

# CSFC News | Volume 5 Fall 2013

[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



## COLLABORATIONS QUARTERLY:

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE  
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES CENTER

### WELCOME

Welcome to *Collaborations Quarterly*, Children & Family Services Center's quarterly e-newsletter, designed to keep stakeholders updated on happenings at CFSC and our member agencies. Increased communication enhances collaboration, so please share the newsletter by forwarding it to your staff and supporters.

## Children & Family Services Center Board Names Executive Director

### *Devoted nonprofit executive Shelley White tapped for post*

The board of the Children & Family Services Center, Inc. unanimously selected Shelley White to serve as its executive director last month. White has close to three decades of executive management experience serving social services and healthcare nonprofits. She immediately took the helm of the organization that houses and performs back-office services for nine nonprofit agencies.

White has served as the Center's interim executive director since June, 2013 when then executive director Peggy Eagan became director of social services for Mecklenburg County. White had previously served in the role for four months in 2012 when Eagan was on sabbatical. White has been the chief financial officer for the Center since 2011.

Previously, she spent a decade as the vice president of finance and CFO of the United Way of Central Carolinas, Inc., and 17 years with Conway Medical Center in Conway, S.C. She started her career in public accounting and joined Conway Medical Center as the general accounting manager, was promoted to vice president of fiscal services, and then to chief financial officer.

“Shelley has strengthened our delivery of finance, human resources and information technology services for the nonprofits we serve,” said Bob Simmons, president of the Children & Family Services Center. “Our partner agencies share a commitment to collaboration, fostered and made easier by the high-quality facilities and back-offices services the Center provides. Shelley knows and understands her new role well, and we have high expectations for her leadership.”

“I am honored to serve in this capacity,” said White. “We have an outstanding team of professionals who deliver high-quality service to our agency partners, thereby freeing them up to meet the needs of the most fragile children and families in our community. With the board and our agencies’ executive directors, we’ll begin work next month on a strategic plan to determine how we, as an organization, can further support collaboration among the agencies.”

Program collaboration over the past 10 years has identified service gaps for children and families and instituted new services; eliminated redundant programming; created the synergy to bring the national Nurse Family Partnership to Charlotte, now an integral program of Care Ring; supported four mergers of partner agencies; and, assisted in the incubation of Second Helping, a nonprofit employing women returning to our community from prison.

Based on the collective impact of the agencies working together over the last decade, the board, partner agency executive directors and Center staff are committed to expanding collaboration both within the building and the community. One possible outcome of the pending strategic planning process is the creation of a more focused and separate collaboration function. Given its record of collaboration to meet the needs of our community in an efficient and effective manner, the Center may seek independent grant funding to further this effort.

White earned her bachelor’s degree in accounting summa cum laude from the Rochester Institute of Technology. She is a certified public accountant (CPA) in North Carolina and South Carolina and a certified Six Sigma green belt. She attended the Leadership Development Program and the Women’s Leadership program at the Center for Creative Leadership and is a senior fellow with the American Leadership Forum. White is also a member of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants.

In addition to serving as executive director, White will retain her role as chief financial officer for the Children & Family Services Center.

# Welcome, RAIN

CFSC welcomed a new addition to our family in September. RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) is a wonderful addition to our building and the services all our agencies offer.

RAIN's mission: "To engage the community to transform lives and promote respect and dignity for all people touched by HIV through compassionate care, education and leadership development." RAIN helps break any stigma associated with HIV and AIDS.

Founded in 1992, RAIN is one of the largest HIV nonprofits in the Carolinas. The organization is recognized for its expertise in working with people living with HIV and AIDS and with volunteers from the faith community.

The organization integrates the perspectives of those living with HIV in the planning and delivery of their services. Programs include CARE Management, outreach to high-risk and positive minorities, faith-based training, chaplain services, support groups for youth and volunteers who provide practical support to people living with HIV. RAIN also provides HIV awareness and prevention education programs.

RAIN's goal is simple and life-affirming: Help HIV-positive people live their lives to the fullest potential. Learn more at [www.carolinarain.org](http://www.carolinarain.org)

Please be sure to welcome Executive Director Debbie Warren and her team to CFSC.

## AGENCY MILESTONES

RECENT SUCCESSES & UPCOMING EVENTS

### A Child's Place

*Annabelle Suddreth, Executive Director*



In June 2013, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) reported 4,770 identified homeless students. Over the course of the 2012-13 school year, A Child's Place assisted 2,656 (56 percent) of them. About 99 percent of the agency's client children are promoted to the next grade and 92 percent are reading on grade level, compared to 64 percent and 48 percent of homeless children nationally.

Please consider making the holidays brighter for client homeless families of A Child's Place. When you sponsor a family for the holidays, you receive the name, age, clothing and shoe size and wish list for each family member. Sponsors are asked to purchase a new outfit, one item off the wish list and a grocery store gift card for each family member. To learn more or to sponsor a family, visit [www.achildsplace.org](http://www.achildsplace.org).

## **Care Ring**

***Don Jonas, Ph.D., Executive Director***



Care Ring's annual Hope for Community Health luncheon hosted 600 guests on Oct. 1 and raised around \$200,000 to benefit the Low-Cost Clinic, Nurse-Family Partnership and Physicians Reach Out. Nicole and Michael Gross, local residents who survived the Boston Marathon bombing, were awarded the Maribelle Connerat Award, named for Care Ring's founder and first executive director, Maribelle Connerat (1955 – 1988).

In mid-September, Care Ring joined forces with Komen Charlotte, Novant Breast Health Center and the Charlotte Housing Authority to provide 30 mammograms to women living in Charlotte's westside neighborhoods. The mobile van was at the Charlotte Housing Authority's Center for Employment Services in the Arbor Glen community off Clanton Road for the Wells Fargo Foundation-funded "Wells Fargo Breast Health Day." The event was a success, and demand for services remains great. Another event is in the planning stages.

Save the date! **April 5, 2014** is Care Ring's annual gala, which is back with a new twist. **Under the Big Top** is an affair extraordinaire for adults 21 and over. Care Ring's three-ring circus will celebrate the fifth anniversary of Nurse-Family Partnership in Mecklenburg County and spotlight the agency's Low-Cost Clinic and Physicians Reach Out network. (The Physicians Reach Out network of 1,600 primary and specialty doctors and dentists has donated more than \$92 million in pro bono medical care to our most vulnerable residents since 2004.) The celebration is dedicated to raising the financial resources and increased awareness needed to support thousands of unemployed and/or "working worried" families who are at risk.

Under the Big Top is a fitting theme for the Care Ring gathering that allows adults to relive childhood memories. The Latin word circus comes from the Greek word kirkos, (meaning "circle" or "ring") and refers to a circular or oval area enclosed by rows of seats for spectators. While we expand our circles of influence and host more than 300 major donors and healthcare enthusiasts, we'll advocate for our neighbors who are juggling work, family, finances, school and health.

## **Communities In Schools**

***Molly Shaw, Executive Director***



Communities In Schools-Charlotte is the proud recipient of two Awards of Excellence from our **Communities In Schools**' national office. Only 13 awards were given among approximately 200 CIS affiliates across the country! We're also proud to share these awards with **Project LIFT**, our partner in the Community of Excellence award, and **Vance High School**, which received the School of Excellence award.

"I have great respect for Communities In Schools, and the local Charlotte affiliate has been a critical partner in the district's efforts to improve student performance and increase graduation rates," said Dr. Heath Morrison, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools superintendent. "The Charlotte community is fortunate to have this outstanding program in our schools."

## **Community Link**

***Floyd Davis, President and CEO***



Thanks to a Veterans Administration grant, new services for veterans were launched in October to help house homeless veterans and assist veterans who are on the verge of becoming homeless. Known as Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF), the initiative is led by Community Link and is in collaboration with Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont, Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont and Innovative Community Resources. The services span 10 counties – Cabarrus, Catawba, Davidson, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Rowan, Stanly and Union – and we aim to help 200 veterans and their families during a year's time.

The 1929 Society is a newly launched annual recognition society for inspired donors who seek to generously share a higher level of multi-year annual financial support to Community Link. The name is a nod to the year in which our organization, then called Travelers Aid, first opened. The commitment is at least \$1,000 a year for three years. Since introducing the opportunity just a couple of months ago, more than 16 individuals have pledged and become members of the society.

To learn more, call 704-943-9490 or 800-977-1969.

## **Council for Children's Rights**

***Dr. Susan Campbell, Executive Director***



The Council for Children's Rights welcomed Dr. Susan Campbell as our new executive director. Dr. Campbell replaced Interim Executive Director Curt Walton, the former Charlotte City manager, who stepped in to fill the position in January.

Dr. Campbell moved to Charlotte from Georgia, where she has spent her career working for the betterment of children. In Georgia, she led clinical and forensic programs at child-advocacy centers, served as an adjunct college professor and worked in private practice. She has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Georgia State University, and a sub-specialty in child and family therapy.

During her master's and doctorate work, she worked as a clinician in the West Fulton Community Mental Health Center, the Emory University Department of Pediatrics and the D.C. Commission on Mental Health. Twenty years ago, Dr. Campbell helped launch the [Northwest Georgia Child Advocacy Center](#), an organization that facilitates an interdisciplinary team approach to child abuse investigation.

### **NC MedAssist**

***Lori Giang, MBA, Executive Director***



Beginning in October, many uninsured area residents will have access to affordable healthcare coverage through the new health insurance marketplaces created by the Affordable Care Act. To assist with enrollment, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced funding to four North Carolina agencies. We, along with Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont, were grant recipients as part of the 10-agency consortium N.C. Community Care Network. DHHS will also provide additional assistance to consumers who are disabled, do not speak English or are unfamiliar with health insurance. Open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act runs through March 31, 2014.

Volunteers are needed to expand enrollment assistance to the estimated 80,000 uninsured residents in Mecklenburg County who could qualify for premium subsidy assistance.

### **RAIN**

***Debbie Warren, Executive Director***



RAIN has been chosen to participate in The Giving Library, an innovative way to enhance philanthropists' strategic charitable giving. Donors can explore an online archive of video interviews to find, compare and engage with hundreds of nonprofit organizations across the country. The Giving Library enhances donor access, increases visibility and provides an opportunity to learn about peer organizations across the country. Thanks to the

generous support of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, RAIN's President and CEO, Debbie Warren flew to Houston to have RAIN's video created.

**The Voices Project**, our annual collaborative theater production, will be held Sunday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at Actor's Theatre of Charlotte ([www.carolinarain.org/voicesproject](http://www.carolinarain.org/voicesproject)) Stories are shared from those living with HIV and those who have passed. There is no admission fee, but donations are welcomed.

RAIN won a five-year federal grant through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and UNC Chapel Hill to increase the number of Mexican MSM (men who sleep with men) and transgender women living with HIV who participate in consistent care. We will use personal health navigators (PHNs) to address this often-underserved population. In addition, we will use social network referrals for testing, venue-based testing and partnerships with existing community agencies that have an established level of trust within the Mexican MSM and transgender communities in North Carolina. We have partnered with clinics in high-HIV prevalence counties with large Mexican populations to better serve the target population.

### **Smart Start of Mecklenburg County**

*Jane Meyer, Executive Director*



We're celebrating our 20th anniversary of providing services for children from 0 to age 5 in the community. One way we marked this milestone was through our fall event – Toast for Tots – on Oct. 10 at 5Church. We highlighted the extensive efforts that have been made to improve local early care and education experiences in childcare homes and centers, ensuring that children reach early intervention services, providing funds for local health initiatives and family support programs.

Smart Start board members and staff work together to help ensure every child in the community is given the opportunity to enter kindergarten prepared and ready to succeed in school. Some of the most notable successes include:

- **Early Childhood Teacher Education** – providing college coursework that integrates the early childhood curriculum concepts with primary subject areas. Offered at CPCC for childcare providers
- **Reach for the Stars** – providing onsite technical assistance, peer mentors, access to credit-bearing classes, group and onsite training to increase star ratings for childcare facilities.
- **NC Pre-K, Lakewood Preschool and The Learning Collaborative** – each program offers high-quality Pre-k options for at-risk children.
- **Charlotte Bilingual Preschool** – teaches children English in the classroom and connects their families with community resources to help with parenting skills and to successfully operate within the American culture.

- **Raising a Reader** – providing rotating bags of four high-quality books to children enrolled in child care centers and offering onsite literacy workshops.
- **Healthy Families Mecklenburg and Nurse-Family Partnership** – two successful home-visitation programs that provide services to increase parenting success by providing education and support.
- **ZFIVE Initiative** – a community of support for the social and emotional health of children ages zero to five.
- **Parents As Teachers** – offered through Children’s Home Society, YMCA and Communities in Schools. These programs provide parent education to improve parent capacity to support, nurture and guide children toward school readiness.
- **Healthy Futures Starting in the Kitchen** – child care cooks learn techniques for purchasing, preparing and serving healthy food.
- **Thompsons & Easter Seals Child Development Centers** – providing high-quality developmentally appropriate care and education for children at risk for school failure due to developmental delays, disabilities or poverty.
- **Guiding Parents to Services** – an autism specialist offers a range of services including parent education and support, customized referrals to early intervention and other appropriate community agencies.

**Safe Alliance**  
**(formerly United Family Services)**  
***Phil Kline, President and CEO***



Safe Alliance has experienced a very active fall season as we pursue our mission of providing hope and healing to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

We now offer cause- and agency-branded items for sale through our website and at Safe Alliance events. **Gifts of Hope** are a great way to give back when you shop. All proceeds benefit Safe Alliance. Our gift items include jewelry, cufflinks, lapel pins, onesies for babies, stained glass suncatchers, shopping totes and holiday ornaments. All items are beautifully crafted by artists and are a great conversation starter to help educate the community about Safe Alliance and the issues we address.

Items are attractively packaged, and we’ll ship directly to the recipient along with a card including your name and more information about Safe Alliance. For more information and to purchase Safe Alliance Gifts of Hope: [www.safealliance.org/gifts-of-hope](http://www.safealliance.org/gifts-of-hope)

We are also grateful to the local attorneys and physicians who collaborated to produce **Fighting for Women with Fashion** on Oct. 1. For the third consecutive year, members of the Women Physicians Section and the Charlotte Women’s Bar produced this fashion show – always a substantial fundraiser for our domestic violence programs and services. The event kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In addition, Safe Alliance and the eNOugh Violence campaign hosted the 2013 Domestic Violence in the Workplace Summit. Gathering the best legal minds and domestic advocates from across the Southeast, this seminar was focused on assisting businesses to create domestic violence in the workplace policies, protocols and processes. Experts estimate that domestic violence costs U.S. employers \$3 billion to \$13 billion each year.

## THE LAST WORD

Let's start a conversation. Tell us your success stories, how collaboration has helped your clients and what you'd like to see in Collaborations Quarterly. Contact [pageleggett@yahoo.com](mailto:pageleggett@yahoo.com) with your feedback and story ideas.

### CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES CENTER

601 EAST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 100 | CHARLOTTE, NC 28202 | P 704-943-9400

[CHILDRENFAMILY.ORG](http://CHILDRENFAMILY.ORG)

© 2013 CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES CENTER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Children & Family Services Center · 601 E 5th Street · Suite 450 · Charlotte, NC 28202 · USA

