

NCCAA March 2025 | Empowered Newsletter



From Sharon Goodson, North Carolina Community Action Association <communications@nccaa.net>
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Empowered Newsletter | March 2025 | Issue 3



Students at Gaston Community Action's Highland Charter Head Start Center celebrated 100 days of school by dressing like they were 100 years old!

Make Your Plans!
Annual Conference Set for May in Raleigh



Sheraton Raleigh Hotel and Raleigh Convention Center
Conference Dates: May 13 – 16, 2025
Pre-conference on Tuesday, May 13th Conference kicks off on Wednesday, May 14th
Board Summit Friday, May 16th through Saturday, May 17th
Sneaker Ball Gala on Thursday, May 15th

[Learn More](#)

Sneaker Ball Returns!
Popular Event Now Included in Conference Registration



At our conference last year in Cherokee we held our inaugural “Sneaker Ball” event to enjoy fellowship in our work community, to recognize allies in the community action fight, and to present themed awards to individuals and organizations notable for recent work. We also use the event to announce our annual NCCAA standing awards.

This year's Sneaker Ball is included in your conference registration.
Sneaker Ball tickets can also be purchased separately by friends, family and community members

Board Summit Scheduled May 16 & 17

North Carolina’s CAA board leaders will hear from a leading expert on multiple topics related to board governance after this year's annual conference. Come get a refresher while learning new techniques and best practices. Space is limited so register today.

Register

Recognizing Those Who Go Above and Beyond
2025 Award Nominations

Yellow Buttons = deadline THIS FRIDAY

Hall of Fame

Champions of the Community Action
movement in North Carolina

Nominate

Roselle Copeland

Exemplary individual contribution to
association, agency or community

Nominate

Gloria M. Williams

Corporation, foundation, or other partner
that has advanced our cause

Nominate

Essential Piece

Community Action Employee of the Year.
Boardroom to mailroom!

Nominate

Lonnie D. Burton

Client who has achieved a significant
level of self-sufficiency and independence

Nominate

Andrea Harris Scholarship

Student interested in a career serving
underserved people and communities

Nominate

News From the NCCAA

You're Not Alone; Help is Here! **Protect Your Mental Health**

The North Carolina Community Association (NCCAA), in partnership with Integrated Family Services (IFS), is offering free, confidential emotional health support for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) staff.

Take advantage of one-hour sessions designed to help you manage stress, navigate personal or workplace challenges, and enhance your well-being-all in a safe, supportive space with guidance from licensed clinical social workers (LCSW). Your well-being matters. Connect, share, and find the support you deserve!

Questions? Contact: Sheryl Andrews, CSBG Liaison
Phone: 919-790-5757
Email: Sheryl.Andrews@nccaa.net

Appointments

NCCAA Seeks Audit Firms for Referrals to Network Agencies

The NCCAA is seeking CPA firms that are interested in working with nonprofits.
Please contact our office to connect with us and learn more: 919-790-5757



Seeing Our Progress & Looking Forward!

Do you have 2024 Community Action highlights you'd like to share on NCCAA social media or via the monthly newsletter?

Are you working on something BIG for your community action agency in 2025 that you'd like us to publicize to the network?

Send us a photo of yourself and a description of your goal, milestone, or accomplishment and we will share these with the Network!

Let us know! communications@nccaa.net

Success Story! Empowering Change: The Story of Mr. Lonnie Atkinson



Javier Murillo, WAGES, Inc., CSBG Case Manager and Head Start Male Involvement Coordinator, discusses future educational plans with Lonnie Atkinson, CSBG participant.

At 32, homeownership once seemed out of reach for Lonnie Atkinson. Just two years ago, he was in a very different place. On April 2, 2025, he will celebrate two years of sobriety—a journey that began after years of struggling with addiction, dropping out of high school, and facing legal challenges. Now life has changed.

“My wife and I just closed on our home—we are officially homeowners,” he shares with a grin. “The top has no ceiling for me right now.”

[Click Here to Read the Entire Story from WAGES, Inc.](#)

News From Around the Network



Charlotte Area Fund Opens LISC Financial Opportunity Center in New Headquarters

Charlotte Area Fund opened its new headquarters facility off North Wendover Road in east Charlotte recently. Community members, partners and staff came together to celebrate the milestone inside the new space. The organization said it partnered with Habitat for Humanity to make it happen.

"I think being in east Charlotte [and] relocating from our former location [and] being placed based in an echo system of social sector partners is going to be very important for the work that we do.," CEO Nick Wharton said. "To change the economic trajectory of folks' lives."

[More Here from WCNC-TV Charlotte](#)



Charlotte Area Fund CEO Nick Wharton speaks at the opening of the organization's new headquarters building in East Charlotte



Mountain Projects Holds One-Stop Resource Hub



Mountain Projects recently held a One-Stop Resource Hub at its location in Waynesville. Team members and community partners provided free resources, including: over-the-counter medications (vitamins, allergy relief, pain relief, digestive health, and more), hygiene supplies and clothing, along with tax help, FEMA applications, and health insurance enrollment. Blood sugar & blood pressure screenings from Blue Ridge Health were offered, as well as free legal information from NC Legal Aid Disaster Relief attorneys.

Shown here are Mountain Projects employees Hailey Griffith, Tori Plemmons and Chelsea Ruiz



Community Action Opportunities
HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

CAO Father Engagement Breakfast a Success



Families at Community Action Opportunities' Estes Head Start enjoyed a Father Engagement Breakfast recently. All the families shared a yummy breakfast and spent time in centers learning from the children. A special thanks to the teaching staff and family service team for organizing this event.



Franklin Vance Warren's YouthBuild Program Gains Steam



Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc.'s YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program for youth aged 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school. Participants gain vocational skills in construction and other in-demand industries like healthcare, IT, and hospitality. Through required community service, youth contribute to affordable housing projects in their neighborhoods. They split their time between vocational training and the classroom, earning a high school diploma or equivalency degree, developing leadership skills, and preparing for postsecondary opportunities. Here, YouthBuild students are hands-on in their carpentry class, learning the fundamentals of construction and craftsmanship.



Organization Adds Flowers to Passage Pantry Food Deliveries



In addition to Passage Home's bi-weekly Passage Pantry food delivery in mid-February, families received flowers courtesy of the volunteers at MOM Wishing Widows Well. Their goal is to provide a little something extra on Valentine's Day for widows, caregivers, and individuals who are struggling. Passage Home's staff delivered them directly to clients along with their food boxes filled with nonperishables and fresh produce.



Charlotte Dentist Visits Gaston Community Action Head Start



Students at Highland Charter Head Start recently learned all about caring for their teeth through a visit by Dr. Quaston Murray, a dentist with Riverbend Village Dental Care in Charlotte



In Memoriam SCAP Mourns the Passing of Greene, Jr



Executive Director Dr. Ericka J. Whitaker and the SCAP Board of Directors, and staff are deeply saddened to share the passing of Mr. Richard Greene, Jr., former Southeastern Community Action Partnership Executive Director.

He entered eternal rest on Saturday, January 11, 2025, in Charlotte, NC.

Mr. Greene dedicated 45 years of his life to the mission of empowering and uplifting communities in southeastern North Carolina. Our hearts go out to Mr. Greene's family, friends, and those impacted by his work and life. His contributions will be remembered for generations to come.

Rest in peace, Mr. Greene

News From the Community Action Partnership



2025 Community Action Messaging Toolkit Now Available

There is no more important time than now to be on point with messaging about the Community Action mission. The linked toolkit provides a collection of network talking points for communicating the critical importance of Community Action Agencies to local communities across the country. The toolkit also includes sample graphics and social media posts, along with guidance on how to quickly and easily add your agency's logo to the templates provided.

[Click Here](#)



"I love the Parent Engagement Events. They always leave me with so much knowledge and tools to just get throughout everyday life. HEAL NC has been a big part of my mental health and success these short months, and I truly appreciate all three of the women who work constantly to support us."
— Jalissa Douglas

Parent of the Month: Jalissa Douglas



“HEAL NC has been a big part of my mental health and success’.”

Tall and stately, Jalissa Douglas exudes confidence. She is quick to smile and makes others feel at home. But behind her easy manner is a story of hardship and survival. HEAL NC is a program designed to uplift Head Start and other parents who have experienced early life trauma, mental health concerns, and/or substance use. It is a partnership of the NC Community Action Association, WAGES, and The Duke Endowment.

“HEAL NC has helped my mental health tremendously. I just transitioned here from Philadelphia, and this group has balanced me out a hundred percent.”

Jalissa moved to North Carolina in the fall to remove herself and her child from a toxic situation.

“I love the Parent Engagement Events,” she said. “They always leave me with so much knowledge and tools to just get throughout everyday life. HEAL NC has been a big part of my mental health and success these short months, and I truly appreciate all three of the women who work constantly to support us.”

Jalissa has connected with peers through HEAL NC.

“The world can tear us down but, in these engagements, everyone comes together,” she said. “I’ve developed soul friendships in the group.”

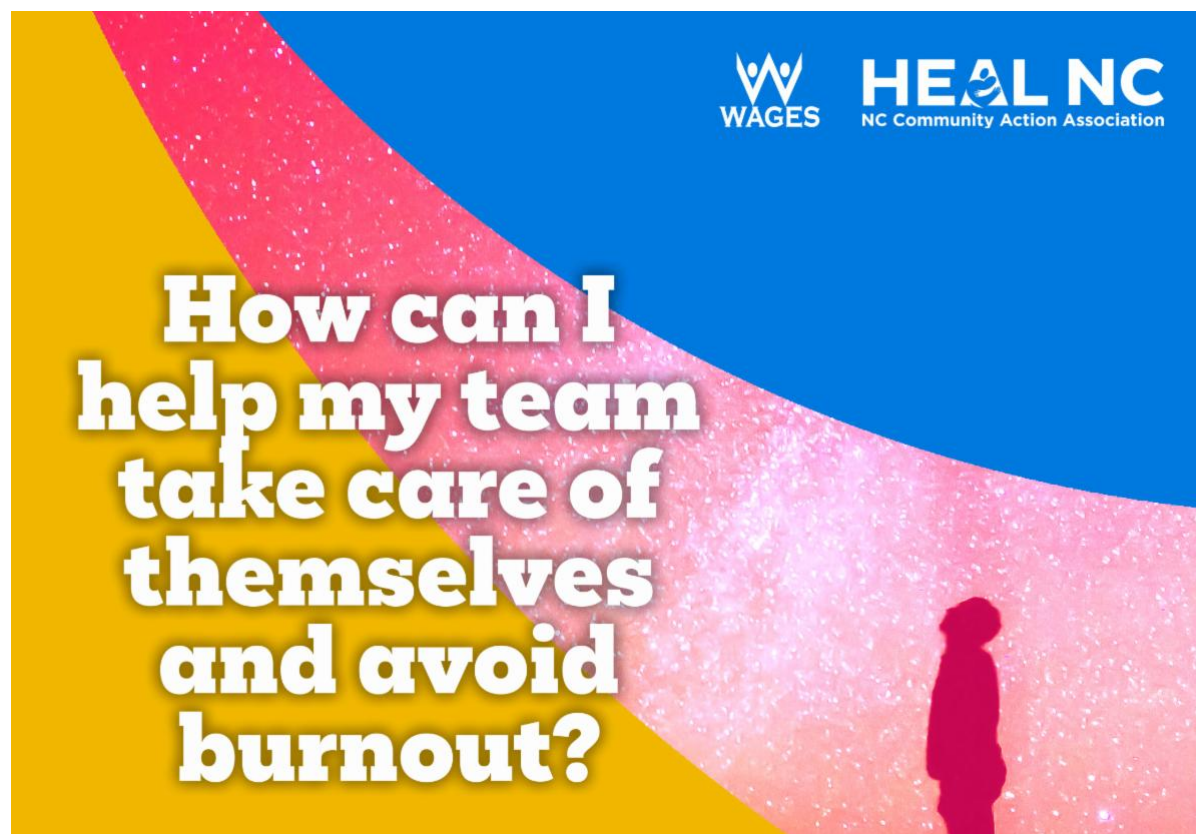
For many, HEAL NC has become a second family.

“I have an amazing Success Coach who truly listens to me and tries everything in her power to help and provide resources, motivation, encouragement and constant checkups. I never grew up with a mother but if I did, I would wish it was someone as kind and gentle as her!”

Today Jalissa’s future is full of hope. She is taking college classes and doing well.

“God is my source of all motivation but also my son Kamarri. My future goals are to finish school and become a surgical tech.”

WAGES and HEAL NC Host Workshops to Help Team Members Avoid Burnout



WAGES and HEAL NC are offering workshops in Wayne County based in the Community Resiliency Model (CRM), which teaches participants to re-set the natural balance of the nervous system with easy-to-understand concepts that bring reliable relief. CRM helps people help themselves and others. Beneficial to small teams and the general public, CRM helps navigate life’s difficult situations.

More Information

Christina Watts

WAGES Community Engagement Coordinator

Email: cwatts@wagesnc.org

Phone: 919-734-1178 ext. 212

Links to Career Pages in the NCCAA Network

(Link goes to home page when career page isn’t offered)

Far West

Blue Ridge Community Action, Morganton
Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission Inc., N. Wilkesboro
Catawba County, Hickory
Community Action Opportunities, Asheville
Four Square Community Action, Inc., Murphy
Macon Program for Progress, Franklin
Mountain Projects, Waynesville
WAMY, Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties

West

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc., Charlotte
Davidson County Community Action, Lexington
Experiments in Self-Reliance, Inc., Winston-Salem
Gaston Community Action, Inc., Gastonia
I-Care, Inc., Statesville
Salisbury-Rowan Community Action, Salisbury
Sandhills Community Action Program, Southern Pines
Union County Community Action, Monroe
Yadkin Co. Economic Development District, Boonville

Central

Alamance Co. Community Services Agency, Burlington
Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc., Henderson
Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action, Inc., Smithfield
Passage Home, Wake Co.
Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Lumberton
Welfare Reform Liaison Project, Greensboro

East

Action Pathways, Fayetteville
Choanoke Area Development Assoc., Rich Square
Coastal Community Action, Newport
Economic Improvement Council, Edenton
Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Jacksonville
Greene Lamp, Inc., Kinston
NEW Community Action, Rocky Mount (info@newcainc.org)
Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency (WAGES), Inc., Goldsboro

Share your community action career opportunities on our web page and have them distributed to 7000+ emails through the NCCAA newsletter! Send your job listings to communications@nccaa.net.

We Want Your Stories!

Working together to share the impact of Community Action

Does your Community Action Agency have impactful content to share? Let's collaborate. The NCCAA develops creative content year-round to celebrate, educate and inform. Let's amplify the voices of organizations in our network! Let's share the impactful work of community action and tell the stories of our clients! Reach out for collaboration: communications@nccaa.net.

Share Community Action News with a Friend

As a member of the NCCAA community, we work to empower low-income families, change people's lives for the better and improve the communities we serve. We are all dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Please take a moment and forward this news to a co-worker and grow the community of professionals dedicated to this important work.

Click to Sign Up

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