of efforts created solutions. Many community successes were realized as CAF, partner agencies and government more specifically addressed poverty and workforce development issues. Mecklenburg County saw a drop in the unemployment rate and witnessed strong employment growth through the addition of a significant number of new jobs to our community.

More specifically, some of CAF’s achievements during the year included:

- Receipt of an additional \$818,470 in Community Services Block Grant funds that allowed expanded educational preparedness and vocational skills training activities along with access to more wrap-around services for successful completions.
- Enhanced efforts by the Board and staff in community revitalization and anti-poverty efforts.
- Fifty-one (51) Self-Sufficiency Graduates with cumulative earnings potential of \$1,255,416.
- A successful 32nd Annual Business and Seminar Luncheon event with the following theme:

Education → Employment → Poverty

The event created additional community partnerships that augmented our ability to accomplish our mission.

These successful results demonstrate that when community partners invest resources to assist neighbors in need, the return on investment is citizens that become self-reliant and contribute to the local economy. Since the poverty rate is a key indicator for evaluating economic conditions within the community, the mission to reduce poverty is so critical to our community’s health. Consistent with our purpose of advancing the general welfare of the people in Mecklenburg County, CAF is committed to analyzing the community’s problems resulting from poverty to determine resources in addressing the issues for a community in which all of our neighbors thrive.

We most humbly express appreciation to our community stakeholders who seek to accomplish the assignment of “helping people and changing lives.”

Sincerely,



Karen Brackett Browning

Karen Brackett Browning
Executive Director



Reginald Johnson

Reginald Johnson
Chair, Board of Directors

ABOUT THE RICH HISTORY OF OUR GREAT AGENCY

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. (CAF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established on August 29, 1963 “to do such things as are necessary or desirable for advancing the general welfare of the people in the area of Charlotte, North Carolina, or for educational, scientific or charitable purposes in such area.” The agency predates the Office of Economic Opportunity and is one of the first five agencies funded by the North Carolina Fund in 1963. With the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964 that was to implement equal opportunity for all in the economic sector, new entities at the local level called Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were created to fight the local War on Poverty. CAF was designated as the Community Action Agency for Mecklenburg County. The basic purposes to which CAAs are dedicated are as follows:

- To aid the low income individuals and families in their ability to influence social decision-making processes.
- To expand the participation of the disadvantaged, or their representatives, in anti-poverty efforts.
- To promote changes in the method of providing local services so that they are more conducive to target area conditions.
- To mobilize the community resources -- in terms of dollars and in-kind matching contributions -- behind anti-poverty efforts.
- To provide professional expertise and service to anti-poverty efforts where such expertise and/or service is needed and is not commonly available in the community.
- To coordinate the anti-poverty efforts of private and public agencies currently providing services to target area residents.

Since its inception over 52 years ago, some of the initiatives developed and programs operated by CAF include Food Stamp Outreach, Community Organization/Leadership Training, Outreach and Referral, Community Development, Summer Youth Recreation, Manpower Training Program, Summer Garden & Canning Project, Head Start, Credit Union, Youth Programs, Consumer Education/Counseling, Senior Citizens Program, Feeding and Nutrition, Energy Conservation (Weatherization), Fuel Assistance, Day Care Program, Legal Services and Food Bank.

The Charlotte Area Fund currently operates the Self-Sufficiency and Nutrition Assistance Projects for Mecklenburg County that is funded under the Community Services Block Grant and administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Social Services, Office of Economic Opportunity.

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.

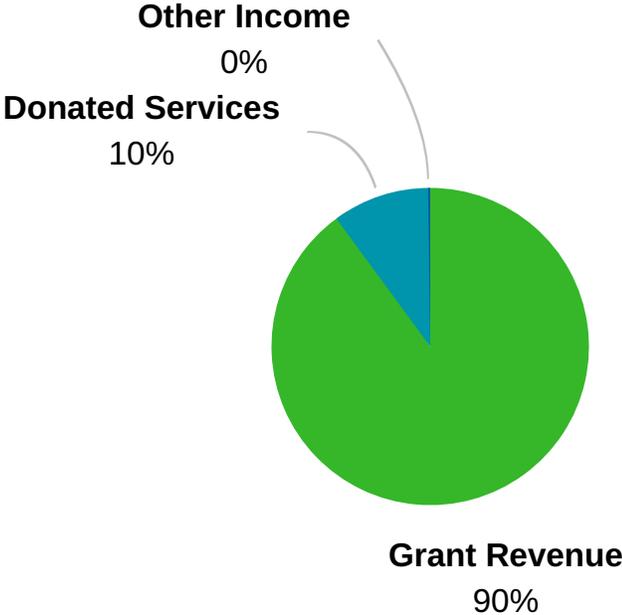
VISION

To be Mecklenburg County’s recognized community action agency, empowering residents while ensuring equal opportunity for all.

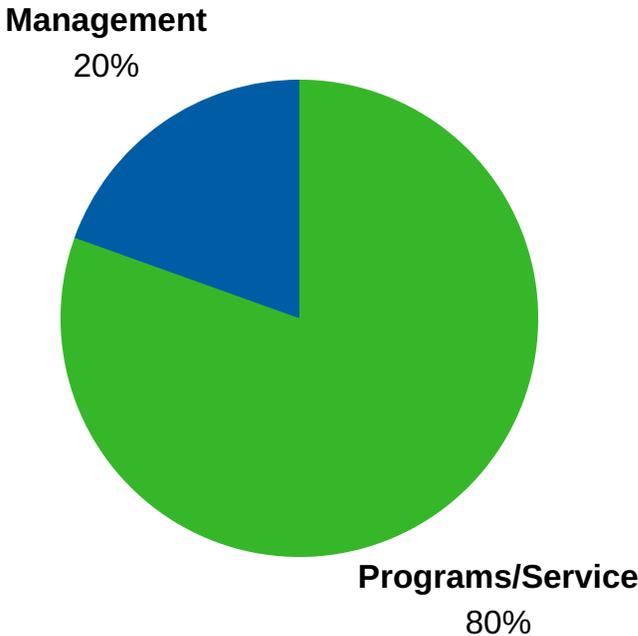
Our Financial Overview

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.

Income



Expenses



1,648

Volunteer Hours

943

Applicants

Families served

344

\$142,972

Donated Goods & Services

111

Obtained employment

\$1,255,416

Cumulative earning potential for 51 Self-Sufficiency Graduates

138

Completed education/training programs

52

New Energy Star appliances installed in 22 homes through Duke Energy Helping Home Fund Grant

139

Partnerships

\$312

Average value of nutrition assistance received or conserved per family.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2015 - 2016

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

OUR PROJECTS



SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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 includes employment, education, consumer education/money management, and nutrition activities.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

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.



HELPING HOME FUND



The Duke Energy Helping Home Fund (HHF) is designed to assist low-income customers with managing their energy costs by replacing old or inoperable appliances with energy efficiency appliances to help reduce their utility bill. Launched in North Carolina in January 2015, CAF received funds from HHF, administered by the North Carolina Community Action Association to provide health and safety (H&S) and appliance replacement services to low-income residents in Mecklenburg County. CAF partnered with Lowe's to purchase appliances. The program was available to owner and renter occupied residences and to apartment dwellings with owner approval.



TRAINING

James enrolled at The Heavy Equipment College of North Carolina. Hands on learning helped him gain a professional edge and advance his career as a heavy equipment operator.



Les Bless from V 101.9 FM surprised CAF with a turkey giveaway in November. We received 20 turkeys to give away to our clients in need.



Our Annual Career & Healthcare Fair is to connect jobseekers with employers and to provide health and wellness screenings that may not be otherwise accessible to some. Over 150 attend each year.

From
apprentice to
employee



EMPLOYMENT

Davious sought services at CAF when he was released from jail in the hopes of ending the cycle of poverty that had plagued his family. Davious obtained full time employment and is currently employed at Promise Resource Network as a Transitional Age Youth Specialist.



After completing the Self-Sufficiency Project, Mary enrolled in Commercial Drivers License (CDL) class at Charlotte Truck Driver Training School. Since receiving her CDL she being a driver from US Express.



Many of Sandra's appliances were not working properly. Since receiving new appliances she now can cook in a new oven, wash her clothes in an energy efficient washer and it now only takes about 15 minutes for a load of clothes to dry.

2015-2016 Board of Directors

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