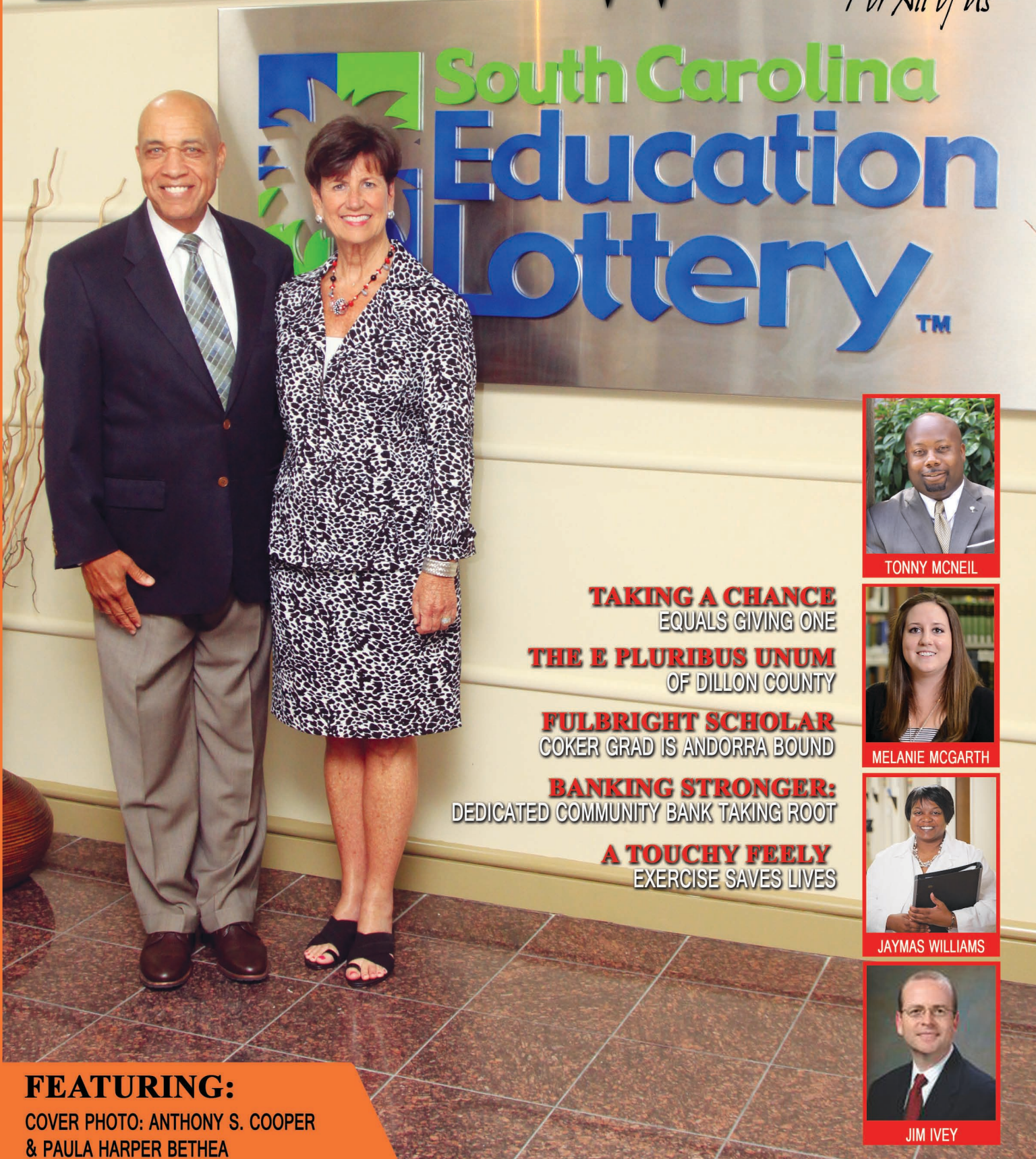


# DIVERSITYWORKS

OCTOBER 2014 VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

*"For All of Us"*



TONNY MCNEIL

**TAKING A CHANCE**  
EQUALS GIVING ONE  
**THE E PLURIBUS UNUM**  
OF DILLON COUNTY



MELANIE MCGARTH

**FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR**  
COKER GRAD IS ANDORRA BOUND

**BANKING STRONGER:**  
DEDICATED COMMUNITY BANK TAKING ROOT



JAYMAS WILLIAMS

**A TOUCHY FEELY**  
EXERCISE SAVES LIVES



JIM IVEY

## FEATURING:

COVER PHOTO: ANTHONY S. COOPER  
& PAULA HARPER BETHEA



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*Honda's philosophy is based on "Respect for the Individual." We are committed to bringing together a diverse group of associates, dealers and suppliers to foster the kind of Innovation and vitality that enables us to achieve our dreams of creating products and technologies that make people's lives better.*



Honda of South Carolina Mfg., Inc.  
Timmonsville, SC



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Frankie M. Parson

## MISSION AND VISION

### OUR MISSION

Diversity Works© is a magazine for the socially conscious and responsible worker at any level. The magazine has a commitment to be a showcase for organizations and their individuals that represent best practices in diversity of the workforce and supplier choices. We feature articles on those displaying inclusionary vision in and for the marketplace and who can both encourage and provide role models to others. Diversity Works©, via its editorial content and other signature promotions, will be a vessel to inform the world about appreciating and accepting the physical, social, cultural and other differences in one another and promote better outcomes through interacting with those unlike ourselves. Our mission is to promote the concept “community” in the workplace, to stimulate literacy and save the planet via recycling printed matter.

### OUR VISION

To create a more collaborative world wherein we practice diversity on a more balanced basis, to experience a return to reading and to reuse the ink and paper products that our reading materials are printed with.

### Spanish Version

Translated by: Yadirra Santiago, MA

### NUESTRA MISIÓN

Diversity Works© es una revista dirigida a trabajadores, de cualquier nivel, socialmente conscientes y responsables. La revista tiene el compromiso de ser una vitrina para las organizaciones y sus individuos que representan las mejores prácticas en cuanto a diversidad de las opciones de plantilla laboral y proveedores.

Nuestros artículos muestran una visión inclusiva en y para el mercado; que a su vez estimulen y promuevan un modelo de conducta para los demás. Diversity Works©, a través de su contenido editorial y sus promociones de firma, será una fuente que informará al mundo sobre la apreciación y aceptación de diferencias físicas, sociales, culturales que promuevan mejores resultados a través de la interacción con los que son distintos a nosotros. Nuestra misión es promover el concepto de “comunidad” en el lugar de trabajo para estimular el conocimiento y salvar al planeta a través del reciclaje de material impreso.

### NUESTRA VISIÓN

Crear un mundo más colaborativo en el que se practique la diversidad de una manera más equilibrada; experimentar un regreso a la lectura, así como la reutilización de los productos de tinta y papel con los que se imprimen nuestros materiales.

Published By:



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*Poised for 2015*

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Incoming: the third year end for this flourishing magazine, which, to many of us as you will see, is fulfilling a need in our travails and in our communities and our publisher in her annual message lets the world know where we have been and where we are going.

In addition to our usual beats (or categories) we zoom in on what entities like the Florence Police Department's CAT, Roche's due diligence and Build Up Darlington's loan program have come to mean to us in their various pathways and how AccuStaff, CVMSDC, South Carolina Education Lottery officials and Dillon County's Economic Development enjoy mutual feeds from their publics.

When it comes to support services of diverse degrees, we feature Global Trusted Partners, Women of Wisdom and OM Ships International and when it comes to increased awareness about breast cancer, domestic violence, disabled individuals who can work and paying tribute to our veterans, meet those who really take front and center in their activism causes.

Area institutions of (higher) learning show how to keep it moving forward whether it be Florence-Darlington TEC's dual enrollment, Coker College's new faculty and teacher abroad, Marion Schools' customizing youth for the future, the School Foundation's preparing parents to teach at home, ScienceSouth's emphasizing first impressions, CCU's national recognition, Florence Career Center's tailoring the next wave of firefighters or the UNCF's raising funds to educate even more students they all reinforce hope in today's educational endeavors.

Our health/medical environment is secure in that HopeHealth, Carolinas Hospital Systems and Gittens Chiropractic are continuously rising to the forefront in delivering their best to award winning levels and we even have a few tips for today's workforce and its employers to remain engaged and have a plan. Florence Regional Airport's new director has found a landing gear that is comfortable and Dedicated Community Bank is getting cemented in this territory as well, while Dr. Brian Hutcheson is bringing knowledge, ambition and new wine in new skins to heal this community.

The very recent chilling weather changes reminds us to remind our readers to turn thoughts to prevention of this season's allergies and maladies, to take a day trip to Sandy Island, to do holiday shopping at the Dillon Holiday Goodness Bazaar, go congratulate the Business of the Quarter, support the Junior League's Habitat House efforts, get in the mix at Dolce Vita, have fun at the annual Pecan Festival, remember our seniors in assisted living facilities, encourage folk like Frankie Parson, volunteer with Agape Hospice, light a candle and write a check for the United Way and get to know the Florence Regional Arts Alliance.

And when you're done that (as my grandmother used to say), enjoy this magazine thoroughly, share it and accept my echoes of thanks to our readers, advertisers and supporters everywhere. Look for new beats next year. See you then!



*Rennie Lunn-McAllister  
Executive Editor*



## Publishers Message

In celebration of three great years I want to first give thanks to God for giving me the vision of this magazine that helps to Diversify Our Communities through appreciating each other, and recognizing our differences, while understanding our similarities. I also say thanks to my faithful advertising partners /supporters. It has been our pleasure to serve you. We want you to know that we truly value your business and appreciate your continued patronage which is a vital part of our growth. And for that, we are most grateful. We will be entering in to our fourth year and our goal is to merit the right to keep doing continuous and increasing business with you. We aim to continue to deliver not just a magazine but to deliver the benefits it will produce for you. We look forward to many more years of working with you, and wish your company the success that it deserves.

To our readers we appreciate you for your support & readership both in print and online. We place high value in you because you also play a vital part in our growth. And as publisher of this magazine I will say that we will continue to provide you with a magazine worth reading, one you can't wait to see and one you will want to read from cover to cover. So enjoy this edition and look forward to those to come.



**Diana M. Murphy**  
CEO/Publisher

And lastly to the team that works with me! I want to also thank you and to let you know how much I appreciate you for giving the best of your service and dedication to this magazine. It's a pleasure working with you and as we go forward, let us stay grateful, mindful and prayerful as we work toward another successful year.

Diversity Works© Magazine: Building Diverse Communities One Story at A Time.

## Testimonials Continued

*Diversity Works Magazine's staff has done a wonderful job from its inception. The magazine is informative, detailed and always focuses on relevant subject matter. It has been a privilege for the Finklea Law Firm to contribute to this publication and we are excited to see what the future holds for Diversity Works.*

*-- Charlie J. Blake, Attorney*

*HopeHealth has been advertising in Diversity Works since 2012. The magazine has invested in the local communities by promoting leadership, diversity, positive thinking and personal/professional enrichment. Happy third anniversary Diversity Works. Much success in the years to come!* -- **Diane Davis**

*"Santee Electric Cooperative appreciates the professional editorial and journalism provided by the staff at Diversity Works. Your magazine is graciously reviewed as the engaged body of coverage for the entire working community throughout the Pee Dee Region." Thanks!* -- **Floyd L. Keels**

*"Coker College is proud to support Diversity Works Magazine. We value the magazine's mission of celebrating diversity, and its importance in all of our lives, by sharing stories of diversity at work in our community."*

*Laura Hoxworth, Editor & Content Strategist*

*Happy Anniversary to the Diversity Works staff. As you know, Diversity Works and the Florence Career Center have been partners from day one of the magazine. Words cannot express the appreciation I and my faculty at the Florence Career Center have for this great magazine. Because of you, our message of the positive effects that Career and Technology Education have on students and society has been heard throughout the Pee Dee area. We look forward to many more years of partnering with Diversity Works magazine. Thanks.* -- **Alphonso Bradley, Executive Director**

*Congratulations on celebrating another anniversary. May you have continued success and prosperity. Thank you Diversity Magazine for continuing to shed light on Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses in the Pee Dee Region...*

*Quentin D. Williams, Organo Gold Gourmet Coffee*

*"At Duke Energy, we believe a solid commitment to diversity and inclusion makes us a better company, a better competitor and a better corporate citizen. A diverse and inclusive environment allows employees to feel valued, respected and supported in a place where they spend most of their time: work. Much like those organizations and individuals that Diversity Works Magazine regularly spotlights, diversity and inclusion is an integral part of our culture at Duke Energy."*

*Mindy Taylor, Government & Community Relations Manager, Duke Energy*

*"I enjoy Diversity Works magazine because it not only gives me the story, it gives me the story behind the story. Diversity Works puts a personal face on businesses and organizations in our community."*

*Cecilia L. Meggs Executive Director, Lighthouse Ministries*

*"At Food Lion, we are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment for associates and customers. We believe that our long-standing commitment to diversity initiatives builds a more inclusive company and stronger communities. Congratulations to DMM Advertising and Marketing, "Diversity Works!"*

*Garland Scarborough, Manager, Diversity and Inclusion  
Delhaize America Shared Services Group, LLC*

*"Diversity Works has helped ArborOne reach an even broader audience than before. The quality of the articles and publication make it an easy decision when we are planning our advertising for the coming year."*

*Thanks for everything, Diana! -- Mary*

*I would like to Congratulate Diversity Works Magazine for the outstanding and professional information you have provided to the Florence Community. The publication is superb in presentation and looks and I commend you for the hard work and showcase of our great community leaders. Please continue to keep up the good work. God Bless You.* -- **Starlee Alexander, Agent**

## Diversity Works Testimonials

*"On behalf of ADP, we have enjoyed each publication featuring local businesses. We have had the pleasure to write articles and advertise showing how diverse ADP's culture is. Continue with your success and professionalism." Thank you!"*

*"When the magazine has been delivered to my desk, I can't wait to look at it. I love the paper quality to the colors to the articles, very professional. I am so impressed with knowing this was made in Florence, SC, as it looks like it could have come from a very large city. Thank you for the inspiring and interesting information. Wow, has it been three years? You have just started! Continue to do what you are doing, it is working. Best wishes."*

*Nancy Zimmerman*

*The mission of the Marion County School district calls for us to "empower all students to become responsible and productive citizens". Teaching appreciation and acceptance of all differences, whether it is physical, cultural or a number of other possibilities, is fundamental to that mission. DIVERSITY WORKS is a publication that showcases what we are teaching in our classrooms. Marion County School District applauds your success and look forward to partnering with you in the future.* -- **Dr. Dan Strickland, Superintendent**

*Diversity Works Magazine is a magazine that I can read from cover to cover because most of the time there is someone featured who is from my hometown or surrounding communities. The articles are very informing and heart felt. This feature makes the magazine more personable. Keep up the good work and Happy Anniversary!*

*Rebekah Grice Baker Dillon SC-Associate Pastor Outreach Family Fellowship, Recording Artist- Psalmist*

*I believe the Diversity Works Magazine is the perfect vehicle to bring awareness to the business community on why Diversity works and what the possibilities are when it is allowed to work freely within our communities and society as a whole.* -- **Dennis Hempstead**



**FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CAT GIVING THE CITIZENS A VOICE**

By: Anna Bowman



Chief Allen Heidler

Millions of Americans watched as violence erupted in the city of Ferguson, MO, after the shooting death of an unarmed teenager by a police officer; who some accused of using deadly force without proper recourse.

Ferguson quickly became a battleground in which citizens and police clashed daily. News media such as CNN, ABC, NBC, FOX, broadcasted from an American city that looked more like a war zone, than America the beautiful. It was clear to many Americans witnessing the demonstrations and rioting unfold, that the lines of communication and trust between the citizens of Ferguson and the local police department were non-existing.

Florence Police Chief Allen Heidler, a native of Pennsylvania, has spent the last 30-years, as a member of the Florence Police department. When a local council member suggested that the same type of incident could occur in Florence as in Ferguson, Chief Heidler quickly addressed the issue. Chief Heidler stated that the probability of this type of incident occurring in Florence is unlikely because of procedures that have been in place for numerous years. The Florence Police Department and the community are able to communicate with each other year-round through the Florence Police Department's Community Action Team, which helps to alleviate problems before they lead to dire consequences.

Captain George Mack, a Florentine, with 27 years of law enforcement in the Florence Police Department said, "The Florence Police Department's Community Relations Division is comprised of the Community Action Team (CAT), which is a specialized group



of police officers, whose mission is to solve problems that arise in various neighborhoods and business districts in the City of Florence." Police officers volunteer to become a member of the Community Action Team. "One of the main qualities we look for in this process is the officer's previous self-initiated community activity and involvement," said Chief Heidler. The selection process is initiated by a CAT member and the CAT supervisor who forward the information to Mack who reviews, makes recommendations, and forwards to me, said Heidler."

He continued: "The Community Action Team acts as the liaison between the Florence Police Department and the community we serve by attending all monthly community and neighborhood association meetings. During these meetings, CAT officers provide the attendees with information regarding crime statistics specific to their neighborhood so the community knows exactly what is going on. In addition, CAT officers solicit information from those in attendance regarding any type of activity that they think the police should know about. Over the years, CAT officers have been instrumental in thwarting criminal and drug activity, addressing vehicle traffic issues, helping settle neighbor disputes and etc."

The CAT officers are assigned specific community meetings to attend so the residents are able to build a rapport and trust by interacting with the same officers each month. In addition Chief Heidler added, "We recently began having the uniformed patrol officers, who are assigned to work in the geographic police district where the meetings take place and attend the meetings too," he said. "This way we will not only strengthen the trust between CAT officers and the community, but also build strong relationships between residents and the officers that they actually see patrolling their residential area on a daily basis"

Monthly community meetings are another way that the CAT officers and the citizens stay engaged. "There are 36 active

associations meetings listed on the City of Florence web site however, since January, we have added four more for a total of forty (40)," Heidler explained. The names and areas that they serve can be found on that site under the Police Department tab – the four new members will be added to the web site next month. "These community associations are located in all areas of the city and are attended every month by CAT officers. Some of our oldest and most attended associations are located in the North, North West, Central, and East sides of the city of Florence," Heidler acknowledged.

"No one knows better about what kind of activity is taking place in a neighborhood moreso than the residents who live there. If any municipal law enforcement agency in this country is going to be effective in reducing crime or creating areas where criminals don't want to hang around, then they must have strong community partnerships," stressed Chief Heidler. Adding, "To obtain critical information from members of our community, it's imperative that the police create an environment of trust so that this can take place. Community trust isn't a process that you build and then step back to admire. We in law enforcement have to work diligently every day to keep our lines of communication free flowing. We must always remember that it's our responsibility to constantly strive to provide the kind of safe and secure quality of life that each and every member of our community deserves."

Being visible in the community has been and always will be an important component to the Florence Police Department. It's important to remember that members of the Florence Police Department also call Florence home. Therefore, the ultimate mission of the C.A.T. is to give the police department a valuable tool, which is to "UNITE" the police department with the community it serves. For additional information about the Community Action Team, call the Florence Police Department at, 843-665-3191.



## STAFFING AGENCY KEEPS MOVING UP

Submitted By Courtney Snipes



Catherine Scott, Payroll Manager, Courtney Snipes, Sales/Marketing, Rita Cook, Office Manager & Doris and Nathaniel Lockhart, Owners

AccuStaff of Florence is dedicated in providing the highest quality of service to both clients and talents by offering competitive rates and reasonable pay. Ensuring the utmost integrity and professionalism backed with a smile and a caring heart.

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position. Our clients enjoy working with us because of the dedication we put forth in understanding their business needs and their work environment,” said Co-Owner Doris Lockhart.

“Our professional business environment and proactive customer service are only two of the many reasons that our clients continue to return to us for temporary, temp-to-hire, and permanent staffing needs,” agreed partner Nathaniel Lockhart. AccuStaff of Florence has been locally owned and proudly staffing for companies in the Pee Dee area for more than 30 years by Doris and Nathaniel Lockhart. As an affiliate of Randstad North America, the second largest staffing service in the world. AccuStaff prides itself on combining cutting-edge techniques and its reputation attracts the most professional, highly-skilled employees in the market, plus the firm aggressively recruit employees with the specialized skills needed for today’s economy.

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**SONOCO'S SUPPLY MANAGEMENT WILL PROVIDE** you with any information you need about our supplier diversity program. If you'd like to be considered, please email us at [supplier.diversity@sonoco.com](mailto:supplier.diversity@sonoco.com).

We also encourage you to contact us so we can direct you to the appropriate supply management representative.



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## LOAN APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

Submitted By Lisa Chalian-Rock, Planning Director



Impressions Seminar

The Build Up Darlington Citywide Business Loan Program has a revolving loan pool to fund approved projects. The program launched in 2012 funded through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise Grant. Funds support technical assistance, some training and seminars, and a revolving loan

fund under the umbrella of the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association and the City of Darlington.

“We see the economy in our area and businesses struggling, and we want to give them a hand up,” says Lisa Chalian-Rock, city planning director. “These funds could provide just the right amount of fuel to spark a stalling small business or start a new one.”

Loans of up to \$10,000 are available for city businesses. Funds can be used for a variety of things: purchasing new equipment, improving a business façade, renovating or repairing a building, demolition or site preparation, or working capital for inventory increases, the supporting of accounts receivable, and other soft costs of starting a business. As long as the enterprise will be located within the city limits and will be a for-profit entity, the business can apply regardless of type or size. Manufacturing, commercial, industrial, service, or retail businesses are all eligible. Non-traditional collateral will be accepted, and program participants must be willing to complete business training as needed or recommended.

Loan applications will be collected at the end of each month and reviewed until funds are exhausted. Of the \$40,000 available, none of the funds have been loaned to businesses, and just one application has been submitted.

“While it’s disappointing that none of these funds have reached our local businesses yet, we continue to look for potential applicants and to work with clients to find them the assistance that best fits their needs,” Rock says.

The program has provided technical assistance to dozens of clients, improving their accounting systems, fine-tuning their business plans, or identifying strategies to attract more clients. Some clients find other sources of credit, investment, or loans and don’t need to apply for the funds.

“The challenge for some startups is getting their business plan to the stage where their application will be successful because that’s what our goal is, to make these businesses successful,” Rock says. “Many new entrepreneurs don’t know how much work goes into owning and operating their own business. Finding out can be daunting, but help is available.”

The City assisted at least two clients with the business’ application for historic tax credits – something that can save a property owner 20 percent of renovation costs on federal tax returns and 10 percent on state taxes. On a substantial rehabilitation, that can be substantial savings. The advertised loan rate of 9 percent has scared away some potential clients, but it shouldn’t, Rock says. The steering committee has the flexibility in this program to adjust that rate down based on the individual’s credit worthiness, collateral, market potential, management expertise, and other similar factors.

“I know we are helping some businesses, but I just want to make sure all our businesses understand the opportunity we have with this program,”

Rock says. Outreach has been done through an online presence on the City’s website, promotional items and brochure distributions at various locations and presentations to civic clubs. Additionally, the City has reached out to businesses by sponsoring free seminars on tax issues, business plans, and marketing. A series mainly coordinated through the Small Business Development Center at Florence-Darlington Technical College kicked off the push last October. In June, the City held two others geared toward marketing and social media and has plans for more beginning in the fall. Email [darlingtonplanner@gmail.com](mailto:darlingtonplanner@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the mailing list for future seminars and announcements about the Build Up Darlington program.

“Once we have loaned out these funds and the loans are repaid, those dollars can continue to cycle through the business community, paying it forward in a way,” Rock says. The goal is to have a sustainable and revolving loan fund that continuously breathes new life into the City’s business community by providing another avenue to seek funding for growth. All Build Up Darlington program rules and applications are available at [www.darlingtonSConline.com](http://www.darlingtonSConline.com). Click on the “Build Up” button on the left side under Quick Links. You may also call 843-398-4000 ext. 103 to schedule an appointment or get more information about the program.

# Build Up Darlington

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## SERVICEMASTERS TESTIMONIAL



Corey Phillips, AAMS Financial Advisor Edward Jones

“After we had a house fire that was contained to two rooms, but had severe smoke damage throughout and having seen the yellow trucks and billboards around town, we knew to call ServiceMASTER. However, what really made ServiceMaster memorable to us is seeing them very involved in the community with events and charities. They are highly trained professionals. Also, the first morning I met the service manager at our house, he called me beforehand. He said he was at Starbucks and asked if I wanted a coffee. I had yet to meet the service manager, and

he’s already offering to buy me a coffee. That stood out! I already have recommended them to a client who lost her home. ServiceMaster has a great combination of large scale company resources and expertise, but friendly faces that live here in Florence. It’s nice to know that you’re being taken care of by someone around the corner and your salvageable possessions are staying in Florence. Losing your home and possessions is a tough thing to go through, as most people have never experienced that before. It’s good to have a local professional there to help you. They deal with these situations every day and can be a huge help.”



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# CVMSDC CELEBRATES INNOVATION IN SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

Submitted by CVMSDC Staff



**CVMSDC BOC TRADESHOW:** CVMSDC Board members kick off the supplier diversity tradeshow with a ribbon-cutting during the Business Opportunity Conference in Columbia. [Photo Courtesy: CVMSDC]

C O L U M B I A - - “Innovation” in supplier diversity was celebrated during the recent awards gala of the Business Opportunity Conference, presented by Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council at the Hilton Columbia Center in Columbia.

The two-day supplier diversity conference also featured a golf tournament, business matchmaking sessions, a business opportunity tradeshow, and theatrical depiction titled “Reality That Drives Innovation Through Our Lenses.” Tuesday morning’s general session speaker was business professor and author of “Winning With Customers,” D. Keith Pigues, who presented on the topic, “Creating a New Model for Supplier Diversity.”

The Carolinas-Virginia MSDC is a non-profit corporation chartered to enhance business opportunities for minority-owned companies by providing support through developing mutually beneficial networking opportunities with corporate members and promoting minority business development. To learn more about CVMSDC and BOC, visit online at [www.cvmsdc.org](http://www.cvmsdc.org) and follow #2014BOC on social media.

The 2014 BOC award winners:

- Advocate of the Year: Kevin Price, Novant Health
- Buyer of the Year: Stephanie Jones, Merck
- Coordinator of the Year: Debbie Osborne-Moreno, Enterprise
- Public-Private Corporation of the Year: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Regional Corporation of the Year: Dominion Resources
- National Corporation of the Year: Compass Group
- MBE Class I Supplier of the Year (under \$1 million): DreamBuilders Communications
- MBE Class II Supplier of the Year (\$1 million - \$10 million): Core Technology
- MBE Class III Supplier of the Year (\$10 million - \$50 million): RJ Leeper

Eric Watson, CVMSDC president and CEO, said, “This year’s theme for BOC is Innovation: The Key to Our Future, reinforcing the reality that in order to succeed, corporations and minority businesses will need to adapt to a changing landscape and business environment. The Business Opportunity Conference offers another opportunity to Innovate our work, Elevate our brand, and Transform our model to support economic development in Virginia and the Carolinas.

## ANNOUNCING...BUSINESS OF THE QUARTER



(Photo credit to Gavin Jackson / Morning News)  
Pictured Left to Right are 1031 Head Chef Jason Hovan, Councilman Robby Hill, 1031 Owners Dr. John Keith, Dr. Brian Sang, and Stanely Timmons.

Diversity Works Magazine© is working with The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and The City of Florence to help spread the word about our alliance and this Business of the Quarter – 1031 American Grill -- that was recognized at a recent meeting of Florence City Council. There was a proclamation adopted in their honor, it was signed by each

Council member and now hangs prominently in their restaurant downtown.

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# THE E PLURIBUS UNUM OF DILLON COUNTY

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Tony McNeil

**D**ILLON -- There is a formula for bringing jobs into any County, City or Community – available buildings, certified industrial sites and skilled workers-equals jobs, better quality of life and an increased tax base. In Counties, Cities or Communities that do not have these basic things, there will be no job announcements. Dillon County has a plus in its Economic Development Director, a seasoned Mechanical Engineer with more than 16

years of Engineering, Manufacturing and Management experience who has made a tremendous impact in the Dillon County community's Economic Development in the past four years. McNeil emphasizes that Patience, Persistence, Planning and Vision are the key ingredients for a successful Economic Development program. "Simply put, I'm just a hometown boy trying to make a difference in my community one day at a time." McNeil said.

"A key part of attracting industries is having available product that is 'shovel ready' such as a site or a speculative building that is 'ready to go'", McNeil said, adding, "It is also very important to have all of the infrastructure in place such as water, sewer, fiber optic/broadband, roads, electricity and gas. Also, having all of the due diligence completed such as 50 title searches, wetlands maps, soil maps, FEMA maps, archaeological studies and Phase 1 environmental studies is essential. In addition, to the due diligence being completed, it is important to develop a master development plan on how roads, storm water drainage, buildings, etc. relate to each other for each site. Lastly, land option agreements are established to ensure the price of land will be fixed for an agreed upon amount of years to minimize

any risk to the county."

Companies often ask 'Why Dillon County?' Said McNeil. : "We have many assets that most counties don't have such as four exits off I-95, which is major transportation corridor between New York and Miami. We are also 25 miles north of I-20, which is a major transportation corridor between Atlanta and Dallas. Dillon County is also 25 miles south of I-74, which is a direct route to the Port of Wilmington, NC and Charlotte, NC. We also have two Class (1) rail lines, which is the interstate of rail and Amtrak stops twice daily downtown Dillon. For many industries, rail is important because when fuel prices increase, rail is (4 to 5 times) more efficient than shipping by truck," McNeil said. "Our county is 2.5 hours or less away from (4) ports- Charleston, SC; Wilmington, NC; Savannah, GA; and Georgetown, SC and 2.5 hours away from (6) military bases and (5) international airports. Dillon County also has a low cost of living which equates to low cost of doing business which equates to higher profit margins for any industry. Assets such as the Carolinas I-95 Megaspire, the Dillon County Industrial Speculative Building and Certified Industrial Sites with available infrastructure make Dillon County very attractive to any industry," McNeil said.

**H**ow diverse are the companies being recruited? "We make a strong effort to recruit companies that value diversity and embrace it. A great deal of effort goes into researching the company's culture to determine if Dillon County is a good fit for us and we are a good fit for them," McNeil said.

"The one thing that differentiates Dillon County from everybody else is how we treat folks. We want to create an opportunity for them that will last a lifetime! It's not just a slogan for us but rather our everyday approach to Economic Development. And we strive every day to improve upon the previous day," he concluded.



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# ARMY BRAT HEARD HIS CALLING AND TOOK TO THE SKIES

By Les Echols



Chuck Henderson

A self-professed “Army brat”, Florence airport Director Chuck Henderson grew up in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC. One of ten children, Chuck entered Air Force Officer Training School and then attended Undergraduate Navigator Training after earning his commission. Chuck served six years as a regular officer and Instructor Navigator in KC-135A aircraft. Chuck separated from the Air Force following Operation Desert Storm and made a transition into airport management,

beginning his career working at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport in the fall of 1991 as the Director of Operations. During his tenure at the Columbia Airport his duties included overseeing the activities of the Airport’s Police, Fire, Maintenance, Operations, Custodial, Information Technologies (IT), and Planning & Development departments.

After 22 years at the Columbia Airport, Chuck felt that he didn’t have much more to contribute and that his departure would be good for both himself and the organization. Chuck retired at the end of June, 2013, planned to take a few months off and catch-up around the house, do some more sailing. But a few weeks into his ‘retirement’ Chuck received a call from an industry contact telling him that Eddie Gunn, Director of the Florence Regional Airport, was leaving to return to work in state government, and asked if he was interested in managing the airport on an interim basis. Chuck’s response was “I’d be delighted” and he started in August of 2013. A month or so later he was offered the job on a permanent basis.

When asked about the changes he implemented, Chuck said “Every organization has what I call an ‘internal’ focus and an ‘external’ focus. Your ‘internal’ focus is attention you pay to your employees, facilities

and finances”. Chuck went on to explain that his first year has required an almost 100% internal focus as almost every aspect of the institution needed some work. The Florence Airport needed a lot of house cleaning and had to spend a lot of money fixing essential equipment, while selling or scrapping a lot of obsolete or unusable equipment. Finally, financial practices were in need of some attention; many processes were inefficient and the staff lacked training and support.

Chuck stated proudly that he has a diverse group of department managers who are some of the best in the business at what they do. Their focus in the coming year will be on their ‘external’ environment. Chuck’s role has been to instill a vision and culture of growth and success at the Florence Regional Airport and support the staff as they chip away at their respective goals. He calls the Florence Airport “the greatest career opportunity of my lifetime”, admitting that “It’s been a lot of work but I’ve enjoyed it immensely”.

Chuck has Master’s degrees in both Business and Public Administration from the University of South Carolina.



## Florence County Council

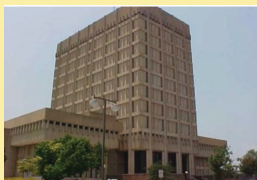
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## STRATEGY IS HIS SPECIALTY

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Ronald Chisolm

For Ronald Chisolm, the portion of Roche Carolina's mission that states 'to provide quality product to patients through great people and a high performance culture' really resonates with him in terms of why the very organization exists. "Leveraging diversity of thought is a critical component to achieving our mission. To realize this mission and

truly build a high performance culture, where we are able to achieve extraordinary results and deliver the best to our patients requires us to leverage diversity," said the pharmaceutical giant's Director of Maintenance, Utilities and Strategic Projects.

As a leader, he feels responsible for developing an environment for the team to achieve extraordinary results through embracing their inherent diverse talents and experiences. "In my role, there are often several paths forward to solve a problem or execute a plan. I believe it is my job to create the engagement atmosphere where team members can speak up, design the best solutions and execute our plan".

In order to break additional records in the medical field, Chisolm believes that "leaders and team members need to continue building forces that represent diversity of thought and experience. In my opinion, there are huge opportunities" going forward. A standout among other pharmaceutical manufacturers, Roche has developed goals and metrics that are tied to the sites' performance compensation. "Diversity in key managerial positions and engagement of all employees are two vital ones," he said.

Chisolm says it is "tough" to boil down organizational goals to a few because "we use a balance scorecard which measures many goals." However, he is able to summarize those goals into two categories: "1) Planned Predictable Performance – ensuring that we deliver high quality product on time for our patients and 2) Developing our high performance culture, built upon engagement and diversity of thought."

With the common mindset of Moving Forward as One, Chisolm and his team are forging through challenges of today's workplace and it is all because, he says, "We have such a talented workforce with challenging goals and we blaze ahead ensuring that we are actively developing our future leaders and creating the engagement environment necessary for continuously building our high performance team."

Like his employer, Chisolm has a broad experience base. Some commonalities include manufacturing, engineering, maintenance, business process excellence and strategy. In addition to his current affiliation, he has worked for several companies to include Genentech, Merck, Corning, Dow Chemical, Bausch and Lomb and Mobil Chemical. He unabashedly expresses his pride in helping to lead and develop such a talented team at the award-winning Roche Carolina Inc., whose highly flexible operations allow quick adaptation to new product development and production needs.

According to its website, Roche delivers its brand promise through its "highly-educated and well-trained workforce (who) works diligently to ensure that products are of the highest quality, with the knowledge that the products we make every day allow patients around the world to lead healthier, more comfortable lives. Having broken ground in the Pee Dee since 1992, Roche is based in Basel, Switzerland and has been providing novel healthcare products globally for more than 100 years



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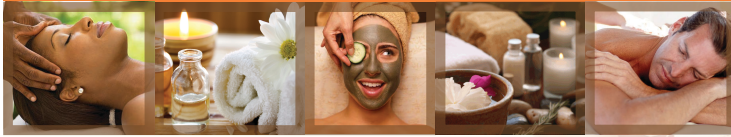
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**BARE WAX TESTIMONIALS**

By Katrina Garnes



Michele King

*"I went to their open house several months ago. Audrey was up front, she was young and engaging, and seemed like a very nice person so I thought; hey I'll give this a shot! She is a wonderful, wonderful person. I've had my eyebrows waxed for years at different hair salons and nail salons, it was just 'rip and go' would be the best way to describe it. For the amount of money I've never had an experience like I did there. She actually took the time to create an arch, she shows you makeup tips on*

*how to pencil in anything, there's really a lot of time she takes with you for the same amount of money you're paying someone else to do real basic 'pull and go'. I'm so impressed that anytime someone asks about waxing I always recommend Bare Wax and physically recommend Audrey! I've also started taking my daughters there too!"*



Terry Timmons

*"It is very inviting. When you go in they greet you very nicely at the door and offer you refreshments. When you go back to your stylists room not only do they ask you what you want done, but they educate you on taking care of your hair, the best products for you to use, and how to get that day after hair style that you came in there to get in the first place.*

*They also have others services like eyebrow waxing and massages. You don't have to wait for your appointment which is good, you come in there and your seen right away! The biggest thing I like about it besides the atmosphere being absolutely beautiful is the education they give you on taking care of your hair after you leave the salon".*

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# NEWCOMER ADDS FLAIR IN JOINING FORCES WITH FLORENCE'S REDEVELOPMENT

Submitted By Anthony R. James, Executive Director



Global Trusted Partners, LLC is a Consolidated Business Support Services & Consultant company that is also very excited to be part of the Florence tapestry and eager to become a full partner in its evolution!

We have noted that the current economic development occurring in the city of Florence is truly creating an abundance of excitement! Global Trusted Partners notes also however that economic development is not only about buildings and structures, but also about people. Very often it's about changes and new ways of thinking and doing things that help achieve goals and realize successes.

The Red Carpet event is entitled "A Table for Six" and directed by ERRMA, our Employer Recognition Resources Management Activity division symbolizes and supports this very notion. This select event will stimulate employee productivity, regional capacity and help create balance throughout our workforce while concurrently inspiring growth, hope and optimism throughout the entire region.

To be held at the Florence Civic Center on Saturday, March 7th 2015, the Regional Celebration of Employee Excellence, A Table for Six will be presented as a semi-formal, exclusive Red Carpet Affair for everyday workers who have demonstrated high achievement through hard work and dedication. The event offers an elegant sit-down dinner service for up to 75 tables/companies of six attendees per each participating organization.

The evening will be filled with apposite entertainment, a pertinent guest speaker, and a top flight awards ceremony that these 'best performers' will never forget! Neither will their families as they have been necessarily made part of this awesome celebration. Local media and elected officials will also bear witness as will invited guests. There will also be three highly acclaimed awards presented by the CEO of Global Trusted Partners to three vetted recipients pre-selected from those in attendance, and a very nice surprise presentation awaits one very lucky individual!

This event has been referred to by many as "an Employee's Night at the Oscars". Termed a very finely choreographed evening of fun and entertainment, it is just an absolutely awesome way to say thanks to some and to inspire many more!

Global Trusted Partners LLC will assist

employers with incentive and recognition solutions, but also with improvement throughout their businesses and communities by way of warranted individual training and development of local workforces. We recognize that in a new global economy many things have changed from what we had become accustomed to in years past. Consumers however – both resident and visiting today and always will develop perceptions and espouse opinions that whether negative or positive will have relevant and sometimes even broad impact on local businesses. There are much higher customer service expectations and more complex product quality demands as well. It is an absolute business imperative that these service expectations and quality demands be met and even exceeded! Significantly, part of that effort will be insuring that employees - valued service workers in particular are committed, customer-focused, and extremely well-developed.

Our division of NPSETA, the Next Phase Service Employee Training Academy is helping insure that today's workforces (both current and potential) are reconstituted with a much broader understanding of what all of this really means and how their individual knowledge and actions may truly make a difference going forward.



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# EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT IS THE SECRET FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



One of the biggest worries for a small business owner is training and investing in quality employees and then losing them to a larger company - potentially a competitor - that might be able to offer larger salaries or better benefits.

It might look like a no-win scenario for a small business to entice quality employees to stay, except for one factor - engagement. When employees are engaged in the company business, they're less likely to jump ship, they'll be more productive and they'll make the company more money, according to a Hay Group Study.

**Why should anyone care if they have engaged employees?** Engaged employees create superior results. A Gallup study shows that companies with more engaged employees

outperform others by up to 202 percent. That translates to a substantially better bottom line.

How can a small business owner encourage his employees to become more engaged in the company? Consider the following drivers of engagement:

**\* A sense of value:** Employees who feel valued tend to be fully engaged in a company's goals and help achieve big milestones. Supervisors have the ability to create this sense of value, which can lead to confidence, empowerment, enthusiasm and inspiration. Review how your employees are supervised. Are they trusted to do their jobs without heavy review? Do they ask for help only when needed? When requested, do they receive assistance? Finally, do employees feel their supervisors are being honest when presenting information or answering questions?

**\* Continued training:** Investing in employee training develops a bond between the employee and the business. Additional training shows the employee there's room to grow in the company, and that the business values his or her expertise. Plus, the company benefits by having employees learning the

latest information in the industry.

**\* Improved communication:** There is a difference in opinion on how well employers communicate with employees. According to the whitepaper, employers think they do a better job of it than their workers report. Because of this discrepancy, employers need to make more effort in communicating business information. Consider holding a weekly progress report meeting or developing a newsletter. Involve employees in meetings discussing the future of the company, and give everyone tasks to help achieve the goals that are decided upon. This allows employees to feel they're taking an ownership in the company, which will lead to them becoming more engaged.

Making an employee feel like he or she is important can take the professional relationship far. Engagement means winning the hearts as well as the minds of employees. It's the difference between someone in your company saying, 'I understand where this company is going,' versus, 'I believe in where this company is going.' If you can generate belief at that level, you can drive spectacular results.



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## WOMEN OF WISDOM MINISTRY: LIVE FULLY

Submitted by Reverend Dr. Cynthia James Walters

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10*

This scripture has had significant meaning for me over many years. My life has been full of abundance: spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically and financially. For the last few months, however, I have felt like I was in a wilderness and not living an abundant life in spite of all the “goodness and prosperity” around me. My joy was gone. I was listless, tired and off focus. Through it all I kept hearing the spirit say.... “be still and know that I am God. Stop doing and just be.”

**STOP DOING AND JUST BE!** Too hard for me and many other women who feel the need for control and are in constant state of: I need to do this, I need to get that done, if I don’t do it who will, I will rest later, the world needs me. The Spirit will only allow one to be in disobedience for a period of time. Life will bring you to a halt with physical ailments, emotional drain, mental disturbances, spiritual uncertainty or financial burdens. –And, indeed, God got my attention.

But something has happened, God breathed fresh on me and I woke up, no longer in the wilderness or that state of bewilderment. I woke up clothed in “my right mind” once again and decided that if my future was to be all that God intends, I must go back to the old time way. I must return to living on purpose with His plan in mind. I must get back on track and not live life aimlessly while accepting whoever and whatever shows up in my life. I must submit myself to God and resist the devil; I must get back to living an inward life of abundance. I most focus on the inward me and stop seeing my circumstances. My vision is clear once again and I offer you this tip to begin living life fully.

**DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.** 3 John 1:2 states: Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth (KJV). My spiritual strength is grounded in Christianity. I believe in the Father God, the son-Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I believe that Christ died for my sins, He arose from the dead, He is still alive and will return for His church one day. Your soul will prosper as

you begin to know Christ and who you are in Christ. You will only get to know Christ as you spend time with Him in studying of His word and prayer. You will become more like Him as you walk in the obedience of love and forgiveness.

**W**omen of Wisdom ministry is committed to helping women grow and stay focus on spiritual wholeness while enjoying each season of life. Through a series of workshops, seminars and articles, women are encouraged to (1) become intimate with God by studying His word and be in obedient to it; (2) know your purpose and walk with self confidence; and (3) live at peace no matter what the season challenges.

For more information on for Women of Wisdom Ministry conferences or to book speaking engagements, please contact founder, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walters at (803) 351-2053. Visit her at [www.wowleap.com](http://www.wowleap.com). or by mail: Post Office Box 12083, Columbia, SC 29211.



Reverend Dr. Cynthia James Walters

## DESIGNED TO BRING KNOWLEDGE, HELP AND HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Hans Van Baaren and wife Rosalyn

OM Ships International is a non-profit organization that operates oceangoing vessels which sail around the world to deliver knowledge, help and hope to aid people at their point of need. So what in this big world is an office for this organization doing in Florence and how well do they fit in a diversity publication? Ask Johannes (Hans) Van Baaren, President of OMSI USA, about their chronicles.

As a Dutchman married to a British lady (both of whom have lived and worked in many different places and cultures), he brings a wealth of experience to the Pee Dee while reaching globally. “I would say that as an organization we are extremely diverse. On our (12,519 ton) vessel Logos Hope we have 400 people from around 50 different nationalities serving cross culturally. Here in our (Florence) support office we also have people from different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds such as Finland, South Africa, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Switzerland, Peru... and you will notice it when you enter our ministry center with many different national flags draping our walls. We believe God is a multicultural God as he speaks about people from every tribe, tongue and

nation. He respects and appreciates every culture and so must we. In our increasingly multicultural globalized working place we need to embrace diversity to bring the best out of people,” he said.

He says he has learned through his travels and marriage that it is important to approach problems, issues, observances with sensitivity and humility. “It’s critical how we practice openness towards people, accepting them as they are and building trust. This is the foundation and in our organization we have agreed to have a learning attitude toward others unlike us and be inclusive of everyone. This is reflected in our leadership teams, decision making and how we put teams together. Many of our issues cannot be solved with a singular ‘western approach’ and it all starts with the right attitude.”

**J**ust as innovation never happens in isolation, individuals must have the inner conviction that “we don’t have all the answers. Innovation happens when we are connecting and listening to one another incorporating the different ideas into one innovative idea and an appreciation of different people, values and thoughts will encourage equality,” he said. As part of an international charity operating now in 110 different countries, Van Baaren says that since 1970 OM ships –known for their floating book fairs –have made more than 1,400 port visits in some 150 countries and territories, welcoming in excess of 43 million visitors

onboard to supply educational and Christian resources while motivating Christians to participate in local and global missions.

“The world is more volatile and fluid than it has been and sharing the hope of the Gospel has become unacceptable in many places but at the same time more people are responding to the message of grace”, he said.

**L**ocated on St. Andrews Road, OM Ships donated main office is based in a building that was originally the church sanctuary and offices for Community Bible Fellowship. Moreover, a 24,000 square-foot structure, known as the Ministry Center, is used for receiving, sorting and shipping books to support this international ministry. OM Ships purchases books directly from publishers and from book remainder companies at significant savings off the list price and in turn the ministry is able to sell books at great discount, including on e-commerce sites such as Amazon and Ebay as well as their own online bookstore (<http://books.omsips.org>) from which all proceeds help support the ministry. Volunteers are needed and more information is available online at <http://www.omships.org/to/volunteer>.



Hans surrounded by books



## DUAL ENROLLMENT: OPENING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES!

Submitted By Hunter Thomas, Public Relations/Marketing Assistant



If you're looking to get ahead in your educational career, then check out Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC's) Dual Enrollment Program. Juniors, seniors and exceptional sophomores and freshmen in high school qualify for the program, and there are only a few steps that must be taken to get accepted. The student must submit an SAT, ACT or Compass score and have written approval from a parent and the high school principal. It's that simple.

"Participating in dual enrollment is one of the greatest choices that a high school student can make," said Dr. Shelley Fortin, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services. "You can earn college credits while you're still in high school, and that will help with your transition to college later. You'll already have taken college courses, so you'll know what to expect."

There are more than 60 classes to choose from, in the university transfer pathway and most are taught online. Technical education courses are also available through partnerships with the local career centers. Through both programs a high school student has the opportunity to finish a year or more of their college career before ever leaving high school. The Dual Enrollment Program at FDTC really opens a world of possibilities and thoroughly prepares you for the start of your college career. Whether you earn six hours or a full associate's degree you are on your way to completing your college career expediently or having more room in your college schedule to enroll in additional classes to earn a double major or take advantage of exciting opportunities offered at the school you choose to attend.

"My daughter participated in the dual enrollment program at the college and earned 18 hours of college credit in high school before she went off to the College of Charleston," Andrea Frondorf, a parent of a dual enrollment student said. "The great part was that all of those credits transferred, and she had her entire freshman year paid for at a much less expensive rate. I highly recommend this program."

Classes taught on the FDTC campus cost \$154.80 per credit hour. If taught at your high school, the cost is \$98 per credit. If you enroll in six or more credit hours, which is typically only two courses, then financial assistance is available. Financial assistance for Dual Enrollment students is available through the lottery tuition assistance program which will cover all costs if the courses are being taught at your high school by your high school teachers. If the course is online or at FDTC the tuition assistance covers approximately sixty percent of tuition! FDTC also waives all college fees including the activity fee and technology fee, so even if you decide to attend only one course you will still save some money. The best part of tuition assistance for dual enrollment students is that it is one form that can be filled out when you meet with the Dual Enrollment Advisor to create your schedule. No FASFA needed!

"Taking dual credit courses gave me the opportunity to take several of my college prerequisites throughout my junior and senior years of high school," Merritt Hardee, Class of 2009, Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy said. "Although I did not realize it at the time, this was beneficial both financially and academically. I was able to earn 12 college credits toward my degree through the dual credit classes that were offered. This saved me almost an entire semester worth of tuition and books. Aside from finances, this program prepared me academically for college as well."

Not only will you get ahead while participating in the FDTC Dual Enrollment Program, but you'll be more likely to get accepted into a four-year institution within the state of South Carolina. Four-year institutions like seeing high school students take the extra steps and put forth the effort to excel in their educational career.

"Research has shown that students who participate in dual enrollment are more likely to go to college and to succeed in college," Dr. Fortin said. "Students can earn a year or more of college credit while they're still in high school. That means when you graduate from high school, you can finish your bachelor's degree in three years instead of

four."

FDTC has two new positions to guide you through the Dual Enrollment process. With the addition of our Dual Enrollment Team there is a point of contact for every step in the process. The Dual Enrollment Specialist will help process your paperwork for admission and answer any questions you may have before enrolling in the Dual Enrollment Program. The Dual Enrollment Advisor will assist in choosing courses that will apply to your post secondary educational goals and ensure a smooth transition from high school to high college. Whether your goal is to continue here as part of the FDTC family or transfer your credits directly to another institution she will help ensure your success. Credits earned through Dual Enrollment are guaranteed to transfer to any public four-year institution in the state of South Carolina and most private institutions.

"FDTC's Dual Enrollment Program is very successful," Dr. Fortin said. "Some students choose to take dual enrollment classes and then they come to Florence-Darlington Technical College. Other students take classes, and they transfer them directly to the University of South Carolina, College of Charleston or Francis Marion University. Parents, if you have a high school student who is interested in moving ahead and getting a college degree faster, this is a fantastic opportunity that is right in the neighborhood." Go online to [www.fdtc.edu](http://www.fdtc.edu) and apply for the dual enrollment program. It's an incredible opportunity, and it's right here at FDTC. Visit the college's website or call 843-661-8242 for more information.

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Work with organizations to support community-based research and local journalism with youth



## COMBINING PRESCHOOLERS' PARENTS AS TEACHERS IN THE HOME

Submitted By Debbie Hyler, Executive Director



component of the Start SMART program is the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program with FSD1. PAT services are

families break through hindering barriers. They encourage the parents to develop short or long term goals for themselves or their family. Home visitors will assist the parent by searching for resources in the community, and making referrals for the parent.

The Start SMART program, launched in September 2013, is a joint effort between The School Foundation and Florence School District 1. The program ensures that educational resources are available for families and educators so that all children in the Florence area are developmentally ready to start school by the time they enter kindergarten, regardless of their socio-economic background.

In an effort to prepare the future educational success of the students in FSD1, the members of the Start SMART committee took an inclusive look at the family as a unit. They focused on important resources including psychological services, health and nutrition, early childhood professional development to assist childcare centers, and the availability of parent workshops. Realizing how important this program is to the children in FSD1, Senator Hugh Leatherman, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, was instrumental in obtaining a \$590,000 grant from the state for the program.

One very important and successful

available to any pregnant mother or child from birth to 3 years old that lives in the FSD1 area. The vision of the program is to provide information, support, and encouragement to parents and children during the child's most critical years of development. PAT services include home visits twice a month for one hour. Visits are designed to focus on child development skills, parenting behaviors, and developmental topics. The home visitor will enlighten the parent about milestones and typical behaviors of children. They model activities for the parent and show them how they can work with their child at home to build on their child's developmental skills. Materials used during the visit are made very affordable by utilizing simple materials that the parent can easily access around the home. Home visitors emphasize language and literacy by modeling for the parent how to increase their child's communication and analytical thinking skills. Each parent is encouraged to read to their child and a free book is given on each visit. Home visitors also help

Developmental topics are discussed at every visit. Topics are based on health, safety, nutrition, and child development. Free developmental screening and family assessment (PAT Staff), vision and hearing screening (by healthcare professionals) are conducted to determine any delays and child developmental level. Based on findings of the assessment and screenings, the home visitor formulates activities to increase the child's development skills. In addition, parent workshops are offered to the parents as an avenue to socialize with other parents of young children and to increase their knowledge about early childhood, health, nutrition and safety topics. Free childcare is offered on site during the workshops.

Please help us by referring expecting mothers or parents that may benefit from this program. For questions or additional information, contact Melanie McMillan at 843-673-1129 or Debbie Hyler at The School Foundation at (843) 662-9996 or visit the website at: <http://www.theschoolfoundation.org/start-smart>

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## FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS ON THE JOB

By Les Echols



*Celebrating the Partnership: Florence Career Center New Firefighter Curriculum*  
 Left to right, Neal Vincent, Director of Secondary Education; Billy Dillon, Fire Chief, Howe Springs Fire Department; students David Summerford and Kortland Robinson; County Administrator Rusty Smith; Alphonso Bradley, Florence Career Center Director; and Instructor Jeffery Allen.

With growing controversy about fire districts in Florence County and the number of volunteer firefighters in the state falling to critical levels, the Florence Career Center has taken a big step to ensure that more youth enter the profession. The 2014-2015 school years bring a new program to the Florence Career Center beginning this year with almost one dozen Florence School District 1 high school students enrolled in the new program empowering them to become certified paid firefighters. Florence County, Howe Springs Fire District and Florence School District 1 are all collaborating on the new curriculum. Alphonso Bradley, Florence Career Center Director, said County Administrator Rusty Smith expressed an interest in the fact that the numbers of firefighters in our state is dwindling. He said Smith visited other career centers where the firefighter curriculum was offered. As with any

development, starting with a multi-faceted three day workshop. During this three-day train-the-trainer workshop, fire instructors discussed this new career-ready training program. This helped the Florence Career Center develop the resources and knowledge to coordinate with the local fire department to develop a Career and Technology Center curriculum.

The curriculum, dedicated to delivering certification-level training to high school-aged students, consists of Firefighter I and Firefighter II courses which are designed to ready students for hiring by local fire departments. The firefighter I course is geared to sophomores and juniors, and provides the basic skills necessary to get personnel operational and performing on the fire ground. The course satisfies the intent of the OSHA standard for basic firefighting. Successful completion of written and performance testing is required.

Firefighter II is geared toward juniors and seniors (and anyone older than 16), and is naturally, the more intensive course. It provides students with the knowledge and skills to meet the National Firefighter Standards. Subjects include fire streams, interior fire control, forcible entry, ventilation, salvage, overhaul, water supply, wild land firefighting and communications. Fire/Rescue Services Coordinator Sam Brockington Jr. said students will receive high school credit and at the end of the program, they will be certified firefighters. It is a two-year course that begins in the junior year. "It's going to be a boost to all the area firefighters to have young firefighters available in our community," Brockington said. "I commend the school on moving forward on this project that will be helpful to the community and to the students."

Ideally, the two-credit College Prep level courses will not only garner interest in the career, but create more well trained firefighters in a state that is sorely lacking. "We want to change the younger generation so they'll be a part of firefighting and all the other emergency services," Bradley said. "We want to encourage students to be a part of all emergency services so the future of Florence County and the future of the state will be in good hands and protected."

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For more information contact FDTC's Dual Enrollment Office at 843-661-8120.

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## SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL ANNOUNCES NEW FACULTY

Submitted By Alison Mann Director of Marketing

Columbia - The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) is pleased to announce new residential and virtual teaching faculty for the 2014-15 school year. GSSM is a two-year, public, residential program located in Hartsville for juniors and seniors from across the state. The School's three-year, virtual engineering program, Accelerate, is for sophomores, juniors and seniors and delivered in partner school districts statewide.

New GSSM Accelerate & Residential Faculty:

- Dr. Michael Albright, Accelerate English Instructor, PhD, Lehigh University
- Mr. Kacey Coley, GSSM Computer Science Instructor, MFA, Clemson University
- Dr. Graham Culbertson, GSSM English Instructor, PhD, University of North Carolina
- Dr. Barry Friedman, Accelerate Chemistry Instructor, PhD, University of North Texas
- Dr. Dennis Hall, Accelerate Mathematics Instructor, PhD, Louisiana State University
- Dr. Nicole Kroeger, GSSM Mathematics Instructor, PhD, University of Notre Dame
- Dr. Glenn Morrow, GSSM Biology Instructor, PhD, University of British Columbia
- Dr. Elaine Parshall, Accelerate Curriculum Coordinator, PhD, Tufts University
- Dr. Kristen Walker, GSSM Physics Instructor, PhD, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

"We are lucky to have such an outstanding faculty," said Dr. Murray Brockman, GSSM president. "Eighty percent of GSSM's faculty holds a PhD and 100 percent holds a master's degree. They are full of information and ready to deliver it to our virtual and residential students."

For the 2014-15 school year, GSSM's residential program is increasing its technology and engineering offerings. The School offers 48 STEM

courses annually, 40 percent of which are above the AP level. The Computer Science division will be teaching a total of one core and nine elective computer science courses, including Introduction to Computer Graphics using Python, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Creating Web Applications.

The new Duke Energy Engineering & Innovation Institute, led by GSSM's Director of Engineering Programs Dr. Karen Den Braven, is now offering, with assistance from Clemson University engineering professors, four core and two elective semester-long engineering courses, as well two January Interim engineering courses. The Accelerate engineering program, now in its second year, has welcomed the second cohort of students to the pilot program, in addition to the new teaching faculty. Partner sites for the 2014-15 school year are: Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology; Bethune Bowman Middle High School; D.W. Daniel High School; J.L. Mann High School; Lexington Technology Center; North Middle High School; Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School; and W.J. Keenan High School.

To learn more about GSSM's residential and virtual programs, visit [www.scgssm.org](http://www.scgssm.org).



Back row: Mr. Kacey Coley, Dr. Graham Culbertson, Dr. Michael Albright, Dr. Dennis Hall  
 Front row: Dr. Elaine Parshall, Dr. Glenn Morrow, Dr. Kristen Walker, Dr. Nicole Kroeger, Dr. Barry Friedman



# FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, COKER GRAD IS ANDORRA BOUND

Submitted By Laura Hoxworth, Editor & Content Strategist



Melanie McGrath

Melanie McGrath has loved the English language for as long as she can remember. As a child, she recalls being an avid reader and constantly correcting her family's grammar. "I should have always known I was going to be an English teacher," she says. But she never imagined herself teaching English in Andorra.

After graduating from Coker College in December 2013 with a bachelor of arts in English Education and a minor in History, Melanie taught high school English in Charleston for a year. In April, she received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for the 2014-15 academic year. She will be teaching English to high school students in Andorra, a small country in the Pyrenees mountains. Located between France and Spain, Andorra is the sixth smallest nation in Europe. The official language is Catalan, although Spanish, French and Portuguese are also commonly spoken. The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international education exchange program. Participants are chosen, through a

rigorous application process, for their academic merit and leadership potential. "When I found out I had been accepted, I couldn't believe it," Melanie says. "It took me a few days to actually absorb that I've been given this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

At Coker, Melanie was a highly involved and engaged student. A soccer player and member of honor societies, Melanie also worked in the writer's studio and went on several study abroad trips. In short, succeeding academically came naturally to her—but she says she never would have pursued the Fulbright without associate professor of history Kevin Kenyon.

Melanie first became interested in Andorra while on a study abroad trip to Catalonia in 2012. Kenyon, who led the trip, noticed her interest in the region and encouraged her to continue her studies. After returning to Coker, she completed an independent study course on Pyrenean history and decided to pursue the Fulbright Program.

"It was a natural process just because of the environment that Coker offers," Melanie says. Because Kenyon knew her well enough to recognize her strengths and interests, she felt confident enough to apply for the program. Now, Melanie tries to emulate that environment in her own classroom. "When the teachers know your limits and they are pushing you to reach beyond those limits to

where all of this great knowledge is stored, then you are actually learning," she says. "You're actually getting something done in the classroom."

Kenyon, of course, was not surprised by Melanie's success. "Hard-working, intellectual and level-headed, Melanie is in many ways the perfect Fulbright candidate," he says. "Her experience at Coker was the ideal combination of professional training in a major field and broad education in the liberal arts—an experience that is aimed at life-long intellectual engagement."

In Andorra, Melanie will teach 14-16 year old students the mechanics of the English language, while providing context through lessons on American history, literature and culture. "I'm super excited about getting to know all of my students and having them teach me about themselves, their culture and their language," she says.

She also hopes that her experience will help her to "think globally" and better connect with students from all backgrounds in the rest of her teaching career. "Sometimes in America, especially in smaller places like South Carolina, we forget that there are places outside of where we live," she says. "You have these limits that you set in your mind. But once you reach past those boundaries, you figure out that where there is a will, there is a way."

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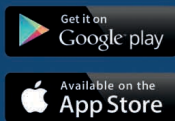
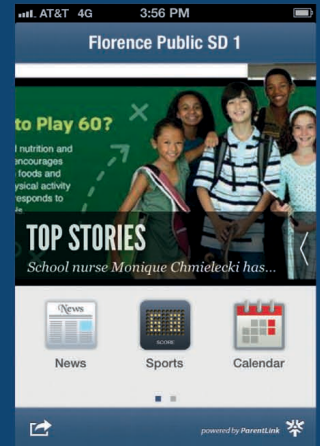
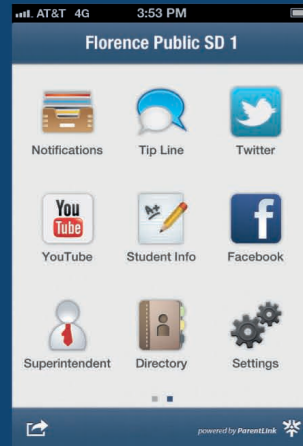
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## SCIENCESOUTH: MAKING GREAT IMPRESSIONS

Submitted By *Andreka Johnson*



*Andreka Johnson*

We've heard it before, "A first impression is a lasting impression." While some may brush off this all-too-common platitude, its sentiment is not without merit. Yet, have we ever thought about this concept as it relates to education?

Think about the subject you dreaded most during school. Did it ever change? Maybe you had a panic-stricken experience trying to solve an equation at the blackboard, or an experiment that

went awry in chemistry class. These are moments that often shape our relationship with a particular subject. While we can't rewrite history, we can work to ensure that today's children have a menagerie of early fun and positive experiences with science education. Affording them the opportunity to have these connections will better equip them to handle the "chalkboard moments" that will surely come in life.

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# BUILDING YOUTH FOR OUR FUTURE

Submitted By Dr. Dan Strickland, Superintendent

*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

Planning plays an important role in the life of an educator. Short term plans, long range plans, goals, objectives and reflection are all part of daily activities for teachers. We are constantly striving to be prepared for the future. However, the future is never quite what we expect. Imagine trying to shop for furniture for a house that you haven't seen yet, or buying clothes for a toddler before the baby is even born! Yet, in education, we are preparing students for a future that is largely unknown. When I started as an educator, we couldn't even foresee personal computers, much less tablets and cell phones and internet access! Yet today we speak of one-to-one teaching strategies and of flipping classrooms!

This is why education is so valuable today. Not because of facts and figures, but because flexibility is a critical skill for today's youth. In an era where you can Google a fact just as quickly as you can remember it, where your cell phone can tell you how to get anywhere, and when you can be close friends with someone halfway across the world, it becomes more important to know how, rather than to know what. As our society changes and evolves, education's role is also changing and evolving. It is no longer as important to know how to calculate logarithms as to know what they are and why we need them. In a decade where the top five jobs didn't even exist before that decade began, it becomes more important than ever to teach our students creative thinking skills, flexibility and social skills. Although traditional industries still exist, the way that they operate has changed. Robotics, email, Skyping and compartmentalization have changed corporations forever.

As we plan for the future, educators must take the available facts and try to imagine what they could produce. We are beginning to concentrate more on student individual potentialities rather than student production. We are trying to meet each student's individual needs rather than focus on class achievement. Here in the Marion County School District, we use a combination of student data snapshots and high yield instructional strategies to provide our students with the best education possible. Although it is ironic that in an era of mass produced standardized testing we are choosing to focus on the individual, this is actually the best way to meet the needs of 21st century education. Every student is important, and every student deserves the best that we can provide. Whether that student becomes a farmer, a salesman, an entrepreneur, or a teacher, we must prepare them for a career that may not be the same within five years. We are teaching our students to look at the world around them, to make analyses and predictions, and to become active participants in preparing for their future. We offer options from early college coursework to learning technical skills that will land them a career straight out of high school. We are teaching responsibility, ethics and citizenship. We are providing access to the global society, while teaching the value of our local communities. We are striving to provide our students with the tools needed to be prepared for the mid-21st century. And just as I could not see even the possibility of a cell phone when I entered this field, I certainly could not estimate its value to my job today. That is the outlook that we educators possess- to value flexibility and creativeness, and to always look to the future.



Dr. Dan Strickland  
Superintendent

## Without a High School Diploma or GED People are:

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- Be on government assistance
- Cycle in and out of prison
- Deal with anxiety and stress
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- Have marriage and parenting difficulties
- Feel like a failure.

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## GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?



in landing your current job. But are you applying what you learned in college to your current

For many, earning a college degree opened the door to the working world; it may have even been instrumental

career field? A recent survey suggests this might not be the case. Only 35 percent of college-educated workers consider all or most of what they learned in college to be applicable to their current jobs. Today, many working adults are returning to college to either complete a degree that better aligns with the skills required for their current job or earn a second degree to gain additional experience for a potential career change. The National Center for Education

Statistics reports an estimated 8.7 million adults over the age of 25 were planning to enroll in college in 2013, up nearly 37 percent from 2000. There is significant progress being made in higher education to adapt to the needs of the employment market and tie curriculum to careers earlier in a student's education. It is critical to choose the right degree program so you know the knowledge you glean from coursework can be applied to the career you desire.

## CCU NAMED LEAD INSTITUTION IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Jordan Smith

as a Lead Institution by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), the leading voice for the student affairs profession. As a participating institution in NASPA's initiative, CCU will continue to encourage students' civic development through thoughtful community partnerships, engaging

Coastal Carolina University has been selected to participate in a national initiative on civic learning and democratic engagement. CCU has been named one of almost 100 colleges and universities in the nation

leadership opportunities and democratic participation.

"We are pleased to be selected to participate in NASPA's network of institutions dedicated to developing students' sense of civic identity. Civic engagement is a core value of higher education and our mission at Coastal Carolina University," said Deborah Conner, Vice President for Student Affairs. "Being recognized as a national leader in this field is a reflection of the quality of our current efforts and our ongoing commitment to inspiring students to challenge themselves through leadership and service roles."

Jordan Smith in the Office of Student Life will direct the initiative.

"Civic Engagement at Coastal seeks to educate

students through volunteer opportunities, service learning and activism," said Smith. "Hopefully, these students will strive to understand the shared strengths and challenges of the Grand Strand community by engaging in impactful collaborative action on campus and off campus."

For the 2013-2014 academic year, CCU's Office of Student Life events logged 22,621 volunteer service hours, and the number of volunteers was 3,459. Campuswide, more than 100,000 hours of service were logged, and 850 community meals were provided during the Thanksgiving and Easter seasons through student-sponsored events. For more information, inquiries may be directed to Smith at 843-349-2301 or [jsmith8@coastal.edu](mailto:jsmith8@coastal.edu).

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## PEE DEE AREA UNCF KICKS OFF AGAIN

Submitted By *Tonita Perry, Eaddy Perry & Associates, Inc.*

Making its mark in higher education, Pee Dee Area United Negro College Fund (UNCF) kicks off its fundraising season for students and South Carolina's five UNCF-member institutions. For 2014, the overall South Carolina fundraising goal is \$735,000 with Pee Dee Area UNCF being charged with raising \$150,000. The campaign runs from September 2014 thru May 2015, ending with 90 percent of all funds from the campaign staying in the state. Made up of Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg counties, with Lee and Sumter counties being added this year, Pee Dee Area UNCF county chairpersons are charged with raising funds through corporate and small business support and employee and individual contributions, as well as the traditional 22nd Annual UNCF "A Mind Is" gala, taking place on Friday evening, Dec. 5, at the Florence Civic Center.

Pee Dee Area UNCF supports more than 8,000 current students attending five South Carolina UNCF-member institutions – Allen University, Benedict College, Clafin University, Morris College, and Voorhees College. The first UNCF South Carolina member institution was Benedict College. Nationally, UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 21 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country. Learn more at [www.UNCF.org](http://www.UNCF.org). For information on how you can contribute or attend the 22th Annual UNCF "A Mind Is" gala, call 843-662-4164.

## INTERNSHIPS: A Win-Win Situation.

### Why should you consider an internship?



### Why do companies want interns?



- Test-drive new talent
- Identify future employees
- Increase retention rates
- Boost company productivity
- Support the community

### Statistics



Employers that plan to hire college interns



Students who accept job offers from internships



Employers that offer interns full-time jobs

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers—2014 Internship and Co-op Survey. <http://naceweb.org/uploadedFiles/Content/static-assets/downloads/executive-summary/2014-internship-co-op-survey-executive-summary.pdf> and <http://naceweb.org/s02192014/hire-interns-2014.aspx?terms=internship>. Percentages rounded down to nearest whole number.

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## TAKING CHANCES = GIVING ONE; EVERYONE LOVES A WINNER HERE

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister

Concerned about who wins the lottery? Well, in South Carolina, the real answer is education.

And the drum majors who keep the rhythm going every day come in the giant personalities of Executive Director Paula Harper Bethea and Chief Operating Officer Anthony S. Cooper, both of whom agree that the role of the 13-year old South Carolina Education Lottery is to underpin funding for public education through the sale of lottery products with integrity, transparency and honesty.

“We come to work every day to galvanize forces for the continuous enhancement of education,” Bethea said, adding, “It’s not about selling the ticket but the 113 employees in this office, combined with our ambassadorial field workers, 4,000 committed retailers and family of players... all bringing their diverse strengths to the forefront” of a \$1 billion annual enterprise whose economic impact reaches far beyond college tuition assistance and K-12 education. “We also donate to public libraries and our unclaimed prizes are used to purchase school buses.”

A former commissioner, she continues: “We are very proud of our diversity here. There are organizations that speak it but don’t live it or understand it or believe it. Diversity comes in a lot of different packages and my

feeling is that no organization can be as great as it is capable of being unless diversity lives in it.”

Cooper, who relocated here in 2001 from the Washington DC Lottery organization to inaugurate the South Carolina movement, shared his view that “when you look at the premise of a lottery you should see that it provides public gaming for the public good in character with the community. Externally, almost anyone age 18 years and older can play. We do not target any particular demographic group in marketing our products. On the inside of our organization, we recruited all across this state to hire the best and brightest based on merit. I am not at all surprised that that the lottery’s staff then (and now) reflects the diversity of the state of South Carolina across the board” he said, noting that the efficient team worked fast and deliberately because of the startup pressures. “We had a very short time to get up and going and to do it right!”

With emphasis on diversity best practices from the top, they agree that priority one is sustainability. “We raise the money, then transfer it to the state legislature which allocates it and once you infuse the kind of investment, it needs to be consistent... and even though we may fluctuate, we must thrive without creating a tidal wave,” Bethea said, citing flexibility in programming as a stabilizing factor.

Betha oversees an operation that has transferred over \$3.4 billion to the state’s Education Lottery Account since launching in January 2002. “Whether the people of South Carolina are philosophically or religiously in line with our goals or not, they need to be proud of what we are doing for the greater good and know that the world is always changing and we are willing to lead the change in our workplace and globally,”

she offered. “These cultural changes and other forces we are seeing are not limited to us. We don’t even live in the same world as we did when I came here five years ago. Our economy is not quite yet stable and more changes are sure to come to pass,” she added.

Addressing how the lottery markets itself, Cooper said, “When you see our commercials, you don’t see money flying off the backs of trucks or cash falling from the sky. Whether we use social media, billboards, television, radio or printed publications, we generally have three messages to convey: to play responsibly, to have fun and, last but not least, to remind the public that all our proceeds benefit education.”

A two-person consensus, Bethea and Cooper regard the state laws that prohibit lobbying and vendor allowances as a good thing. “It would be very difficult for Tony and me and our lottery family to do our jobs if we were constantly worried about the separate special interest groups. None of our leadership positions or board members are allowed to make donations to candidates or legislators,” she said.

“We don’t operate like a traditional state agency; we run like a business because that’s largely with whom we deal... businesses that do business with our business and are mutually held accountable. We make business decisions, not political ones,” Cooper added.

“Tony and I are probably more visible but we are not the lottery. The SCLE is a family of dedicated people that cannot be found anywhere else who are sternly governed by statute to improve and be inclusive of the face of education here in South Carolina and we are really grateful for our players who don’t mind taking a chance on improving education. One of the key concerns that helped influence the state to introduce the lottery over a dozen years ago was the fact that students who are educated here are in a pipeline through many of our colleges to land jobs here, live here, work here and vote here,” Bethea said, concluding, “Tony is now a South Carolina native yet more than that, he is my friend and that’s the key to our diversity here at the lottery where we are a great balancing act making a difference for today and tomorrow.”





# Breast Cancer Awareness

## ACCIDENT EXPOSES BREAST CANCER

Articles By Anna Bowman

Kids will be kids. They scream, shout, and even fight one another. Therefore, Cathy Bruce wasn't surprised when she had to intervene and break up a fight at school between two children. However, she never envisioned breaking up a fight would be the catalyst that would eventually save her life.

Bruce recalls the day when a student accidentally struck her breast while fighting with another student. Later that day she felt a lump. The next day, she felt a second lump, and quickly called her doctor. Even though it's been 23 years since her breast cancer diagnosis, she remembers the moment when it truly struck her that she had cancer. "I was numb. I was only 34 years old with no family history of the disease," she said. "I was filling out a questionnaire and one of the questions asked, 'do you have cancer?' The question stopped me in my tracks and I looked at my husband Don and said, 'I guess I do.' In that split second, I knew that I would do whatever it took to beat cancer for the sake of my family," a feisty Bruce said.

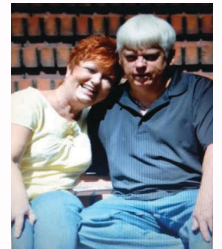
I became stronger in so many ways, my

faith in God grew and my family grew closer she said. "My husband, (who passed in March), and our children all pulled together and laughed our way through 'our' ordeal," said Bruce. I had six months of chemotherapy and seven weeks of radiation, followed by five years of Tamoxifen. "When I lost my hair, my husband shaved his head because he wanted me to know it would grow back," she said, recalling that her husband wanted her to feel beautiful even on her worst days. He succeeded!

Bruce also found support from her friends and co-workers after she revealed her diagnosis. "I worked as a school cafeteria bookkeeper and the ladies in the kitchen were a great support to me and we all became closer. The principal of the school and even the district office staff supported me. "I would find cards of encouragement or a plate of cookies on my desk," she said, adding, "I even received casseroles so I wouldn't have to cook!" Because of all the positive support she received from her family, friends, and co-workers, Bruce was able to complete her treatment and only miss one day of work. She also received voluminous support from the Reach To Recovery program

-- a program, which is a part of the American Cancer Society that connects women who are, "newly" diagnosed breast cancer patients with trained breast cancer survivors who have "been there." These dedicated volunteers already understand the physical and mental challenges, as well as the positive milestones, associated with the disease, and they help women, like Bruce, through every step of their breast cancer experience.

Bruce wants everyone to know how very important it is to know your body and when something feels different, seek the assistance of your physician. Her physician, Dr. Pavy, told her that her cancer was dormant for seven years before the lump appeared. If she hadn't been proactive with her health, her story could have had a totally different ending. "Everyone is afraid when they hear the word cancer she said, but it doesn't mean a death sentence -- you can beat it!" she said.



Cathy Bruce and Husband Don

## WHEN ROUTINE IS FAR OFF THE RADAR



Novella Davis

MARION-- In May 2009, Novella Davis went for her routine mammogram check-up; but the results would be anything but routine for the single mother. "I didn't have any symptoms, but after finding out that I had cancer, I assumed that was the reason for my recent weight loss," she remembered. Davis first thought after learning she had cancer was about her daughter, Kaprisha. "I thought I was going to die and leave her all alone," she said in a soft voice. All the fears she thought about after receiving her diagnosis, would soon diminish because of the support she would receive from her beloved daughter, amazing friends, and generosity of her supervisor.

"I was very lucky, I had no problem with the treatments, except for losing my hair, and that was okay because I was still here. I kept it moving; I prayed and gave it to God and went on with my life," she humbly stated.

"I knew that my diagnosis was only a "stumbling block" and God was going to bring me through it. He was not going to put more on me than I could bear," a grateful Davis recalled.

She made up her mind, not to allow her diagnosis to affect her life. "I just went on with my life as usual. I drove myself to my treatments and treated myself afterwards to dinner and an outfit; and thanked God for allowing me to have one more day!" Her supervisor worked with her so that she could take her treatments without the fear of losing her job. "My supervisor Anne Burroughs worked with me, allowing me to work my schedule around my treatments. I was so grateful to her, my co-workers, family and friends for treating me with kindness and compassion, but not making me feel any different because of my diagnosis.

Davis was so amazed at the support she received after being diagnosed with breast cancer that she wanted to ensure that other people dealing with cancer would have the same support system that embraced her during her ordeal. "I, along with my friends, in 2011 started a group named M.A.G.N.I.F.Y., (which is an acronym for Mothers Attesting Glory through a Notable Intricate Fight Year Round),"

she said, "I wanted to give back to the ones that may not be as fortunate as I was," she said. "While going through my treatments I met people who had no insurance and did not have money for medicines, food, gas to get their treatments, and other essential, as well as someone to talk to them who had been through what they are now going through."

Davis said the purpose of MAGNIFY is to celebrate and remember the lives of anyone who is battling or has battled cancer. "Our goal is to provide support in any way we can for those in need and to educate our community on preventative methods, early detection, and universal treatments of the disease," she told. The newly formed group meets once a month and all services they provide is free. She notes that all survivors aren't able to talk openly about their diagnosis. Nevertheless, Davis and the members of MAGNIFY, will be there when they are ready to talk and to offer them support, as well. Until then, the members of MAGNIFY, will continue to do their yearly Cancer Awareness Walk in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. For additional information about MAGNIFY, please contact Davis via email at magnify2011@aol.com.

## BREAST CANCER: A MAN'S JOURNEY

Articles By Anna Bowman



GEORGETOWN – The moment Hal Rowan's doctor uttered the words, "you've got cancer," he said he felt a sudden shock wave penetrate his entire body. Immediately after the word sunk in, he thought about his loved ones, especially his daughter who was in college when he received his diagnosis. "I was thinking how do I tell the people closest to me and at the same time keep a strong front?" Rowan said one of the most emotional part of his journey was the moment he and his wife sat their daughter down face-to-face to tell her.

According to the American Cancer Society, a man's lifetime risk of developing breast cancer is 1 in 1,000. In 2008, Hal Rowan became a member of the 1% of breast cancer patients who are men. On July 12, 2005, Rowan found a lump in his right breast. Concerned, he went to his family who referred him to a doctor. "The surgeon ordered a mammogram and an ultrasound, but showed no cancer, so the surgeon drained the cyst." However, this didn't solve his problem. "The

cyst continued to fill up for nearly three years," he said, adding, that during this time he made a decision to remove the cyst. On March 31st, the cyst was surgically removed and Rowan said the surgeon felt very good that the cyst was benign. Unfortunately, the "good" news would be short-lived.

Rowan, on April 7, 2008, returned to his doctor to get the stitches removed. "As the doctor read my chart, he looked up at me and said that he had "bad" news for me, -- 'you have breast cancer,' is what he said to me," Rowan remembered solemnly. His doctor told him that he had to make a decision quickly, and without a delay, one week later, April 14, 2008, Rowan had a complete mastectomy. Even though he's been through an emotional and physical health crises, he still is grateful for the outcome. "I've been very blessed," he explained, "The lab results showed the cancer was encapsulated in the cyst and had not spread to my lymph nodes. My oncologist decided that radiation or chemotherapy wouldn't be necessary. "I take a 20mg Tamoxifen daily and that is my treatment."

Looking at his maternal family's history, Rowan has noticed a disturbing pattern. "My maternal grandfather had breast cancer," he

said, before disclosing that four of the eight grandchildren and his maternal grandfather also have had cancer. Even more unusual, it's only the grandchildren born of his daughters that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Rowan's older sister is on her third different course of chemo as she continues her fight against breast cancer.

Rowan credits his faith, family, and friends, and of course his medical team for being his greatest support system during his ordeal. Now today, he's seen proudly wearing the pink breast cancer wrist band, and when people ask him about wearing it, he simply tells them, "It's for one of the dearest people to me I know who is a breast cancer survivor – with that being yours truly," he informs them.

Even though statistically men are rarely diagnosed with breast cancer, Rowan encourages men to "not be macho." He said, "If there is a remote possibility that the lump, enlarged node, cyst or other abnormalities is not right, get it checked out. I feel my journey has been easier with early diagnosis," he said. "Enjoy every day no matter what is happening around you, because every day is a gift from God."

## BORN TO BE A SPECIAL NURSE



Toni McGiboney, Lung & Breast Nurse Navigator

MARION – As a child, Toni McGiboney always knew she wanted to be a nurse, but the loss of a loved one solidified her career path. "At the age of 17, I lost a loved one as a result of a tragic accident and from that moment, I knew

becoming a nurse was my true calling in life," she said.

McGiboney, who has been a nurse for the past 29 years, started her nursing career as a staff nurse on the OB/GYN and Orthopedic floor, at Florence General Hospital, which would eventually become Carolinas Hospital System. "I've been a staff nurse on various nursing units, such as orthopedics, medical/surgical, oncology, and nephrology," she said. She has also been a charge nurse, nurse manager, and case manager. McGiboney said that each of her positions have helped her to develop a strong foundation during her career, which has propelled her to

the current position she now enjoys.

In her current position as a Lung & Breast Nurse Navigator, McGiboney, a registered nurse, assists cancer patients and their families through diagnosis, treatment and recovery by providing emotional support, education information, coordination of care and services, and identifying resources for patients. "Working with oncology patients is one of the most rewarding careers I have ever had. The patients and their families each touch my heart in a special way and I am forever indebted to them for allowing me to be by their side in such difficult times," she stated.

McGiboney, who received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Florence-Darlington Technical College and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from MUSC's Satellite Program at Francis Marion University, was a 2012 recipient of the prestigious Palmetto Gold Award.

The Palmetto Gold Award is given to the top 100 nurses in the state each year. "In order to be a candidate for the award, nurses are nominated by someone from their place of employment," which is an honor within itself,

said McGiboney.

The Palmetto Gold is the premier statewide nurse recognition program that salutes registered nurses for exceptional nursing practice and commitment to the profession. Nominations are received from nursing employers and peers from a variety of nursing education and health care facilities across the state. One hundred nurses are selected from the nominations received and honored during a formal gala with a specially designed Palmetto Gold pin and certificate. I was told by a colleague that I had been nominated. I found out via a formal letter that I was a recipient of the prestigious award and as I was opening my letter, I received a phone call from Costa Cockfield, CNO and Patricia McLeod, Asst. CNO at Carolinas Hospital System congratulating me on the honor," a jubilant McGiboney recalled. She was one of five nurses from CHS to receive the honor in 2012. "Receiving the award, alongside my co-workers, made the honor just that much more special," she said. McGiboney and her husband Keith are the proud parents of two children, Brittany, 24, and Kolby, 19.



# Domestic Violence Awareness

## BREAKING HER CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Mallory Brayboy



Andrea Frondorf

Graduating from college and pursuing your dreams is an exciting and eager time for most, but Andrea Frondorf was met with a series of dark domestic acts of violence upon returning home from school. At the age of 23 she lost her mother to domestic violence and would later experience the terror firsthand.

Frondorf was in what seemed to be a loving relationship. Her boyfriend was kind and full of compliments and adoration. It wasn't until he was intoxicated did Frondorf see a completely different side of the man she loved. His violence began in small stages. "There were slight pushes, slight shoves, slight yelling", recalls Frondorf. This behavior occurred over the course of two years. Frondorf says she would try to avoid him when he was drinking. She

never feared that it would worsen because it did not occur often and he would always apologize afterwards. "I believed if I just kept loving him, he would change", she says. But things did not change. During the last year of their relationship Frondorf recalls more drinking and more anger. She describes her abusive boyfriend as very controlling and manipulative. He would say things to insult her character and make her believe that everything was her own fault. "When I broke off the engagement, that's when he flipped out", said Frondorf. While away from her apartment he broke in and waited for her to return. Upon her arrival he yelled at her, attacked her, and pinned her to the ground. "I feared for my life at that point", she said recounting that terrible moment. Somehow she managed to escape and find help.

Frondorf's mother had been murdered unexpectedly just a year before. She had witnessed her mother's husband sinking into a depression but never expected what would

come. "He never hit anyone or hurt anyone, but he would get really angry", stated Frondorf. "He flipped out and killed her and then killed himself. I knew they were having problems but never in a million years would I expect that. It's very important for people to pay attention to details", warns Frondorf. Having a mother being killed by domestic violence gave Andrea Frondorf the strength to leave. "I knew it was real and that I could die" she said. "It helped me to go to court and stand and testify".

Andrea cites the most important thing for someone experiencing domestic violence to do is tell someone and get help right away. "It can change that quick and then you're dead. Do not be embarrassed. Do not feel weak".

She feels that her abuser was insecure "he had a lot of his own emotional insecurities that he never dealt with". The Need to be a man, Control the situation that Stemmed from hurt. "Hurt people hurt people" that's why they lash out at other people.

## EMPOWERED TO HEAL MUST HAPPEN!

By Anna Bowman



Jennifer Guiles Robinson

Jennifer Guiles Robinson was a young woman starting her life out with her head full of dreams –then the unexpected happened to her; altering her life forever. Without going into details, Robinson utters one awful phrase, "I was sexually assaulted." How did she find the strength and the willingness to continue to live a full life? She "Empowered to Heal," herself!

Robinson is quick to acknowledge that the road she took to recovery after the attack wasn't travelled alone. First, she confided to her boyfriend, who would later become her husband. She stated, "The greatest need I had following my assaults was support," she said. "I had no one to turn to," she quickly added. "I told my future husband, shortly after we met when we first started dating – I then told my therapist 10 years later." Why did it take her so long to seek professional help? To Robinson the answer is simple; "Many survivors, including her, feel as though no one understands their pain. They feel judged and ridiculed because society tends to blame the victim," she said.

She embraced the power of seeking the assistance of a professional therapist who understood and respected the pain she felt because of her ordeal and offered her guidance for a safe journey back to a complete and fulfilling life. "I am a survivor of sexual assault," Robinson professed proudly. "After I completed therapy, I knew that I wanted to give back to the community by helping others who have survived assault," she said.

At 29-years old, Robinson returned to college and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Spelman College in Atlanta, and a Masters of Arts from Liberty University in Human Services. In 2012, after residing in Atlanta for years, Robinson and husband Minister Eric Robinson along with their three children, moved back home to Florence. Upon her return, Robinson joined the staff of the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault as a Sexual Assault Counselor/Advocate. In her position, she provided advocacy for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence at the individual and system level.

This past April, she started "Empowered to Heal," an organization that helps survivors of sexual abuse become empowered to rebuild their lives following sexual abuse. "I facilitate a support group that meets on Thursday from 6-7pm and I provide empowerment coaching

sessions by request," Robinson said. "The support group is free but the coaching sessions require a fee and are based on income." Knowing what sexual assault victims go through, she stresses that the rebuilding begins with survivors acknowledging the sexual abuse and understanding it was not their fault. "I coach them through their goals in life and refer them to resources they may need. Some survivors may want to return to school, some may want counseling; some may just want support. I assist with whatever I can to help them on their journey to healing," she explained, adding, "Only the victim can create their own journey to healing. "Empowered to Heal" is their support on their journey." Her clients, who are located mostly in Florence, are both, men and women, ages 18 or older.

Currently, Robinson is the founder, facilitator, and coach, but she would love to have volunteers, donations (which are tax deductible), or grants to augment her staff in the immediate future. To contact the organization, Empowered to Heal, call 678-468-5638. Visit the website, [www.empoweredtoheal.org](http://www.empoweredtoheal.org), or email, [empoweredtoheal@gmail.com](mailto:empoweredtoheal@gmail.com). If writing, the address is, Empowered to Heal, PO Box 12610, Florence, SC 29504.



# Domestic Violence Awareness

## MOVING THIS STATE DOWN FROM NUMBER 2 IN MURDER BY CDV

By Mallory Brayboy



Shonnete Dargan

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was observed in October 1987. It evolved from the “Day of Unity”, begun by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in an effort to interlink advocates across the U.S. working to end violence towards women and their children. “Day of Unity” grew into a week-long event full of various activities that shared three themes: Mourning those who have died at the hands of domestic violence, Celebrating those who have survived, and Connecting those who work to end violence. Having grown from a single day to a month-long awareness campaign, Domestic Violence Awareness Month continues to focus on these themes to end the violence for once and for all.

The Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault, a local non-profit organization, is in the fight to end domestic violence and strengthen its survivors. The organization not

only works to reduce domestic violence but advocates against sexual assault and child abuse as well making it the only center in South Carolina to specialize in all three areas. Founded in Florence, SC in 1986, the coalition serves seven counties in the state and provides two shelters for refuge. Admission into the shelters, or safe homes, is based on individual need. PDC provides individual and group counseling, court accompaniment, job placement assistance, a comprehensive children’s program and more to its residents.

Shonnete Dargan is the Shelter Service Coordinator for one of the confidentially located safe homes. The home houses 20-25 people and is currently vacated by 10 persons. Dargan notes physical, psychological, and emotional as the most common forms of domestic violence cases seen at the shelter. Physical domestic violence, the act of inflicting physical injury on a partner, often begins with trivial incidents that escalate into more frequent and serious attacks. Psychological domestic violence is the act of instilling fear in one’s partner and is often done through intimidation, harmful threats, and stalking. This type of abuse

also includes socially isolating the victim from friends, family, school, and/or work. Emotional domestic violence is the undermining of a victim’s sense of self-worth, often by means of constant criticism, belittling the victim’s abilities and competency, inducing a false sense of guilt into the victim, and subverting a partner’s relationship with their children.

With South Carolina ranking second in the nation for number of women killed by men, the need to spread domestic violence awareness is vital. Pee Dee Coalition promotes awareness throughout the year by speaking at churches and schools, giving presentations during town events, and sponsoring fundraisers like Jeans for Justice, where employers donate an allotted amount in exchange for wearing jeans to the workplace. For DVAM the organization will hold its 3rd Annual Break Free Run on October 4. They are also planning a banquet.

Its main office, located at 220 S. Irby Street in Florence, welcomes walk-ins and offers free group counseling Tuesdays 6p.m.-8p.m. They also have a 24-Hour Crisis Line at 1-800-273-1820 for confidential assistance.

## National Disability Awareness



## JOHNSON OVERSEES THE DISABLED WHO CAN WORK

By Mallory Brayboy



Dawn Johnson

The theme for this year’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month is “Expect. Employ. Empower” and people across the nation are working hard to ensure that disabled individuals are seen in this light while being treated with integrity. Dawn Johnson, executive director of the Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, is one such person.

Johnson has been working with The Florence County Disability and Special Needs Board for nearly 24 years. Established in 1981, the organization supports those with intellectual disabilities, autism, and head and spinal cord injuries. Several types of support and services are provided to more than 1,200 individuals based on their specific needs. With a goal to improve the lives of disabled individuals from “birth to death”, the organization offers child development to at risk children ages 0-6. Florence County DSN Board also provides

residential services to 146 persons, and provides support to the families and caregivers of disabled or special needs persons.

Another major way they contribute to the betterment of disabled individuals is through job placement. Florence County DSN Board provides disabled individuals with opportunities to work and lead as much of normal lives as possible. They begin by teaching the skills needed for attaining and maintaining a job. Most of these skills are taught and developed in a day program. Day programs are held Monday-Friday at one of the three day centers located in the county. At the completion of training, individuals are then linked with jobs throughout the community. Workers are eager to learn and be placed in the job field. “They want the same things that we want”, states Johnson.

Many workers are placed in the Food Service Industry at places such as Ryan’s and Freeman’s Bakery, where they wash dishes and clean. The five Pee Dee Thrift Shops in Florence County employ disabled workers for tasks such as preparing clothing and cleaning. There is also a yard crew that employs several workers for

basic landscaping duties.

Another avenue of employment is Florence County DSN Board’s very own Palmetto Secure Document Destruction company, which has been operating for six years. Palmetto Secure is a paper shredding facility which services law offices, medical offices, and other institutions with large paper production and accumulation. Florence County DSN Board was approached by Source America, a company that helps disabled workers. According to Johnson, the company gave them a loan to purchase equipment in return for providing services to the IRS. Viewing this as “a great opportunity to provide meaningful employment” they took on the offer. Documents are collected from clients weekly, monthly, annually, or sometimes in purges (collections of large amounts as needed). Due to the significance of the documents they receive the company operates under high security, utilizing elevated fences, security consoles, and continuous surveillance. The company also operates in an environment-friendly fashion, recycling all shredded materials.





## LEGAL, SOCIETAL CHANGES OPEN DOORS ON THESE CAREERS

Articles By Mallory Brayboy



Christopher Scott

retrieving secure documents, sorting documents, breaking down boxes, shredding paper, and cleaning. “This is not an easy job”, says Scott. Legislative and societal changes after the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Christopher Scott is an employee at Palmetto Secure Document Destruction. He suffers from vision impairment but does not allow it to slow him down. In a facility operated predominately by disabled workers, Scott performs a hefty list of job duties:

reduced discrimination toward visually impaired workers and provided them with a wider array of career possibilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities. Still only 46% of visually impaired and 32% of legally blind working age adults are employed. Though visually impaired Christopher Scott says he has always held employment. He relocated from New Jersey to the Pee Dee area and found employment at Oakland Grocery of Florence where he worked for eight years doing various tasks. With the help of Florence County Disability and Special Needs, Scott then found employment with Palmetto Secure Document Destruction. He

has been employed here for about two years and thoroughly enjoys his job.

Scott finds joy in interacting with clients that he encounters during pick-ups and deliveries. “A lady told me that I give her hope”, he said. “They love me. They know I always give them a boost of confidence”. Not only does Scott share his positive energy with others, he receives much needed encouragement from his fellow workers. One worker, Chris Taylor, has become a father figure to Scott whose father passed away in 2008. He also cites Adell Barfield, manager of Palmetto Secure Document Destruction, as a source of inspiration. “She has helped me understand life a lot more”.

## WHAT DISABILITY? THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE



Melissa Jordan

Melissa Jordan has been employed at IW Canupp for 3 years. Jordan has Asperger syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder. Those affected have difficulty with social interactions and exhibit a restricted range of interests and/or repetitive behaviors. Motor development is often delayed in individuals with Asperger syndrome, leading to clumsiness or

A constituent of the Florence County DSN Board, IW Canupp is a day program that provides disabled individuals with employment, training, and other opportunities.

uncoordinated movements. However, unlike other forms of autism, those with Asperger syndrome do not have significant delays or difficulties in language or cognitive development.

Jordan relocated to Lake City from Greenville in search of something new and exciting. Working since the age of 19, she did not have difficulty securing employment. “I went up to them and asked them for an application”, said Jordan. Many people have preconceived notions regarding disabled workers, viewing them as incapable of working efficiently or being more accident prone than normal workers. Jordan wants employers to know that they are “really hard workers” and that they do need jobs.

As part of the kitchen crew, Melissa Jordan serves lunch and handles special diets. She says her colleagues are a great group of people always eager to help. They also provide her with a shoulder to lean on. “They are a great source of communication”, Jordan says. For those with Asperger syndrome, socialization can often be awkward. A good support system and an understanding group of people are vital for growth and prosperity. Jordan resides in the Lake City Trellis apartments provided by the Florence County DSN Board.



## FOCUS FIXES EVERYTHING ON HIS JOB



Frank Eason

customers and employees. Though he loves to interact with customers, he is never sidetracked. “I focus strictly on my job” says Eason.

Eason is challenged by high-functioning autism. High-functioning autism along with Asperger syndrome, another form of autism,

Frank Eason has been employed with Sam’s Club of Florence for 15 years and counting. He works as a shopping cart attendant and attributes being a two-time award recipient of “Associate of the Month” to his list of accomplishments. When not tending to shopping carts he assists

is not as easily diagnosed as other forms of autism because the symptoms are not as prevalent. Individuals with these disabilities typically possess average or above average intelligence but are diagnosed by lack of social interaction and communication skills. The main difference between the two is the rate of language development, which is faster in individuals with Asperger syndrome.

Eason takes pride in his strong work ethic and asserts his disability does not restrict him from working efficiently. He previously worked at Wal-Mart for five years before attaining his position at Sam’s Club. For each job position held, Eason has had a job coach provided by the Florence County DSN Board with his most recent coach being Brenda Bellamy. Job coaches train individuals to perform specific job duties needed for employment. Support

from job coaches may be temporary or ongoing, depending on the needs of the individual. The role of a job coach is important role in securing employment for the disabled. Eason believes there is a real need for job coaches in this area.

When not working, Eason enjoys socializing. He particularly enjoys the bowling trips and dances organized by Florence County DSN Board. Also a very knowledgeable sports fan, Eason has a memory full of statistics and cites the Atlanta Braves, Charlotte Hornets and West Florence Knights as some of his favorite teams. Frank Eason currently resides in Florence with his father. Florence County DSN Board provides Eason with residency options for the future, including apartments if he opts for solitary living.



# Saluting Our Veterans

## SC THRIVE STRIVES TO HELP MORE SOUTH CAROLINA VETERANS

Submitted By Melanie Colclough



Melanie Colclough

As our nation's troops arrived home from the battlefields of war, many of our heroes were left to face different enemies. Their new enemies were met in the form of confusion, destitution, loneliness or homelessness. The transition from military to civilian life is often daunting. And although there are many programs aimed at helping them after their service, they are sometimes left unaware of where to seek services or help.

According to the 2013 Point In Time Count, a study performed by the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless, there were 6035 homeless individuals (including children) living in South Carolina at the end of January 2013. This marked a 28.3% increase compared to the last count in 2011. Of those homeless

individuals, 12% were reportedly veterans while 9% were female veterans. The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics reports that South Carolina has a total of 420,968 veterans in the state. Florence County has one of the largest number of veterans in the state who are receiving some type of disability from the Veterans' Administration (VA). In addition, according to the VA, approximately 29,000 veterans in South Carolina are uninsured, along with another 15,000 uninsured spouses of veterans. Understanding the need, many people in our state are eager to move forward with making veterans programming available to those who desperately need help.

SC Thrive (SCT) is committed to connecting South Carolina veterans with vital resources to help them become self-sustainable. Through our programs like, The Benefit Bank, they have access to Veteran's Education Training where SC military families and

veterans can receive assistance with completing forms to obtain benefits for college and other post-secondary education. In addition to connecting to this valuable resource, eligible veterans, can also complete vital applications like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid and file their state and federal taxes all at one time at accessible locations throughout South Carolina.

SCT is also teaming up with other great organizations and advocates to pool resources together to serve more veterans, military men and women and their families. We are developing programs to assist veterans with SSI/SSDI, and pension and housing benefits in the next few years. To get connected to services or join the coalition to help veterans in South Carolina, contact Lance Newman at [lnewman@scthrive.org](mailto:lnewman@scthrive.org). To learn more about SC Thrive, visit the website at [www.scthrive.org](http://www.scthrive.org) or call 1.800.726.8774.

## VETERANS' HELP IS HERE

By Jenafer Wenteler

There are approximately 413,000 veterans in South Carolina alone, and Darlington County Veteran's Affairs Officer, Elve Williams is working towards assisting all of the veterans that he possibly can. Williams was born July 7th, 1960. Although he works in Darlington, his home is in Hartsville, SC with his wife, Karen Williams and two children.

Williams is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He enlisted March 13th, 1983 and retired as a Master Sergeant after 21 years of service. Williams joined the Air Force due to a lack of jobs, the need for a higher education, and the appeal of the atmosphere. He was the first in his family to join the Air Force. Once enlisted, Williams realized the full duties that were required in the military. Some of the appeal went away with his lawn and restroom duties.

As the years went by, the duties increased.

He was in charge of administration for moving his peers from one base to another, preparation for separation and retirement, and personnel record management for about ten years. Williams stated, "There were challenging moments in the Air Force where I wanted out, but overall, I enjoyed the experience." He stuck it out by the inspiring words from a previous supervisor: "Don't make a permanent decision on a temporary problem." This helped him deal with the physical issues and emotional challenges he faced daily. Fortunately he was able to have a successful transition because the Air Force was able to prepare and train him for jobs that applied both in the military and in civilian life. Once retired, he was able to become a manager at Shaw Air Force Base. While there, he was able to do the same jobs he had in the military.

Although veterans are able to receive a

retirement check, Williams is aware that most veterans need another job to stay afloat. He believes that veterans are accepted into society more openly now than they used to be, but the need for assistance and the difficult transitioning are still there. He sees the change in his community where employers want to hire more veterans and the Office of Veteran's Affairs provides services to aid them in their shift back to civilian life. Williams, like other veterans, want and need assistance. But when all is said and done, all veterans will settle for a simple, "Thank you for your service."



Elve Williams



# Saluting Our Veterans

## ENOCH GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO BE ALL THAT SHE CAN

Articles By Jenafer Wenteler

National Guard Air Force Reserve officer Antionette Enoch has made a career in the reserves. Enoch joined October 15th, 1988 and is consistently serving her country to this day. The Lake City native was born September 4th, 1968, and had a knack for adventure from the start.

Before joining the Guard, Enoch held a few jobs, took some college courses, and sang her way through life. After learning about the National Guard from her cousin, Enoch enlisted and from the moment she joined, she knew she was in for a great experience, becoming enabled to travel wherever her country needed her to. She met many different people from all walks of life, and was able to make a career out of serving with the Guard.

Enoch would volunteer throughout the military to stay on active duty. Never afraid to

step up to the plate, she bravely reported to her station on orders in response to 9/11 when she heard these words 13 years ago: "as of now, you are to report to duty". She was also present in the midst of Desert Storm. Although she was worried about the well-being of herself, the country, and the soldiers out on the field, she is satisfied to say that she contributed to a part of U.S. history.

She had a short-term goal of 25 years in the National Guard, however since she has reached her first goal, she is well on her way to her long-term goal of 33 years of service. Waiting to reenlist in 2016, Enoch is currently working at the Darlington County Courthouse as a Litter Control Officer and assistant Animal Control Officer. But during her spare time, she takes online courses with Colorado Technical University, sings her heart out to Contemporary

Christian music, and contemplates on ways to help the returning veterans and children within her community. She hopes to one day be a part of the law enforcement team or a Constable.

Unlike many other veterans, Enoch was fortunate enough to have an easier transition into civilian life because the Guard allowed her to participate in her normal, everyday life while serving. She believes that most of the veterans that were on active duty have a much more difficult time transitioning because civilian life and its citizens are not equipped with the military capacity that veterans and military personnel have. Enoch strives to assist those in need while also faithfully and bravely serving her country on a daily basis.



Antionette Enoch

## CHOOSING BETWEEN PRISON OR MILITARY STILL LEADS TO CORRECTIONS



Chris Cudd

Chris Cudd had a unique circumstance that led him to the military. Unlike most people who enlist to serve their country for a better life, jobs, and money, Cudd enlisted to keep himself out of prison. As a youth, he made a mistake that changed his life. In response to that mistake, he

took responsibility for his actions and served his country in the United States Army from 1987 to 1993. He knew that prison was no option for him and that the Army would provide him with the structure and life skills that he needed to become

a productive member of society. Cudd was born July 31st, 1968.

He was an only child raised by his mother. He graduated from Bennettsville High School as a Green Gremlin. He met his wife, Kimberly, at Florence-Darlington Technical College. He used his GI bill to pay for his education. He graduated with a degree in Engineering. When in the Army, he initially had some resilience when it came to following orders in his weeks of basic training, but the rebellious nature was soon forgotten. His sentencing was up in three years and once those few years were over, he reenlisted for another four years by choice. Cudd faced many challenges in the Army. Like many other soldiers, Cudd took part in the crisis of Desert Storm.

Once out of the military, Cudd found it

somewhat difficult to transition back into civilian life. Finding work was one of the more difficult challenges of returning to society. He found it difficult to find a niche in his community that was the civilian equivalent to his duties in the military. He found a job as a Building Inspector with Darlington County. His duties there are based around public safety and making sure that structures are to standard and comply with the regulations that are enforced. He has held this position for 12 years and is working towards being a building official.

Dealing with the public can often be a challenge for Cudd, but the skills he developed in the military has assisted him with the commitment for his job, public safety, and the drive to always be the best he can.

## TAKING CARE OF BENEFICIARIES' BUSINESS THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL

As a civilian, Daisy H. Walden took it upon herself to create a non-profit organization that was designed to assist the widows and children of deceased veterans. Walden is the Chief Executive Officer of the Widows of Deceased Veterans Foundation. A native of Jamaica, she came to the United States in 1966 to attend Albert Merrill School in New York. In 1994, she moved to Cairo, GA and was a realtor for 35 years. She now resides in Effingham with her husband.

After assisting a deceased veteran's wife in September of 2004, Daisy Walden and her husband, Sergeant Major Richard D. Walden, founded the organization. The widow was in desperate need of assistance that she was unable to receive from anyone other than the Walden couple. Together, they were able to raise \$7,000 to prevent foreclosure on her home. Mrs. Walden

then became aware of the great need in her community, noticing that there were countless widows and children that were not eligible for assistance or benefits from designated aid organizations.

Now she provides assistance with more than finances alone. She also counsels with the widows about spiritual and emotional needs. Her mission statement says, "To serve where possible, the financial, emotional, health, wellness, and social aspects of widows and widowers of deceased veterans." Mrs. Walden works alongside Angenean McAllister, who is said to be, "the right-hand, left-hand, and any other hand," of Mrs. Walden and the foundation. Funding a non-profit organization is not easy when it comes to finances. Mrs. Walden and Mrs. McAllister 'make do' with the activities, fundraisers, and donations

they are grateful to receive. Although their only office is located in Florence, Walden hopes to branch out her foundation to many other parts of the nation. She is aware that the need is constant and always growing so her organization should be the same way. She has a master plan laid out to set up shop in the states with the highest concentration of widows and widowers and eventually branch out all over the U.S.

Mrs. Walden has dedicated her life to helping those in need and is loyal to the scripture that says: "Take up the cause of the fatherless; Plead the case of the widow." Isaiah 1:17b NIV.



Daisy Walden



## HAVING A PLAN MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



Would you know what to do if you lost your job?

We all know how important it is to be prepared in case of a fire, flood, or other type of emergency. Well these days, the odds of losing your job could be just as great—if not greater—than any of the events mentioned above.

So what should you do if you are laid off? Here are a few suggestions—some critical first steps—that can help minimize the impact and make it easier to move forward:

**1. Stay positive:** It's important to remember that the decision was probably based on the economy or other external factors, not your performance.

**2. Be professional:** If you handle yourself with decorum, your employer may be willing to serve as a reference, recommend you to

vendors, and even provide assistance with interviewing and resume building. Plus, if the economic situation improves, who's to say they won't hire you back.







**3. Account for every penny:** Review your terms of employment and claim any money owed to you from bonuses, commissions—even unused vacation. Also, find out if you are entitled to a severance package. If not, file for unemployment benefits right away since it may take weeks to process.

**4. Replace lost benefits:** If your spouse works, see if you can add yourself to his or her health care plan. If not, you can apply for COBRA coverage within 60 days of termination and extend your health care benefits another 18 months. Similarly, you may want to purchase an affordable term life insurance policy to help replace your workplace coverage.

**5. Evaluate your retirement plans:** While some employers allow you to leave your 401(k) in place, it may not always be the right move. Have a financial expert look the plan over and see if you are better off rolling over the funds into a traditional or Roth IRA.

**6. Network-Network-Network:** You never know where your next job will come from, so take advantage of every networking opportunity. Also, be sure to use social media platforms like LinkedIn to help connect with people online and let them know you're looking.

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# BANKING STRONGER: DEDICATED COMMUNITY BANK TAKING ROOT

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Jim Ivey

credits the bank's diversity practices as a large part of that growth and stability. "Diversity is important in this workplace because our community and our world are diverse. Customers and employees may feel more comfortable in a place of business when they see the other customers and employees are a reflection of their community," he said.

Because the financial health of any person, family or business is one of the most important aspects of (their) life, Ivey says that at DCB diversity is highly valued "since we have to consistently live up to the level of trust that our customers place in us. Our customers – our very lifeblood -- are a diverse group, made up of people from all income levels and many races/ethnicities. All of them trust our bank staff with some portion of their financial well-being. We realize that each person is a unique individual with unique needs and we strive to show each person that he or she is the most important customer of our bank, no matter who they are or what business they trust us to help them with," he shared. While the business

While some banks are pulling out or shrinking their presence locally, Dedicated Community Bank is enjoying strong growth and its customers are benefitting from banking with a committed financial partner institution. DCB Executive Vice President Jim Ivey

community has paid more attention to workplace diversity in recent years, Ivey sees the momentum continuing. "Many in the banking industry feel that our regulators will place more emphasis on diversity in bank staffing, with the goal of ensuring that the staff mirrors the makeup of its community."

Distinguishing DCB from others with the same label, Ivey says "we are a true community bank. We have served the banking needs of the citizens of Darlington for more than 27 years and have recently begun serving people in Florence through our Loan Production Office. Our bank's focus is entirely on the local community – all decisions regarding the management of the bank and how we serve our customers are made right here in Darlington and Florence. WE know the people here and feel that gives us an advantage in making decisions here that will benefit local people."

Even though the local, state and national economies are still on "shaky ground", Ivey says DCB "has to move forward with its lending efforts with local businesses and individuals, but we must also be mindful to make sound decisions. A growing challenge is the amount of regulation that banks face, particularly small

institutions like DCB. Considering our size, the cost of complying with regulations is much more of a burden for small community banks than it is for large national banks. The community bank segment of our industry is constantly fighting for a level playing field."

Nonetheless, the small town banker of 22 years finds it "very rewarding to have an influence on the management of our bank and the decisions that we make to serve our customers. The high level of job satisfaction that I feel comes from being able to work with a customer on their loan request, determine the best course of action that is in the best interests of both the customer and the bank, and to deliver the good news that DCB can help meet their needs."




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**Daddy always said,  
"They're not making  
any more of it."**



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## HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

## NATIVE SON GOES AROUND THE MAP AND BACK AGAIN

Submitted By Kim Harrington, Director of Marketing



Russell McElveen, D.O.

Florence native Dr. Russell McElveen always dreamed of becoming a doctor; however, he didn't know an educational opportunity would change the direction on what kind of doctor he would be.

After graduating from South Florence High School, he attended Clemson University where he was planning to become a veterinarian. Many of his friends at Clemson were pre-med students. Through those friends, Dr. McElveen started learning more about a career in medicine and decided to switch majors.

After changing directions, Dr. McElveen received an invitation to attend a summer medical school recruitment program. "Ohio University offered a program that gave you a chance to experience what life was like in medical school," he explained. "The best part about it was that it wasn't just free; they actually paid students to attend the program. That's

where my passion for medicine began to grow."

"As we began meeting the faculty, we were introduced to Dr. Lee, the Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. My friends and I joked around and said she looked like Diana Ross. We found out later in the program that her name was Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee and she was, in fact, the older sister of Diana Ross." Though that had nothing to do with Dr. McElveen's decision to practice medicine, it was an interesting and unique encounter.

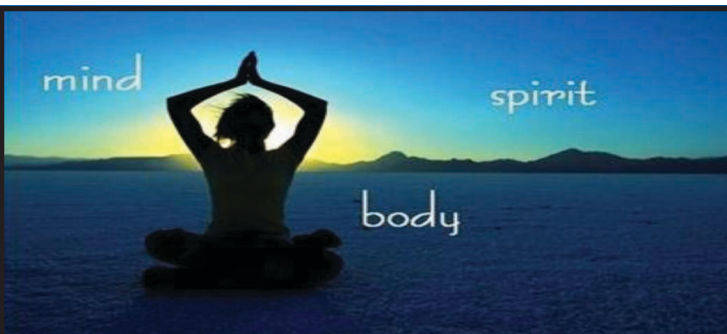
Dr. McElveen earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Clemson University and his medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA. He completed his surgical internship at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and his general surgical residency at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, MD. Then, he went on to complete his cardiothoracic fellowship at the University of Mississippi and his vascular and endovascular fellowship at the Arizona Heart Institute.

"I practiced in Lumberton, NC before moving back to Florence in June," Dr. McElveen

said. "I've seen many positive changes in the area since my return. The growth in the medical community, combined with the creation of new educational programs for pre-med and medical students, is just part of the positive economic changes in Florence."

Dr. McElveen met his wife, Dr. Desma Manigault McElveen, while attending Clemson University. She currently works with the Dillon School District. They have two children: Russell and Rylee. When he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his family. Dr. McElveen is excited about the opportunity to work with South Carolina Cardiovascular Surgery at Carolinas Hospital System. On an average day, he visits with patients in the morning before performing surgeries. In the afternoons, he makes his rounds to check on his patients. He spends his evenings participating in after school activities with his children.

Dr. McElveen is board certified in thoracic surgery. He is associated with South Carolina Cardiovascular Surgery and is a member of the medical staff at Carolinas Hospital System.



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## RELIEVING PAIN WITHOUT HURTING POCKET

Submitted By Dr. David Gittens



Many people have recognized the money-saving aspects of chiropractic for decades. After all, no drugs are administered, there are no surgical procedures and no recovery time is needed. Chiropractic is not addictive and does not have the side effects that drugs do or the dangers that accompany surgery. But when it can be clearly shown to businesses and insurance companies that they can save considerable amounts of money by using chiropractic for neck and low back pain, this is welcome news. A new study published on the Dynamic Chiropractic website provides just that kind of news. In this study, chiropractic care was compared to care from medical doctors, osteopathic doctors, physical therapists and others. The study not only compared the outcomes of these differing types of care, but also the outcomes in terms of quality of life improvements.

The study had some very good things to say about chiropractic, like, "Chiropractic care is more effective than other modalities for treating low back and neck pain." And that the findings of this study "support the value of health insurance coverage of chiropractic care for low back and neck pain at average fees currently payable by U.S. commercial insurers." And finally, chiropractic care for low back or neck pain "is highly cost-effective, represents a good value in comparison to medical physician care." The faster these results can be disseminated to businesses and insurance companies around the country, the faster we may see better insurance coverage for valuable and economical chiropractic treatment! Did you enjoy it? Share it and make a difference today! Then call 843.678.9394.



## A TOUCHY FEELY EXERCISE SAVES LIVES

Submitted By Diane Davis, Marketing Coordinator



Jaymas Williams, FNP

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), an annual movement to increase the awareness and early detection of the disease. Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in American women. The Centers for Disease Control report that 1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. Women should make it a priority to perform a monthly Breast Self-Exam (BSE), have a yearly Clinical Breast Exam (CBE) and mammogram. If the disease

is discovered early, then treatment is more effective.

HopeHealth providers continuously encourage women to do a BSE once a month. "Women should know how their breasts look and feel," said Jaymas Williams, family nurse practitioner at HopeHealth Manning Family Practice. "I encourage my female patients who come in for an annual well visit to begin a BSE routine." Williams instructs that women should do the following steps for a monthly BSE:

- (1) Exam their breasts a few days after their menstrual cycle while lying down on their back and also standing in front of a mirror.
- (2) While lying down, feel each breast with the opposite hand in a firm, circular motion. The other hand should be placed above the head. Feel for any new lump or hardness of the breasts and underarm.
- (3) Stand in front of a mirror with arms raised and look for dimpling, lumps, inverted nipples, swelling, discharge, redness and distortion.
- (4) Follow the same procedure while standing in front of the mirror with arms on the hips.

Dr. Brian Hanna, medical director of HopeHealth and family practitioner at the Palmetto facility in Florence, emphasized the importance of performing a BSE at the same time each month. "Most evidence shows that a BSE is more beneficial than a CBE," said Dr. Hanna. "Women will notice changes in the size or texture of their breast over a period of time."

In contrast to a BSE, a CBE is for women 21 and older and performed by a provider during yearly gynecology visits. The provider examines the breast visually and physically for anything unusual. Dr. Gregory Browning, family medicine provider at HopeHealth's Palmetto facility, stated that painless nodules, changes in skin color and fixed lesions can also be a sign of breast cancer. When visiting a provider for a CBE, ask questions. Find out the accurate way to perform a BSE, how healthy breasts should look and when to be concerned. Do not rely solely on a yearly exam for detecting breast abnormalities.

Women should obtain their first yearly mammogram at the age of 40. Mammograms can detect lumps that cannot be felt during a BSE. Whether insured, uninsured or underinsured, women should have regular mammograms. "HopeHealth's adult facilities are participants of the Best Chance Network (BCN) which provides free breast and cervical screenings to South Carolina women ages 40 to 64 who qualify for the program," said Falecia Miller, DNP, RN, and Site Director of HopeHealth Manning facilities. "BCN is contracted with local hospitals to provide routine and diagnostic mammograms and ultrasounds if required. In addition to the routine services provided by BCN, they also provide contractual specialty services to include gynecology, general surgery and case management. HopeHealth performed 691 BCN screenings in 2013 which accounted for approximately 10% of the total BCN screenings for the entire state." The McLeod Mobile Mammograph Unit also visits HopeHealth's adult facilities on a regular basis to perform breast cancer screenings.

If symptoms of breast cancer present or breast cancer runs in the family, talk to the primary care provider. Establishing a relationship with a primary care provider is an important step in maintaining your health. To become a new patient at a HopeHealth facility or to find out more about services offered, call 843-667-9414 or fill out the new patient request form at [hope-health.org](http://hope-health.org).



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HopeHealth is committed to offering affordable, accessible health care to our patients. Our current services include: primary and preventive care, chronic disease management, pediatrics, internal medicine, infectious diseases, behavioral health, and medical massage therapy.

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[hope-health.org](http://hope-health.org)



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We would like you to meet cardiothoracic surgeon Russell McElveen, D.O., South Carolina Cardiovascular Surgery's newest team member. Together with Steven Chapman, M.D., and Charles Stonerock M.D., Dr. McElveen is dedicated to providing compassionate heart care to his neighbors here in Florence and the surrounding area. While he may be new to you, he's a native of Florence and a former South Florence Bruin. So, please join Carolinas Hospital System in welcoming home Dr. McElveen.

**To schedule your appointment at South Carolina Cardiovascular Surgery, call 843-676-2760.**

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**Steven Chapman, M.D.**  
Board Certified in Thoracic Surgery

**Russell McElveen, D.O.**  
Board Certified in Thoracic Surgery

**Charles Stonerock, M.D.**  
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# CHS CENTER AWARDED BY JOINT COMMISSION

Submitted By Kim Harrington, Director of Marketing

Carolinas Hospital System's Center for Advanced Joint and Spine Care has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for its management of Joint Replacement of the Hip and Joint Replacement of the Knee by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in disease-specific care. The certification award recognizes the Center's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards.

After Carolinas Hospital System's Center for Advanced Joint and Spine Care underwent a rigorous on-site review in May, a Joint Commission expert evaluated the center for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients and families, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

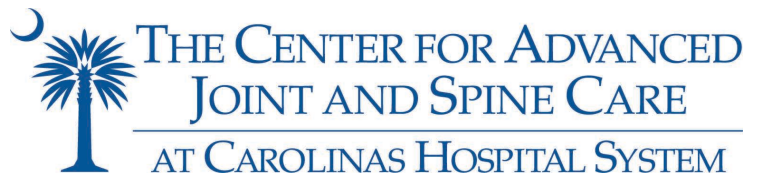
"In achieving Joint Commission certification, Carolinas Hospital System's Center for Advanced Joint and Spine Care has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients with joint replacement of the hip and knee," says Jean Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q. executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, The Joint Commission. "Certification is a voluntary process and I commend Carolinas Hospital

System for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

"With Joint Commission certification, we are making a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down. Joint Commission accreditation provides us a framework to take our organization to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence," says Costa Cockfield, Chief Nursing Officer at Carolinas Hospital System. "Achieving Joint Commission certification for the management of joint replacement of the hip and knee is a major step toward maintaining excellence and continually improving the care we provide."

The Joint Commission's Disease-Specific Care Certification Program, launched in 2002, is designed to evaluate clinical programs across the continuum of care. Certification requirements address three core areas: compliance with consensus-based national standards; effective use of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to manage and optimize care; and an organized approach to performance measurement and improvement activities.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission, in collaboration with other stakeholders, seeks to continuously improve health care for the public by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 10,600 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,600 other health care organizations that provide long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also certifies more than 2,400 disease-specific care programs such as stroke, heart failure, joint replacement and stroke rehabilitation, and 400 health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).



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## SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE: BRINGING EARLY BACKGROUND TO NEW GROUND



Dr. Brian Hutcheson

Being a chiropractor from a suburb of Chicago who has always been immersed in very diverse settings, Dr. Brian Hutcheson prizes this background as it has allowed him to find ease interacting in, learning from and being part of a wide array of cultures and events. “While integration and understanding has long been a part of me it is often more difficult for those who may have grown up in more sheltered areas. Being a doctor, specifically a healer, leads me to want to understand why people act as they do and to help

them understand and learn about others,” he said.

“Great ways to bring people together are to show that we all share many of the same common goals. This month, Diversity Works reminds us about breast cancer awareness, domestic violence, disability employment awareness, and honoring our veterans. These are human issues that we all strive to positively impact and leave a lasting impression upon. These are issues, that when we focus on coming together and finding solutions to, we are strongest in our efforts to make the difference we seek to make,” he posits.

“Currently, I am working on developing an integrative medical program with HopeHealth to better serve the entire population. What captivated me about HopeHealth was their desire to serve the entire population. Bringing the disciplines of physicians into an environment where they may effortlessly collaborate will enhance patient satisfaction and results.

I have a strong desire to bring healthy food to the people of this area. I was recently inspired by the local success story of a vendor in Marlboro County, an area with minimal access to healthy foods,” he said, adding that he would like to mimic that practice regionally.

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\*Clinical provider is defined as a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.  
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## HOLIDAY GOODNESS BAZAAR RETURNING

Submitted By Maggie Riales, Revitalization Coordinator

Dillon is CALLING ALL VENDORS for Saturday, November 22, when the city will host its fourth annual Holiday Goodness Arts, Crafts and Baked Goods Bazaar.

Held in the gym of the Wellness Center, there are 72 10' x 10' spaces available. The cost is \$20 without electricity and a limited number of spaces with electricity for \$25.00 which includes one 30" x 6' table and two chairs. Last year there were more than 600 visitors. The application is available online at [www.cityofdillonsc.us](http://www.cityofdillonsc.us).

**COME SHOP:** The day of the event, which is the weekend before Thanksgiving, doors are open from 9 am to 4 pm and typically have 50 to 55 individual vendors. Admission is free.

From 10 am until 3 pm Santa will be on site and a Magical Elf will do face painting, design balloons and perform two Magic Shows, one at 11 am and one at 2 pm.

In addition there are free horse and carriage rides. As a special promotion there are drawings for \$10 "Vendor Bucks" throughout the day which must be spent that day and are accepted by all vendors.

To view the types of items that have been showcased in the past go to Facebook: "Holiday Goodness-Arts, Crafts and Baked Goods Bazaar" For more information or an application call Bridget Elvington at 843-774-5115 Ext 3.

## EASTERN SC HERITAGE REGION UP FRONT

Submitted By Jennie Williamson Peze'



Georgetown -- When you climb aboard Captain Rommy Pyatt's boat for a "Tour de Sandy Island," you will glimpse a place with a deep, deep history and a devoted community. Sandy Island, which comprises roughly 9,000 acres, is about eight miles long by five miles wide, and lies between the Waccamaw and Pee Dee Rivers. It is accessible only by boat. It is a nearly pristine coastal forest with distinctive coastal ecology and a community of longtime residents, many of whom are descendants of slaves who had worked the rice fields of the South Carolina coast. The community is an important part of Gullah-Geechee history, and cooperation between residents and conservation groups now protects Sandy Island as both a nature preserve and a historic community.



In 2005, island native Rommy Pyatt started his "Tours de Sandy Island." Visitors meet him at the landing on Sandy Island Road and ride with him through a canal, across the Waccamaw River, and up to the island. Guests gather at the Pyatt General Store and are greeted by his mother, who runs the gift shop. The store is built on the river bank, the place where rice was historically thrashed and winnowed. Nearby houses are built with brick ballast from the British ships which, in the 18th and 19th centuries, came up the Waccamaw and unloaded their counterweight in order to carry rice back to England.

Cap'n Rommy welcomes his guests with a humor-filled and lively presentation. As he drives the group through the community, he shares historical facts and local lore about the culture and development of Sandy Island from its earliest habitation through the present. Mount Rena (Mountain of Sand), as the island was once known, is rich with archaeological sites, old church graveyards, and traditional ways of life. In fact, there was no electricity on the island until 1965 and no phone service until 1970.

The special joy of this tour is that Cap'n Rommy is of this island and his appreciation of the place is contagious. To go on a tour of Sandy Island, just call to make a reservation at 843.408.7187. Cap'n Rommy's schedule is posted on his website [www.toursdesandyisland.com](http://www.toursdesandyisland.com). Tours depart from the Sandy Island dock just south of Brookgreen Gardens. There you will likely see the state's only schoolboat, which



shuttles Sandy Island schoolchildren between the island and the mainland. Sandy Island is within the National Park Service's Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor. You may learn more about Sandy Island on the SCETV documentary, "Saving Sandy Island." (Photos Credit Florence CVB)

One Day Event  
Sat., Nov. 22, 2014  
9am-4pm

# Holiday Goodness

arts & crafts  
**BAZAAR**

Free Admission Santa & Carriage Rides 10 - 3  
Magic Show 11 & 2 Drawings for "Vendor Bucks"  
Vendors on Facebook: Holiday Goodness  
Information: 843 774-5115 ext 3



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- Turkey Burger Sliders
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- All-American Sliders – a slider with caramelized onions and cheddar
- Big Boy Bacon Slider- a slider with American cheese, bacon, and barbeque sauce
- The Good Gouda Slider- a slider with gouda cheese, bacon, and chipotle ranch sauce
- The Black and Blue Slider - a slider with blue cheese, caramelized onions, and Cajun aioli

Our Specialty Slider Trays come with a complimentary topping tray that includes: Green Leaf Lettuce, Tomato Slices, Red Onion Slices And Specified Condiments



## KEEPING IT REAL YOUNG AT HEART



Wendy Lynch

**W**endy Lynch serves as the Life Enrichment Director of The Carolinian and has more than 12 years experience in planning activities for seniors. She plans and implements activity programs which meet physical, mental, and psychosocial needs and interests of residents. She is a board certified Activity Professional through the National Association of Activity Professionals Credentialing Center. As a

professional serving the senior population, Mrs. Lynch has taken a special interest in dementia and Alzheimer's disease education and is also a Certified Dementia Specialist.

The Carolinian is a non-profit Christian based organization that has been in the Florence community for more than 25 years, offering both independent and assisted living apartments and respite care.

"The Carolinian encourages our residents to remain as active as possible for as long as possible," she said "by staying active and engaged in brain stimulating activities residents can maintain a healthier more independent life for a longer period of time". This is why The Carolinian has a full time person to help create and facilitate a vast array activities every day. Activities include weekly bingo games, bridge clubs, trips to the Farmer's Market, library, movies and much, much more.

All of these activities encourage socialization which is a key component for brain health. Developing engaging activities is a priority here at The Carolinian. We strive to provide a full spectrum of activities to meet the needs and interests of our residents regardless of ability.



Kenneth Heinz

**K**enneth "Ken" Heinz, age 81, has been a resident of The Carolinian-Assisted Living Community for three years and 10 months. Hines expresses that "The location is ideal for me as far as doctors, hospitals, the library is just a couple of blocks away, and they're going to open up a theater in about a month. The location is perfect as far as shopping and about anything I want to do is right here. I would recommend this to someone else. I enjoy it here it meets my

needs actually it spoils you because they do so much for you. You can make your stay good or bad, you can interact with a lot of people here. I'm happy here."

Director Lynch says Heinz is a dedicated volunteer at McLeod Cardiac Health Center and at a local school where, during the academic year, he reads to and tutors students.

## IT'S TIME AGAIN TO JUST GO NUTS!

Each year on the first Saturday in November the streets of Downtown Florence fill up with visitors, residents and vendors for one of the biggest events in the city, the South Carolina Pecan Festival. The 11th Annual South Carolina Pecan Festival is a perfect way to experience all that the Pee Dee has to offer. The years have been very kind to this event and have seen it grow from fewer than two thousand attendees in 2003, its inaugural year, to now hosting crowds more than 50,000 people. The festival is kicked off each year with early morning 5k, 10k and half marathon foot races along with a metric and half metric bike races. Then at about 10am things really start to GO Nuts! Eight stages of music crank up from all corners of the festival! The entertainment lineup this year features some of Florence's top names like the Blue Dogs and The Sensational Brown Brothers right alongside national acts like Nantucket and the Average White Band. The festival entertainment lineup boasts soul, rock, pop, alternative, gospel, funk, blue grass, country, and of course beach music. This once -a -year free admission festival is not to be missed. So mark your calendars for Saturday, November 1, 2014 to be in Downtown Florence!



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# SOUTH CAROLINA PECAN FESTIVAL

## 2014 ENTERTAINMENT LINE UP

[WWW.SCPECANFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.SCPECANFESTIVAL.COM)

### FIVE STAR



#### Location: Irby & Baroody

- 10:00 AM SF HS ROTC
- 10:10 AM Antonio Brown - National Anthem
- 10:15 AM Invocation - Rev. Lambry
- 10:20 AM Welcome
- 10:25 AM Dance
- 11:45 AM Breeze Band
- 1:30 PM Josh Brannon Band
- 3:00 PM Dance - Extreme
- 3:30 PM **Blue Dogs**
- 5:00 PM Dance - KFA
- 5:30 PM Average White Band**



### Presenting Sponsor



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#### Soda City Circus - Paul Phillip Petting Zoo

Joy the Clown - Maurice Coleman Sound  
 DI Pauley DJ - Lynchess River Environmental Robotics FSD1 - Art Alley - Tim Fisher Balloon Artist  
 John Dean - Gina Wolf - Bubble Circus



#### Location: Irby & Palmetto

- 11:00 AM Barry Brown
- 12:15 PM Speakeasy
- 2:00 PM Woody's
- 3:45 PM Motown Revue**

The SC Pecan Festival is hosted by:



#### Location: Cheves & Coit

- 10:30 AM Gospel Temple Worship Center
- 11:30 AM Sandy Banks
- 12:00 PM Team Freedom
- 1:00 PM Derrick Bull & Remnant Nation
- 2:45 PM Palmetto Church of God
- 3:30 AM First Baptist Temple Quartet
- 4:30 PM Sensational Brown Brothers**



#### Radio Free Florence Stage

- Location: W. Evans St. Breezeway
- 11:00 AM Tyler Edwards
  - 12:30 PM Lando Calrissian
  - 2:00 PM Voyage West
  - 3:30 PM Drakeford
  - 4:30 PM Canopy Culture



#### Location: Cheves & Dargan

- 11:00 AM Borrowed Time
- 12:15 PM Deeper Shade of Blue
- 2:00 PM Lucas Hogue
- 3:45 PM Nantucket**

### PECAN FESTIVAL AFTER PARTY 7:30 TO 10PM

#### Location: 100 Block of S. Dargan Street

Performances by some of the hottest names in blues including a special encore performance after the festival with The Woodys.





## PRUITT ENHANCES PERSONAL CARE, COMPASSION

By Les Echols



Jay Pruitt

Healthcare and community service has been a big part of Jay Pruitt's life. That quickly provided Jay the impetus of his need to help others. A lifelong resident of Cheraw, He earned his undergrad from Francis Marion University before he immediately began working in healthcare with Durable Medical Equipment company.

Throughout his 16 year tenure there, Jay met and helped many people that to this day he still considers a part of his life. Jay

shared an emotional story about the next phase of his life, early on in his time with Agape. When Jay's mother was admitted to hospice services and he asked a hospice nurse how she could do her job every day, she replied "Jay, if I thought this was the end for your mom it would be harder on me, but I know that I am just helping her along a continuing journey." Jay recalls that moment as the time when he knew he was sharing a gift. "If I can help provide someone the same care, compassion and dignity that my mother and our family received, I have been successful", he said.

Agape is South Carolina's largest hospice provider, yet so much more. It was conceived from a vision of its CEO, Scott Middleton, to improve the lives and healthcare for seniors in the state of South Carolina in a faith based atmosphere. This vision, based on an obvious need in our communities, gave birth to Agape Senior. Through resources like assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities, medical transport, hospice and more, Agape has been able to make the vision a reality. Agape is committed to the Palmetto State and her residents, and with the help of Agape's non-profit arm, The Agape Senior Foundation, has been able to provide healthcare services for those that may not receive the help otherwise. The Agape Senior Foundation has given more than \$12 million to residents and patients statewide to ensure their needs are met.

It has been surprising to him how few people in our communities are aware of what services are available to them. Through the connections they make and the education that they provide, Agape's commitment to informing and educating communities proves to be not only important, but desperately needed. They recently hosted a community meeting to discuss topics such as meals on wheels, assisted living and hospice.

"I soon realized that people simply aren't aware, and it was so fulfilling to provide them with information that may prove helpful in the future" concludes Jay. Jay is married with two children.

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### Marion's 25th Annual Holiday Prelude & Community Tree Lighting Celebration

**Saturday, December 5th**

The Prelude to Christmas - The Artist's Place

- Carriage Rides in downtown Marion 10am - 1pm
- Photos with Santa - 10am - 1pm, Byars Park
- Annual Christmas Parade - 4:30pm

**Sunday, December 6th**

- Marion Pilot Club Soup & Cornbread Supper & Bake Sale. 5pm - 7pm at the Marion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. \$5.00 per person.

There will also be a silent auction & raffle during the evening.

- Tree Lighting Celebration - 6:00pm

Additional highlights Include:

- Arrival of Santa Claus, aboard the City of Marion Fire Truck - 5:30pm
- Hot Apple Cider Sponsored by Local Banking Institutions
- Handicapped Section Available
- Nativity Scene
- Children's Community Chorus
- Fireworks at Withlacoochee Park 7:00pm

**Marion Mayor Bobby L. Davis & Members of City Council invite you to enjoy your time in Marion**

*Merry Christmas*



## LOVE AND COURAGE: FRANKIE'S TURN

By Anna Bowman



Frankie M. Parson

**K**INGSTREE - Frankie M. Parson laid gravely ill in a comatose state for months in a local hospital bed, the result of an unforeseen medical incident, that should've been a routine medical procedure, ended with her on life support; fighting for her life. Once she regained consciousness, the only thing she could think of was how she had let her family down, especially her young son, Christopher. Instead of her story ending in tragedy, she overcame

the odds with the love and support of her family and friends. Today, Parson, is the essence of confidence, strength and undying love.

Parson recalls her life-changing ordeal like it was yesterday, "I was having problems with my gallbladder, and I was scheduled for an early morning operation, with a short recovery stay for a couple of hours or possibility an overnight stay if the doctors deemed it necessary," she explained. Unfortunately, things went horribly wrong. "Somehow during my operation my lungs were damaged and I coded during the surgery and was placed on life support," she said.

**A**t the time of her ordeal, Parson was working in the nursing field with 15-years of experience; a career path she chose after nurses were extremely kind to her family, especially their mother, after their father was injured in an automobile accident, which left him partially paralyzed, when she was just a child. Unfortunately, her career in the nursing field would end and her entire world would be transposed into a life she didn't recognize – or want. She often refers to this period as the time she, "Lost an entire section of my life." Upon regaining consciousness, she would soon learn she didn't have a home to go to. "I lost my house and my job (because I didn't call in)," she stated in disbelief. Her life rapidly filled with endless anguish – she was broken!

Her daughters, Lula and Shanetta, would be the guiding force in helping her back on her feet by giving her support, both financially and mentally; she desperately needed to break through her bouts with depression. She knew that God was still in her corner, but sometimes, "I just didn't realize it," she acknowledged. Not being able to sue for malpractice, and not able to find a job, she was sinking deeper into debt. "A dear friend suggested I sell cars, "But I didn't know anything about the auto industry. My friend had total faith in me, and told me to take it one day at a time, so I did just that."

Parson hit the ground running, not knowing a great deal about selling cars but she was willing to learn every day. She began utilizing the skills she had learned in the medical field to help her become a top sales consultant. "When I arrived at Florence Toyota, the salesmen and staff took me under their wing and taught me even more about the industry." She developed her own unique style and expanded her customer base. "Before I knew it, I was back on my feet and my son Christopher and I were in our own house; after living with my youngest daughter and son-in-law, "Who graciously took us in after I lost my house and job."

**A**s a member of Florence Toyota, Parson is a Toyota Master Sales & Leasing Consultant. Recently she received the prestige Professional Retail Outstanding Salespeople (PROS) award, one that is given to sales consultants who have met certain criteria, which Parson placed 211 out of a field of 350 performers. Dealerships like Florence Toyota, participate in the PROS program because they have a vested interest in maintaining a quality, educated sales force at their worksites. "I work with several co-workers who've been awarded the PROS award and I was extremely proud to receive the honor as well," said Parson. Parson often pauses and thinks about how her family, friends, and God brought her through her horrifying ordeal and allowed her to regain her life. Parson is currently writing a motivational book for publication in 2015.



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### WINE, CHOCOLATE & MORE

By Katrina Garnes

Transforming a groundbreaking concept into a business is one thing, but keeping the momentum going and maintaining a thriving business to some is challenging. Dolce Vita Chocolate and Wine Tasting Room is no stranger to setting forward trends in the city of Florence. After more than a year of being open, the momentum has yet to die. From its timely opening in Downtown Florence, in the midst of a major revitalization, to its outstanding customer service, and its captivating decor, Dolce Vita is becoming one of the top social spaces in Florence.



On it's notorious Wednesday night, patrons can enjoy glasses of wine half off and bottles of wine discounted for 15% off while enjoying their weekly jazz series in the Renaissance Garden. Owner Joshua Keith, a master chocolatier, described the "Dolce Vita experience" as a "different atmosphere outside of what most Florence residents are accustomed to". Dolce Vita has also begun evolving the scope of social spaces in the city by creating a diverse location for residents and professionals to intertwine.



Julian Young

Julian Young, a now regular at Dolce Vita, recalls his first time visiting there as being satisfying in every way. "I enjoy the atmosphere, the decor, the management, the wonderful chocolate, and of course the great wines they offer on a regular basis for tasting. DV has become a great meeting place in downtown Florence and it is nice to be treated like family. I salute DV for their presence and service as they are an integral part of the downtown redevelopment", said Young.

Dolce Vita has sparked an interest within the community and several people have just been visiting the space based solely on word of mouth. Keith says the community can expect to see the start of a wine club in the coming months. Wine club members will receive incentives such as discounts, certain privileges towards events, and much more once the "details are ironed out". We can also look forward to a food and wine festival they'll be hosting in conjunction with the City of Florence and several local businesses.

Keith intends on continuing to provide the community and customers with new events and innovative concepts. Dolce Vita provides the best handpicked wine selection in Florence for family events as well as corporate events; whether by the bottle or case. Contact DV Manager Andrea Frondorf, at 843-610-2351 to book your next private party, corporate gathering, or social gathering for the upcoming holiday season.



### JLF ON THE MOVE

By Anna Bowman



Monica Isaac (wearing white scrubs) is the recipient of the house being built.

FLORENCE – Cami Bremer beams as she talks about the years she has been a member of the Junior League of Florence; she served on the board for three years as secretary, president-elect, and now president.

In 2004, Bremer, a native of Texas, arrived in Florence and wanted to become a part of her new community. "I joined the Junior League of Florence in order to get involved in the community," she said.

The Junior League of Florence is a non-profit organization of women ages 21 and over, who live or work in Florence. "We are committed to volunteerism in order to develop the potential of women and improve the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers," she said, "Each year we volunteer numerous hours to other non-profits and organizational activities. Some of our partner agencies include The American Heart Association, The Boys and Girls Club, The Care House of the Pee Dee, and The Durant Center," explained Bremer. In addition to providing volunteers, JLF also provide financial assistances. "Each year we have fundraising efforts so that we can provide some financial assistance back community. Our most recent grant was a 3-year, \$100,000 grant to the Boys and Girls Club in Florence." The funds allowed the Boys and Girls Club to implement a healthy kids program that promoted healthy educational activities, including healthy snacks, community gardening and physical activity.



Picture at the house site with Felicia Orr, past president JLF

This year the Junior League has ventured into new and exciting territory. We have collaborated with the Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity with a \$75,000 gift to build a house for a deserving family. A few of our members served on the family services committee to help select the family. We surprised Monica Isaac and her family with the news that they will be the partner family for this build.

The Junior League of Florence has three main fundraisers each year. "Our main fundraiser is Merry Marketplace, which takes place the first week of October. This is a shopping extravaganza that features unique boutique-like shopping with more than 60 vendors and entertainment. In December, we will have our 2nd Annual Home for the Holidays 5K race. In March, we will have our Lucky Shamrock event. Last year, we collaborated with the City of Florence and Downtown Development to hold this event. "The funds raised from these events are given back to the community in the form of Community Assistance Grants, Leaders in Action Scholarships, and our Signature Project Partnership."

Currently, there are about 60 active members, and more than 90 sustainers. "We could not do what we do without our outstanding membership and the ongoing support of our event sponsors and community partners." The Junior League of Florence is located at the Russell House, 1502 West Palmetto Street, Florence.



Our lucky shamrock event and sponsors



This is the presentation of the check to the Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity



## THE FRAA DIRECTOR EXPLAINS MISSION

Submitted by Uschi Jeffcoat, Executive Director



Uschi Jeffcoat

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is a local, community-based arts agency whose mission is to promote the arts as a catalyst for community cohesiveness, educational advancement and economic growth. All initiatives of the FRAA are based on an organizational core value that recognizes the arts as fundamental to quality of life, education, and growth in today's knowledge-based economy. The FRAA is committed to nurturing a diverse arts

community through inclusive programming, events, grants and projects.

"The arts" supported by the FRAA include visual, literary, theatre, dance, music and more. The Alliance serves as a sub-granting site for the South Carolina Arts Commission, which means it awards quarterly grants through an independent review committee to area organizations and individuals. In the past year grants have been awarded to the Florence Little Theatre, the Florence Symphony Orchestra, The Lake City Artist Guild, the Masterworks Choir, Poskito: a Photography Symposium, the Pecan Festival, various art teachers and their classrooms, art workshops and arts marketing initiatives. The Alliance is proud to provide behind-the-scenes support for many of the exciting arts related activities in the area.

The FRAA also recognizes businesses, community members, organizations and educators who support the arts in unique and impactful ways. This past year the Clay Pot, Julian Young, the Lake City Partnership Council, Wanda Hanna and Desiree Overby were recognized for their outstanding service. In addition, the FRAA presents scholarships to students who demonstrate excellence and wish to pursue a career in the arts. The FRAA 2014 Betty Ann Darby Scholarships were awarded to Haley Ard of Pamplico and Phillip Rast of Florence for their talent, hard work and dedication.

Through its online marketing project, PeeDee Arts, the Alliance showcases performing, visual and literary arts taking place regionally and partners with the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote events and exhibits. Those wishing to showcase their upcoming arts related event can send information to [peedeearts@gmail.com](mailto:peedeearts@gmail.com).

In June, the board of the FRAA appointed a new executive director. Uschi Jeffcoat, a local artist, comes to the organization after teaching German at Williams Middle School. Previously, Jeffcoat had volunteered with the Alliance and served as curator at the Hyman Fine Arts Center at FMU.

The FRAA is currently celebrating forty years of service. The dedication of its founders as well as the spirit of collaboration it embodies resonate with Jeffcoat. She is grateful for the vision and efforts of all who have served the organization in the past whether through volunteer work, advocacy, encouragement or financial support. She looks particularly forward to building on the rich history of the Alliance in the region through her international background and various work and volunteer experiences.

Jeffcoat believes the arts add depth to our lives, substance to our conversations and interest to our communities. Her experience has shown her that art is crucial to raising a generation of creative problem-solvers and thinkers. These encounters help individuals make connections and see the world with different sets of eyes and perspectives.

The FRAA offers support to the Art Trail Gallery, 185 West Evans Street in downtown Florence. Mrs. Jeffcoat can be reached at the gallery Monday through Friday from 3-6. She would love for you to stop by and continue the conversation.



Underwriters



Written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten

Directed by Joseph Steen

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### FLORENCE LITTLE THEATRE TO PRESENT

#### Christmas Belles

November 7-15, 2014

Underwritten by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Directed by Joseph Steen

Directed by First Reliance Bank and Hilliard Lyons

It's Christmas time in the small town of Fayro, Texas, and the Futrelle Sisters – Frankie, Twink and Honey Raye – are not exactly in a festive mood. In this sequel to last season's production of "Dearly Beloved", a cranky Frankie is weeks overdue with her second set of twins. Twink, recently jilted and bitter about it, is in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town. And hot-flash-suffering Honey Raye is desperately trying to keep the Tabernacle of the Lamb's Christmas Program from spiraling into chaos. But in true Futrelle fashion, the feuding sisters find a way to pull together in order to present a Christmas program the citizens of Fayro will never forget. Their hilarious holiday journey through a misadventure-filled Christmas Eve is guaranteed to bring joy to your world!

The Florence Little Theatre is located at 417 S. Dargan Street.

Tickets go on sale to Underwriters, Benefactors, Patrons and Sponsors on Monday, November 3; General Membership on Tuesday, November 4 and to the general public on Wednesday, November 5. For more information, please call 662-3731 or visit our website at [www.florencelittletheatre.org](http://www.florencelittletheatre.org).

#### Christmas Belles Production Dates:

Friday, November 7 at 7:30pm • Saturday, November 8 at 7:30am  
Sunday, November 9 at 3:00pm • Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30pm  
Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30pm • Thursday, November 13 at 7:30pm  
Friday, November 14 at 7:30pm • Saturday, November 15 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$20 Adults/\$15 Students  
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# UNITED WAY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Submitted By Stephanie Navarro, Community Resource Manager, United Way of Florence County



United Way of Florence County's 2014/2015 Campaign brochure highlights individuals representing donors, programs, clients and the community, explaining how everyone does, in fact, win with United Way.

Sixty years ago, a group of community-minded donors banded together in an effort to increase the impact of their philanthropy. Understanding that their gifts could do more good when combined, they started the United Fund of Florence County. Over time, the agency's name has changed, but the mission and purpose has remained the same. Serving as the cornerstone of the Florence nonprofit community, United Way supports other nonprofits through grants, leadership & training, advocacy and the promotion of volunteerism and giving. This year, the United Way of Florence County celebrates 60 years of impact in the Florence community.

The 2014/2015 United Way campaign highlights this legacy with the theme "Everyone Wins with United Way." Donors and volunteers win knowing they have supported worthy causes in the community. Programs win through increased exposure, productivity and professionalism developed while in partnership with United Way. The community wins by having a vibrant nonprofit sector that supports our neighbors at every level of their need. Finally, and most importantly, clients like Candace Player win because agencies exist to provide invaluable services. Candace is a happily married mother of three whose second son Grayson was born with microcephaly, an extremely rare condition that drastically delays his mental and physical growth. Candace joyously lives each day and loves her children, but raising a child with disabilities often presents unexpected challenges. United Way's partner agencies were able to relieve some of those challenges for Candace and her family by providing adaptive furniture for Grayson as well as therapy, which has helped improve his overall quality of life. To understand the value gifts have had on families like Candace's, visit United Way's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/uwflocc](http://www.youtube.com/uwflocc) to see this year's and previous years' campaign videos.

The 2014/2015 campaign got off to a rousing start this fall with the Day of Caring in which 30 companies represented by 290 volunteers honored United Way's anniversary by completing 61 projects, 12 more than the previous year. The Day of Caring also gives donors the chance to see first-hand the impact of their giving which often leads to improved campaigns in participating companies.

In honor of its 60th anniversary, the United Way has created three additional efforts that also aim to increase this year's campaign. The Sum of 60 challenges United Way and its supporters to integrate more fully with a significant corporate population in Florence County, small businesses. United Way hopes to inspire corporate donations ranging from \$50 - \$500 from 60 local small businesses who have not previously supported United Way. The Founder's Society is an initiative that will identify 6 local leaders to serve as the founders of United Way's planned giving efforts. These leaders will leave a lasting legacy by endowing United Way with the ability to invest and increase their giving for many years to come. The 6% challenge is presented to all current United Way corporate and individual donors to increase their giving from last year by 6%. These initiatives aim to increase support to United Way's campaign which will allow United Way to impact more people in the community.

Winning with United Way is easy – it is simply giving. To become part of United Way's winning team in 2014, visit our online donate buttons on the web at [www.uwflorence.org](http://www.uwflorence.org) or at [www.facebook.com/uwflorence](http://www.facebook.com/uwflorence); call the office at 843-662-2407; or email Wendy Bird, VP of Campaigns, at [wbird@uwflorence.org](mailto:wbird@uwflorence.org). Your generosity will allow United Way of Florence County to continue to proudly serve this community now and for the next 60 years.

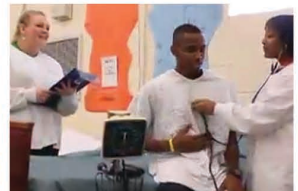


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