

# CPCA NEWS

Fourth Quarter of Program Year 17-18



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## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to the Employee of the Quarter, CSBG Case Manager **Laurie Welch!** Her supervisor said, "Laurie is a delight to work with. I have no doubt Laurie would be serving the community and helping her neighbors whether she was paid to do so or not. Laurie is one of the most compassionate and zealous individuals that I have had to honor to work with. She is skilled at motivating and lifting people to be their personal best and to live their best lives. She knows her job well and stays abreast of changing policies and expectations. Laurie appreciates the importance of her role as a case manager to the clients and the agency, and she skillfully utilizes program and local resources to benefit her clients and provide them with the support and assistance that they need to achieve their goals. Laurie takes advantage of every opportunity to promote the program and the agency, and she has been instrumental in building bridges and collaborative relationships in Randolph County. Above all else Laurie is enthusiastic about her work and clients. She approaches challenges and change with determination and optimism, and she consistently delivers results. She is always willing and eager to do more. It is genuinely uplifting for me as a Director to supervise Laurie. Her faith and hopeful spirit are refreshing and infectious." Pictured L2R: Customer James Martin, Laurie Welch. \*



## 2018 LONNIE D. BURTON AWARD WINNER

Former CSBG client James Martin received the Lonnie D. Burton Achievement Award at the 2018 NC Community Action Association conference held in May. The award is presented annually to an individual who, through the assistance of a Community Action Program, has achieved a significant level of self-sufficiency and independence while recognition is given to the local Community Action Agency's role in helping the nominee(s) to help themselves. This award focuses on the personal progress and achievements of the individuals nominated. James was a self-described life-long alcoholic, drug abuser, trouble-maker; and frequenter of the prison system. He finally realized that he had hurt too many people and done enough damage and that he had to make a change. He enrolled in courses at the local community college and went on to earn an Associate Degree in Human Services and is now helping others become and remain substance free. James operates his own 3/4 recovery house in Asheboro where he applies counseling skills and life experience to help men from all areas across the state confront their addictions one day at a time. James also helps clients find employment, transports them to jobs and treatment meetings, and assists with basic needs. James Martin is a sterling model of one who has achieved a significant level of self-sufficiency in the face of tremendous odds and who is now reaching back and helping others. We are humbled by James's transformation and by his phenomenal example of humanitarianism. Pictured L2R Pic 1: Sheryl Andrews, James Martin, Laurie Welch, Natasha Elliott. Pic 2: Sheryl Andrews, Alexus Porter, Sandra Rush, Laurie Welch, Kim Martin, James Martin. \*

## 2018 NCCAA BOARD

Congratulations to new NCCAA Board Member and Treasurer Natasha Elliott, CPCA Executive Director!! The 2018 NCCAA Board of Directors were announced and installed by Valerie Powell, NCRI, Office of Economic Opportunity at the annual conference on May 10th. \*





## SNACK! TEAMUP

We recently partnered with Chatham OutReach Alliance (CORA) food pantry to serve as a site for the Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids (SNACK!) program. We will distribute food to families assigned to our site on scheduled Wednesdays from 4pm – 6pm. June 13th was our maiden voyage, and it was a wonderful experience. We are so excited about this partnership and the opportunity to serve children in Chatham this summer. Pictured L2R (pic 1): Sheryl Andrews, Lisa Scott, Charles Stokes, Carol Currie; Pictured L2R.(pic 2) Douglas Dixon, Alexus Porter. \*



## WHEELS4HOPE

CSBG customer Samantha L. received a vehicle through Wheels4Hope on June 11th after being without one for 10 months. She currently works at Wal-Mart in the bakery and has a small business making and delivering cakes in her spare time. She is currently in training at Durham Technical Community College to obtain her General Education Diploma. Pictured L2R (pic 2): Case Manager Michael McMahon, Samantha, and the couple that donated the car to Wheels4Hope. \*



## GPCA OPEN HOUSE

On April 19th we held an open house at the central office located in Siler City. It was a success and it opened up the door for future conversations with service providers in the communities we serve. \*

## CSBG SUCCESS STORY, EMMA S.

Emma S. is a single female who was enrolled in the Community Services Block Grant program at Central Piedmont Community Action on June 10, 2016. At her initial enrollment, Emma was employed with Healing with Care part-time and received pension from John Hancock. Emma was below the 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. Emma needed assistance with training, employment assistance and past due bills that prevented her from gaining employment due to its effect on her credit report.

Emma obtained employment twice while enrolled in the program. Emma was employed with both National Caucus of Center on Black Ages, INC., and Ultipro Structure, LLC. Emma was awarded Social Security Income on July 7, 2016 and she rose above poverty.

After Emma and her case manager discussed opportunities for career growth, she decided to attend National Business Training to obtain IT certification. Emma started classes on July 24, 2017, completed course and received completion of class certificate on August 3, 2017. Emma continues to study and prepare for State exam to obtain certification.

Emma was able to move above poverty on September 16, 2016 and reached 90 days above poverty on January 3, 2017. Emma was able to get assistance with improving her credit by paying off past due medical bills to improve the chances of her gaining employment. Emma was an awesome person to work with and she always made strides to accomplish her goals.

Central Piedmont Community Action is proud of Emma Smith and the drive and effort she put forth in obtaining professional training and obtaining self-sufficiency. Emma did an awesome job completing goals for her career and improving her finances. Congratulations Ms. Emma S.! Job well done! \*

## WAP SUCCESS, BRENDA W.

My name is Brenda W. and CPCA sent workers to take care of jobs that would make my home more energy efficient. I commend this agency for the good work done and for the courteous young men they sent to do the job. The technicians were so very kind and would explain to me what they were doing and how it would benefit me, I appreciate that. Both these gentlemen worked the entire time they were at my home and when they left there was no mess left behind. I believe it is fair if folks complain when a job is not done well, then we should appreciate it when it is a job well done. I thank these young men for all they accomplished and thought the agency should know. Sincerely, Ms, Brenda W. \*



## CSBG SUCCESS STORY, LINDA E.

Linda E. was accepted into the CPCA Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Self Sufficiency Program on October 31, 2017. She entered the program with a significant barrier – a felony conviction related to drug and alcohol use. As far as Linda was concerned, her options for employment were limited to dead-end jobs. With a criminal record, Linda never imagined the possibility of working up to her potential. That was before she was embraced by CPCA CSBG.



With assistance from CSBG and encouragement from her case manager, Linda has completed the PNC Money Management Course, Community Health Care Work Course and Peer Support Training, and she will soon complete the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Training. Linda has also obtained training-related employment with Orange County as a Community Health Care Worker. Once WRAP training is completed, Linda looks forward to advancing to even better employment opportunities. Linda is well on her way to overcoming all self-sufficiency barriers and achieving her goals. She has beaten the odds and exceeded the expectation of others and herself. Although Linda has more traveling to do to get to where she wants to be, she is well on her way. \*



## WAP SUCCESS, PAMELA C.

Hi, my name is Pamela C. I am glad that I got approved for the Weatherization Assistance Program. The staff were nice and the crews very professional. I was surprised that there were a lot of issues in my house that I didn't know about, but they were there. Like those holes in my duct-work. No wonder why that room got too hot. The Auditor took the time to show me a picture of all the missing insulation under the house. Another issue was that the water temperature from the water heater was too hot. Even the dryer was disconnected under the house. Without knowing it, I was putting all that moist air under the house every time I used the dryer. I love the shower heads and the LED bulbs I got for free. I went to the crawlspace after they finished and saw the new plastic they installed, and it looks amazing. I was told that it's called vapor barrier. Anyway, it looks nice and new under my house. Oh, and not to mention that they also air sealed big holes from under the showers, tub, and garden tub. It's good to know that no creatures will sneak in. Also, I'm very, very happy to know that I got into a waiting list to get a new Heat & Air system. My current system is working properly now but its very-old, I feel really blessed right now. Thank you to all the staff from CPCA and the US Department of Energy. Sincerely, Ms. Pamela C. \*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 - Independence Day Holiday (closed)  
Sept 3 - Labor Day Holiday (closed)



# CSBG SUCCESS STORY, CHARLOTTE R.

Charlotte R. is a single female who was enrolled in the Community Services Block Grant Self-Sufficiency program on April 22, 2016. Charlotte was seeking assistance because she was not earning enough to support herself. At her initial enrollment, Charlotte worked as a self-employed caricature artist. Charlotte was living with a friend but that was temporary.

Charlotte was assisted with registering on NC Works with updating her resume so that she would be prepared to apply for available jobs. Charlotte met with staff weekly to search and apply for jobs on the NC Works online database. Staff also referred Charlotte to multiple hiring events and provided her with other job leads. Charlotte received assistance with car repairs and gas so that she could travel reliably to job interviews and to work. During the job search, Charlotte's housing and basic needs were addressed. Charlotte was referred to Interfaith Council Project, Empowerment Inc, Cedar Hills & Elmwood Apartment for affordable rentals. Charlotte was also provided with financial assistance with the purchase of food.



Eventually, Charlotte secured part-time employment with Staples where her hours and income would fluctuate. Staff facilitated a workshop "Making Ends on a Tight Budget" which helped Charlotte manage the limited and unpredictable income received. Charlotte continued to meet with staff to discuss progress, housing leads and better employment opportunities. During one office visit Charlotte shared that she struggled with severe depression. Staff encouraged Charlotte to consider seeking assistance through Vocational Rehabilitation and made the appropriate referral when Charlotte expressed willingness. Charlotte was enrolled by Vocational Rehabilitation and soon placed in Caramore Community, a residential counseling facility that empowers and assists residents to live independently and purposefully. Charlotte was elated and relieved to have a home that would not overwhelm her financially with access to support and encouragement from staff and peers. Charlotte eventually secured full-time employment above the poverty guidelines with medical benefits with EDR Management, a catering service to Granville Towers UNC student residence hall. Charlotte completed the program successfully on February 21, 2018. \*



## CSBG SUCCESS STORY, RONNIE G.

During Ronnie G.'s CSBG enrollment, he received assistance with obtaining his Building Maintenance Service Technician certification at Center for Employment Training, and assistance with his job search that lead to him securing his current gainful employment at Crossland Hotel. Utilizing the certification, CSBG assistance with bus passes/court fees/vehicle registration and taxes to allow safe transportation to training and employment, he maintained a 90 day budget with his above-poverty income, and assistance with a refrigerator/food and household supplies among other things. Pictured L2R (pic 1): Angeline Roberts, Ronnie G., Alexus Porter; Pictured L2R (pic 2): CSBG Customer, Ronnie G.

From Ronnie G. -

“Y’all did a good job. Y’all really helped me out a lot. I really appreciate the time you took to help me out of a bind that I never thought a program could help me out of. I had been on my job for a long time and the program helped me stay focused and I knew I could go to my case manager and the agency if I ever came to a problem that I could not handle because I knew they would offer good advice and help me.” \*



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