

# CSFC News | Volume 2 Winter 2012

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## COLLABORATIONS QUARTERLY:

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE  
CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTER

### WELCOME

Welcome to your Children & Family Services Center's quarterly newsletter. This e-newsletter is designed to keep all stakeholders updated on the happenings at our member agencies. The idea was born out of our strategic plan; the CFSC Board and our 10 partner agencies determined that increased communication would enhance collaboration within CFSC. Our distribution list is made up of agency Executive Directors and Boards of Directors. Please share the newsletter by forwarding it to your staff and supporters.

Congratulations to Jim Bales of CFSC and Randall Hitt of Community Link, whose names were selected (and combined) as the name for our newsletter. Jim came up with *Center Quarterly*, and Randall gave us *Collaborations: Perspectives from the Children and Family Services Center*. We're calling it CQ for short, as Jim suggested. Thanks to all who entered. There were more than 30 creative names submitted, and all celebrated our mission of collaboration. Besides bragging rights, Jim and Randall each won a \$10 coffee gift card to the coffee cart right here in CFSC's building.

The cart was started by Changed Choices, a nonprofit prison ministry that helps women getting out of prison find employment. The first cart was launched in the CFSC building, but the group hopes to have more in high-traffic areas across the city.

**DNC Dilemma: A Child's Place Helps Address**

## **DNC Dilemma. A Child's Place Helps Address the Unintended Consequences of Charlotte's Big Score**

The Democratic National Convention (DNC) was a boon to Charlotte's economy and put our city in the national spotlight. The convention was, by most any measure, a success. But there was a population that would have been horribly impacted by it, if not for the efforts of A Child's Place and a team of organizations fighting homelessness.

A Child's Place, along with other Homeless Services Network (HSN) agencies The Salvation Army, Charlotte-Family Housing, Urban Ministry Center and Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, worked together to find solutions for homeless families displaced during the DNC.

Many local hotels and motels were doubling or even tripling their rates during the DNC, which made it impossible for homeless families to remain there for the week.

But the potential crisis never became one. The HSN agencies created the Convention Housing Assistance Initiative, which allowed homeless families to stay at their motels, move to less expensive motels or go to The Salvation Army or A Room in the Inn, a rotating congregational shelter. In addition, the agencies raised \$20,000 to implement their plan and minimize the impact on school-aged children. All told, the Convention Housing Assistance Initiative helped 32 families (with a total of 116 members) and 192 individuals who might have otherwise been displaced during the big event.

Perhaps most importantly, the HSN agencies are now prepared to house the homeless in Charlotte if another extraordinary event comes to town. Other CFSC members of the HSN are Community Link, The Relatives and United Family Services. These agencies work day in and day out to solve the issue of homelessness in our community.

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx said, "Homelessness is an issue that will continue to exist after the week of the Democratic National Convention. The need for this plan points back to the overall need for additional quality permanent affordable housing throughout Charlotte. This is a community issue and I implore and encourage us; elected officials, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing members, service providers, the faith community, and the citizens of Charlotte, to combine our collective resources to continue developing solutions to end and prevent homelessness."

Thanks to A Child's Place and other agencies, Charlotte is not only a city that rolls out the red carpet for a U.S. president and visiting dignitaries, but it's also a city that considers the needs of its most vulnerable citizens.

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# AGENCY MILESTONES

RECENT SUCCESSES & UPCOMING EVENTS

## **A Child's Place**

***Annabelle Suddreth, Executive Director***

For the 2011-12 school year, 97 percent of A Child's Place (ACP) client children were promoted to the next grade (compared to 64 percent nationally) and 81 percent were reading on or above grade level (compared to 48 percent nationally and 68 percent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg School students).

We're seeking sponsorships for client families during the holidays. We're asking donors to purchase grocery store gift cards for Thanksgiving and/or clothing, toys, food and other important items for the holidays – and leave the wrapping to us! For more information about holiday sponsorships, click [here](#).

ACP is always seeking volunteers to serve as breakfast or lunch buddies, classroom assistants and tutors for our client homeless children. An investment of just one hour a week can make a huge impact in the life of a child. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## **The Relatives (Alexander Youth Network)**

***Brennon Graham, Executive Director***

Nearly 400 children and families have come to our Crisis Center for help this year, and more than 1,600 callers have reached our 24-hour crisis hotline ... Tabithia Engle recently joined The Relatives as development director.

This year's Opening Doors: Breakfast with The Relatives was held Nov. 15 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This inspiring program celebrated the impact of our programs and services, highlighted the challenges we face and provided critical funding.

## **Care Ring**

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

Care Ring's annual luncheon on Oct. 11 raised \$127,400. Those funds will help ensure that 7,000 low-income neighbors each year have timely, affordable access to high-quality medical care and services. More than 440 community members gathered to celebrate Care Ring's mission. Mayor Anthony Foxx proclaimed 10.11.12 "Hope for Community Health Day" and NBC's America's Got Talent group, Inspire the Fire, performed. Care Ring also announced a new low-cost Clinic offering, the Well-Woman Initiative.

Mark your calendars for Feb. 16, 2013. It's Care Ring's 5th Annual Casino Night. Contact Sarah Wagner at 704-248-3705 or [swagner@careringnc.org](mailto:swagner@careringnc.org) for more details.

## **Children's Home Society of N.C.**

***Frank Crawford, Executive Director***

Children's Home Society (CHS) and Communities in School (CIS) have recently renewed our commitment to collaborate for the good of the educational needs of the children we both serve. This dual-agency collaboration is one of the very first collaborations that began at CFSC. CIS prioritizes services for CHS clients in foster care who attend any school where CIS has a site. Children in foster care don't typically fare well in school. Many have attended multiple schools due to unstable families and constant moves and are two or more grade levels behind in their academic performance due to multiple school placements and other challenges.

## **Communities in Schools**

***Molly Shaw, Executive Director***

Here's collaboration in action! Providing Communities in Schools (CIS) services to Children's Home Society (CHS) client children creates the opportunity for our staff to participate in the child's service planning team. We've helped make the educational success of CHS's client kids a priority. We're pleased to have partnered with CHS for a number of years to provide critical services for our shared clients.

## **Community Link**

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

With a new Community Link program being launched in December, more homeless veterans across a 10-county area will have better opportunities to find and keep permanent housing. The project, named Veteran Link, will target Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Davidson, Stanly, Union, Rowan, Gaston, Lincoln, Iredell and Catawba counties. The initiative includes a three-year, \$1.1 million grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The funds bolster Community Link's Homeless to Housing program, specifically focused on female homeless vets and homeless vets with substance abuse issues. To learn more, contact Nicole Dewitt at [nicoled@communitylink-nc.org](mailto:nicoled@communitylink-nc.org) or 704-943-9516.

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

***Brett Loftis, J.D., Executive Director***

Our Larry King Center won a \$50,000 grant from the Brumley Foundation for our work with Reid Park Academy. This is especially exciting because it's a collaboration among agencies within the CFSC building and community – the Larry King Center of Council for Children's Rights, Communities in Schools, Mélange Health Solutions, Charlotte Housing Authority, Mecklenburg County DSS/Community Social Work Division and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. The pilot initiative will build a Wraparound Community School model to serve the most at-risk students at the westside Reid Park Academy. (The

wraparound community school model at Reid Park is based on the Cincinnati STRIVE model and focuses on early childhood education, parental involvement, health and social services.) Half the grant goes to project management of the pilot project, and half goes to "Family Nights" hosted at Reid Park. Learn more [here](#).

Council for Children's Rights will host First Wednesdays, Q&A sessions for parents, family members and professionals who advocate for children. These sessions are specifically designed to cover special education and school discipline. The next First Wednesday is Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at our office (Training Room 2). If you'd like to join us, If contact [marta@cfcrights.org](mailto:marta@cfcrights.org). For more information, [click here](#)

## **NC MedAssist**

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

NC MedAssist recently won a Levine Challenge grant, which will match any new donor's gift or an increased gift of an existing donor, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000. The funds must be received by Dec. 15, 2012 to qualify. Upon hearing the news from the Levine Foundation, a long-time MedAssist volunteer issued a challenge of his own. For each donor who gives \$500 in new funding to MedAssist, he will personally match it. Together with the Levine Foundation, the original \$500 gift turns into a \$2,000 gift to NC MedAssist ... Last year, more than 10,000 people in need received services from NC MedAssist. We dispensed more than 174,000 prescriptions at a value of almost \$21 million. Before finding NC MedAssist, our clients chose between buying food for their families or their life-saving medications. There are 162,000 uninsured people in Mecklenburg County and 1.6 million in the state.

## **Smart Start of Mecklenburg County**

***Jane Meyer, Executive Director***

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County won a \$27,800 grant from PNC Bank to fund The Interactive Whiteboard Project. This grant will bring the world of interactive media to young students enrolled in select Mecklenburg County child care centers. Smart Start, Dr. Suzanne Lamorey, UNC Charlotte associate professor and child and family development program coordinator, and her graduate students will meet with child care teachers and directors over a one-year period to provide training, modeling and coaching on The Interactive Whiteboard.

## **United Family Services**

***Phil Kline, President and CEO***

Our board has approved a rebranding plan including a new name and logo which will be announced late this year. Our annual Jingle Bell Bash is set for Saturday, Dec. 1 in the Wells Fargo Atrium. This festive evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, live entertainment from Soul Play and a silent auction. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$115 for two tickets. VIP tickets are available for \$100 each or \$150 for a pair. A VIP ticket gets

you early access to the venue and use of VIP Lounge with champagne and cheese bar, a departing gift and name recognition in program ... Learn more [here](#). Funds raised benefit UFS, including our new Shelter for Battered Women.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### **IRS Form 990 – Agency Marketing and Fundraising Tool**

*By Shelley White, CPA  
Interim Executive Director and CFO, CFSC*

Most 501(c) (3) organizations are required to file an annual IRS Form 990 – Return of Organizations Exempt From Income Tax – which is open to public inspection and available on the internet. Many consider this an extra burden or a document prone to criticism. Instead, I suggest you consider it a significant opportunity to tell your story and promote your organization to current and prospective donors, foundations, clients and the general public.

Here are some tips from a online article in The Nonprofit Times, along with some of my own thoughts, on the opportunities Form 990 gives you to help readers form a positive image of your organization:

- Page 1, Description of mission or significant activities. Consider a succinct statement that fits entirely on Page 1. Brevity counts.
- Page 2, Line 1, Mission Description. Try to make it brief enough that it doesn't spill to Schedule O, and make it different from what was provided on Page 1.
- Page 2, Lines 4a-4d, Description of individual programs. Include outcomes rather than outputs. Include the most pertinent information that you want to make sure the reader sees on page 2 followed by other information on Schedule O.
- Part VI, Governance, Management and Disclosure: Family or Business Relationships. If you have them, be sure to describe them in Schedule O. If there are too many, consider the impact this will have on a reader. Documentation of board meetings is a must; not having minutes is a sure sign of poor governance.
- Part VII, Statement of Revenue. Program service revenue: Consider breaking out into components instead of lumping together.
- Part IX, Statement of Functional Expenses. Make sure all applicable lines are completed in terms of "natural" expenses. It is not good to lump them into programmatic summaries.

According to IRS.gov, "A charity that has clearly articulated purposes that describe its

mission, a knowledgeable and committed governing body and management team, and sound management practices is more likely to operate effectively and consistent with tax law requirements.”

Organizations can demonstrate good management by thoughtfully completing their Form 990 and publishing it on their website as soon as possible after it is filed.

## 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

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