

# spotlight

## on community action



A Newsletter of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

Number 13 Issue 2 December 2013

# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE "WAR ON POVERTY"

*No Great Society undertaking has been subjected to more withering conservative attacks than the Office of Economic Opportunity. Yet the War on Poverty was founded on the most conservative principle: Put the power in the local community, not in Washington; give people at the grassroots the ability to stand tall on their own two feet. ~ Joseph A. Califano Jr.*

**JANUARY 8, 2014 IS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY** of President Lyndon B. Johnson's first State of the Union speech declaring a "**War On Poverty.**" Johnson's declaration came just weeks after succeeding to the White House upon the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Lyndon Baines Johnson moved quickly to establish himself in the office of the Presidency. Despite his conservative voting record in the Senate, LBJ sponsored the largest reform agenda since Roosevelt's New Deal.

The aftershock of Kennedy's assassination provided a climate for Johnson to complete the unfinished work of JFK's New Frontier. He had eleven months before the election of 1964 to prove to American voters that he deserved a chance to be President in his own right. Two very important pieces of legislation were passed. First, the Civil Rights Bill that JFK promised to sign was passed into law. Johnson also signed the omnibus **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964**. The law created the Office of Economic Opportunity aimed at attacking the roots of American poverty. Federal funds were sent to struggling communities to attack unemployment and illiteracy.

As he campaigned in 1964, Johnson declared a "war on poverty." He challenged Americans to build a "Great Society" that eliminated the troubles of the poor. Johnson was an accomplished legislator and

used his connections in Congress and forceful personality to pass his agenda.

Making poverty a national concern set in motion a series of bills and acts, creating programs such as Head Start, food stamps, work study, VISTA, Medicare and Medicaid, which still exist today. The programs initiated under Johnson brought about real results, reducing rates of poverty and improved living standards for America's poor.

By 1966, Johnson was pleased with the progress he had made. But soon events in Southeast Asia began to overshadow his domestic achievements. Funds he had envisioned to fight his war on poverty were now diverted to the war in Vietnam. He found himself maligned by conservatives for his domestic policies and by liberals for his hawkish stance on Vietnam.

By 1968, his hopes of leaving a legacy of domestic reform were in serious jeopardy. ♦

*Look for more about LBJ's Great Society in upcoming newsletters.*

### Resources

- Legacies of the War on Poverty, Russell Sage Foundation, July 2013
- The Performance and Legacy of the War on Poverty's Housing Policies, Edgar O. Allen and Jens Ludwig, University of Virginia and University of Chicago, February 2013
- Winning the War: Poverty from the Great Society to the Great Recession, Bruce D. Meyer and James X. Sullivan, National Bureau of Economic Research, January 2013



*Lyndon B. Johnson's popularity plummeted because of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. In addition, members of his own party were challenging him for the nomination. In March 1968, he made the stunning announcement that he would not seek another term in office.*

### American liberalism was at high tide under President Lyndon B. Johnson

- The Wilderness Protection Act saved 9.1 million acres of forestland from industrial development.
- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act provided major funding for American public schools.
- The Voting Rights Act banned literacy tests and other discriminatory methods of denying suffrage to African Americans.
- Medicare was created to offset the costs of health care for the nation's elderly.
- The National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities used public money to fund artists and galleries.
- The Immigration Act ended discriminatory quotas based on ethnic origin.
- An Omnibus Housing Act provided funds to construct low-income housing.
- Congress tightened pollution controls with stronger Air and Water Quality Acts.
- Standards were raised for safety in consumer products.

# "Transforming Communities through Partnerships" -Theme for Concerted Services, Inc.'s 47th Annual Meeting and Banquet

GA agency, Concerted Services, Inc., held its 47th Annual Meeting and Banquet on November 15, 2013 in Baxley, GA. The theme for the meeting was "Transforming Communities through Partnerships" which reflects the agency's commitment to their stakeholders and partners throughout the eighteen county service area.

The program featured prominent guest speaker, Republican State Senator Tommie Williams of Lyons, Georgia. Senator Williams was first elected to the State Senate for Georgia's 19th District in 1998. He represents 9 counties and portions of two others. Senator Williams is a member of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Natural Resources and Environment, Reapportionment and Redistricting and Transportation committees. Instrumental in passing legislation which reformed GA's Certificate of Need laws (CON), Senator Williams is credited with helping to bring free market principles to healthcare, providing greater access and choices to healthcare in Georgia.

As founder and owner of Georgia Pine Straw, Inc., Senator Williams began his working life as an onion farmer. He has been a public school teacher, earning his bachelor degree at the University of Georgia and Masters in Education at Georgia Southern Univer-

sity. He served with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board as a missionary to China, Israel, and Belize and is currently a tree farmer in Toombs County.

Senator Williams was named to the 2010 Georgia Trend magazine list of the 100 Most Influential Georgians, received the 2001 Legislator of the Year Award from the Georgia Christian Coalition, has been awarded a perfect score from the National Federation of Independent Businesses for his voting record supporting small business owners, has received an A+ endorsement from the NRA and has been endorsed by Georgia Right to Life.

Special guests in attendance included: Ms. Kristin Fulford, Constituent Outreach Director from Congressman John Barrow's office; Ms. Brooke Childers, District Representative from Congressman Jack Kingston's office; GA State Representative Greg Morris; Mr. Lewis Parker, Appling Co. Commission Chairman; Mr. Lee Lewis, Appling Co. Manager; Mr. Jeff Baxley, Baxley City Manager; Mr. Jack Cole, City of Hazlehurst Mayor; Mr. Jimmy Brown, Ware Co. Commission Chairman; Mr. Eddie Lewis, City of Reidsville Mayor; Mr. Curtis Colwell, Reidsville City Councilman; Mr. Virgil Duckworth, Reidsville City Councilman; Ms. Edna Foster, Program Administrator from the Georgia Department of Human Services; Mr. Terry Tolbot, Georgia Community Action Association President; Mr. Mark Thompson, Tattnall



*Georgia State Senator Tommie Williams*

Co. Market President of Heritage Bank of the South; Mr. Al Burns, Coastal Regional Commission Executive Director; Mr. David Avery, Greater Tattnall County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; Mr. John Finney, Savannah EOA Executive Director; and Mr. Bob Olliff, Southeast Georgia United Way Executive Director. Special entertainment was provided by Ms. Cathy Outlaw of Vidalia, GA. ♦

*Ms. Ophelia K. Gaines, CSI executive director, invites the public to review the agency's 2013 Annual Report. The information presented in this report demonstrates the scope of community services the agency provided this past year.*

*You can view the report by going to the agency's website <http://www.concertedservices.org/media/annual-reports/csi-2013-annual-report/>*

## Call for Proposals: 2014 SEACAA Annual Conference

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Anniversary of the War on Poverty, the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies is calling for proposals to be presented at its 2014 SEACAA Annual Conference at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Biloxi, MS, September 8-12, 2014. Proposal submissions will address poverty and its causes in American society, as well as the extent to which the law supports the ability of citizens to fully participate in areas targeted by the War on Poverty:

- |                            |                                     |   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Child/Family Development | • Housing                           | • Senior Services                       |
| • Community Engagement     | • Human Resources                   | • Social Enterprise                     |
| • Corrections/Re-entry     | • Leadership                        | • Staff Development                     |
| • Employment               | • Healthcare                        | • Weatherization                        |
| • Fiscal Management        | • ROMA and Evaluation               | • Workplace Safety and Liability Issues |
| • Governance               | • Self Sufficiency Models/Successes | • Technology                            |

Presenters must be experienced professionals or practitioners. Presentations should be a minimum of 45 minutes and should not exceed 90 minutes in length. All proposals should include a workshop title, description, learned outcomes and presenter name(s) and title along with contact information.

Please submit presentation proposals by May 1. We would be pleased to receive proposals that support the theme and/or address topics in any of the tracks listed. Email: [endia.hall@nccaa.net](mailto:endia.hall@nccaa.net) or [sharon.goodson@nccaa.net](mailto:sharon.goodson@nccaa.net).

Share this information with other staff, agencies, and organizations you would recommend for presentations at SEACAA's Annual Conference. Presenters will gain exposure to community action agencies in the 8-state southeast region. Those chosen will be notified via e-mail prior to July 31.

# The Race 4 Change – What, Why and How?

*An important community outreach and fundraising event that gives voice to the needs and concerns of North Carolina's 1.6 million vulnerable and low-income citizens.*

The Race 4 Change™, a NCCAA initiative, is an important community outreach and fundraising event aimed at giving voice to the needs and concerns of North Carolina's 1.6 million vulnerable and low-income citizens. The race will be held in conjunction with the annual conference event to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Community Action Agencies and will occur on Sunday, May 4, 2014 at the NCSU Centennial Campus. There will be a competitive running division as well as, a non-competitive run/walk division. Additionally, to celebrate Community Action's 50 years of CHANGE, teams (10 members) will be challenged to achieve a minimum of a collective 50K distance goal.

Participants can choose between a competitive and officially timed 5K run or a non-competitive 5k fun walk. The Race is a half day of fun, food, and friendship with activities for the whole family to enjoy. There will be music, community resource exhibits, prizes to earn, community action awareness informa-

tion to educate, merchandise to sport, food to satisfy, and much more... By participating in The Race 4 Change™ you can have fun and make a difference in the lives of North Carolinians.

The Race 4 Change™ gives people an opportunity to be a part of the solution to the challenge of eradicating poverty. Every step you take and every dollar you raise supports the NCCAA's mission of empowering agencies to help communities thrive. ♦



*This event is open to the public.*

<http://www.therace4change.org/event-info/>

## Reasons why people are participating in The Race 4 Change™:

- North Carolina's poverty rate continues to increase.
- 1.6 million North Carolinians live in poverty.
- 1 in 4 North Carolina children lives in poverty.
- More than half of North Carolina households below the poverty line are run by single mothers.
- 16% of North Carolinians lack health insurance.

## How can you can get involved?

1. **Register** – for the race – [www.therace4change.org](http://www.therace4change.org)
2. **Join** – a team or create a team to fund-raise with and enjoy the race day with.
3. **Donate** – for yourself or someone you'd like to support.
4. **Recruit** – As a Team Captain, Team member, or Individual walker, YOU can help us spread the word about the walk and get more people involved.
5. **Fundraise** – Ask anyone and everyone to support your efforts. If you don't ask, they can't say yes!

## ASPIRE at Work

*Achievement, Success, Progress, Independence, Readiness, and Evolve*

The ASPIRE Self-Sufficiency Program, a division of Cumberland Community Action Program, Inc. (CCAP) recognizes program graduate, Honica Brittan. Honica received services from August 2012 to July 2013 and received assistance in the areas of employment, health, nutrition, housing, and financial counseling. She has also

completed several Career Readiness and Life Skills workshops that ASPIRE offers and is a graduate of Community Leadership Development, a program administered by ASPIRE. With hard work and dedication, Honica achieved a significant level of self-sufficiency and independence in both her personal and professional life. She symbolizes everything ASPIRE stands for: Achievement, Success, Progress, Independence, Readiness, and Evolve. To say that Honica has exceeded the expectations of the agency, her family and community would be an understatement.

until her husband came home one evening and gave their nine year old son a gun and forced him to point it in the direction of his mother. Her husband then continued to physically abuse her and threw her through the wall of their apartment - she landed in her neighbor's living room. Seeing her son with the gun and the look on her neighbor's face was the final motivation Honica needed to change her life and the lives of her children.

After joining the Domestic Violence Survivor Organization, Honica and her children were placed in a shelter until a more permanent place of residence could be found. During a divorce court hearing, Honica's husband stated in open court, "If I can't have her no one can." After that statement they knew safety was an issue, so she was moved to Youngstown, Ohio where she

*continued on next page*



*Honica Brittan*

With her three children, Honica Brittan lived a life of emotional and physical abuse in Ohio. The cycle continued



thought she could start over again.

While living in Youngstown, Honica found the courage to love and trust again and became engaged to a soldier with whom she was expecting her fourth child. A few days before her wedding she found him in bed with another woman. Heartbroken and unsure of what to do next, Honica decided to move her family. She was relocated to Virginia. Unfortunately, a case

***“Her act of selflessness didn’t just help one person, but created a domino effect”***

worker accidentally sent her new address to her ex-husband, forcing her to move again. With her third relocation, Honica picked up her four children and moved to North Carolina, where her life would take a well-deserved, but unexpected change.

Since moving to North Carolina, and with the help of CCAP, Honica has moved into affordable housing and obtained full-time employment that allows her to work from home and take care of her children. She also received her Certified

Management Accountant (CMA) certification and will be receiving her Associates in March of next year.

Although her accomplishments are noteworthy in itself, Honica has also helped others in unimaginable ways. Last year she made national headlines for donating her kidney to a complete stranger. Honica decided to donate her kidney to a recipient in New York when she found out it was incompatible for a family friend. She said, “I’m not losing anything and if I can help someone else live, then I’ve made a difference in someone’s life.” Her act of selflessness didn’t just help one person, but created a domino effect by helping save the lives of five complete strangers. Her selfless act caused others to step up to help by donating their kidneys. Although Honica received criticism for her decision to donate her kidney, she stuck by her decision. To this day, she has no regrets about her decision and wishes more people would consider donating. “It’s such an amazing feeling and an experience. Yes, I was in pain sometimes and yes I had to travel to New York a lot before the surgery, but it was worth it. When I talk to the recipient I know how grateful he is and I know he is doing great things.”

Not only has Honica been an advocate for transplants, but she advocates for adult and children’s education, hunger, self-sufficiency, and CCAP. She has also appeared in a HUNGER CAN’T WAIT documentary about hunger in our community produced by Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina. When Honica was told we were nominating her for the Lonnie Burton Award, we wanted to make sure using her real name was not an issue. Her response shows us how much stronger she has become - “at some point in your life you become tired of being scared all the time and tired of running. I’m at peace right now and God has me.” It is individuals like her that show us the true meaning of selflessness and those are the qualities and characteristics that this Community Action Agency represents. ♦

To watch Honica in our HUNGER CAN’T WAIT documentary, go to [www.hungercantwait.org](http://www.hungercantwait.org).

ASPIRE is a division of the Cumberland Community Action Program, Inc. (CCAP), Fayetteville, NC  
<http://www.ccap-inc.org>

## SEACAA COMMEMORATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY - Biloxi, MS

Over the course of the next year, SEACAA and our nation will commemorate its 50th anniversary, which coincides with Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty and legislation that would lead to the expansion of the federal government’s role in poverty reduction efforts. Community Action Agencies across the country were established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to help low income people and families in rural, urban and suburban communities achieve economic stability, along with other programs such as Head Start, food stamps (now SNAP), work study, VISTA, Medicare and Medicaid.

The Southeastern Association’s 50th Anniversary Conference will be held at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Biloxi, MS, September 8-12, 2014 and will explore the progress made over the last half century. Look for more details in the next newsletter and the SEACAA website. Let us know what your agency and your community is doing to mark the occasion – send us your stories! <http://www.beaurivage.com/hotel/>



## Community Action Partnership 50th Anniversary Annual Convention

August 19-22, 2014: The Community Action Partnership will hold its annual convention to coincide with its 50th anniversary as part of the War on Poverty. Community Action Agencies—which help low income people and families in rural, urban, and suburban communities achieve economic stability—are nonprofit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty. The event will be held at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

See more at: [http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org/50th\\_anniversaries.aspx#sthash.fZNi5PfzVhYmycr.dpuf](http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org/50th_anniversaries.aspx#sthash.fZNi5PfzVhYmycr.dpuf)

August 19-22, 2014

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC

Registration and Hotel Reservations will be available in February, 2014.

# SEACAA Calendar

Visit the SEACAA website for more updates [www.seacaa.org](http://www.seacaa.org)

## January 2014

- Free Webinar: Maintaining Your Nonprofit's 501 (C)(3) Tax Exempt Status, January 15, 2014, 1:00 pm -2:00 pm, Eastern (featuring Anita Lichtblau of Casner and Edwards)
- Community Action Partnership 2013 Management and Leadership Training Conference Marriott Harbor Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, January 8-10 [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com)

## February 2014

- 2014 Region IV Head Start Association Annual Conference, Sheraton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, February 3-7
- **Submission Deadline for March Spotlight Newsletter: February 28**

## Sign-up for SEACAA CCAMP Training Programs!

For more dates and details visit the SEACAA website for more information. Don't miss out on these great workshops!  
<http://seacaa-us.org/>

For more information about these courses sponsored by SEACAA or for directions and other information about currently scheduled courses, please contact Andrea Carnes at (606) 546-3152, ext 109 or [acarnes@kceoc.com](mailto:acarnes@kceoc.com).

For certification training information in general, please contact Paul Dole at (606) 546-3152 or [pdole@kceoc.com](mailto:pdole@kceoc.com).

## KCEOC CAP President, Paul Dole, Wins Entrepreneurship Award

KCEOC Community Action Partnership's President/CEO, Paul D. Dole was recently honored as one of the region's top entrepreneurs in Southern and Eastern Kentucky during the 2013 Excellence in Entrepreneurship (EIEA) program hosted by The Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

*The regional awards program honors business owners and entrepreneurs for their economic success, community contributions, and operational achievements in a business or non-profit organization.*

*"As a 2013 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award Recipient Paul notes that to be a successful entrepreneur you have to take risks, "The definition of an entrepreneur is one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risk of a business or enterprise, and that's exactly what we do at KCEOC. We organize people, we organize programs, and we all take a risk in our endeavor to end poverty."*

[youtube.com/watch?v=rSlzfSJv9Nk](http://youtube.com/watch?v=rSlzfSJv9Nk)

It was during an awards luncheon in September that Paul accepted the award for 2013 EIEA Top Entrepreneur in the Not-for-Profit Entity category. A video highlighting not only Paul's extensive work, but the work of KCEOC Community Action Partnership was also presented. That video can be viewed on KCEOC's YouTube channel at <http://www.kceoc.com>.

KCEOC Community Action Partnership thanks the EIEA program and their sponsors [Eastern Kentucky University's College of Business and Technology, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED), and The Center for Rural Development] for their acknowledgement of entrepreneurial leadership in our area.

*For a complete list of 2013 award winners and finalists, please visit The Center for Rural Development's website at*

<http://centertech.com/2013/09/2013-eiea-winners-and-finalists/>



# Housing Program “Sparks” Road to Recovery

In early 2010, Sam Sparks sat in a 6x8-foot cell facing 17 years in prison on burglary and possession of stolen firearms charges. Yet, strange as it may sound, that’s when his life started turning around. “The Rowan County Detention Center was overcrowded and they sent me to the WestCare Kentucky Drug Treatment Center at Ashcamp,” Sparks, 31, recalls. But Sparks, who had become addicted to drugs at age 12, initially resisted treatment.

“When I went in, I thought that I still had a lot of dope left to do. I spent days looking at the door and waiting to go home,” he says. However, Sparks “finally reached bottom” and committed to recovery. By his own admission though, Sparks “had a horrendous past,” and he still had to answer for his crimes.

“I went back to court, but not with hope I’d get probation,” he explains. “I had a social worker and a police officer in my corner, but the prosecuting attorney would not recommend probation. My attorney asked if I could speak to the court. I thanked them for sending me to treatment and told them I was done. I said I would try to make what little difference I could in society. “The judge gave me probation.”

After that, Sparks, who’s originally from Morehead, returned to Pike County, moved into the WestCare Homeless Shelter, and started working at the treatment center. “I loved that job,” he shares. “The people who came in, they were just like me, and they could better relate to me than to a social worker.”

In an effort to gather resources for residents at the shelter, Sparks stopped by Big Sandy Area Community Action Program’s Pikeville office and spoke to Community Services Worker Dawn Stephens. “During the course of our conversation, I learned he was also

a resident of the shelter,” Stephens says, “but he showed more of a concern for the people he was working with than for himself.” “Dawn made me aware I was homeless, too. She asked me, ‘If the shelter was to close, where would you go?’” Sparks says. Stephens submitted an application on Sparks’ behalf for the agency’s Supportive Housing program. Funded through the Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Supportive Housing provides rental assistance to help pay monthly rent and utility deposits as well as security deposits for eligible families and individuals. To qualify for Supportive Housing, the applicant must be coming directly from a homeless shelter.

Once Sparks was approved for Supportive Housing, he found an apartment in Pikeville and a job at Wide Open Outdoors. “My employers took a chance on me from the start,” he notes. “I knew that’s where I wanted to be. I had always loved being around and working on dirt bikes and motorcycles.” Sparks, who worked at the parts counter for a year for minimum wage, recently earned certification as a Yamaha technician. At 44 months sober, he’s grateful for this promotion as well as for the other blessings in his life.

“Through my own choices and decisions, I used to not have a relationship with my kids,” he explains. “But now I’ve gotten all my rights back to my children.” Sparks continues, “After leaving the treatment center, I got a sponsor because I didn’t know how to live. I didn’t know how to pay bills.” Nowadays, he enjoys paying bills. “When I pay my water bill, I walk out with pride. And I love my little beat-up pickup. I bought it with my own money, and it’s tagged and insured. To other people, that might not seem like a big deal,” he says. Sparks also expresses gratitude to BSACAP. “There is no way I’d be where I am without Supportive Housing,” he says. “I couldn’t have made it on minimum wage,” Sparks adds. “I wanted to be happy this time around. I had made bad decisions through-

out my life. When I was stressed or aggravated, I would resort to the familiar – I’d make it go away with dope. But thanks to this program, I didn’t have to worry if I had to pay for this and that. I just had to pay my utilities.” Sparks hopes his story inspires other addicts.

“You won’t go anywhere and find somebody who has not been affected by addiction,” Sparks says. “A lot of people want to judge. They think we want a pat on the back because we ran out of a burning building. When I was little, I didn’t say, ‘I want to grow up and become an addict.’ I had hopes, dreams and goals. Over time, I forfeited them. “When I had problems after treatment, I called a recovering crack head. Now I play that role that he played for me for other recovering addicts.” As Sparks reflects on his journey from that jail cell to recovery, he also credits the role a higher power played in his life.

“Looking back, I can see how God played a role,” he says. “Maybe my past wasn’t just meaningless suffering. It had a purpose.” ♦

For more information on Big Sandy Area Community Action Program’s Housing services, call (606) 789-3641 or visit [bsacap.org](http://bsacap.org).



*Sam Sparks credits Big Sandy Area Community Action Program’s Housing Services with helping him during his recovery from drug addiction.*

## North Carolina

### Belk Corporate Award presented to NC’s Coastal Community Action, Inc.



“You can see this agency at work in the community every day!” Those are the words of a local store employee who nominated NC’s Coastal Community Action, Inc. for a Belk Corporate Award says Executive Director, Paula Dickson. “I still am surprised.”



## Audubon's GRITS Receives Award

Ms. Vickie Bourne, Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Delivery presented Green River Intra-county Transit System (GRITS) operated by Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. with an award of the Outstanding Section 5311 Public Transit System for Western Kentucky on August 21, 2013 at a conference held in Lexington. Ms. Bourne stated that GRITS is a "Human Service Transportation Delivery Broker and a Complimentary ADA Paratransit" provider. They operate deviated fixed routes, intercity and demand-response services. They have their hands in many fires and are a valued member of their community. This system has been ahead of its time with their infrastructure by recognizing that purchasing low-floor vehicles, vehicles with wider and heavier lifts, and purchasing a 10-position bus better accommodates their area needs. They have also constructed a "green" facility garage that recycles oil, tires, filters and utilizes an environmentally friendly HVAC system. They also rent out bicycles to help alleviate congestion and pollution.



The Manager of this system is involved in many activities to benefit the entire state. He and his system have been invaluable partners to the State during the last two (2) years as major transitions

have taken place. But this system never forgets their own motto: "Customer Services is not just a slogan; it is the heart of the business. Every client is valued and treated with the utmost respect and care. We transport people, not packages."

Mr. Jim Glover, a part-time driver, won third place in the Bus Rodeo. He competed against eleven other drivers representing agencies all across the state. This is the first time a GRITS driver has placed in the competition. ♦

<http://www.audubon-area.com/>

*"Customer Services is not just a slogan; it is the heart of the business. Every client is valued and treated with the utmost respect and care. We transport people, not packages."*

## MAINTAINING YOUR NONPROFIT'S 501(C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

January 15, 2014 1-2 PM Eastern

A free webinar featuring Anita Lichtblau of Casner & Edwards

A nonprofit's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is one of its most precious assets; it encourages giving by allowing donors to make tax-deductible donations; maximizes funds available to support the mission by exempting most income from taxes; facilitates grants from foundations and government funders; and enhances credibility with the public and donors. Make sure your nonprofit doesn't inadvertently lose its (c)(3) status by not following the rules. This session will explain in plain English (not legalese!) some of the core responsibilities, including: filing annual IRS returns; ensuring that activities further your tax-exempt purposes and benefit the public rather than private interests; avoiding impermissible financial benefits to insiders; limiting lobbying activities; avoiding political campaign activities; limiting, and paying taxes on, unrelated business income; recordkeeping; and maintaining public charity status.

For more information and to register, visit <http://nonprofitwebinars.com/webinar/11514-maintaining-nonprofits-501c3-tax-exempt-status/>

## Miss North Carolina visits Johnston - Lee- Harnett's Head Start Program

Johna Edmonds, Miss North Carolina 2013, paid a special visit to the students at Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action's Head Start on October 21. As part of her literacy platform, Edmonds read to two classes and answered students' questions. She also toured the new facilities and graciously posed for photos with numerous staff members. Edmonds has agreed to serve on the JLHCA Board of Directors to further advance the importance of literacy.

<http://jlhcommunityaction.org/>

*Johnson-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc., is a 45-year-old private, non-profit agency that provides resources to help permanently improve the lives of the disadvantaged.*



# "Adapting to Changing Times" -

## HOME Program Helps Laid-off Miner Pursue Electrical Training

The adage "adapting to changing times" certainly applies to David Goode. Goode, of East Point in Johnson County, was laid off from the James River Coal Company in January. Now, thanks to Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's Workforce Investment Act and the Hiring Our Miners Every Day (HOME) program, he's pursuing an electrical technology certification through Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Goode learned about HOME during a visit to the Kentucky Career Center JobSight. "I went in there looking for work," Goode explains. "I didn't know there was such a program."

HOME, a federally-funded national emergency grant administered through the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, offers opportunities to laid-off miners and their spouses in the form of career advising, on-the-job training, internships, and classroom training.

Although he was deemed eligible under program guidelines, Goode had to improve his math skills before he could begin the electrical training. "I had a lot of hard work to do. I'm almost 49 and had been out of school for 30 years," he says. Goode's determination paid off and, when he returned



WSAZ News reporter Amanda Barren interviews David Goode, right, about his experiences with the Hiring Our Miners Every Day (HOME) program during the station's segment on laid-off coal miners. Also pictured, WSAZ News cameraman Grover Tadlock.

to school, he realized his life experiences had prepared him for this transition.

"Everything I did

on my own helped me to get where I am. I had taken an online computer class and had learned to create spreadsheets. You have to know how to do

that to run a business," says Goode, who operated a construction company in Brunswick, Ga. With the housing industry in decline, Goode left Georgia and relocated to Eastern Kentucky to be closer to family and to seek employment. "My parents were from here but they moved away and raised us in Florida," he reflects. "They didn't want their children in the mines."

Back in Eastern Kentucky, Goode found work as a surface miner with James River Coal and remained with the company, working at its Bent Branch and Long Fork mines, until his layoff. Despite that setback, he welcomes this change. "A lot of older people get stuck in how things were," Goode says. "You have to change with the times. You have to become marketable and mold yourself." He continues, "I've always liked electrical work. I have the experience, but I didn't have my papers. This will do that."

*"I had a lot of hard work to do. I'm almost 49 and had been out of school for 30 years"*

Indeed, Goode, who hopes to obtain an internship with a utility or natural gas company, is on track to complete

his certification in May 2015. He's also maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. BSACAP WIA Career Advisor Erica Ash praises Goode's attitude and dedication. "He's very self-motivated and he believes in himself and the program," Ash says. "I really feel that he'll succeed in whatever he does."

Goode appreciates the opportunity and believes his success reflects on the program. "The HOME program is paying for my classes and my books," Goode says. "I told Erica that I was going to be her star student. That's how it works. You help people, they help you." Still, the undertaking has not been easy. "My wife (Adonna) works at Kellogg's. If she wasn't working, this wouldn't be possible. People have bills," he notes. But for Goode, it comes down to a simple philosophy – "If you don't help yourself, nobody else will." ♦

For more information on the HOME program, contact Big Sandy Area Community Action Program at (606) 789-3641 or visit [bsacap.org](http://bsacap.org).

## Intergenerational Mobility and Children's Chance of Escaping Poverty

The Center for Poverty Research reports that much of the variation in adult income in the United States is related to family background during childhood. One-third to one-half of children who are poor for a substantial part of their childhood will be poor as adults. Welfare participation is also substantially correlated across generations. Widening income inequality in the U.S. has been accompanied by a widening achievement gap between children living in high- vs. low-income families. Across the social sciences, our Research Affiliates are engaging in projects aimed at better understanding and isolating the causal relationships between parents' socioeconomic status and their children's eventual ability to escape poverty. Research Affiliates are also investigating how the stressors that many poor children face affect their emotional development and behaviors.



Center for Poverty Research

<http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/overview/intergenerational-mobility-and-childrens-chance-escaping-poverty>



## SEACAA Executive Committee

President, Ricky L. Baker,  
Kentucky

Vice-President, William Holt,  
Florida

Secretary, Brenda L. Fox,  
Kentucky

Treasurer, Arnold Collins,  
South Carolina

Community Action Partnership, Paul Dole, CCAP,  
Kentucky

NCAF, Janice Riley, CCAP,  
Georgia

## Our Mission

*SEACAA exists as a professional organization that provides research and policy development resources, education and training to ensure progress toward the elimination of poverty and causes of poverty in the Southeast. We focus particularly on serving our membership, which represents the interests, issues and concerns impacting the quality of life in communities. We also link local, state, and national organizations in developing strategies, policies, and actions. We believe that investing in improving the quality of life of citizens and communities through carefully planned programs and policies is a crucial investment in the nation's well-being.*

## KCEOC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

It's a dream come true—this is the American dream coming true for me.” Those are the words KCEOC's Housing Development Program client, Toni Brassfield, spoke with a spark of excitement in her eye as she stood in front of her newly built home, addressing the group attending an open house in the Bradford Park subdivision in Knox County. The event was held on October 15th to showcase two newly constructed homes built by KCEOC's Housing Development Program.

KCEOC's Housing Development Program is designed to provide homeownership opportunities to low-income households in Knox County. Through this program, KCEOC constructs homes combining various resources to make the homes affordable for low-income recipients. Comprehensive housing counseling services, which include pre-purchase and post-purchase topic areas, insure the longevity of homeownership.

Client eligibility for the Housing Development Program is based on a number of factors. Clients interested in homeownership are initially enrolled in counseling. Once counseling is completed, they are then placed on the waiting list for the program. So far, KCEOC has completed more than 20 homes with 2 more under construction, and another project entering the construction phase.

*KCEOC thanks Project Partners, Commercial Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc., Kentucky Housing Corporation, Knox County, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and USDA Rural Development. Without their dedication, these projects would not be possible.*



Applications for the Housing Development Program are currently being accepted. Anyone interested in applying should contact Beverly Isom at 606-546-3152 for an appointment.