

JANUARY 2014 VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DIVERSITYWORKS

"For All of Us"



**LIGHTHOUSE GUIDING
TODAYS YOUTH**

**SURVIVING
THE JOURNEY**

**ALL THE PIECES
COME TOGETHER**

**POWER OF THE MIX
RULES THE DAY**

**REFLECTIONS
ON MLK TIMES**

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Diversity Works Magazine - 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: Yadira 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.

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Old and New

Transitioning into the new year is always bittersweet but go we must so we look for ways to capitalize on the changes that await us as well as on those we will intentionally work to create. This will be a political year in which we all take part by voting so do not be caught unprepared: get all ID, registration and other necessary documents early, know the candidates and where they stand on the real issues that move our communities, our state and our nation forward. The contents of this edition should help shape public opinion and shift the atmosphere as we learn from Dr. Marian Wright Edelman's Children's Defense Fund's mission, strategy and call to action to all of us. We also designed this issue to direct ourselves to pick up where Dr. Martin Luther King left off with local input from area leaders, we celebrate women from across the Pee Dee in all walks of life and cover Black history from a unique standpoint.

We are also gratified to have added two new contributing writers to our staff in the persons of Anna Bowman and Jenafer Wenteler and this growth just goes to show us that despite setbacks and issues of 2013, we are walking into a new season and purpose for everything/everyone under the sun.

We will always strive to deliver to you the very best of information and enlightenment in education, financial/wealth management, business, health, entertainment and special interests and actually want you to be a part of the process so contact us via email, telephone or snail mail because we care about what you care about and want to cover what you want to read.

We delight ourselves in the distance we have travelled with you during the life of this publication and wish the best of safe, meaningful and happy holidays for our readers, advertisers and supporters. See you next year as you enjoy this magazine and share it with others who think like you!



Rennie Lunn-McAllister
Executive Editor

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New City of Florence App Brings Citizens Closer to This Changing World

By Anna Bowman

As technology advances in the 21st century, cell phones, which were used primarily for voice communication, have become one of the most powerful marketing tools utilized by businesses. The merger of cell phones with the internet has resulted in the development of Smartphones and tablets. These devices are essentially hand held computers that allow users the ability to send and receive data at the touch of a button. The latest trend in the use of Smartphones now is the popular, “App,” which has had a significant impact on the business world since it started five years ago.

The City of Florence is one of those businesses that saw the benefits of creating their own City App for residents and visitors to have up-to-date information about issues and events happening in Florence. “The City of Florence recognizes that a mobile marketing world is where technology has taken us, and is how people communicate,” said Amanda Pope, City Manager’s Office Administrator. The concept for the App actually grew from the idea of creating an app for the use of the Florence Trail System. During the process of working with Tim Fields with AppyCity.com, who also assisted the Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau in the development of their app, the idea was expanded to create the new City of Florence App. Within a few weeks the City App was developed and is now available on both the IOS Apple operating systems and Android devices, and can be downloaded from the iTunes and Google Play stores. The App is a free download with a user friendly design. Information on downloading the App is also available on the City of Florence website, www.cityofflorence.com. The official City of Florence app will display the city’s seal.

The City App, which launched in mid-October and was showcased during Florence’s popular South Carolina Pecan Festival, was met with rave reviews and now boasts an impressive 7,400 downloads. Pope, who works directly under the City Manager, Drew Griffin, serves as the main contact for the City App. She understands the importance of keeping up with the burgeoning technology field that seems to introduce upgrades and new devices within a blink of an eye. “Municipalities, just like businesses, have to change with the times in order to reach people,” she said, “The app will serve as a quick resource for city information whether it is a downtown event, a tournament at Freedom Florence or Florence Tennis Center, or just general information on city services.” She added that while bills cannot be paid via the City App, the city’s website is available to accept online payments. The App also serves as a great guide to newcomers and visitors to the area providing options for dining and an overnight stay.

The process of developing the City App was indeed a team effort which elicited the assistance and support from managers and supervisors in various departments such as Parks & Recreation, Downtown Development, Public Works, and Engineering/GIS. “A group of key city staff that would most utilize the app met and brainstormed to develop six (6) core areas of information,” she said, “We were limited to the number of categories displayed so we chose broad categories that would encompass the information we thought most would want to access,” she added. The six categories are:

- Welcome –General information for newcomers or visitors – history,

tips for relocating, etc.

- City Life– Amenities in the community (trails, parks & recreation), businesses (hotels, restaurants, shopping).
- Events & Entertainment – Special events / festivals such as the Pecan Festival, downtown events, etc.
- Downtown– With the current interest and excitement for downtown growth, it is important to provide a quick access – whether it’s downtown arts, events, happenings such as the farmers’ market or general information about the FDDC.
- City Services– information on each department in the City of Florence and the services provided.
- Community Partnerships – This section provides links to different organizations in the community that the City partners with on various projects to benefit the community – Keep Florence Beautiful, Florence Little Theatre, Francis Marion University.

Pope was extremely pleased with the local media’s coverage of the City App and plans are in the works to continue to promote the app through available resources such as various city social media outlets and events. While there is always the potential for “glitches” to occur in the system, city staff plans to address these as they occur and work diligently to prevent any problems. The greatest challenge for staff members is to keep the information current so that the App will be a valuable tool and resource for the community.

Pope wants people to know that, “The App is an additional tool that the city is making available for smartphone and tablet users, but the same information will continue to be made available through all social media outlets as well as the City of Florence website.” For additional online assistance the following sites are available: the City of Florence website, www.cityofflorence.com, the City’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cityofflorence. Additionally, there is a City athletics website, www.cityofflorenceathletics.com, and a website for the Florence Downtown Development Corporation, www.florencedowntown.com. All of these sites are available to anyone using the Internet and will provide similar event information to the City App, and users can also follow the City on Twitter! Pope also noted that assistance can still be obtained by calling the City of Florence at 843-665-3113 during normal business hours. If it is 24/7 access that you need for general city information or event information then she wants everyone to know the City App is available for download!



Amanda Pope, City Manager’s Office Administrator



See Your Business Come To Life In Downtown Florence

Contact: Shelby Jenerette

Email: shelby@northdargan.com

Location: 150 N. Dargan St. Florence, SC 29501



Business Incubator Program Comes to Downtown

By Alicia C. Phillip



Shelby Jenerette

Business incubators are programs geared toward supporting the successful development of start-up companies. According to the National Business Incubation Association, in 2011, North American incubators assisted an estimated 49,000 start-up companies, that provided full-time employment for almost 200,000 workers, and annual revenue of close to \$15 billion. Incubators differ from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

because unlike SBDCs, incubators are selective in the clients that they serve and tend to focus only on start-up companies. When a company successfully completes a business incubation program, it is more likely to succeed for the long term. For that reason, we were excited to learn that a new business incubation program has come to downtown Florence: the North Dargan Innovation Center (NDIC), a non-profit agency. Business incubators in downtown Florence will promote entrepreneurship by offering support to local start-up companies, thereby giving them a greater chance to succeed, which will in turn create new jobs in Florence, which is great for the local economy.

We spoke with Shelby Jenerette, the Executive Director of the NDIC. As Executive Director, Jenerette recruits start-up companies and works with them, putting them in touch with available business resources, business education, and networking opportunities. In addition, she seeks out grants and other sustainable sources of funding for the NDIC, and manages the day-to-day operations of the facility, among other responsibilities. In fact, Jenerette was also instrumental in readying the

NDIC building for occupancy, prior to its opening. According to Jenerette, the NDIC will offer a variety of services to its client companies. Companies will be provided with space and a place to work; a phone line and internet access; access to copy, fax, scanning, and audio-visual equipment; access to conference space; and access to a business library. In addition, the NDIC will offer mentoring on business issues, including helping companies set milestones and measure their business progress. Further, the NDIC will offer the following seminars and training opportunities, among others: business plan preparation assistance, customer and competition analysis, financial analysis, marketing strategies, employee management training, organization team training, financing options, and free private consulting. There is no set time for a company to complete the incubation program. It will depend on the company, and the NDIC will be flexible, based on the company's needs and its progress in completing graduation requirements. To be considered for the incubation program, a company should contact the NDIC and submit an application. The NDIC committee will review the application, interview the applicant, and then make a decision based on several factors. These factors will include: the company's need for the services provided by the incubator; willingness to accept assistance; potential for growth and job creation; resources available to the company; the company's compatibility with the program; whether the company was displaced due to downtown revitalization efforts; and whether the company complies with all applicable local, state and federal regulations and ordinances.

The NDIC is located at 150 N. Dargan Street, Florence, South Carolina 29501, and can be reached at 843.678.5912 or 843.413.0100 (telephone) and 843.292.4911 (facsimile), or via e-mail at Atellis@CityofFlorence.com. Visit the NDIC on the web at www.northdargan.com.

Sonoco Builds Corporate and Employee Strength

At Sonoco, diversity means fostering an environment that encourages and allows employees to contribute ideas, assume leadership and achieve their personal goals. Sonoco's strength as a global packaging company comes from the contributions of individuals on various business teams. These talented professionals with diverse backgrounds are committed to achieving Sonoco's packaging leadership goals. Employee diversity improves Sonoco's ability to attract and retain top talent; helps improve employee morale, commitment and productivity. It also provides a competitive advantage when serving an increasingly globally diverse customer base. We believe employee diversity is smart business; the variety of thought, energy and insight provided by a diverse work force gives us an advantage in today's global economy.

Our Board of Directors and Management Committee have made building a work force that more closely reflects the diversity of today's population a top priority. We hear and respond to employee requests for work solutions, encourage and offer programs that enhance work-life balance and provide development opportunities that allow all employees to continually grow their skills and contributions. We consider diversity a business topic, as such business leaders drive diversity initiatives throughout the Company. Sonoco has several ongoing initiatives around diversity, some of which are highlighted below

Diversity Council

The Sonoco Diversity Council is made up of leaders throughout the company whose goal is to enhance the work environment and increase diversity representation. The council includes four teams that focus on diversity recruitment, networking, work/life management, and training and cultural awareness.

Diversity recruiting

Sonoco uses external recruiters who specialize in diversity hiring. Staffing teams attend diversity career fairs, use diversity-focused websites, chat rooms, advertising and job boards to find qualified candidates.

Work/Life management

A flexible workplace helps employees balance work and other time commitments. Sonoco offers numerous family-friendly benefits:

- Tuition reimbursement
- Employee networks
- Flexible work hours
- Telecommuting
- Additional vacation purchase

Training and cultural awareness

Sonoco provides ongoing diversity training and awareness programs, supported by a diversity survey, diversity targets and an international diversity program. Sonoco has created a cultural awareness team who helps identify, promote, and deliver presentations to all Sonoco employees on various cultural awareness topics. Those employees located outside of Hartsville are able to join in on the discussion by logging in virtually.

Supplier diversity

Sonoco supports supplier diversity because it provides a distinct competitive advantage. Often diverse suppliers are able to react to the market more quickly and because they are smaller, tend to have lower operating costs. The company looks for well-qualified, performance-minded and customer-focused suppliers to provide the highest quality products and services, at the best cost to the company, in a timely manner and with the best service.

Mentoring

In a diversity-driven mentoring program, employees prepare for their own career success, while learning about the responsibilities and qualifications for individual contribution to the company's overall success. Sonoco embraces its culturally diverse environment, leveraging it as a competitive edge for developing and retaining employees while providing customers with innovative products and services.



Diversity is smart business



At Sonoco, a global supplier of consumer and industrial packaging and provider of packaging services, we're committed to attracting, developing and retaining today's top talent and to creating, from the top down, an environment that encourages employees to contribute ideas, seek challenges, assume leadership and achieve their personal goals while helping the Company succeed.

Increasing employee diversity isn't just the right thing to do, it's smart business.
The more backgrounds and perspectives we have, the smarter and stronger Sonoco will be.

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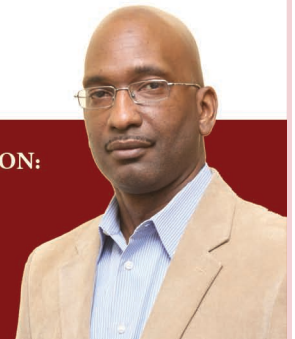
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Company Based on Founder's Spiritual Turnaround



Maze Little Jr.,
Operations Manager

Comfort Care of SC was founded by husband and wife Maze and Elizabeth Little. Maze has been around the home care industry just about all his life. He first became acquainted with homecare at the age of 12 years old when his maternal grandmother, Mable Jett came to live with them. Then Maze's paternal grandmother, Margret Little came to live with his parents off and on for

several years until her passing. Shortly after Maze and Elizabeth got married extended care struck a third time when Elizabeth's grandmother who raised her was left disabled after a debilitating stroke and required in-home care services for five years.

However, he says, confirmation came into "my spirit at a revival that was held at Second Baptist Church in Hartsville. The speaker for the revival was the Rev. C. A. Days who posed the question/title of his sermon: 'Do we have any wise men full of the Holy Spirit willing to solve problems?' (the sermon was taken from Daniel 5:10-12) Do not let your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him".

He continues, "It was a pretty rough time in my life I only had a couple of clients and it didn't seem like things were going to work out. I was just at the point of giving up, but when I heard this sermon it rejuvenated me; it was as if the Lord Himself was talking directly to me."

Since that time business has increased, and the company has been able to assist clients in a wide range of solutions: from helping a client get repairs to her trailer, seek out funding assistance for another client to get more services from a nonprofit organization, with no barber training I cut and shaved a paralyzed client's hair on a monthly basis, and have assisted employees, clients, and family members with signing them up for insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Lord has definitely called me to task because since that sermon I have worn many hats from contractor consultant, barber, social worker, and insurance agent. We service a diverse group of clients from age 4 yrs old to 92 yrs old with a wide range of disabilities from Autism to Alzheimers. We are not just your average in-home care agency, we act as an advocate for our clients turning over every rock possible from government services, nonprofit organizations, churches, and services from the private sector to insure that clients remain in the comfort of their homes and get the services they need because in many cases we are last stage before a client becomes institutionalized.

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Comfort Care of South Carolina is a non-medical in home care agency that assists individuals and families by providing private in home care. Our mission is to deliver a level of care that is personalized to each client's needs that enable them to maintain a safe, healthy in home environment while promoting the highest level of independence. We provide services in the following counties: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg counties.

Home Services:

- Routine housework • Planning, cooking, and serving meals • Monitoring and encouraging regular diet plans • Transporting clients to social activities and appointments • Running errands and shopping for the client or with the client • Serving as clinical companions and participating in friendly socialization activities

Personal Care:

- Assist with grooming hair care, shaving, and brushing teeth • Assist with tub baths, showers, sponge baths, and bed baths • Assist with dressing and undressing • Assist with mobilization activities: turning, transferring, and walking • Assist with toilet and/or commode needs • Assist with eating or feeding • Medication reminders • Daily Check—up and phone calls



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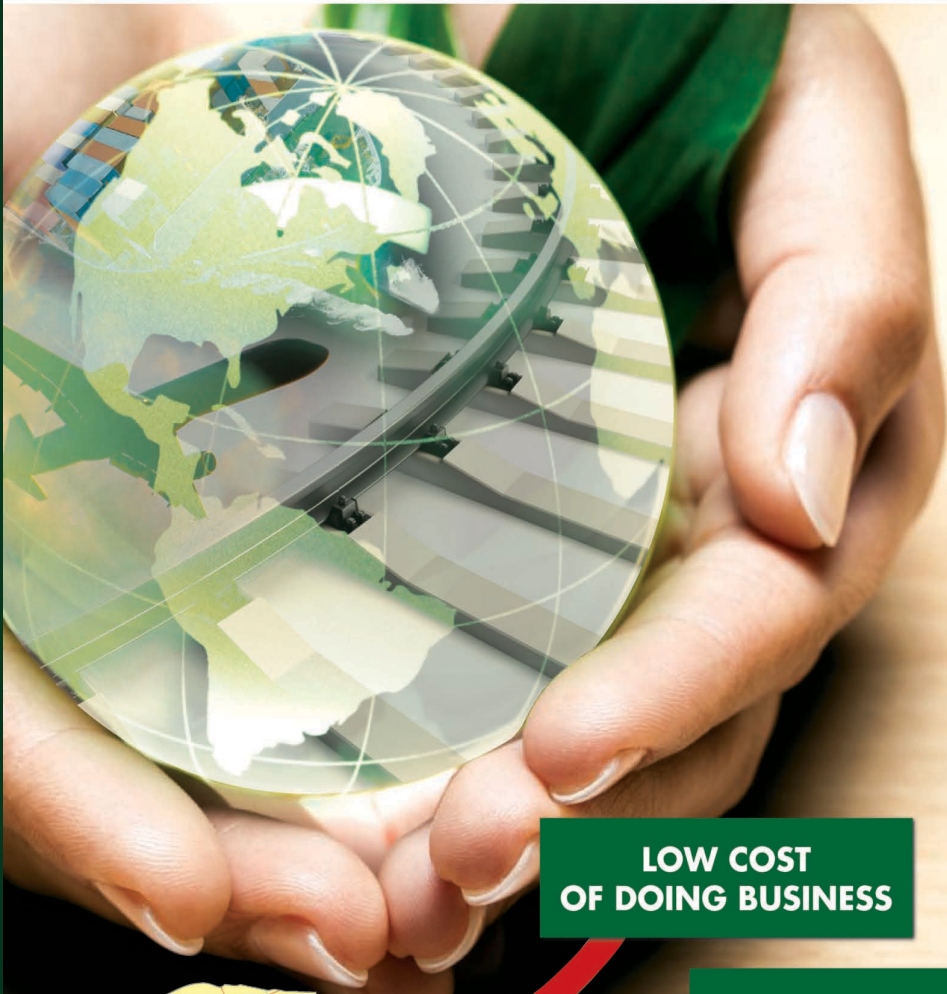


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Inaugural Diversity Training Sets the Stage, Pace

The first Diversity Focus Training, organized by Diversity Works Magazine© and sponsored by GE Healthcare, Roche Carolina and other organizations on last November, was an outstanding success. More than 150 people from every dimension of diversity representing large and small businesses, government agencies, higher education non-profits and healthcare came together to talk about diversity and how they can create more inclusive cultures in their organizations. For many people this was the first time they got to hear and understand that diversity is much more than affirmative action or race. In order to fully grasp the benefits of diversity in organizations we all need to understand diversity, diversity management, inclusion and cultural intelligence.

Simma Lieberman, known as “The Inclusionist,” began the program by asking people at each table to share what would have to happen in their organization to make them feel like jumping out of bed everyday to get to work. The most popular response was ‘to be appreciated and recognized for their individual skills and experience and have the opportunity to fully contribute.’ In other words to “feel included.” This showed that just having visible diversity in an organization, is not enough to ensure that people can do their best work, or that the organization will be successful. It is when leaders in organizations create inclusive cultures that diversity can be leveraged to increase profit, productivity and achieve objectives. At the same time, people in organizations cannot wait for leadership to change the whole culture. Each person can take action, learn more about diversity and practice behaviors with each other to create an overall climate of inclusion.

Simma presented participants with an expanded definition of diversity to include all the differences and similarities that people bring to the workplace. Some people expected to come and learn about working with specific groups, however, the point was made that diversity is a mindset, and way of doing business. Before we can learn about other people we first need to understand ourselves. That also means becoming conscious of our own biases and assumptions and learning ways to manage them and prevent incorrect assumptions. Simma led an interactive exercise demonstrating how the brain filters in and out information about what is important, what is threatening to us, and/or what is in our perceived reality. What is important to one person may not be important to another. If we only view the world and other people based on our personal realities, we may miss out on an opportunity to collaborate, prevent conflict, or solve problems. This is based on how and where we were raised, our age, what we were taught, our gender, race ethnicity, etc. That’s how we form biases, which lead us to make assumptions, and stereotype people, which then lead to actions of exclusion, prejudice and discrimination.

It also interferes with our ability to communicate effectively, and can cause us to misinterpret other people’s intentions, and other people to misinterpret our intentions. After this exercise, several people said they were surprised and amazed at not only how easy it is to form biases and make wrong assumptions, but also how unconscious they were when they did. At each table people discussed how biases and assumptions impact the workplace in terms of hiring, promotion, retention and recognition. We also shared ideas about ways to be more conscious, catch our assumptions, and begin to change our mindsets.

“We also got to observe and participate in a process that demonstrated how labels and stereotypes in an organization hamper productivity, inclusion and engagement. We saw first-hand that when people are labeled, not valued and excluded from decision making, they drop out and stop trying to contribute to the organization. It was eye opening to realize how different groups in our organizations and in our society are labeled, and marginalized. It’s important to not only be aware of how we label others, but also how we are labeled based on our gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, religion, skin color, etc. We were given useful tools to help us suspend bias, check assumptions and stop labeling, as well as tools that we can use to be more inclusive.”

The vision and strategy for diversity management and inclusion has to come from top leadership. The executive leadership team sets the culture, however there are inclusive behaviors that everyone can start practicing right away to create a climate where people feel part of the workplace community, and where they are motivated to contribute new ideas and do their best work. Diversity management and creating a culture of inclusion where employees love to go and customers love to buy is a process, and every single person needs to play a role in order to be successful as individuals and as an organization. Far too many employees who represent every dimension of diversity have hidden genius yet to be discovered. Far too many organizations could be miles ahead of their competition if they took the time, and developed processes to uncover and develop that hidden genius. “Our first workshop is just a beginning. This was the first time that people from so many different industries, organizations, and cultures had the opportunity to interact with each other, share best practices and discover commonalities they never would have imagined had they not taken the time to attend, be present and participate,” said organizer Diana Murphy and Publisher/CEO of the magazine. It’s clear that we need more of these programs. Those desiring to leverage diversity in organizations, interact with different people in new ways, and utilize all the talents and skills of each employee, register early for the next exciting diversity focus program. Stay Tuned!



Master's of Service; A Faith-Based Business

By Les Echols



Bruce Boyd, President

When Bruce Boyd stepped out on faith to start his Service Master franchise in 2011, he had options to move to a bigger area. But after he did some research, Bruce, a Greenville native, realized that a diverse Pee Dee community like Florence would be the best place for him and his family. Bruce enlightened us on the history of the name, and what many people don't realize is that Service Master was initially founded on a solid foundation of faith. The name Service Master was derived from being "Masters of service, serving the Master," a tribute and testimonial to God

by ServiceMaster founder Marion E. Wade after an accident that put him near death. To further illustrate ServiceMaster's values, its number one corporate objective is "honor God in all we do".

With Bruce at the helm of a diverse staff of 10, the Florence Service Master offers commercial and home fire and water restoration and carpet cleaning services to more than 780 clients throughout the Pee Dee. After starting up more than two years ago, they became one of the fastest growing new franchises in their first twelve months. Because of the nature of the business, Bruce has an extremely diverse clientele, and has instilled an attitude of diversity into his day-to-day operations and with every issue into staff development. "people don't choose to have emergencies" states Bruce. "It's very rewarding being able to help people from all backgrounds, and we treat all customers with the respect that they deserve."

Bruce, a graduate of the College of Charleston with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, has also made an extensive commitment to serving the community and the less fortunate. He is a member of the Florence Rotary Club and assists with a number of charitable organizations and nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity, the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Harvest Hope Food Bank. "The community is what puts food on our table", said Bruce. "If I am going to be involved in the community, I want it to be the best community it can be".

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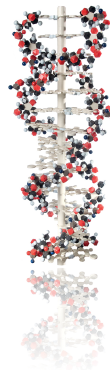


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Entrepreneur Fulfilling Many Needs

By Anna Bowman



Charles Pack, Partner

It has been said that necessity is the mother of all inventions, so in 1989, when Charles Pack realized a huge void existed in the area of supplying equipment and services to local businesses, he created his own company, Office Digital, the leader in business technology, service and supplies, which is located in the Pee Dee area. Pack,

a graduate of Florence-Darlington Technical College, worked with Toshiba Electronics for 10 years as an electronic technician. He is a certified partner with IBM, Cannon, Hewlett Packard, Ricoh, Dell, and GBC, among other world class companies. With more than 10,000 items in stock, Office Digital can readily deliver or ship any items within 24 to 48 hours either locally, regionally or nationwide.

As a minority supplier with a global reach, Office Digital is true to its motto: "Where are we located? – Therein your business." And it models a testament to the services they provide to their growing customer base. The services and products the company provides are: Office Image & Document Solutions; Printing & Copy Supplies; Medical IT & Scanning Solutions; Shredding Solutions; Office Furniture & Work Space; Computer & Server Solutions; Point of Sale Solutions; Electronic Payment Solutions; Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs); Janitorial Supplies & Solutions and Security & Staffing Solutions. Office Digital has fulfilled the needs of businesses, both large and small, and has enjoyed contracts with city, state and federal agencies, as well as churches, school and major corporations alike. He is grateful for the successful growth and development of his company and contributes many positive factors, including his focused and productive staff. The continuous growth of his company into the technology field has allowed Office Digital to embark into the burgeoning Medical IT and EHR technologies. Pack stated, "Our medical IT and EHR technologies are reaching new heights, with patients, doctors and nurses constantly on the move, hospitals are at risk of losing critical information that could cost lives" he said. "Their healthcare staff needs solutions that streamline the flow of critical and confidential data, making test results available immediately," he added. "We provide the solutions starting from the reception desk to the operation rooms, and throughout the facility we provide technologies for better information management. We understand that today's hospital, clinics and other medical facilities are faced with many challenges regarding better broadcast and security of data. We deliver value with three rules: Simplicity, Scalability and Standardization."

Pack realizes that the business model is constantly and rapidly changing due to the advances in the technology field, but feels that his company's willingness to go the extra mile to bring the resources to the customers so that they can have more time to focus on their business is one of his company's key components that will ensure that Office Digital continues to be the full service business technology and supply company designed to bring the newest innovations to meet the needs of any business anywhere in the world. Visit Office Digital at www.TheOfficeDigital.com or call them at 1-843-292-8700 or 1-800-475-3914.

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ALL TYPES OF BONDS

Insurance Agency Educates & Covers Consumers

By LaShonda NeSmith

NeSmith Insurance Agency is celebrating its 5th Successful year in service to the Florence and Surrounding Areas. There are several reasons that set N.I.A apart from all the rest of the agencies. "We take pride in providing our customers with excellent customer service. (Something you just don't get everywhere nowadays) When you call our office you can hear our smile over the phone. Our friendly and knowledgeable agents are always willing to help you with any question you have, whether you're our customer or our competitors. At N.I.A, we treat you like family (the kind of family you like). We take the time to get to know you as a person, so that we can understand your needs to better serve you and save you money, said proprietress LaShonda Nesmith.

"Another thing we take pride in at N.I.A is our willingness to educate our customers on their duties as a consumer. We educate you on the laws of this state, to help you stay on the right side of the law. Did you know that if you cancel your insurance you must turn the tags in to DMV the same day? There is no 10 day grace period. Period. We also educate you on ways to keep your insurance rates low. Did you also know that filing claims can increase your insurance rates? So if you're not getting this type of treatment or knowledge from your agent, then you need to call or stop by our new office, located 700 S. Parker Drive/Suite 4. Remember; don't let your insurance be M.I.A, Call N.I.A today!



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Santee Electric's Education Grant Raises the Bar in Pee Dee Schools



Lake City Alternative Center for Education Representatives

Seventeen area teachers were recently surprised when Santee Electric Cooperative employees showed up at their schools with up to \$1,000 each in grant money. The money came from a cooperative grant program called "Bright Ideas," which allows... teachers to compete for funding outside of often limited school district resources. Santee Electric Cooperative employees, armed with balloons, flowers, goody bags and "big checks," arrived at Williamsburg Academy, East Clarendon Middle School, Georgetown High School, Kingstree Senior High School, Walker Gamble Elementary School, WM Anderson Primary School, Kenneth Gardner Elementary, Kensington Elementary School, DP Cooper Elementary School, Tara Hall, and Lake City Alternative Center for Education in the "Prize Patrol" van to surprise the 2013 Bright Ideas winners. Many surprised teachers and students were thrilled when the doors of their classroom opened and a co-op representative announced they were winners!

Bright, excited educators have come up with numerous ways to utilize these funds to teach their students. Keshiea and LaTasha Scott of WM Anderson Primary will make learning exciting and kinesthetic by bringing an Xbox 360 Kinect system and educational games into the classroom. Annette Washington of Walker-Gamble Elementary and Rebecca Cox of Williamsburg Academy will purchase e-readers for their students to use as they learn to read, while Brandy Alexander of Kensington Elementary will buy many graphic novels for her class. Audio books are the route Michelle Burks at DP Cooper Elementary will go to involve her students in reading. Many teachers are also enhancing science curriculum through the "Bright Ideas" grant. Urica Brown at Georgetown High School's grant was named The Chemistry of Water and Soil while Crystal Mitchum at Kenneth Gardner Elementary School titled her grant Mad Scientists. Also at KGES Jacqueline Simmons wrote a grant titled SWAGS (Students Working to Achieve Goals in Science). Other science topics were Growing at ACE by Debra Koger, Christy Evans, Kevin Graham, and Megan Sanders all of the Lake City Alternative Center for Education, and Down to Earth submitted by Sheri Sims of East Clarendon. A few teachers even will use the grant for teaching art, history and critical thinking skills. Crystal Griffith at Tara Hall will immerse the Tara Hall boys in South Carolina History by taking them to see the Yorktown and Fort Sumter. At C E Murray High School Andrea Singleton-McCray will teach her students to make self-portraits. Devin Nunez of Kingstree Senior High, asking for technology to provide critical thinking experiences, also excelled in her grant writing skills and her students will benefit from the grant she received.

"The idea behind Bright Ideas," according to SEC's President and CEO Floyd Keels, "is to empower good teachers and to provide support outside of normal school funding for deserving classroom projects that need extra assistance." In all, \$12,264.47 was awarded to schools in Williamsburg, Georgetown, Clarendon and Florence counties. All certified classroom educators were eligible to apply if they taught in grades kindergarten through twelve in the co-op's 4-county service area. Teachers were awarded grant money if they could prove in an application that they had an innovative idea for a classroom project. Each school was eligible to submit more than one application, but individual teachers were limited to one application per school year.

Innovations in Agriculture

By Jody Martin



Sunbelt Ag Expo Executive Director Chip Blalock will speak at the 2014 SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo in a session entitled ‘Innovations and Collaborations in Agriculture.’ Blalock will explain and discuss how certain technological innovations have positively impacted the way business is done on the farm. Additional education sessions and workshops offered at this year’s Expo include:

- Small Farm & Food Entrepreneur Workshop • Grain Bin Safety with demonstrations
- Grain Conditioning with demonstrations • Exploring AgriTourism Workshop
- Farm Succession Planning for Farm Families
- EMS/Firemen: Grain Bin Rescue Training & Demonstration
- Hay/Forage Production & Harvesting • Irrigation Efficiency & Technology
- “Cooking with Nathalie Dupree” • CAMM Training • Drone Precision Agriculture

“SC AgriBiz and Farm Expo brings together the best of agriculture from across the state,” says Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture. “The expo is a great way to start the new year and we invite you to take part – you don’t want to miss it!” From the 2014 SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo on January 16th and 17th at the Florence Civic Center, participants will leave with education, innovations and connections that will help make any agricultural business successful. Daily Expo admission is \$5, and there are a few special ticketed events. For more information, please visit www.scagribizexpo.com. The SC AgriBiz and Farm Expo was established to serve as an umbrella event for all aspects of Agriculture and Agribusiness. The event is designed to incorporate the industry’s deep traditional roots along with today’s thriving innovations to help streamline the promotion and the expansion of South Carolina’s business of agriculture. Our slogan: “Rooted in Tradition, Thriving Through Innovation”.



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Veteran No Stranger to Diversity & Inclusion

By Alicia C. Phillip

Dr. Cynthia James Walters was recently named Corporate Director of Inclusion at Palmetto Health in Columbia and we spoke with her to learn more about her new position and diversity and inclusion at Palmetto Health.

Dr. Walters is no stranger to leadership in diversity and inclusion issues. In fact, among the various positions that she held during her 39 years of employment at Palmetto Health, two key positions allowed her to take leadership in diversity and inclusion issues. She served as the Director of Education from 1984-2002, and the Director of Organization Development from 2002-2013, most recently serving as co-chair of the Diversity Task Force. In March 2013, she was asked to take her current position of Corporate Director of Diversity and Inclusion (renamed Corporate Director of Inclusion), a position which affords her the opportunity to spotlight the hospital's successes and identify needed improvements in the area of diversity and inclusion. According to Walters: "It brings the best of what I believe and who I am together in a positive way."

Indeed, Dr. Walters believes in the importance of diversity and inclusion. She has served as the first African American in several roles and positions in the past, and she understands the importance of inclusion and the need to network with all types of people, so that they feel visible and valued. She believes that it is important for team members to feel like they have an equal path to promotion in their respective disciplines, and for leadership to value the inclusion of all people in decision-making and teamwork to achieve organizational goals.

In her new position as Corporate Director of Inclusion, Dr. Walters will help support a climate of inclusion for Palmetto Health, where inclusion is interwoven into everything done at the organization, and is not a program, but a deliberate and intentional process for organizational success. The organization values and respects individuals for who they are, recognizes that everyone has different needs, and wants all patients to receive the best care, and all team

members to achieve their personal goals. Specifically, Dr. Walters wants to encourage an environment in which: a diverse workforce is employed, retained, developed and promoted; culturally competent care is provided; healthcare disparities are identified and reduced; and the communities the hospital serves are embraced through engagement, board membership, business ventures and philanthropy.

Some of the initiatives that Dr. Walters has planned for Palmetto Health include: supporting an infrastructure of inclusion that aligns with Palmetto Health's mission, vision and values to help the organization become more inclusive; provide training and development in the areas of diversity, inclusion and cultural competence; gather metrics and design a dashboard that measures inclusion progress; and interact with the community in a way that shows Palmetto Health's commitment to being inclusive.

Dr. Walters is excited about her new position. Says Walters: "I am so energized by and appreciative to work for an organization with Palmetto Health's vision, which is to be remembered by each patient as providing the care and compassion we want for our families and ourselves. Focusing on diversity and inclusion is an integral part of bringing our vision to life for every patient, family member, guest, and each other." Dr. Walters can be reached at Cynthia.Walters@PalmettoHealth.org.



Dr. Cynthia James Walters



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Realities of 2013, Expectations of 2014 & How We all Can Help

By Jenafer Wenteler



Amy Woody- Co-Owner

Wheel Country Tire

We own a newly renovated auto repair shop that offers a range of services relating to auto repair and alignment, and we also sell retail like tires and other items for people's vehicles.

How has the year 2013 been for your business? What are your goals, outlooks, and expectations for your company in 2014?

2013 has been a good year, but while the renovations were taking place, business kind of slowed down in the shop for us. Hopefully with the new facility in place, there will be a lot more business coming in because we are able to offer many more services for people than we were previously able to. **Now that the year of 2013 is coming to an end, what strategies and plans do you have in mind to implement to make 2014 a better year for your business?**

We now have a website, so that's easier for people who are computer gurus that don't want to call in, they can email us and we will email them back privately. We are hoping to add on to the website to allow us to reach our customers through the internet and hopefully bring in more and more new and returning customers that way.

What do you think has to happen for the economy to improve in order to make your company grow and prosper for 2014?

A lot would have to happen. For starters, the government would have to focus on the small businesses. With our business, we get things done in more of a timely manner than our competitors, that are much bigger than us and has over a hundred shops. We're different because there's just one of us, so instead of waiting all day for your car to be repaired, you're in and out of our shop in an hour or so.



Ernie Wallace, Jr.
Owner and Manager

Snappy Car Wash

We are a full-service car wash and we've been here since 1989. We have a diversified range of services. Ranging from just exterior washes, we have a detail shop, so we have a little something for everybody here.

How has the year 2013 been for your business? What are your goals, outlooks, and expectations for your company in 2014?

2013's been good, but the weather's been a little different. This year's been unusual because of all the rain. I bet we've lost at least a couple months worth of days due to rain. Usually South Carolina is dry, but all through the year I've lost several days due to the weather. We're making a lot of changes that will be happening here within the next ninety days. A lot of cosmetic stuff on the outside, a lot of self-service, canopies out front, so we're doing a lot of expansion.

Now that the year of 2013 is coming to an end, what strategies and plans do you have in mind to implement to make 2014 a better year for your business?

Within the next ninety days, we should have a lot of that stuff implemented so for 2014 I'm looking for a really good year. These changes that we're making are going to improve our business.

What do you think has to happen for the economy to improve in order to make your company grow and prosper for 2014?

We've had some dips here in the past five years. Of course the country needs to do more for small businesses. A lot of small businesses are closing up and are being squeezed. And of course that's part of our customer base. Florence has grown, look at the past few years, we've had several businesses pop up and our business has always done pretty good.

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Realities of 2013 Continued



Barbara Mellen
Owner & Jewelry Maker

The Earring Lady

I make glass earrings six to seven days a week. I own a shop, in which we wholesale all over the country.

How has the year 2013 been for your business? What are your goals, outlooks, and expectations for your company in 2014?

It's been okay. It hasn't been great, but it hasn't been bad. What I sell isn't a necessity, so during hard times, my business is not very demanded. My goal is to find a way to sell my product online without stepping on the toes of the companies that I sell to.

Now that the year of 2013 is coming to an end, what strategies and plans do you have in mind

to implement to make 2014 a better year for your business?

I suppose I need to become more involved in online marketing but in a way that does not compete with the brick and mortar stores I sell to that are most of my business. However, they are increasingly looking to buy online themselves, so it becomes a rather complex issue of how to do this and do it right. I'd rather be working with glass than computers, but computers are unavoidable in today's world.

What do you think has to happen for the economy to improve in order to make your company grow and prosper for 2014?

I think people need to care about buying American as opposed to buying the cheapest thing available no matter how poor the quality. We need to focus on having less but better stuff, so to speak. It's very difficult for me to compete with jewelry that's made in China and still pay my people decently. I make a unique product. Nobody does what I do. If you read about this kind of work, what I do every day is impossible.



Barbara Williams, Yrome
and Emory Singleton

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We are a family business. It's a barber shop. We do all hair for the family and we also do their hairstyles. It's a business where the whole family can come in and enjoy getting their hair done.

How has the year 2013 been for your business? What are your goals, outlooks, and expectations for your company in 2014?

2013 has been a little slower than it usually has been, but we're still here. I would like to see business generate a little bit more. And I think that I would like to get more workers to work with the children. I'd love to see some changes,

both cosmetic and business improvements.

Now that the year of 2013 is coming to an end, what strategies and plans do you have in mind to implement to make 2014 a better year for your business?

I haven't given it much thought. I do not wish to expand, however I would love to have a little bit more advertising. There isn't too much you can do for a barber shop nowadays, but you can always advertise our services.

What do you think has to happen for the economy to improve in order to make your company grow and prosper for 2014?

By bringing in other businesses into town and different things like that, it helps a little. Having more traffic in town brings more people by here. New businesses centered in this town will definitely stimulate the economy and bring in more customers to our shop. It provides more jobs for the local people around here and gives them a chance to pass by our shop and get their hair cut by us.



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- Contract Disputes - Fraud
- Insurance Claims
- Boundary Lines/Land Disputes
- Quiet Title Actions
- Construction Defects
- Mechanic's Lien
- Foreclosure/Collection
- Consumer Law

PERSONAL INJURY

- Automobile Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Workers' Compensation
- Dog Bites
- Slip and Fall
- Malpractice
- Insurance Claims

FAMILY LAW

- Divorce
- Custody Disputes
- Child Support

CRIMINAL LAW

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

IMMIGRATION

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Hablamos Español



Realities of 2013 Continued



*Diva Cameron
Owner and Manager*

Divia Tax Service

I've been in this business since 2005. I had an office in Myrtle Beach and in 2010 we built an office in Florence for the Spanish community and the Myrtle Beach office is managed by my son. We help Hispanics with their taxes and insurance. We also notarize birth certificates.

How has the year 2013 been for your business? What are your goals, outlooks, and expectations for your company in 2014?

2013 has been a good year. It's given me exposure to the people in Florence, and I'm

planning to have this place bigger and I want to work with a mixture of Hispanics and Americans. I charge a lower amount to do people's taxes opposed to other companies.

Now that the year of 2013 is coming to an end, what strategies and plans do you have in mind to implement to make 2014 a better year for your business?

I want to advertise. I want to advertise in Spanish and in English. I hope to have a commercial on American Radio. I'm also planning to have something outside, like a sign with lights to let people know what I charge for my services. I want to attract people's attention.

What do you think has to happen for the economy to improve in order to make your company grow and prosper for 2014?

I would like the immigration laws to pass so they would not be afraid to come and do taxes or have their license. There would be many things I would be able to help them do. I'd help them with taxes, buying cars and houses. It will help a lot of the economy over here. People will buy these cars, these houses, and get their driver's licenses. And these are people who are already living here who already have jobs in America.



*Shannon Pickens
Owner and Stylist*

Shannon's Salon & Gifts

We are here to make people beautiful. We are a full-service salon. We cut and style hair, offer tanning, do nails, and we have a gift shop in the front of the salon. We try to make men and women feel better about themselves.

How has the year 2013 been for your business? What are your goals, outlooks, and expectations for your company in 2014?

2013 has had its ups and its downs for our salon, but all in all it's been a good year for us. Ultimately, our goal is to be better than we were in 2013 and to get better and better every year by competing with ourselves in the previous year.

Now that the year of 2013 is coming to an end, what strategies and plans do you have in mind to implement to make 2014 a better year for your business?

We are always thinking of ways to help the community. We do our part to make it a little prettier. We try to stay up to date on new things. For instance, new nail designs, haircuts, hairstyles, products, and the items in our gift shop portion of the store. But most importantly, we try to stay original.

What do you think has to happen for the economy to improve in order to make your company grow and prosper for 2014?

Ways to boost the economy in my opinion would be to shop local and in your own hometown. And of course produce more jobs that will help with the unemployment rate. I believe that if more people focused in the small business that are close to home, our salon will prosper and gain more customers. Of course we have our regular clients, but new ones would be nice as well.

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Edelman's CDF is a Lighthouse Guiding Today's Youth

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Dr. Marian Wright Edelman
President of Children's Defense Fund

DW: In light of all that we know about the challenges, obstacles and limitations that imperil our children/youth of today, what can you tell us that it is which makes it so seemingly easy for society to ignore their cries and take a hard look the other way?

A: “The pursuit of justice for children is a sport for marathoners not sprinters and the greatest dangers are complacency and self-righteousness. It takes time and commitment to make real gains for children but history tells us we will win if enough of us keep running.

I often think of Sojourner Truth, one of my role models, a brilliant and indomitable slave woman who could neither read nor write but who was passionate about ending unjust slavery and second-class treatment of women. At the end of one of her antislavery talks in Ohio, a man came up to her and said, ‘Old woman, do you think that your talk about slavery does any good? Do you suppose people care what you say? Why, I don’t care anymore for your talk than I do for the bite of a flea.’ ‘Perhaps not,’ she answered, ‘but, the Lord willing, I’ll keep you scratching.’ We must be determined and persistent fleas, until the well-being of children is a national priority. Enough fleas biting strategically can make the biggest dog uncomfortable. Children are going to determine the future of this nation – their success will be our success.”

DW: You, Dr. Edelman, are renowned as the grand matriarch of record in advocacy for children/youth of the 20th and 21st centuries at this point. What can the average person do to advance that cause?

A: “It will take all of us -- parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, national, faith, and other community leaders reaching out to make change for children. We can help all children develop to their full potential. We must level the playing field for all our children. First, we must reach out to children in our own families, congregations, and communities, as well as to the schools and early childhood programs in our communities to get children what they need. Never underestimate the impact of one caring adult.

We must also make our voices heard with policy makers at all levels. We can’t let children’s lives be political or budget footballs. By investing now in early childhood development and learning for example, we can help all children succeed in school and in life and strengthen our children’s futures as well,

and we can create jobs at the same time. To learn more about ways that you can step up and take action, go to www.childrensdefense.org.”

DW: From just a snapshot of modern American life, if we had to encapsulate the top three overall issues that today’s children face, how would you enumerate those issues? What would be the top three imperatives toward their remedies?

A: “Children don’t come in pieces. We must address the whole child and not limit our focus to just three issues. At the Children’s Defense Fund, our mission is to give every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. Together we can and must build the powerful, proactive, united, courageous, and insistent voice required to ensure the well-being of all our children. Action on each of these starts is necessary to help every child make the successful transition to adulthood every child needs and deserves.

Today there are 16.1 million poor children, 7.1 million of them live in extreme poverty at below 50 percent of the poverty level. Every 32 seconds a child is born into poverty in America. Every 47 seconds, we know children are abused and neglected. While we have made great progress in providing access to quality, affordable health coverage, every 70 seconds a child is born without health insurance. Every three hours and 15 minutes a child or teen is killed by a gun. A majority of American fourth and eighth grade public school students can’t read or do math at grade level including 74 percent or more Black and Latino students. As a country and in each community we need to invest in our children so every child can reach his or her full potential.”

DW: And being familiar with those issues and ills of the “have nots” children of today, we cannot help but be aware from a news headline every once and again an obvious hurt, disconnect, trauma or lack among the “haves” children. What do both classes have in common that puts them all at (their various levels of) risk?

A: “The greatest threat to America’s national security and economic stability comes from our failure to protect, invest in and educate all of our children who will help shape our nation’s future. Some children are thriving but far too many children in America, disproportionately poor children and children of color, are struggling. Children of color are projected to constitute more than half of the nation’s child population by 2019 and are already the majority of children under age 2 and of children in 10 states and the District of Columbia. The country can ill afford not to invest in every child. We must start by investing in quality early childhood and development for every child to help them start school and move on to a level education playing field for all children that helps them graduate and move on to college and successful ca-

reers. With such investments children can succeed in school and in life and we can also prevent child poverty in the future.”

DW: On a rather personal note from one South Carolinian to another, my question is: Just because Connecticut moved their gun manufacturing operation from that Commonwealth to the state of South Carolina, are they doing any less harm in the grand scheme of things?

A: “Connecticut took courageous steps in the wake of the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Common sense gun legislation and stronger, systematic access to mental health treatment for children and adults garnered bi-partisan support there. All states should take steps to protect children, not guns including South Carolina. But Congress also must take action and pass gun safety and gun violence prevention measures for the nation including universal background checks, and limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

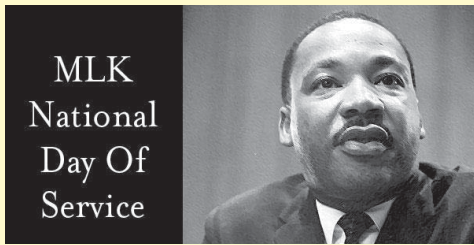
The pervasive culture of violence and the proliferation of guns in our nation make our communities unsafe for children. Gun violence saturates children’s lives and relentlessly threatens them every day. Children are living in war zones. We have lost three times more children and teens to guns in the last 50 years than we have lost in American battle casualties in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.”

DW: Please translate in a modern sense the Biblical phrase that “the poor will always be with us” with a connectivity between being socioeconomically poor and spiritually poor.

A: “God has blessed America with great material wealth but we have not shared it fairly with our children and our poor. Our nation’s greatest deficit is not one of money but of values and priorities that leave millions of children without hope or a vision of a future worth striving for in our militarily and materially powerful but too spiritually poor nation. One out of five children is poor today at a time when large corporations are experiencing record high profits and the wealthiest Americans’ net worth is increasing. The gap between the rich and the poor is the highest ever recorded in America.

What are the true values of the world’s richest nation that is so spiritually poor that it debates how much to cut from food assistance for the poor, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), while at the same time protects subsidies for rich farmers? Ensuring children’s health and wellbeing is a test of not only our common and economic sense but of our morality. We can and must do better. This is a time when America can and must step forward to correct the gross imbalance of government subsidization of the wealthiest and most powerful among us and provide a safety net for all children from poverty and hunger.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service



January 20, 2014 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." — Martin Luther King

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality." — Martin Luther King

"Reflections on MLK Times"

The celebration of Nelson Mandela's life invites reflections of America's political prophet and global citizen, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The struggles of both men reveal a testament to courage, faith, hope, pragmatism and reconciliation. Yet for many Americans Dr. King is almost frozen in the "I have a Dream" speech, and few have read his subsequent sermons, speeches and books, or about his assassination. Then as today, America confronted the crossroads of either empire or democracy, the rule by the rich or a republic, the politics of fear or the politics of hope and human rights.

Buffeted in 1967 by rising expectation and riots in dozens of cities, bitterly divided by war in Vietnam, castigated by militants for his moderation, and forsaken by churches seeking only salvation, King called for a revolution of values. "The stability of the world will involve a revolution of values...we must rapidly begin the shift from a 'thing' oriented society to a 'person' oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered...thousands of working people displaced from their jobs with reduced incomes as a result of automation while the profits of the employers remain intact. This is not just. Look across the oceans and see capitalists investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take out the profits with no concern for their social betterment. This is not just."

In April of 1967 King spoke out against the war in Vietnam and lost about half of his following, both black and white. "There comes a time when silence is betrayal...we are the greatest purveyor of violence on earth." He knew

that the war on poverty could never get funded because of the war in Vietnam, "the bombs dropped on Vietnam explode in the inner cities". At his Christmas sermon on peace he condemned the hypocrisy of waging war while talking of peace. "We must pursue peaceful ends though peaceful means...I saw my dreams turned into nightmares as I move through the ghettos...I am the victim of deferred dreams, of blasted dreams, but in spite of that I still have a dream."

By 1968, he called for a Poor People's March on Washington, and he supported the strike of the Memphis sanitation workers. The CIA, which in 1961 helped capture Mandela for the South African government, then joined the FBI and military intelligence in increasing their surveillance of King. The House Select Committee on Assassinations (1977-1979) still has not released their files on his assassination. The King family reopened the investigation through a civil case in Memphis in 1998, and the jury found the government and the mafia complicit. The only way to believe the government version of the case is to not read it. Fittingly, on MLK Day my college participates in the National Day of Service, which provides an opportunity to build bridges, create community, and reflect on the power of love, reconciliation and non-violence.



Prof. Mal Hyman, Assoc. Prof. of Sociology Coker College, Hartsville, SC

In remembering the contributions that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made to humanity we decided to look to local leaders for guidance suitable for this present age. We interviewed Dr. William P. Diggs, former pastor of Trinity Baptist Church and King underclassman and march partner and Deacon Kenneth E. McAllister, Worshipful Master of Riven Rock #60 masonic lodge in Timmonsville. Here is what they had to say:



Diggs described King as being lofty minded and greatly influenced by then Morehouse President Dr. Benjamin Mayes, all of whom tried to lift humanity in their respective walks. "Today many people just go through the motions of recognizing King like they do Jesus Christ—one day a year – but those who really know his dream plan know that we all have a responsibility to remind this generation not to be selfish and jealous of one another for all our gifts come from our maker. We can rebuild together." Comparing an earthquake he experienced during his military service Diggs said the natural disaster shook up towns and cities but King shook up a system by making people see that all men were created equal. You cannot argue with the constitution.



McAllister said he learned of King from news coverage of the civil rights leader's death but today's activists can revisit the dream by continuously working together. "We need to reorganize our communities into places where everyone feels safe, wanted and needed be an involved participant, celebrate our differences and thereby bettering what we have in common. The more we look at each other and interface intelligently and civilly, the more we'll see how much we are alike."

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY 2014 CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act



Boyd, L. (1972). View of a civil rights march in York, Alabama. [Photograph]. Retrieved from <http://collections.atlantahistorycenter.com>



President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 turns 50 and its impact on the legal, education, economic and social systems in the United States has touched us all. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has selected Civil Rights in America to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. "The history of civil rights in the United States is largely the story of free people of color and then African-Americans to define and enumerate what rights pertain to citizens in civil society. It has been the history of enlisting political parties to recognize the need for our governments, state and federal, to codify and protect those rights. Through the years, people of African descent have formed organizations and movements to promote equal rights. The Colored Convention Movement, the Afro-American League, the Niagara Movement, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference carried the banner of equality when allies were few. In the modern era, integrated organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, and the Congress of Racial Equality fought for and protected equal rights. The names of America's greatest advocates of social justice—Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fanny Lou Hamer — are associated with the struggle for civil rights." ~ 99th Annual ASALH Convention



Nelson Mandela died on December 5, 2013, people from all walks of life and from all over the world paid tribute to the former South African president who was a symbol of hope, forgiveness, and peace. Among those who paid their respects were children in Pakistan, who showed their admiration for Mandela by holding candles around his portrait on the day after his death. They were just a few of the many people who kept the light of Mandela's spirit burning brightly.



Remembering Nelson Mandela

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in Qunu, Transkei, South Africa. He was an active student as a young man, leading strikes at Fort Hare University before starting the Youth League of the African National Congress with other student activists in 1944. Mandela became active in the campaign to end apartheid in South Africa, advocating civil disobedience to draw attention to this unjust system of state-sponsored segregation and discrimination. In March 1960, the Sharpeville Massacre brought the struggle against apartheid into the international spotlight. A massive number of black protestors led a demonstration at a police station in the township of Sharpeville. Police reacted violently against the protest, killing over 69 people. The massacre became a flashpoint for the fight against apartheid. Mandela helped organize a general strike and formed a paramilitary wing of the ANC called Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). The South African government cracked down on Mandela and other activists, determined to shut down these efforts. Mandela was sentenced to life in prison in 1964 for his political activities. He would spend 27 years in prison on South Africa's Robben Island and later at Pollsmoor Prison. Despite his imprisonment, Mandela continued to play a key leadership role, inspiring activists and helping formulate strategies for overcoming apartheid. Internationally, he became a symbol of courage in the face of oppression. Mandela was released from prison in February 1990 and became president of the ANC when it was reestablished as a legal political party in 1991. After he was freed from prison, Mandela plunged with full force into the movement to end apartheid. He is credited with helping build a coalition of activists that would work together to establish post-apartheid South Africa. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1993 for his efforts. In 1994, Mandela won the presidency in the nation's first democratic election, and he served as head of South Africa's new government until 1999. Mandela worked tirelessly to reform the nation's social service and public finance systems, and he advocated for reconciliation among all South African people. Although Mandela has passed, his work will continue in communities worldwide. In addition to the Nobel Prize, Mandela has been honored with songs, honorary degrees, statues, and other tributes. The United Nations has declared his birthday "Mandela Day" in which communities across the globe are encouraged to do something positive for others for at least 67 minutes, in honor of the number of years Mandela dedicated to the freedom struggle. Nelson Mandela will remain an ideal source of inspiration in many years to come for all the generations to follow even his very small followings can change the unsorted problems in many parts of the world and make the world free from hatred and racism.

Preserving South Carolina's African American History & Culture



South Carolina African-American Heritage Commission and the City of Hartsville dedicates South Carolina Historical Marker in Pride Park, Hartsville, SC.

In 1993, recognizing the importance of preserving the cultural richness of the African American experience in South Carolina, the General Assembly established the South Carolina African American Heritage Council. In 2001, Governor Jim Hodges, by executive order, established the Council as a Commission. In May 2007, the South Carolina General Assembly passed a joint resolution further establishing the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission. The Mission of the Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The Commission fulfills its mission by: providing and supporting the listing of African American historic places in the National Register of Historic Places and the placement of South Carolina Historical Markers to recognize and interpret places of importance in African American history; • Collaborating with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in publishing updates of South Carolina's African American Historic Places; • Promoting the infusion of African American history into the curriculum of public schools through a partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education; • Providing a forum for people interested in preserving African American heritage to learn what is happening statewide to share success stories and to receive technical information at meetings and workshops; and • Collaborating with other organizations and agencies to encourage the preservation of African American history and culture.

In 2008 the Commission created as non-profit foundation, the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation, to support the efforts of the Commission. For more information about the commission or to join the foundation go to: www.scaaheritagefound.org or contact Jannie Harriot at 843-917-3350 or scaaheritagefound@gmail.com.

All The Pieces Come Together in This Black Historymaker's Life

by Alicia C. Phillip



Henry Simon, Sculptor

As we prepare to celebrate Black History Month, we interviewed Henry Simon, a prominent and award-winning copper and brass sculptor who was born in Lake City, South Carolina. The recipient of the Parsippany, New Jersey Mayor's Award, Simon had very humble beginnings. Born the son of sharecroppers, as a child, his parents would take the young Simon and his siblings into the cotton and tobacco fields with them to work, because there were no babysitters. His interest in creating sculptures from everyday materials began in his childhood. His father taught him and his brothers to make toys using coat hanger wire, wire from bales of hay, wire from electrical cattle fences, and aluminum soda cans. Says Simon: "We refined the toys, which mimicked what we saw on a daily basis, such as a school bus, plows, tractors, and cars. They went from something simple to beautiful, detailed sculptures with doors that would open and close and wheels that would turn. Just thinking about the objects that I was creating at home, would help me to get through the long, hot, boring days in the field."

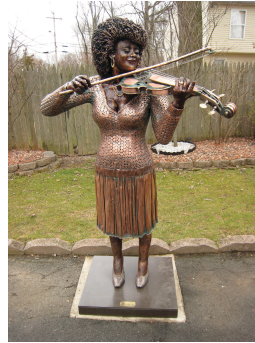
Simon later moved to Paterson, New Jersey, where he improved his craft. There he met his wife, Marilyn, an art teacher in the Paterson Schools, who encouraged him to make some small sculptures and enter an art sale in the park. His work was so well received that he was motivated to continue. He began entering art shows and craft fairs. Simon later taught himself how to solder and weld, and began assembling pipes, roofing copper, brass, and other objects, into larger and more intricate sculptures. His success escalated, with pieces being commissioned

to as far as Germany and Poland. To date, Simon continues to use only common materials for his sculptures and he has recently started to experiment with color using glass enamel powder melted with a blowtorch.

Simon's greatest accomplishment is the life-size sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which was done for Passaic County Community College in Paterson, New Jersey. Having lived in the rural south during the time of segregation, it was a special honor for Simon to create the sculpture as a way of expressing his gratitude to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The sculpture was dedicated to the college by then Governor Tom Kean, with coverage on all major television stations in the New York-New Jersey area, and all major newspapers, including the New York Times.



His favorite piece is a sculpture of a little boy with a baseball and bat that Simon calls "After the Big Game," which is a kind of a self-portrait to give to the world, since there are no pictures of him as a small child. His most recent creation, a life-sized sculpture of an African-American woman playing the violin, called "Zonora Plays Carnegie Hall," made from plumbing end caps, battery cable and copper gutters,



was displayed at the Paterson Museum in February and March of 2007.

Simon is inspired by all of the recognition that he has received for his work. His most significant award to date has been the "Mayor's Award," which was presented to him by Mayor Frank Priore of Parsippany, New Jersey at the unveiling of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sculpture. He has also been featured on

Visions/Visiones, a show produced for public television, and Mid-Day Live on Fox, as well as on all major news programs. In addition, articles about his work have been published in the New York Times, the Herald News, The Parsippany News, The Daily Record in New Jersey, and The Lake City News. When asked his motivation to sculpt, Simon said: "I am motivated to sculpt out of necessity. I have to sculpt just as I have to breathe, eat, and sleep. When I am not working on a piece, I am thinking and searching for the next inspiration."

Apart from making sculptures, Simon stays busy with other work and spending time with his family. His family is everything to him. He loves spending time with his wife, three sons, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. In addition, he owns his own international packing business (Simon International Packing Specialist), which specializes in antiques and artwork. He also enjoys playing guitar with his brother and friends, landscaping, and gardening. When asked how he felt about being our Black History Month feature, the humble Simon expressed: "I am very proud to be the feature person that was chosen for Black History Month. Black History Month is important for many reasons. It helps to recognize and appreciate those that have gone before, that have worked and suffered and still excelled and made this world a better place. It is also important to our young people, to instill pride and hope and confidence that what has come before is also a possibility for their future. It is important for all of us to shrug off mediocrity and strive for excellence. Hopefully, people will understand that from very humble beginnings, it is possible to succeed. I have worked hard all of my life in one way or the other, and I still look forward to the creation of more memorable sculptures in the future." Indeed, Simon plans to continue producing sculptures as long as he has breath in his body. For more information about Sculptor Henry Simon, please visit his website at www.Henry-Simon.com.

Eradicating Cancer One Cornerstone After Another

By Linda Patterson



Linda Patterson

Linda Patterson of Cheraw is committed to one goal: walking cancer out of our lives. Having hosted the first annual community cancer walk in Cheraw last April, that goal has already been fulfilled. Patterson was inspired

to organize the walk after losing one sister to breast cancer and having learned another sister diagnosed with breast cancer. The walk, which commenced and culminated at Pee Dee Union Baptist Church in Cheraw, had approximately 200 participants and raised over \$2000. Profits were used to purchase gas cards for individuals in Cheraw currently undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatments. \$1000 was donated to the American Cancer Society. Despite the success of the walk, Patterson felt as if there was still unfinished business. That was when the idea for The LuCanne Foundation arose. What was originally conceived as an

idea has evolved into a non-profit organization which operates on the premise that small communities across the nation are uniquely equipped with the necessary resources to help eradicate cancer. The LuCanne Foundation, whose name was inspired by Luanne, Patterson's sister who lost her battle with cancer, is built upon six cornerstones. Each cornerstone is composed of a number of programs and activities which seek to insure that cancer is prevented, that cancer is fought and that cancer becomes extinct.

Grounded in the belief that direct action is the best means to fight cancer, some of the activities and programs within each cornerstone include hosting a community health fair, assisting patients undergoing treatment in paying their utility bills, utilizing "spirit lifters" to aid in the emotional well-being of cancer patients and hosting a Survivors' Tea. Once obtaining 501(c)(3) status, Patterson hopes to fulfill at least one cornerstone annually. She looks forward to paying for screenings, such as mammograms and colonoscopies, for uninsured individuals and to hosting a community gala which will raise scholarship funds for children whose parents or guardians are undergoing treatment.

A part of implementing some of the cornerstones will involve applying for grants, and Patterson hopes that the grant-funded programs and activities will create career opportunities for unemployed individuals or for those seeking employment in non-profit organizations. This way, the foundation will not only help to eradicate cancer, but also will help to stimulate the economy by opening up doors of opportunity.

Utilizing her hometown of Cheraw as a "testing ground," Patterson hopes to expand The LuCanne Foundation across the Pee Dee Region, statewide, then nationwide. Communities, no matter how large or small, will be direct participants in helping to stop cancer in its tracks for good. Patterson offers advice to other women who may have a dream they want to pursue, but who may have reservations about doing so: "If the Lord puts something on your heart, you should go for it and see it through. Otherwise, you'll be left with nothing but regrets and questions of what could have been." For more information about how The LuCanne Foundation can serve your community, contact Patterson at TheLuCanneFoundation@gmail.com.

Surviving The Journey

By Anna Bowman



Carol Bryant

A jovial Carol Bryant stood proudly at the podium for the Wrap Up and Recognition Party for the Darlington County Relay for Life in

July to receive recognition for her group, Carol's Team's outstanding achievement raising an astounding \$20,350 for the American Cancer Society. But being able to walk to the podium on that day was the culmination of a journey she didn't think she would ever have to take – a journey with and through cancer.

Bryant, a native of Hartsville, was suddenly on a mission to save her own life after an unexpected call from her doctor. Her husband, Jeff, alongside her supportive family and close friends, quickly joined her journey to a full recovery. Bryant, a Medical Administrator for Sonoco Products Company Corporate Medical Department, remembers the day quiet clearly, when on April 1, 2004, she made a call for her

annual mammogram for April 19th, and asked the receptionist to call if she had a cancellation prior to her annual appointment; a statement she feels inevitably saved her life. She would indeed receive an earlier appointment but the mammogram results would revealed that she had carcinoma of her left breast. "I was in total shock, but things started moving so fast, I really didn't have a lot of time to think about what was happening," she stated. But a courageous Bryant didn't allow the diagnosis of cancer to take over total control of her life. Her "shock" was quickly replaced with her "determination to live a full life!"

On April 19th, which was the original date for her mammogram, Bryant arrived at Carolina Pines Medical Center after making the decision to have a lumpectomy instead of a mastectomy; but a complication arose. "I had one positive lymph node, which shed new light on the situation. "He explained to me that having a positive lymph node meant chemotherapy and radiation, but I told him I would do what I needed to survive!" Like so many people who learn that they have breast cancer, Bryant was both in a state of shock and denial, "I remember going to The American Cancer Society Relay of Walk but mentally and

physically I couldn't handle it and stayed about 30 minutes," she said. But in 2005 when my eight chemo treatments and thirty-five radiation treatments were completed and my hair was coming back, I decided it was time for me to do something positive, so I decided to start raising money for The American Cancer Society Relay for Life," she said. Suddenly, Carol Bryant was now making a conscience decision to ensure that other women and men would be able to have a fighting chance to beat cancer the same way she did by helping to raise the necessary funds for cancer research.

In 2012-2013, with the help of many of her wonderful friends, the lady, who once sat across from her doctor discussing her chances for survival, is now receiving recognition for her committed efforts to fight the disease so that others can also survive the journey. She has worked with Dr. Nickles' office since 1966 and is a graduate of Hartsville High School and attended King's Business College in Charlotte, NC. She and her husband Jeff, are the proud parents of their four-legged daughter, Lady Bug, and recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Celebrating Success One Birthday at a Time!

By Anna Bowman



Joan Billheimer

To say that Joan Billheimer is a tireless community organizer is an understatement. She has graciously shared her talents with various organizations, festivals, advisory boards and events in the Pee Dee, ever since she and husband John, who are originally from New Jersey, moved to Florence, 34 years ago. And the people in Florence and the surrounding Pee Dee couldn't be happier for her arrival as Billheimer quickly became known for her effervescent "Southern Girl" style that made everyone welcome her as a part of their team. Through her work with various companies and organizations, Billheimer, a Community Development Officer with First Reliance Bank, has become one of the catalysts that has helped to shape the renaissance that is now taking place in Florence by being at the forefront of the fundraising

process as a member of the Florence County Economic Development Progress Board. She has been a Trustee with the McLeod Foundation Board since 2004 and has served on countless, Governance; Corporate Partnerships and Grants Committees.

She has been awarded throughout the years for her outstanding community service and has received such honors as: Rotarian of the year for the Florence Breakfast Rotary; Outstanding International Leadership Award from the Florence Y; Rookie of the Year for the American Heart Association; Ashpy P. Lowrimore Community Service Award for the United Way and 2004 Volunteer of the Year for the McLeod Regional Medical Center Foundation, to name just a few of her accolades. She has even been selected the Chamber's Celebrity Chef, for the past three years. With her steadfast commitment to her family and community it was no surprise that when Billheimer was diagnosed with breast cancer, 12 years ago, she didn't allow the disease to take center stage in her busy life, but instead became involved in programs fighting to one

day eliminate the disease so that future generations will have a fighting chance to be cancer-free. So it's no wonder that under her leadership, the First Reliance's Relay For Life Team has become committed to raising funds for the American Cancer Society. She has planned fundraisers throughout the years, and has even created a signature fundraiser, an Italian Buffet, which features entertainment and a live auction. The event has continued to grow throughout the years; along with the amount of monetary funds raised. This year the First Reliance team was successful once again in raising funds for The American Cancer Society and was honored to have raised \$13,000 to present to the organization, on behalf of the employees of First Reliance and their family members whose lives have been affected by cancer.

Billheimer is committed to continuing to help raise funds for research to eradicate cancer in the immediate future so more people will have the opportunity to celebrate more birthdays. Joan and John Billheimer are the proud parents of two daughters, Jo Anne and Mary Jane.

Cancer Support Leader Invites Others to Join, Advocate

By Barbara D. Simon



Barbara D. Simon

I am the daughter of Olia Mae Jenkins-Dixon of Dalzell and the late Robert Mitchell. I am the eleventh child of fifteen, five of whom are deceased. I grew up on a farm but

never like working it; however I knew that my great grand-father (the late Joe Jenkins) and my mom was doing their best to provide for our family. I have been married to Deacon Bobby Simon for 28 years and have two sons, Marcus, and Robert Simon and five adorable grandchildren who range in age from five months to five years old. I attended West Lee Elementary school and am a graduate of Ashwood-Central High School, and Atlanta College of Medical and Dental Assistants. I have been employed by CareSouth Carolina Inc., which is a private, non-profit health care center since 1984 and presently serve as the Laboratory Technical Advisor. I enjoy my

work and the compassionate care we provide to our patients and the community.

I have a strong faith in God and he has truly blessed me with so many wonderful people in my life. I am a member of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church Bishopville, where I serve as a deaconess and chair the Health and Welfare Ministry. I am also a member of the Mechanicsville United Methodist Church. In 1993 I was crowned Mother of the Year at Mechanicsville United Methodist Church, and in 1994-1995 received the Humanitarian Award for outstanding services rendered to Mechanicsville UMC and the community.

In 2000-2001 I helped organize and chair the Lee County first Relay for Life to raise cancer awareness and much needed funds for the American Cancer Society. In 2002 I was presented with an award by Lynette Nelson outreach worker liaison with Best Chance Network for her continuous support and contribution to the fight against cancer. In 2003 was the 2003 recipient of the Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Award for building bridges of understanding for all God's people. In 2004 I organized the first breast cancer aware-

ness walk for Lee County to raise awareness about the breast cancer and need for early screening and have received numerous awards from American Cancer Society in appreciation of my dedication to fight against Cancer.

I am a two time Breast Cancer survivor and I am very thankful to God for his healing power and that wonderful team of doctors who have taken care of me since my first diagnosis in 1998 and again in 2010. The outpouring of prayers and support I received from family, church members and the community over the years truly have been an inspiration to me and I will continue to encourage others to speak out and never give up the fight against cancer. I presently chair the Lee County Cancer Support Group which involves people with different types of cancer. Our meeting is held the third Thursday of each month except July at CareSouth Carolina Inc. in Bishopville, and new members are welcome to join any time. I am also a Reach to Recovery volunteer who offer understanding, hope, and support to other breast cancer patients.

Marion Schools to Continue the Quest Next Year

By Dan Strickland, Superintendent



Dr. Dan Strickland
Marion Schools
Superintendent

Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day. - Michael Josephson It is somewhat ironic that as people around the world celebrate the beginning of a new year, we in education are actually marking the halfway point of our academic year. As people make resolutions and struggle to follow through with these resolutions, in our schools we are actually reviewing results and planning for next year. But for all our predictions and planning, education is actually a moment by moment experience. Each student progresses at his or her own rate, and teachable moments must be seized when they occur. That is one of the joys of education- every day brings a new opportunity to mold a life and change the future. But this is also

one of the challenges of education- finding the new opportunities of every day. Each morning we enter our buildings with a fresh start; a chance to make a difference in a student's life. Each day we have the same purpose: enriching our students' lives, imparting new concepts and skills, and fostering creativity and expression. Teachers discover that they can't do it the same way every day- some days require more flexibility than others. In education, we strive to find the most benefit for our students; we try to boost them, encourage them and nudge them as necessary. The pleasure of being an educator is that we can work in tandem with our peers and our students to create learning opportunities and better lives. We communicate knowledge, skills and concepts. We evaluate the communication with assessments. We communicate with our peers, our administrators, our parents, community members and students in a collaboration designed to increase achievement. This year, as people are reviewing the past year and making plans for the new one, know that we in the Marion County School District are already well into that process. We are looking for the opportunities to increase achievement, to provide our students with the best learning opportunities available, and to increase teacher professional knowledge. Our resolution is to keep doing that.



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Science and Mathematics Governor's School Student Achieves Top ACT Score

By Alison Mann, Director of Marketing



Mary DuBard

Columbia - The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics is pleased to announce Senior Mary DuBard, daughter of Trip DuBard of Florence and Betsy DuBard of Rock Hill, recently earned a top composite score of 36 on the ACT test. Nationally, while the number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of one percent of students who take the ACT earns the top score.

Among test takers in the high school graduating class of 2013, only 1,162 of 1.8 million students earned a composite score of 36. The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. Some students also take ACT's optional Writing Test, but the score for that test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score. "We are so proud of Mary and her accomplishment," said Dr. Murray Brockman, GSSM president. "She is an amazing student and we are excited to see where this success will take her." The average ACT score of GSSM's class of 2013 was 30.3, well above the national score of 20.9 and the state score of 20.4. Only three members of South Carolina's class of 2013 scored a top composite score of 36. In a letter recognizing this exceptional achievement, ACT CEO Jon Whitmore said, "While test scores are just one of the many criteria that most colleges consider when making admission decisions, your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals." ACT test scores are accepted by all major U.S. colleges, and exceptional scores of 36 provide colleges with evidence of student readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead.

Miss Florence and Miss Florence Teen Scholarship Pageant Comes Back Home

By Terrance L. Thomas



Angela T. Clark



Terrance L. Thomas



Bree Boyce

The CROWN Group Florence is proud to be the sponsoring organization of the 2014 Miss Florence and Miss Florence Teen Scholarship Pageants. The pageants will be held on SATURDAY, February 8th, 2014, 6pm at the Chapman Auditorium in the Robert E. McNair Science Building on the campus of Francis Marion University located at 4822 E. Palmetto St., Florence. Headed by Florence Native Terrance L. Thomas and Angela T. Clark of Orangeburg. The CROWN Group Florence is a committee comprised of paid professionals, seasoned volunteers, enthusiastic newcomers, and former competitors. They are committed to seeing the young ladies of our area succeed within the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Organization. Proud and thrilled to add WACH Fox 57 News Anchor and former Miss South Carolina 2011, Bree Boyce, as part of the committee and serving as this year's pageant emcee. As a former Miss Florence 2010, Bree hopes through the CROWN Group Florence to use her experience to assist another local young lady to reach her dreams of becoming Miss South Carolina. As a stepping-stone to becoming Miss America or Miss America's Outstanding Teen, they are delighted to bring back this local preliminary to the great city of Florence. Confident that they can Cultivate and Refine Outstanding Women Now in our area, their goal is for our titleholders to become winners at the Miss South Carolina pageant this summer. Tickets for the pageant are available at, www.thecrowngrouppflore.com

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The Legacy of South Carolina Educators

By Connie Braden



Connie Braden,
Middle and Upper School Principal

Like many South Carolinians, I love my state. This state claims a prominent place in American history and has given birth to many phenomenal citizens who have positively affected the course of our nation. As a native South Carolinian, reared by a father who was a history professor, I was made fully aware at a young age of the rich history found in every

corner of our state. There was much to learn from each country road, farm, field, swamp and cemetery. However, as I have reached adulthood and have entered my own classrooms to educate the next generation, I have come to the conclusion that perhaps South Carolina's most valuable resource has been the thousands of dedicated educators this state has produced throughout the years. Many of these dedicated souls have stayed within our state and have consistently crafted our very own youth to achieve greatness while others have gone out to create a more national effect on the lives of young people. One South Carolinian in particular, comes to mind when I think of educators who have made a global impact on education....and what an impact it has been.

Mary McLeod Bethune was born in 1875 and was raised in Mayesville, SC, a small, rural town just down the road from where I sit. Her parents were former slaves and she was the 15th child out of 17. Mary's family grew up in severe poverty, and each member of the family had to work, many in the fields picking cotton for various area farmers. When a missionary school for African-American children opened several miles from her home, Mary was the only child in the family who committed herself to making the journey each day by foot just to get an education. Bethune later noted that, "the whole world opened to me when I learned to read". After attending seminary in Concord, NC, Bethune attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, IL. Upon completion of her education, she travelled back to the South to begin her teaching career. Bethune's passion for education came from an acute belief that education holds the key to racial advancement for African-Americans in a world where, at that time, the most simplistic of all natural rights was ignored....the equality of all people. Possessing only \$1.50, she began a school in south Florida with only a handful of students. The school, Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute, would eventually merge with Cookman College and later became Bethune-Cookman College, where she remained actively involved until 1942. Bethune also served as the president of the Florida chapter of the National Association of Colored Women and served in an advisory role to 3 United States presidents. A woman with a strong faith in God's purpose for her life, Bethune possessed an evident passion to see young people receive the education that would uncover their true potential, and an undefeatable determination to overcome the societal norms of the day. She changed the face of education for children all over the United States, not only for her generation, but for generations to come.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 37:23, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." As an educator, first and foremost, as Mary McLeod Bethune did, there must be an acknowledgement that God has a divine plan for us all. Each child in our schools and classrooms is miraculously created for a specific purpose. Education is merely a tool we use each day as we guide students in recognizing their amazing, God-given worth and potential. Bethune once said, "Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible." As I strive to carry out the wonderful opportunity God has given me to be a teacher and the middle and upper school principal of The King's Academy, my first and most important desire is to be a worthy follower of Jesus Christ. Only then can I carry out the divine calling to reach young people through education, and aid in guiding them along the path for which they were created. Education is a high and mighty calling, one in which the children of South Carolina are counting on us to whole-heartedly carry out to the best of our ability. As South Carolina educators we have a long and rich legacy to carry on and big shoes to fill – Let's get to it.

Resources

The Holy Bible

Mary McLeod Bethune: Words of Wisdom, (Chiazam Ugo Okoye)

Mary McLeod Bethune: Empowering Educator (Lissa Jones Johnston, Kenneth Goings)



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WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2014 SCHOLARSHIP GALA

By Jaicelyn Spann, Media Advisor

KINGSTREE -- The Williamsburg County Public School Foundation's 2014 Alumni Scholarship Recognition Gala will be held on Friday, March 28, 2014, in the Kingstree Senior High School gymnasium. The purpose of the Gala is to recognize outstanding alumni of, and contributors to, Williamsburg County Public Schools; and to secure donations to help support the higher education aspirations of Williamsburg County Public Schools' graduating seniors. Gala events include dinner, entertainment, and special guest performers and presenters. Tickets will be available soon! Nominations for the 2014 Gala Honorees are now being accepted. Nominations are to be mailed to: Williamsburg County Public School Foundation, P. O. Box 1067, Kingstree, SC 29556, or dropped off at the district office, to the attention of Robert Welch, by January 17, 2014. Please include the name of nominee; nominee's contact information; and the reason the person is being nominated. Nominee criteria are below: Nominees, living or deceased may be alumni of Williamsburg County Public Schools or persons who did not attend Williamsburg County Public Schools. Eligible persons may include former: students, employees or school board members; community leaders; parents of Williamsburg County Public School students; or other persons who have made significant contributions to the system which qualifies them for recognition in the Williamsburg County Public School's Hall of Fame. District alumni are eligible for the Hall of Fame ten years after their graduation. Former employees and former board members are eligible for induction three years after their employment with the district or service on the board has ended. The Foundation welcomes sponsors and donations to assist with the Gala. To participate, send an email to wcpf@wcsd.k12.sc.us, with "Gala Support" in the subject line, or write to Williamsburg County Public School Foundation, P. O. Box 1067, Kingstree, SC 29556. Contributions to the Foundation are accepted on an ongoing basis. All contributions to this 501c3 (non-profit) are tax deductible.

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Cathedral Bible College Offers New Vistas

By Dr. Jonathan Castro Vega, Professor of Theology



Dr. Jonathan Castro Vega

I have been at Cathedral for more than seven years and have obtained my Doctorate degree in Ministry. I met my wife, Lavinia, from Romania here, and we have now been married four years. We currently serve as part of the faculty and administrative staff of the college. Cathedral Bible College is now located on a new campus in Marion, and offers the Associates and Doctorate degrees in Ministry, Missions, Christian Counseling, and Christian Education. The college was founded as Tabernacle Bible Institute in Florence by Dr. Reginald Wayne Miller in 1975. In 38 years our college has grown into a religious, educational and academic institution that has gained the respect of many other similar colleges and universities.

Our president and founder, Dr. R. Wayne Miller, and the Board of Trustees, composed of ministers from various states and foreign countries, have guided the school through constant growth that has produced abundant fruit. Thousands have studied God's Word with the faculty of CBC and more than 1,000 have graduated. Many of them are now ministering, not only in the U.S. and many foreign countries, but in many different denominations and many different types of ministry. Veterans are also able to use their benefits to study at the college. In July of 1993, the trustees of C.B.C. relocated the college to the Grand Strand on the former Air Force base in Myrtle Beach. There the College added a Graduate School Program and became approved to register F1 foreign students. The college also began to start extension programs across South Carolina and in other states and countries.

In 2012 the college purchased the former Marion County Hospital Complex as a new home for the school. The new campus had three times the building space and twice the acreage of the former campus. The College had operated an extension in Marion County for many years prior to making the move. The county already had many outstanding graduates, students, and friends including: Dr. A.C. Robinson of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church [D.Min.], Rev. Cynthia Brown, member of the County School Board and a local Pastor [M.D.], Bishop Michael Blue [Honorary Doctor of Divinity], Rev. Jenkins of the Marion County Council, members of law enforcement, public school teachers, and numerous other Pastors and church leaders. In May 2013, Mayor Davis of Marion also welcomed the college as he presented Dr. Miller with the Key to the City at the annual graduation with more than 1,000 students, faculty, graduates and friends in attendance.

It is estimated that there are nearly 100 churches that have a pastor, or associate minister, or church leader who has studied at Cathedral in S.C. However, the greatest impact of Cathedral has been internationally as students from 50 nations have studied with the college and in any year at least 25 nations are represented among the student body. Some, like Naeem Nasir of Pakistan, are ministering internationally and attracting crowds of 10,000 or more to their services. Others are building churches and schools and orphanages in their various countries. All of them have been inspired by the teaching and training they received at Cathedral Bible College.

Florence-Darlington Technical College Vice-President Enjoys Benefits of Fulbright Scholarship



Dr. Shelley Fortin

Dr. Shelley Fortin, Vice-President of Enrollment Management and Student Services at Florence-Darlington College, enjoyed utilizing her Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright Scholars Program is sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program. Dr. Fortin participated in an International Education Administrators Seminar for student affairs professionals visited colleges in England and other United Kingdom countries to learn about their programs and share information about American

higher education systems. She traveled to the United Kingdom for three weeks last August with 20 other American College educators. "The mission of the Fulbright program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the US and people of other countries. I look forward to working with my colleagues to promote cultural appreciation and share educational best practices" Fortin said.

The Fulbright Scholars Program is named after former Arkansas Senator Williams Fulbright, who was instrumental in establishing the United Nations and served as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Dr. Fortin earned a BA in Sociology from Stonehill College, an MA in Human Resource Development from American International College and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Fortin came to FDTC from Pima Community College where she was most recently the Deputy Executive Administrator. She's also held the following positions: Dean of Student Development and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Services. At Bristol Community College, Dr. Fortin was the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Director of Financial Aid, Director of Student Activities and Drug and Alcohol Education Coordinator and Counselor.

Florence Career Center Consistently Leading

By Les Echols



Director Alphonso Bradley along with the Faculty and Staff of Florence Career Center

With so many education standards in question, The Florence Career Center continues to earn positive accolades and deliver powerful success stories. Most recently the center received the Absolute and Growth rating of Excellent on the 2013 State of South Carolina Annual School Report Card. The Report card is released by the Department of Education and features data highlighting the growth and performance of South Carolina public schools. This is up from the Average and At-Risk Absolute and Growth Rating they received respectively in 2012. The report also shows that the career center is progressing in terms of quality of education and instructors.

Career Center Director Al Bradley has been the constant in the noticeable enhancements in the performance of the Center. As always, the selfless Bradley gives credit for success to the hard work of his staff, administrators, students, school board and teachers. "We can also attribute much of our success to our involvement in Technology Centers That Work", said Bradley. Technology Centers That Work, (or TCTW), is a school improvement initiative designed to help career centers review and implement the actions needed to produce high-demand, high-wage graduates who will be leaders in their selected careers. The initiative is sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Education and the Southern Regional Education Board. "We also want to acknowledge and thank Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College for their ongoing role and partnerships in the development of our initiatives", Bradley continued.

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Performing Arts & Science Academy: The Essence of Success.

By Anna Bowman



Justin Roberts

Imagine discovering your life's passion at the tender age of seven-years old by falling deeply in love with the art of dance! Justine Roberts was that little girl who made that awesome discovery and turned her passion into her own dance studio, the Justine Roberts Performing Arts Academy (PAA). With her family as her biggest supporter, she was able to major in dance for two years at the prestigious, New York University, before leaving to become a professional dancer with the world renowned Alvin Ailey Dance

Company. She continued as a professional dancer with various dance companies, including LaRocke Bay African Dance and the Joyce Harrigon Dance Company of New York. Roberts even had a role in the famous dance movie, Fame.

When Roberts arrived in South Carolina she wanted to continue dancing but soon discovered that she couldn't find the style of dance that was dear to her heart and soul. "When I relocated from New York seeking jobs to teach dance, I couldn't find the style of modern dance that I was accustomed to", she said. Roberts also noticed the lack of diversity in the dance classes. "I realized the classes weren't filled with minority students so I wanted to give back and open up the academy to nurture the children and give them some awareness and opportunities to be able to dance," she enthusiastically stated.

In 1996, the dream of owning a dance program came true for the vibrant Roberts and her 75 dance students. She grew her program throughout the years with the assistance of enthusiastic students, parents and a welcoming community. Her students ranging in ages from 4-18, includes all races, study classes in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, as well as African and Modern Dance. Her students have performed in various events throughout the Pee Dee over the years, most recently the Christmas

tree lighting for the City of Marion, as well as the annual Youth Day Program. Roberts still marvels at the sparkle in the eyes of her students as they take the stage to perform in highbrow venues around like Francis Marion University's Performing Arts Center. "I have a former students studying dance after receiving a college scholarship, as well as a student dancing professionally with a dance company in New Jersey. I also have a student dancing with the Columbia Ballet Company and several young ladies who are now certified dance instructors with their own dance school," Roberts proudly announced. In 2010, the Academy became a 501-c, nonprofit organization.

In 2013 Roberts changed the name of her program to The Performing Arts and Science Academy. "I believed that it was time to expand and broaden my horizon and add the science component to the academy," she said. "I did research into the negative educational outcomes of South Carolina as well as Marion County and I wanted to make a difference in the educational lives of our youth, in the same positive way that dance has impacted their lives," she added.

Roberts attributes her extraordinary staff and board members for making The Performing Arts & Science Academy a success by focusing on the child's entire growth and development. "We expose the children to as many events in South Carolina as we can, as well as teach them using the guidelines of the South Carolina curriculum," said Roberts. But most importantly she teaches each child that they can become the best person they strive to be.

Since beginning her dance program 18 years ago, the single mother of three adult children and grandmother to five grandchildren, she has had the pleasure of guiding the lives of hundreds of students in South Carolina. The little girl with the big dream to dance, has not only achieved her goal, but has also added another passion to her life; being an advocate for children by continuing to be a positive role model for the youth in Marion and the surrounding counties.

To find out additional information about The Performing Arts & Science Academy, located at 320 North Main Street, Marion, SC, call them at 843-230-1298.


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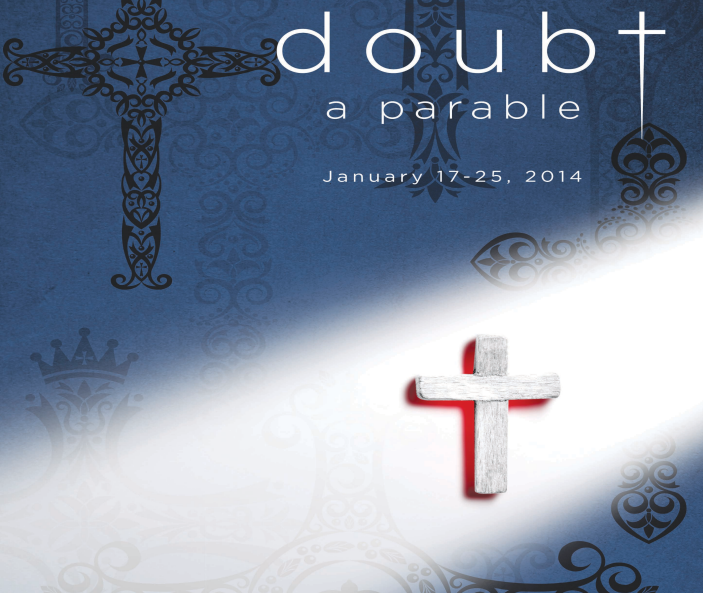
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Florence Little Theatre is Presenting 'Doubt, A Parable'

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Taking Financial Responsibility: What's Your Game Plan?

The old adage, “People don’t plan to fail, they fail to plan,” can be especially true when it comes to finances. And, given the current economy, the best time to start taking control of your finances is today. Being financially responsible doesn’t just happen. It’s a conscious decision you make to live within your means. Slowly, American consumers are catching on. A nationwide survey on the financial state of U.S. households, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, found only 13 percent of households are currently saving 7 percent or more of their disposable income, although fully 36 percent of households expect to save at this level in 5 to 10 years.¹ While that trend may be encouraging, there remains ample room for improvement.

It's Never Too Late to Plan

No matter what stage of life you’re in, you should have a strategy that helps meet your current financial needs, while creating a path to help you reach long-term financial goals. Whether you’re just starting out or are nearing retirement, a strategy is necessary, and the good news is no matter what your age, it’s never too late to start. A proactive approach now can help avoid disappointments later on. Consider the following scenarios:

- Start a savings plan. By just saving a small amount today, you can make a huge difference later on. What financial goals can you set today to help make your dreams a reality?
- Are your loved ones adequately protected? Would your family or partner be able to maintain their standard of living in the event something happened to you? Buy a life insurance policy — or increase your coverage — and make sure your loved ones are protected.
- What about college expenses? If you’re a parent or guardian, it’s never too early to start saving for your children’s college expenses. Start a college education fund, so they won’t be burdened with student loans and can attend the college of their choice.
- If you’re nearing retirement ... consider what amount of your current income you can allocate into retirement savings vehicles, such as 401(k) plans, IRAs and other investments. With retirement possibly lasting 20 or 30 years, the more resources you have, the more likely you’ll be able to enjoy it.

No matter where you are in life, a proper financial strategy will help you achieve your financial goals, maintain your current lifestyle and ease worries about the future. Take action today to help realize tomorrow’s goals and dreams.

Viewpoint on U.S. Savings Rate, PwC Financial Services Research Institute, 5/13/2010.

This educational third-party article is being provided as a courtesy by Julie A. Cord, New York Life Insurance Company. For additional information on the information or topic(s) discussed, please contact Julie A. Cord at jacord@ft.newyorklife.com or 317.289.3010.



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Jamont McRae, A Modern Woodmen of America



Jamont McRae,
Managing Partner

People helping people achieve a higher quality of life is the core value of any fraternal benefit society. And as such, that is what Modern Woodmen of America delivers. Jamont McRae, a Modern Woodmen representative in Dillon, serves members, their families, and residents in and around the Pee Dee area. A unique combination of business and voluntarism, the organization offers life insurance, annuity and investment* products, along with fraternal member

benefits for families and their communities. Founded in 1883, the organization was named in honor of pioneering woodmen who cleared forests to build homes and communities and provide security for their families. Modern Woodmen of America was created to clear away family financial difficulties. While its founding mission has remained, Modern Woodmen's products and services have changed to meet the changing needs of today's families. Based in Rock Island, Ill., the organization serves more than 750,000 members nationwide.

McRae, FIC, CFFM, is a graduate of Dillon High School and Francis Marion University and is a life long resident of the Dillon area. His office is located at 1109 A Hwy 301 S, Dillon, SC. For more information about Modern Woodmen life insurance, annuities, investments,* retirement plans and member benefits, contact McRae at 843-713-1482 or Jamont.McRae@mwarep.org

*Securities offered through MWA Financial Services Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Modern Woodmen of America, 1701 1st Avenue, Rock Island, IL, 61201, 309-558-3100. Member: FINRA, SIPC. Products are available in most states. Individual representatives may not be licensed to sell all products.

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Damon Miller, Goshen, Ind., is 4 years old. He likes trucks, football and running, running, running. And - like any kid - he loves unwrapping presents. But Damon is unaware of just how many presents he received when he became a Modern Woodmen member. When his parents purchased his life insurance certificate, they did so much more than protect against the unimaginable. They gave him a host of living benefits - some that could last a lifetime. Go ahead ... sneak a peek!

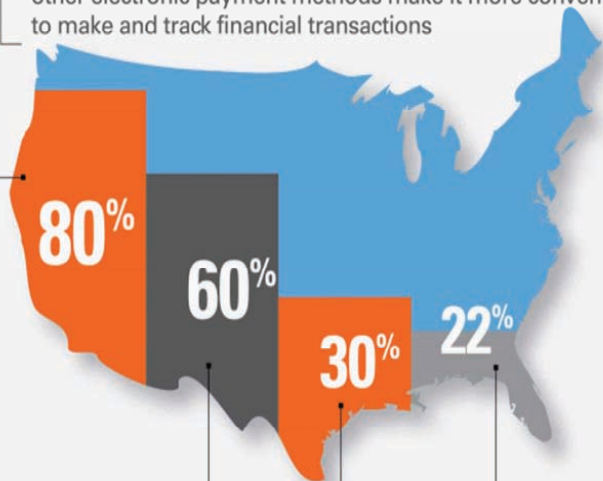
Members Ryan and Crystal Miller, Goshen, Ind., protect themselves and their son, Damon, with Modern Woodmen life insurance coverage.

Reprinted from The Modern Woodmen | Winter 2013

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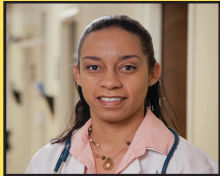
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Routine Pediatric Visit Saves Baby's Life

By Tiffany Straus, HopeHealth Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Pamela Harrison expected her one month-old daughter's well child visit to go just as smoothly as the first few. Little did she know, it would be the visit that would save her precious Pailyn's life. On Friday, August 9th, Harrison took her healthy baby girl to HopeHealth Pediatrics in Manning for her scheduled one-month well visit. Her older children are also patients of Dr. Beryl Bachus-Keith, so this was a very normal routine for the mother of four. During her examination, Dr. Bachus-Keith heard something in Pailyn's heart that raised her concern enough to call for an emergency cardiology appointment. Because Pailyn couldn't be seen until Monday, Bachus-Keith did her best to soothe the fear that any mother would have in this situation. After an entire weekend of worry, one-month old Pailyn visited Dr. Charles Trant, a pediatric cardiologist at McLeod Pediatric Specialists in Florence. The cardiologist found Pailyn's heart to sound normal upon his exam but diagnosed her with Dilated Cardiomyopathy after performing an echocardiogram. Happy and healthy-appearing Pailyn was going to need a heart transplant. "It was so hard to believe," explained Harrison. "Pailyn was right on track with gaining weight, eating, and all other physical and mental functions of a normal month-old baby."

The staff at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston was just as amazed as Harrison upon Pailyn's arrival to their facility on August 12th. They were fascinated with Bachus-Keith's ability to detect the problem with Pailyn's heart at such an early age and commended her clinical skills throughout Pailyn's hospital stay. After being in the hospital for nearly three weeks, the insurance company finally approved Pailyn's case on September 6th, which would allow her to be placed on the transplant waiting list for a new heart. Pailyn's family patiently prepared for a wait that would likely be more than six months to a year. The day after Pailyn was placed on the transplant waiting list, the first exterior sign of her illness – a collapsed lung – presented itself.

On September 8th, Harrison and other family members were in the waiting room visiting with a family whose infant daughter was finally receiving her new heart after waiting eight months. She then received the fateful call that Pailyn's doctor wanted to see her. After only two short days of being on the transplant list, they had a heart for seven-week-old Pailyn! Little Pailyn would soon be the youngest baby in MUSC history to receive a heart transplant. News traveled fast, and many of Pailyn's family members began arriving to be part of this special-yet-scary day. By 9 pm, Dr. Scott Bradley of MUSC Children's Heart Center, and his team, were preparing Pailyn was in surgery to give her a new heart. This would be Bradley's second transplant of the day. The first was the family Harrison met in the waiting room. At 5 am, the surgical team happily reported that Pailyn's heart transplant was a success, and she was recovering beautifully!

After two months, the Harrison family was approved to take Pailyn home to Manning on October 17th, just in time to rest up for the holidays. Pailyn will return to MUSC in Charleston for regular visits with her cardiologists for the rest of her life, but the family is happy to report her new heart is currently showing no signs of rejection! "One of the hardest parts about waiting for Pailyn's heart was knowing that we were basically waiting for another child to pass away," shared Harrison, who is writing a letter to the family who donated the heart that saved Pailyn's life. The family will then be able to choose whether they want to reveal their identities by responding to the letter. Harrison will respect whatever they decide. "I just want them to know how grateful we are." Harrison also wants other parents to understand the importance of complying with regular well child visit schedules with a pediatrician. There are online resources such as brightfutures.org that offer recommended schedules. "My daughter may not have received her heart in time if it weren't for Dr. Bachus-Keith," said Harrison. "She is our little life saver."



Pamela Harrison, Pailyn & Dr. Beryl Bachus- Keith

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Power of the Mix Rules the Day in GE Healthcare Diversity

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister



LaTrina Folk, GE Healthcare
General Manager

The working relationship between GE Healthcare and its associates is truly mutually beneficial: they each give their best every day, according to General Manager LaTrina Folk. “At GE, diversity is about the power of the mix – combining different ideas and experiences to deliver the best results. Our inclusive culture fosters teamwork and innovation to help our business grow and this is a tangible benefit. We want to reflect the communities where we serve and do business, she said.”

Just in doing her part, she oversees a facility employing 350 people which share in the operating rhythm for what is important. “Safety,

quality, people and production are what counts here and we weave diversity as part of the operating rhythm” and that practice means that there are expectations and success is measurable, she told. As in every functional part of a society, education is key. ”I encourage everyone and anyone to get an education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focused areas. We are focused on recruiting and promoting diverse talent from around the world and this includes technical degrees and certificates in welding CAM/CAM programming, machine tools, etc.” she advised.

There are varied perceptions about workplace diversity ensuring workplace equality, however if one guaranteed the other it would be through their affinity networks. “The African-American Forum is one of them. Through the collective efforts of the affinity networks, the organization is a force in driving strategies to recruit and retain diversified talent, ultimately

resulting in the acceleration and growth of this business. It is embedded in our culture to challenge our employees to their highest potential so they can better understand and respond to our global customer base,” said the industrial engineer who graduated from South Carolina State University and Florida A&M University, noting that these affinity networks are leading catalysts and an inspiration to helping GE build bridges in the business world and achieve its key deliverables. “At GE Healthcare,” she continued, “we are committed not only to creating innovative solutions to help physicians best serve patients, but also to the communities in which we’re rooted. Specifically in Florence, we make state-of-the-art superconducting magnets used in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment.”

And as in every fully functional operation, there are challenges and at GE Healthcare - Florence, one of the largest one currently is “ensuring a successful completion of our addition to our facility“ which located here 30 years ago. “We made the announcement in May and have been diligently working to complete our project. The new \$17 million facility will use innovative technology to capture waste helium from ongoing operation and liquify it for future use in MR superconducting magnets. Helium, she explained is used for more than just balloons: it is an essential to MR production as it is currently the only element on earth that can effectively keep an MR magnet at a necessary and extremely cold, operating temperature – more than 440 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Folk joined GE in 1998 and has held Black Belt, Sourcing Materials, Production Quality and Operations roles of progressive responsibility within GE Power and Water and now Healthcare. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, volunteering, sports and spending time with family and friends.



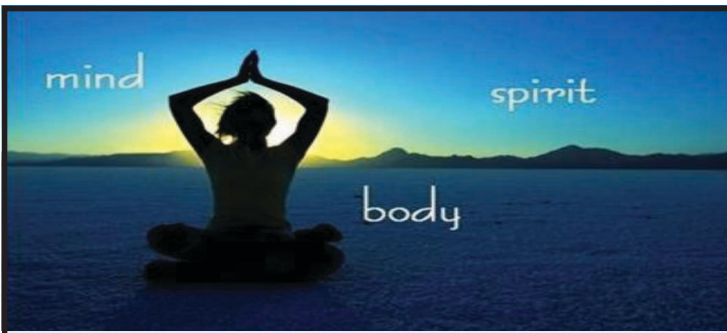
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You Seriously Are What You Eat!

By Dr. David Gittens

You would not go to a gas station and fill your tank with the wrong type of fuel, would you? Of course not, because you know what the consequences would be. You would break down a half mile along the road. It is pretty much the same with the human body, except for one thing: we are such amazing creatures that our bodies can travel for many years on the wrong fuel. Depending on the individual, the consequences of eating unhealthily may be a series of running repairs throughout the years to keep you on the road or one catastrophic and terminal break down that sends you to that big scrap heap in the sky. Changing your diet, even slightly, can bring improvements to your overall health. A radical overhaul can transform it for the rest of your (extended) life.

Lifestyle Changes for a Healthy Life

- Exercise at least 30 minutes three or four days a week;
- Dine out less often; • Limit alcohol intake and give up smoking.
- Eat more raw foods; • Choose organic produce, if you can.
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Florence Bodyworks Studio: Membership Has Its Privileges

By Dr. David Gittens



Exactly what is a massage? A massage has been defined by Merriam-Webster as the manipulation of tissues (as by rubbing, kneading, or tapping) with the hand or an instrument for therapeutic purposes. It has been proven that

massages are more advantageous than to just make one “feel good”. Studies have shown, however, that a massage is an effective treatment for:

- Alleviating stress;
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Carolinas Hospital System Named ‘Top Performer on Key Quality Measures®’ by The Joint Commission

By Kim Harrington, CHS Director of Marketing/Media Relations

Carolinas Hospital System today was named as one of the nation’s Top Performers on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of U.S. health care organizations. Carolinas Hospital System was recognized for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions. These conditions include heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children’s asthma, stroke and venous thrombo embolism, as well as inpatient psychiatric services. Carolinas Hospital System is one of 1,099 hospitals earning the distinction of Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® for attaining and sustaining excellence in the following measure set(s): heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care. The ratings are based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the 2012 calendar year.

“Carolinas Hospital System’s first priority is providing patients with high quality, safe and effective care through proven practices that improve outcomes and the patient experience. We are proud to be named to The Joint Commission’s list of Top Performers. The credit goes to our medical staff, employees and volunteers whose hard work every day makes this possible,” said Darcy Craven, CEO, Carolinas Hospital System. “The clinicians at Carolinas Hospital System are dedicated to treating patients with established protocols to give them the best possible outcomes,” said Kevin W. Shea, MD, FACP, Chief Medical Officer, Carolinas Hospital System. “It’s an honor to have the standard of care we provide here recognized on a national level.”

Each of the hospitals named Top Performers met three 95 percent performance thresholds. First, the hospital achieved cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures. Second, recognized hospitals reached performance of 95 percent or above on every reported accountability measure where there are at least 30 denominator cases. Third, hospitals must have at least one core measure set that has a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and within that measure set all applicable individual accountability measures have a performance rate of 95 or above. A 95 percent score means a hospital provided an evidence-based practice 95 times out of 100 opportunities to provide the practice. Each accountability measure represents an evidence-based practice – for example, giving aspirin at arrival for heart attack patients, giving antibiotics one hour before surgery, and providing a home management plan for children with asthma.

“Carolinas Hospital System and all the Top Performer hospitals have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to quality improvement and they should be proud of their achievement,” says Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president and chief executive officer, The Joint Commission. “We have much to celebrate this year. Nearly half of our accredited hospitals have attained or nearly attained the Top Performer distinction. This truly shows that we are approaching a tipping point in hospital quality performance that will directly contribute to better health outcomes for patients.”

Carolinas Hospital System

Carolinas Hospital System is a leading regional acute care facility, comprised of 420 beds, more than 1,800 employees and nearly 300 physicians representing all major specialties dedicated to serving the healthcare needs of the residents of Northeastern South Carolina. Carolinas’ offers acute care, diagnostic services, women’s health, cancer care, cardiac services, general and laparoscopic surgery, rehabilitation, emergency/trauma care, community health services and more. The hospital’s Chest Pain Center is first in the region to be accredited and one of only 15 in the state to achieve this distinction.

Carolinas Hospital System prides itself on exceeding the expectations of its patients while delivering compassionate, quality care. For more information, please visit CarolinasHospital.com.

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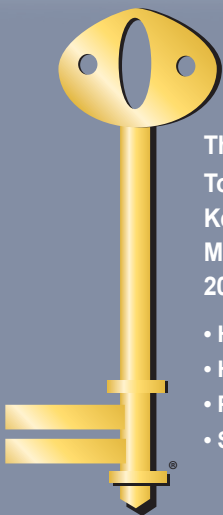
By focusing on quality care for patients and doing what's right, we have received national recognition. Carolinas Hospital System is recognized by The Joint Commission as a *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures®* for achieving excellence in performance on its accountability measures during 2012 for Heart Attack, Heart Failure, Pneumonia and Surgical Care measure sets.

So what does our being a top performer in using evidence-based care mean for you? Peace of mind in knowing that some of the top healthcare in the nation is available right here in Florence.

Find out more at our website: CarolinasHospital.com.

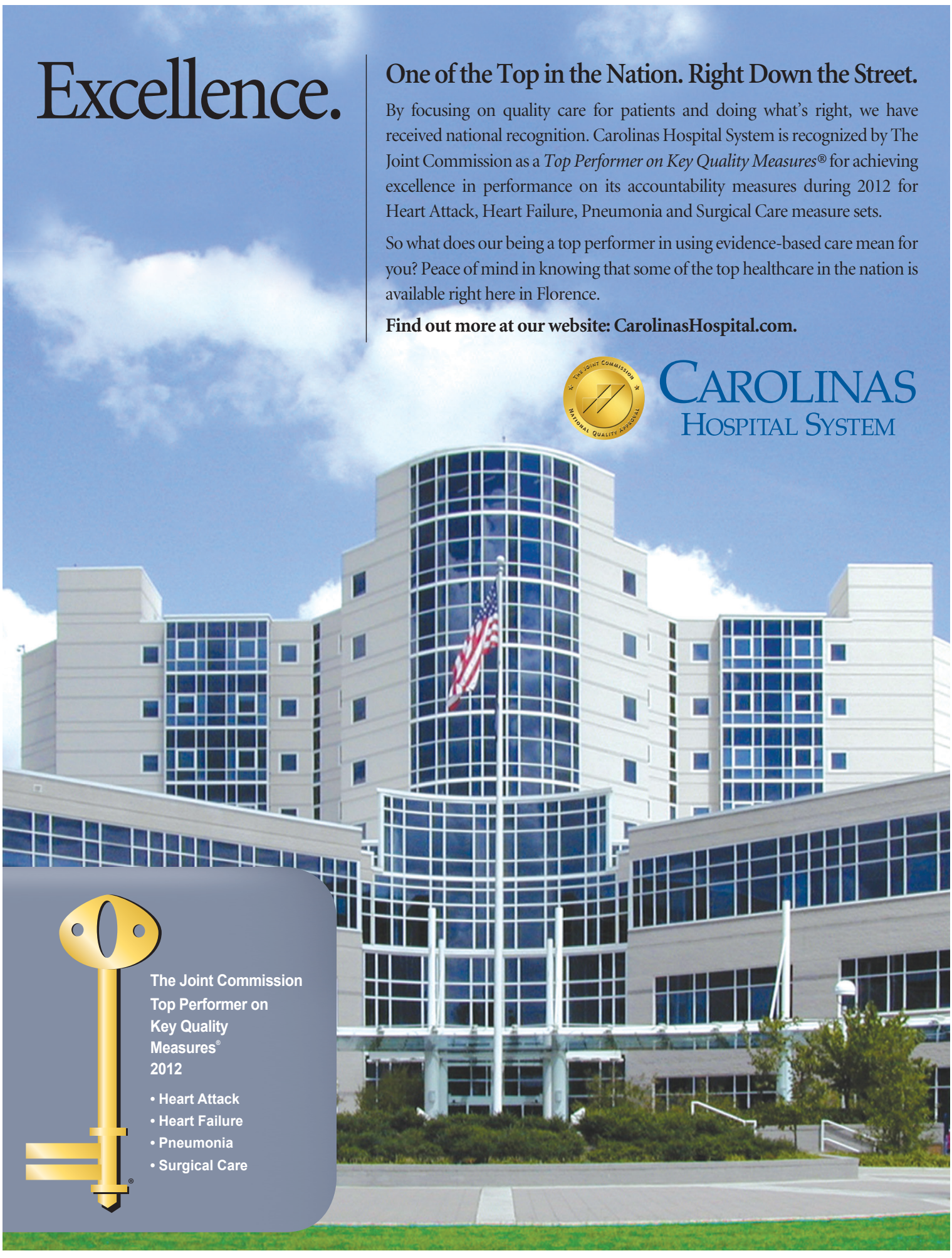


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- Heart Failure
- Pneumonia
- Surgical Care



GFAMA Raising Awareness in Religious Diversity

By Alicia C. Phillip



Rev. Mary M. Finklea

In the words of Maya Angelou: “We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the

tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.” And indeed, one area in which we see this rich tapestry of diversity is in the area of religion.

One local organization that celebrates and embraces religious diversity is the Greater Florence Area Ministries Alliance (GFAMA). The GFAMA is an inter-faith, multi-denominational group headed by Reverend Mary M. Finklea, who serves on the Board of Lighthouse Ministries, and is also Pastor of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Florence. Reverend Finklea recently celebrated her eighth anniversary at Cross and Crown and describes her pastor role, as giving her “the joy of equipping the saints to live out their calling 24-7, not just on Sundays, and not just when it is convenient.”

Membership in GFAMA consists of the voluntary association of clergy, professional workers, and other associates who desire to work together for the common good, and is open to all clergy, rabbis, imams, and other ministry professionals who are supportive of GFAMA’s goals. In the past, leaders within numerous Christian denominations and the Jewish community have participated in the group’s activities, and GFAMA is looking forward to growing its relationship with Muslims in the area. Members support the following goals: to provide a united voice and witness to the Greater Florence community; to pray for one another and the Florence community; to serve as a central resource and educational contact for clergy, faith

ministries, service community agencies, and service-based groups; to provide fellowship, discussion, study, mutual support, understanding, and cooperation in areas of mutual concern; to provide seminars and other educational opportunities for clergy and other ministries; to serve as a liaison for hospitals and chaplaincy programs and other developing ministries; to serve as a responsible civic influence in this community; to welcome all newly arriving clergy and ministry personnel to the Florence area; to encourage and foster a unified service of care to the needy in the community by supporting Lighthouse Ministries; to provide devotional news articles to newspapers, radio, internet, and TV as available; and to maintain a directory of houses of worship, and a separate roster of ministry personnel, which would include special abilities, interests or available qualifications, which an individual may be able to offer the organization or community.

When asked about the most important religious diversity challenges facing the community, Reverend Finklea discussed the dissension among religious groups. According to Finklea:

“Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about Sunday mornings being one of the most segregated times in our country. Martin Luther King, Jr. was named after a leader greatly respected in my tradition, Martin Luther. What they shared in common was that both were pastors. They cared about their people. They knew their burdens. They were both preachers. They publicly advocated for change. They did not hide their light under a bushel, but were bold in their proclamation! They were both poets and reformers. Neither was perfect, but they used words, music, liturgy to transform society and call us to a brighter

vision of beloved community. We need more folks willing to stand up for peace and civil discourse. We can’t expect it of our politicians if people of faith don’t practice it! We should be the model of civil discourse, yet you find in the religious community great strife and disrespect. It is sad, and it greatly diminishes our witness. The rest of the world looks at people of faith arguing and shouting and full of hate and thinks, “Why would I be a part of that?” Jesus prays for us that we may be one so that the world may believe. That is my prayer as well.”

And the GFAMA sets out to help alleviate this problem by focusing on relationships and building stronger levels of trust. According to Reverend Finklea, “Relationships matter. One of our greatest enemies is ignorance. Relationships necessitate learning about each other, which triumphs over ignorance. It’s easy to hate what/who you don’t know.”

To encourage this relationship building, GFAMA engages in several different activities and events in the Florence community. One such event is the Annual Thanksgiving Service, which is held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at 4:00pm, usually at the downtown library. The group also holds monthly meetings to provide a time for clergy and other professional ministries’ representatives to fellowship and build bridges in the community. In addition, the GFAMA partners with many of the helping organizations in the community to grow its outreach.

For more information about the Greater Florence Area Ministries Alliance, please contact Reverend Mary Finklea at 843.669.2355 or Pastor Henry Badie at 843.669.6885.



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