

# spotlight

## on community action



A Newsletter of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

December 2016

## A NEW DAY - NATIONAL AND SEACAA ELECTIONS

The nation's **new** President will move into the White House **after** inauguration ... with President-Elect Donald Trump, moving in on January 20th. Scheduled presidential transitions, not brought about by a president's death or resignation from office, begin the day after the November presidential election, and conclude roughly two and a half months later, on January 20th, as specified in the Twentieth Amendment.

Did you know?....*The presidential transition is regulated by The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 Pub.L. 88-277,[4] amended by The Presidential Transitions Effectiveness Act of 1998 Pub.L. 100-398 [5]and The Presidential Transition Act of 2000 Pub.L. 106-293. [6][7] The amended Act directs the Administrator of General Services to provide facilities, funding of approximately five million dollars, access to government services, and support for a transition team, and to provide training and orientation of new government personnel and other procedures to ensure an orderly transition.*

Shortly after the presidential election on November 9th, outgoing president Barack Obama announced that he had spoken with Donald Trump and formally invited him to the White House the next day for discussions to ensure "that there is a successful transition between our presidencies". By that afternoon, a transition website—greatagain.gov—had been launched. Typically, the president-elect typically appoints a 'presidential transition team' during the campaign to prepare for a smooth transfer of power following the presidential inauguration in keeping with a law enacted by the United States Congress in 2016 that requires the incumbent President to establish

"transition councils" by June of an election year to facilitate the eventual handover of power.

The Trump transition team is led by Vice President-elect Mike Pence, who plans to remain governor of Indiana until his term ends on January 9, 2017. It has six vice-chairs, including former transition head Chris Christie, Ben Carson, Newt Gingrich, Michael Flynn, Rudy Giuliani and Jeff Sessions.

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), meanwhile, launched a new program called "Transition 2016" in 2016 led by Ed DeSeve and David S. C. Chu. NAPA described the program as one which provide management and procedural advice to the leading candidates in establishing transition teams.

.....Just as the nation is experiencing change in its leadership, so it is with SEACAA. Following the September elections, SEACAA has a new president at the helm, William Holt. Following past-president, Ricky Baker, Mr. Holt who formerly served as Vice-President, has already begun monthly teleconference meetings with new officers to transition and establish a regional agenda that fulfills the Promise of Community Action and directs SEACAA's "New Path to the Future."

*Although no one can go back and make a brand new start anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.*  
- Carl Bard



Ricky Baker (left) and William Holt (right)

## MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

### SEACAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President** - William Holt  
**Vice-President** - Ron Gilbert  
**Secretary** - Melissa J. Weaver  
**Treasurer** - Belva Dorsey



William Holt



Ron Gilbert



Melissa J. Weaver



Belva Dorsey

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_presidential\\_transition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_transition) • <https://quotes->

# 2017 SEACAA CONFERENCE COMING TO MISSISSIPPI

## “Facing Tomorrows Realities TODAY!”

Make plans now to attend the SEACAA 2017 Annual Conference, at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, MS. The theme for next year’s conference is “Facing Tomorrows Realities Today.” Owned and operated by MGM Resorts International, the Beau Rivage was rebuilt and re-opened in 2006, a year after Hurricane Katrina. The Beau Rivage hotel is the tallest building in Mississippi. The term ‘Beau Rivage’ is French for ‘beautiful shore’.

Registration and Hotel Reservation information is available at the SEACAA website, under Conference. **CLICK HERE** for more details.

SEACAA is also currently accepting applications for Proposals. **CLICK HERE** to view the Call for Proposals. *Submission deadline: May 5, 2017.*



## 2016 CALENDAR

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>2017 Partnership Management and Leadership Training Conference</b> January 11-13, 2017 • Long Beach, CA
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>NCAF 2017 Legislative Conference</b> March 14-17, 2017 • Washington, DC
	<b>2017 NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference and Orientation</b> March 27-31, 2017 • Arlington, VA
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>SEACAA 2017 Annual Conference</b> Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2017 • Biloxi, MS

## A Cut Above: ALPI Helps Three Young Men Achieve Their Dreams

ALPI, Inc., FL - What follows are three short success stories of young men whose dream was to become a "professional barber." These young men were able to achieve their dream with the help of their ALPI Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSSP) case manager and KOE Barber Academy in Mulberry, FL.



Christian was living with his fiancé and their newborn son while employed part time at a packing company when he made the decision to change his life for the better. Christian told his case manager (CM) he wanted to be able to live on his own, open his own barbershop, live the American dream and help his parents pay their mortgage. Working with his CM, Christian was able to receive services for tuition, barber supplies and the state board exam fee. Christian passed the state exam, obtained his license and is currently employed full time at a barbershop in Plant City, FL. Christian thanked his CM and ALPI for the services he received to help him achieve his dream.

<http://www.alpi.org/>



Oscar was living with his girlfriend, one year old son and his sister while working part time and receiving a weekly income of only \$175.00. He wanted to have a better life, but needed additional funds to complete the barber class at KOE Barber Academy. Oscar told his CM that eventually he wanted to open his own barbershop. He was able to receive assistance through the FSSP for both his tuition and barber supplies. Oscar successfully completed the program, obtained his license and is currently working at a barbershop in Lakeland, FL.



Pedro was living with his fiancée when he contacted the ALPI FSSP. He shared with his CM that he was attending the KOE Barber Academy in Mulberry but needed assistance with tuition and barber supplies. Pedro was able to meet the requirements to enter the FSSP and was able to receive the assistance he so desperately needed. Pedro successfully completed the program, obtained his license and is currently working at a barbershop in Lakeland, FL.

All three young men expressed their gratitude for the assistance received from ALPI and their Case Managers. They acknowledge that without this assistance they would never have made it.

**Congratulations, ALPI, on your success and making a difference in the lives of these young men!**

## REGION IV OFFICE OF HEAD START OFFERS SUPPORT



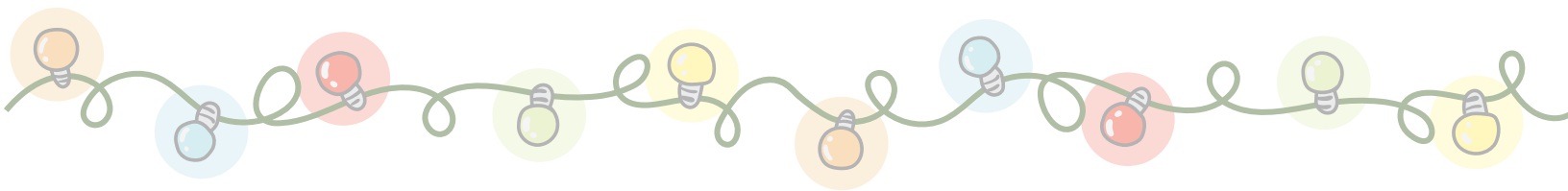
SCFS, NC - On November 15-17, 2016, Southeastern Community and Family Services, Inc. received a special visit from the Office of Head Start Region IV Team in Atlanta, GA. Captain Bob Bialas, Regional Program Manager, Sharon Myles, Senior Program Management Analyst, and Bruce Chandler, Grant Specialist for Facilities was welcomed by the SCFS Executive Administration, Board of Directors, Head Start Staff, and Policy Council Members. The purpose of their visit was to offer support to SCFS and other agencies in Southeastern, NC related to the impact of Hurricane Matthew. Additionally it was an opportunity for the Region IV Team to meet one-on-one with all groups that assist in successfully operating the 15 Head Start Centers of the Agency. Their visit

was timely and provided direction on reopening the Centers as they were closed for approximately 2 weeks for repairs and to ensure optimal safety of the children.

Southeastern Community and Family Services, Inc. is pleased to report that all Centers are now fully functional

<http://scfscnc.org/>





## ‘Tis the Season to Give Back

*The true meaning and importance of the holiday spirit begins with each of us. Take the time during the holiday season to remember those who are in need. Whether you donate your time or money, giving back is beneficial not just to the recipient - when you discover that giving is better than receiving, you're well on your way to truly living a life of purpose and worth.*

**Holiday giving is giving back with meaning..**

“When you give up yourself, that’s when you will feel the true spirit of Christmas. And that’s giving that’s serving others and that’s when you feel fulfilled.” - Joel Osteen

## 2016 CAPTURE FOR A CAUSE



KCEOC, Inc., KY - On Saturday, November 6th, KCEOC partnered with Rhonda Collins, of Forget Me Not Photography, and Nicole Mills, of N. Mills Photography, for the first ever “Capture for a Cause” located at KCEOC’s main office in Gray, KY. The event was an opportunity for families to have their holiday pictures taken by the two photographers, while helping raise money for the KCEOC Women’s and Children’s Emergency Support Shelter. Each session was \$20, and all money raised was donated to the shelter.

When asked how the event came to be Collins said, “I wanted to do something nice for people this holiday season, and I love taking Christmas photos.” Both, Rhonda Collins and Nicole Mills, knew women and children who have previously stayed at the shelter. Collins said she saw Mills’s work on Facebook and asked if she would be a part of the event. Despite never working with, or having met, Collins before Saturday, they

agreed and the plan was then set in motion.

Collins then contacted Beverly Isom, Homeless Services Manager at KCEOC, and together they planned, organized, and set up the event. Collins and Mills also organized an online Facebook auction. Together they contacted several people and local businesses to gather donations to be bid on. The auction lasted two weeks, and all proceeds were donated to the shelter.

KCEOC thanked everyone who donated to the auction, bid on the auction items, and participated in the event, especially Collins and Mills for their hard work, dedication, and selflessness. Along with the auction, “Capture for a Cause” helped raise nearly \$900 for the KCEOC Women’s and Children’s Emergency Support Shelter.

<http://www.povertyisreal.org/index.php?lang=en>

## President's Column

### SEACAA's New Path to the Future

As your new President, I look forward to working with you and our



William Holt

Board of Directors to implement a strategy that will provide you with the professional development tools and technical assistance to carry out our mission and ultimately assist individuals and families in need across the southeast region. Work has already begun with the 2017 annual conference, Facing Tomorrow's Reality TODAY!, which will be held in Biloxi, MS, October 31-November 3, 2017. I am identifying board committees and chairpersons to spearhead projects as we develop a plan that will move us forward.

It is my hope to engage our membership to take a more active role in shaping our future. Please continue to support our regional association efforts by sending in your association dues as soon as possible. By now you should have received a letter explaining the benefits and requesting your annual payment. This is an easy way to not only demonstrate your commitment, but assure the continuation of our regional agenda.

No time has been more critical for sustaining programs and services such as ours, to stimulate change in our communities. I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead, because I know that *Working together, there is much that we can*

*achieve* as advocates for the poor and disadvantaged; assuring their voice is heard in matters of public policy.

With your collective human capital and financial support, coupled with the leadership and support of the SEACAA Board of Directors, I am confident that we will reach new heights as SEACAA charts its "*New Path to the Future.*"

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
William Holt President  
SEACAA Board of Directors

*I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead, because I know that Working together, there is much that we can achieve as advocates for the poor and disadvantaged; assuring their voice is heard in matters of public policy.*

William Holt  
SEACAA President



## SEACAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Secretary** - Melissa J. Weaver

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## 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.

# ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

ALPI, FL - Armyr Q. has been enrolled in ALPI's Family Self Sufficiency Program since April 2015. In that short time span, Ms. Q. and her six-year-old daughter Tatiana have gone from being homeless, stressed, and on TANF income to happy and financially more secure.

After living her entire life with a very strict parent, Armyr met and fell in love with George, a recreational drug dealer who could not keep a job. Eventually becoming pregnant, things became even more complicated. Four months into the pregnancy, the couple moved in with her parents. After a short stay, they found themselves living in Miami after George found a job there. In one year, he lost his job and the couple found themselves moving around again while he looked for work. This time to California, but George became unemployed again within weeks of arriving. Shortly thereafter, they returned to Florida and George returned to California to look for work, never to return.

"I was left alone to provide everything for my daughter. Arguments with my mother led us to be out in the streets with nowhere else to go. We were homeless," Armyr said.



"After my mother threw us out of the house, my daughter and I stayed at the homes of different church members." For more than a year, the two bounced around from home to home. Then one day, staff with the Avon Park Housing Authority called to report an opening in their transitional housing program.

"I was so happy and excited and I couldn't wait," Armyr said, but the sudden changes were stressful. "All the stuff I needed to do drove me insane, but it motivated me to find a way to improve my situation and provide a safe and secure place for both of us."

Avon Park Housing authority case manager Toni Salvaggio referred Ms. Q. to the ALPI Family Self Sufficiency Program. Her caseworker developed a plan using her existing job training to help her find a job. Ms. Q. had a bachelor's degree, for example, but the degree was not from a prestigious school and she was having a problem finding steady work. Initially, the case manager helped her apply for a job opening at ALPI, but when she did not get this job, the case plan shifted toward job training as a certified nursing assistant because of the local demand. After completing her training, Armyr was hired as a nursing assistant and has been working at Royal Care for over a year. She said, "I am enjoying my job so much that I am contemplating on continuing my education for registered nurse...." and credits ALPI and Avon Park Housing Authority staff for her success. She says "Without them, I would not be where I am now...."

<http://www.alpi.org/>  
The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc., providing a constant flow of children and support services since 1968.

## NEW KCEOC SAFE SITTER® Program



KCEOC has become a Registered Safe Sitter® Teaching Site and now offers the life and safety training program for young teens, sixth grade and up. The mission of Safe Sitter® is to provide life skills, safety skills, and child care training to all youth in order to build safer communities.

KCEOC KY Career Center Jobsight Career Advisors, Ali Hill and Keith Greene, conducted the first Safe Sitter class on 11/23/2016. This 6.5 hour course taught local students:

- **Safety Skills:** Indoor/outdoor Safety, online safety, and personal safety.
- **Child Care Skills:** Child development, child care routines (including diapering practice), and behavior management.
- **First Aid & Rescue Skills:** Injury prevention, injury management, and choking rescue. CPR is an optional component.
- **Life & Business Skills:** Screening jobs, setting fees, and greeting employers.

Kami Gamble, with the Knox County Health Department led the CPR and Rescue Skills portion of the training and the students were able to practice using mannequins she provided.

The students received a Safe Sitter Certificate of completion and are now confidently able to babysit family members and other children in the community safely.

For more information on the KCEOC SAFE SITTER® Program visit <http://bit.ly/2h6Ak5q>.



*Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.*

- William Arthur Ward

## LOWCOUNTRY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY HOSTS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

LCAA, SC - Lowcountry Community Action Agency (LCAA) was a blessing to over 200 families in Colleton and Hampton Counties this year at Thanksgiving by providing a little extra food to help fill their tables on Thanksgiving Day. Three days before Thanksgiving, LCAA held a food distribution where people stood in line and waited patiently to receive a box filled with fruits, vegetables, canned goods, water, juice and a free turkey.

"We wanted to do something different to help the community, we recognize that after Hurricane Matthew, people were still struggling and don't have extra money to spend buying food for Thanksgiving. We just wanted to help the community by providing a little extra help with food for Thanksgiving dinner to lighten their financial burden," said Arlene Dobison, Executive Director.

LCAA was able to purchase food at a discounted rate as a result of their partnership with the Lowcountry Food Bank. Donors from the community generously provided the 200 turkeys. Overall, over 10,000 pounds of food and water were distributed with the help of LCAA staff and volunteers. Seventeen year old, volunteer, Candace Carter said, ".....it makes me feel good to help brighten someone's day and see them smile."

Whether it is the holiday season or just any normal day, Lowcountry Community Action Agency's main goal is to guide others and ensure self-sufficiency, and economic independence within the community.

*Lowcountry Community Action Agency also serves local residents by offering: information and referrals, counseling and training, temporary shelter, educational opportunities, Head Start, case management services, homeless prevention, weatherizing of homes and financial assistance to meet emergency obligations.*

<http://jlhcommunityaction.org/>



## Sororities Unite to Provide Thanksgiving Dinner for Local Families



Executive Director, E. Marie Watson (2nd from left) pictured with Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action staff as well as members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

JLHCA, NC - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s Psi Sigma Omega Chapter and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.'s Chi Xi Zeta Chapter jointly partnered to provide gift cards for families in the Johnston County area who were not financially able to purchase food items to provide a hot Thanksgiving meal for their household.

Both chapters, based in Johnston County, are working closely with other Greek lettered organizations to eradicate poverty and other social issues impacting the community. Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc. was selected as the recipient of the gift cards and was able to select four families to reap the benefits of the generous donations.

*Alpha Kappa Alpha is a historically black organization founded in 1908 for college-trained women who are dedicated to "service to all mankind." At the forefront of the sorority's mission is effective advocacy for social change that will lead to equality and equity for all citizens.*

*Zeta Phi Beta, founded in 1920, is also a historically black organization. The organization is also dedicated to the plight of citizens and has a desire to bring about positive change in the lives of all individuals.*



Executive Director, E. Marie Watson (2nd from left) pictured with Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action staff as well as members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

## Put On A Happy Face

WebMD has reported on the findings from Robert Emmons, University of California Davis Psychology Professor, who said, "Throughout history, philosophers and religious leaders have extolled gratitude as a virtue integral to health and well-being. Now, through a recent movement called positive psychology, mental health professionals are taking a close look at how virtues such as gratitude can benefit our health. And they are reaping positive results... Grateful people take better care of themselves and engage in more protective health behaviors like regular exercise, a healthy diet, [and] regular physical examinations."

<http://www.webmd.com/women/features/gratitude-health-boost#1>

*Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity..it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.*

- Melody Beattie

## 2016 RECOGNITION FOR CONGRESSMAN HAL ROGERS



LCCDC, KY - Congressman Hal Rogers was recognized on October 11th for his tremendous and outstanding support of the KCEOC Child Development Program in honor of National Head Start Awareness Month by The National Head Start Association at the Laurel County Child Development Center (LCCDC) in Corbin, KY. The National Head Start Association presented Congressman Rogers with a shadow box made by the children from the Center with the balloons they designed in honor of Head Start Awareness Month.

*Congressman Rogers spoke of his support for head start programs and*

*said, "Since becoming Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, I have increased funding for Head Start by more than \$1.5 billion. This funding has expanded access and improved the quality of early learning programs. There is no better investment that we can make in our children's future than programs, like KCEOC."*

<http://www.povertyisreal.org/index.php?lang=en>