



PG. 56

SANDRA BARNES
PEE DEE MENTAL
HEALTH CENTER

PG. 69

JAMES JIMMY TRUSSELL JR.
ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK

PG. 5

YVETTE HUNSICKER
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR
CO., INC.

PG. 9

JODY COOPER
CITY OF LAKE CITY

DIVERSITY WORKS



JULY 2022 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3

"For All of Us"

COVER STORY: PG. 38 BRIAN YOST

Jebaily Law Firm

(Cover photo by William "Cash" Stukes, At Your Service Media)



LOCAL IS OUR SUPERPOWER

Your local, minority owned staffing partner for:

- Administrative & Clerical
- Contact Center
- Data Entry
- Light Industrial
- Inventory
- Material Handling
- Custodial
- Warehouse



SPHERION™
STAFFING & RECRUITING

Florence: 843.664.0050
Conway: 843.438.8337
spherion.com

Published By:



1951 Pisgah Rd., Suite 111 • Florence, SC 29502
Business: (843) 669-5929 / (843) 413-2743
Mobile: (843) 307-5146
Website: www.diversityworkssc.com
www.dmmadvertisingandmarketing.com
Email: dmmadworks@aol.com



STAFF:

Diana M. Murphy-Eaddy	CEO/Publisher
Gregory Eaddy	Production Coordinator
Glaciera Brown Mason	Editor
Distinctive Design Graphics	Layout & Design
Chinel Boateng	Contributing Writer
Anna Bowman	Contributing Writer
Mallory Brayboy	Contributing Writer
Susan Carter	Contributing Writer
Yvette Crawley	Contributing Writer
Les Echols	Contributing Writer
Adalia Ellis	Contributing Writer
Ta'Meeka Epps	Contributing Writer
De'Angela Haynes	Contributing Writer
Robin L. Lewis	Contributing Writer
Tonita Perry	Contributing Writer
Jennifer Guiles Robinson	Contributing Writer
Terry James	Photographer
William "Cash" Stukes	Photographer/Film Maker

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.

ADVERTISERS & PARTNERS INDEX

A NEW BEGINNING HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER | www.anewbeginninghealthandwellness.com
ADP | www.adp.com/careers
ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK | www.ABBank.com
ATLANTIC TOOLING AND FABRICATING COMPANY | www.atfctooling.com
B&J PAVING | www.scpaving.com
BETHEA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY | www.bethearetirement.com
CARESOUTH CAROLINA | www.caresouth-carolina.com
CAROLINA BANK | www.carolinabank.net
CIRCLE PARK BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES | www.circlepark.com
CITY OF FLORENCE | www.cityofflorence.com
CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY | www.clafin.edu
DEDICATED COMMUNITY BANK | www.dcbcs.com
DUKE ENERGY | www.DUKE-ENERGY.com/COMMUNITY
EFIRD CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE | www.efirdautogroup.com
FINKLEA, HENDRICK & BLAKE, LLC | www.FinkleaLaw.com
FLORENCE COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU | www.visitflo.com/sc-revolutionary-rivers
FLORENCE-DARLINGTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE | www.fdtc.edu
FLORENCE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORP. | www.florencedowntown.com
FLORENCE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA | www.florencesymphony.com
FOOD LION LLC | www.foodlion.com
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY | www.fmarion.edu
GITTENS CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CLINIC | www.GittensHealthClinic.com
HIGH-RISE HOTELS | www.High-RiseHotels.com
HONDA OF SOUTH CAROLINA | www.hondaofsouthcarolina.com
HOPEHEALTH | www.hope-health.org
HORRY GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE | www.HGTC.edu/HR
IHEART MEDIA | www.iheartmedia.com
JEBAILY LAW FIRM P.A. | www.JebailyLaw.com
LAKE CITY ARTFIELDS COLLECTIVE | www.artfieldssc.org
LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT | www.leeschooldistrictsc.org
LOS PORTALES RESTAURANT
MAGNOLIA HEALTH CARE | www.magnolia-health.com
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT | www.marion.k12.sc.us
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR CAREERS | www.musc.edu/careers
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR STUDENTS | www.musc.edu/admissions
MUSC Health Florence Medical Center | MUSChealth.org/Florence
MCCALL FARMS | www.mccallfarms.com
MCLEOD HEALTH | www.mcleodhealth.org
NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE | www.newyorklife.com
ONE SOURCE INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE
PALMETTO FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION | www.palmettofirst.com
PATHEON AT THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC | www.thermofisher.com/patheon
PEE DEE DENTAL GROUP | www.drcharlesconner.com
PERFORMANCE FOOD SERVICE | www.performancefoodservice.com
PRACTICAL PURPOSE SOLUTIONS | www.practicalpurposesolutions.com
QUENTIN WILLIAMS INSURANCE & FINANCIAL GROUP
RALDEX HOSPITALITY GROUP | www.raldex.com
RUBICON FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICE | www.rubiconsc.org
RUIZ FOODS | www.elmonterey.com
SAMUEL LEE TONEY FOUNDATIONS | www.samtony.com
SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. | www.santee.org
SC EDUCATION LOTTERY | www.sceducationlottery.com
SPHERION | www.spherion.com
STATE FARM INSURANCE | www.starleealexander.com
SYNOVUS | www.synovus.com
TERRY JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY
THE LAW OFFICE OF LINWARD EDWARDS II ATTORNEY AT LAW | www.ledwardslaw.com
THE REHAB CENTER AT MORRELL | www.rehabcenteratmorrell.com
TRINITY COLLEGIATE SCHOOL | www.trinitycollegiate.org
WILSON SENIOR CARE | www.wilsonseniorcare.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S HEART



Glaceria Brown Mason
Editor

Welcome to the third quarter issue of Diversity Works Magazine! With just a few weeks into the summer season, I greet you with summer in mind and look forward to all the season has to offer. In this issue, prepare to delve deep into the recurring and special sections for great content shared by you, our loyal readers and partners.

We begin this issue with our cover story about the well-known and respected local Pee Dee business, the Jebailey Law Firm, as they proudly announce their recent expansion with a new

location in the Grand Strand. In their jubilee period, the Jebailey Law Firm continues to practice a level of expertise and community service in the region. Read about the firm's service capabilities and how their presence and impact support the community at large.

In our business section, we share articles demonstrating how business bolsters the economy of our growing communities. The practice of diversity and inclusion is important to the success of every business. Diversity Works recognizes and applauds the development of Honda's first-ever Inclusion and Diversity Report. Read about their commitment to, and progress on inclusion. Need a career change? Learn the benefits of women working in the construction industry. Read how Duke Energy supports first responders in SC, with more than a \$500,000 grant toward emergency preparedness, while offering residents relief to high summer cooling costs. Join us and send best wishes and congratulations to, Darryl Davids, retiring after 35-years of dedicated service at McCall Farms.

Diversity Works' education section is always full of education news from around the Pee Dee. A taste of what you'll discover as you make your way through great content, are the grants awarded to Florence One Schools, by the School Foundation. Stay informed about the new Florence One School principals, Carrie Ann Brigman, Wanda Williams-Parrott, Tina Johnson and Joni Bown, who will lead our youngest learners in the new school year.

Diversity Works congratulates Clafin University President, Dr. Dwaun Warmack, students and faculty on the historic academic partnership forged with the London Metropolitan University to provide international study abroad! Read more about this upcoming international opportunity. Want more great education news? If you live in the Darlington area, get the scoop on Project Lead the Way, STEM grants made possible by the Ardagh Group. Read the story about Clafin University being the recipient of a Bank of America investment in yet another historic collaboration between the SC Department of Corrections and the University's Center for Social Justice. Read the story and learn about their Pathways from Prison Program and how its inclusiveness benefits incarcerated individuals.

There's nothing more special than to have a FIRST! As you peruse further, celebrate Abigail Buddenborg as the FIRST student in Florence One Schools' Aviation Program to earn a pilot's license. Keep your eyes peeled on the pages and learn about the FIRST Francis Marion University mechanical engineering graduating class. Our Education section is worth the read! Enjoy these and other articles in the section.

Join other loyal readers in congratulating the Dean of Students at Francis Marion University, LaTasha Brand, as the newest recipient of FMU's African American Faculty and Staff Coalition's Diversity Award. This award highlights her work in celebrating diversity and inclusion at Francis Marion University.

Anytime is a great time to visit our national parks, however, summer is especially enjoyable with the plethora of activities available to individuals, children and families. As the state of SC, and the nation, recognizes and celebrates National Parks and Recreation Month, the theme, We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation, supports the dedication and work of Parks and Recreation professionals who rise up to support our communities every day. Find articles which lists active parks and

recreation venues offering activities for outdoor enthusiasts. Enjoy this special section and find more information on parks near you.

Fresh off the heels of last quarter's successful ArtFields 2022, read about the talented winners and their art pieces. Continue taking it all in as the stories weaved, by a host of extraordinary writers, shine on our special section, artists appreciation. Here, find stories that recognize local artists for their creativity, skill and determination. Whether graphic artists, painters, videographers, drama thespians or Afro-Latin dance, whatever the art form or musical genre, be it the symphony orchestra, Big Band or dee-jays spinning the ones and twos, we applaud them for their unique talents. Stories like these and more are included to massage your creative senses and inspire. Read about the Florence Regional Arts Alliance and other local organizations awarding scholarships to enhance artistic talent.

As the savvy readers, you are, you'll appreciate reading stories in our financial section of new leadership positions at Anderson Brothers Bank in the Marion and Mullins areas. In addition, see articles that will inform you how buying a home is now possible and gives five ways to identify quality financial information. Be empowered by articles aimed at moving beyond debt, the importance of being financially literate and identifying quality financial information.

Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in the US. In our special suicide section, read stories that support National Suicide Prevention Week. Raise your awareness of the seriousness and the importance of achieving success in recovery.

Further, 20.5 million, US adults are in recovery. Keep reading our special recovery section for articles on drug and addiction recovery. Find stories on recovery resources, relief and empowerment. You'll read personal stories shared about choosing a better life, living by example, the importance of peer support to the recovery process and five steps to help Stop the Stigma!

We lead our health section with great news about the new technological advances in patient care at MUSC as they take a huge LEAP forward with the use of new technology – a pocket-size whole body ultrasound system. In this section, Practical Purpose Solutions encourages the prioritization of your health. Read how Dr. Michelle Brooks reminds us that July is also Healthy Vision Month and shares the importance of maintaining a healthy vision. Stories like these are littered throughout our health section, to keep you up to date, because an informed community is a healthier community.

Make a note in the margin and mark the articles from CareSouth Carolina about new locations in the Chesterfield and Dillon areas.

It's nice to be nice, and even nicer to share good news. Read how the Senior Citizens Association of Florence County; joined by The Honorable Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor City of Florence celebrated, and honored local centenarians born before 1922, at the 18th Annual Dorothy Blackwell Celebration. Dive in with delight as these treasured centenarians of our community recount a lived history that we can only read about. Like all Diversity Works sections, our lifestyle section will not disappoint as your options of interesting and feel-good stories are many. You'll find good reads that cover the gamut from care and empathy; legacy and service; bonds of brotherhood and honoring life.

Finally, as we scurry toward fall and continue learning to live in a pandemic world, see tips from Robin Lewis in our diversity and spirituality section as she gives advice on how to avoid overwhelm. As you read some of the most interesting articles in the Pee Dee, there are stories about our friends, neighbors, those we know and admire, respect and even love. Let's embrace our diversity by engaging in a cultural exchange that is equal and inclusive in our communities, schools, work and places of worship. Surely, we realize that we have more in common than different. So, between now and next quarter, take the first step, not big or small, just a step. Try putting diversity, equity and inclusion into action in our community. Speak to a stranger, practice open-mindedness, be intent in practicing inclusivity in all you do and adapt it to your everyday walk toward a better community, because Diversity Works for All of Us!

Happy reading....
Glaceria Brown Mason
Diversity Works Magazine

BUSINESS

4	5 THINGS SUSTAINABILITY AND DEI HAVE IN COMMON
5	HONDA ISSUES FIRST-EVER INCLUSION & DIVERSITY REPORT
6	DUKE ENERGY SUPPORTS SC FIRST RESPONDERS
6	DUKE ENERGY PROGRAMS OFFER HIGH COOLING COSTS RELIEF
8	LAKE CITY RECEIVES RADIO GRANTS
9	LAKE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES
9	BRIGHT IDEAS TEACHER GRANTS AVAILABLE
11	INCREASING CULTURAL AWARENESS AT PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE-FLORENCE
12	SATISFIED CLIENT GIVES TESTIMONY
14	TRANSITIONING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY
15	STRIVING TO BE HER BEST SELF
16	EQUAL PAY: HOW WOMEN CAN BENEFIT FROM A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION
17	THE BEST IN BLUE
18	CONGRATULATIONS DARRYL DAVIDS
20	DOWNTOWN FLORENCE AND FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

DIVERSITY IN SPIRITUALITY

22	ARE YOU HEADED FOR OVERWHELM?
----	-------------------------------

EDUCATION

23	FLORENCE 1 SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES NEW PRINCIPALS FOR 2022-2023
23	FSD1 STUDENT EARNS PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENSE
24	BANK OF AMERICA SUPPORTS CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
25	CLAFLIN AND LONDON METROPOLITAN LAUNCH HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP
25	DCSD ACCELERATING LITERACY
26	FLORENCE STUDENTS RECEIVE \$96,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FROM RUIZ 4 KIDS
28	FDTIC HOSTS ELECTRIC GRADUATION CEREMONY WITH MANY FIRSTS
30	BRAND RECEIVES FMU'S AAFSC DIVERSITY AWARD
31	FMU HONORS GRADUATE HAILED AS THE 'EMBODIMENT OF RESOLVE'
31	FMU ACTIVATE ACADEMY INSPIRES YOUTH
32	HISTORY IS THE FUTURE FOR STANDOUT FMU GRAD
32	FMU GRADUATES FIRST MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CLASS
34	HGTC CELEBRATES YEARS OF SERVICE
34	HGTC PARTNERSHIP SECURES INTERNSHIP
35	HGTC EMT STUDENTS COMPLETE PROGRAM
35	HGTC STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP
35	HGTC STUDENTS EARN 2ND PLACE HONORS
36	THE SCHOOL FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS TO FLORENCE 1 SCHOOLS
36	BRIGMAN NAMED WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
37	MOVING TO A MODIFIED SCHEDULE

SPECIAL

38	JEBAILY LAW FIRM EXPANDS IN THE GRAND STRAND
40	PARK WORKS TO BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITY
42	LAKE CITY RECEIVES PARK GRANT
42	LAKE CITY YOUTH ACTIVITIES
42	LAKE CITY FAMILIES TO TAKE FIELD TRIPS
43	250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
44	HELPING FLORENCE FLOURISH WELCOMES WINSHAPE CAMP
45	PARK GIVES VISITORS MEMORIES AND INSPIRATION
46	THE ARTS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE 2021 ARTS AWARDS
47	FRAA ANNOUNCES BETTY ANN DARBY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
47	DJ'S CREATING THINGS FROM AN ARTISTIC STANDPOINT
48	SYMPHONY PLAYS A HUGE ROLE IN MUSICIAN'S LIVES
50	MUSIC DEFINED BY AN ENSEMBLE OF MUSICIANS
51	DANCE IS GOOD MEDICINE
51	WINTER'S ART WORLD
52	THE TOP 4 WINNERS OF ARTFIELDS 2022
54	ENJOYING THE JOURNEY AS AN ARTIST
54	VISUAL LANGUAGE - A FORM OF ART
55	EDUCATING TEENS WITH THE POWERFUL TOOL OF DRAMA
56	STOP THE STIGMA AND INCREASE AWARENESS
56	HIGHER SUICIDE RATES AMONG THOSE DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM
57	NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK AWARENESS
58	SUICIDE PREVENTION'S PROJECT 2025
59	ADDICTION RISK, TREATMENT AND
60	GIVING OF HIS BEST SO OTHERS CAN SUCCEED
60	NEIGHBOR PROVIDING "COMMUNITY AID, RELIEF & EMPOWERMENT

61	THE IMPORTANCE OF PEER SUPPORT IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS
62	RESOURCES ON THE RECOVERY ROAD
62	CHOOSING A BETTER LIFE FOR YOURSELF
63	TRANSFORMING AND STRIVING TO PUT HOPE WITHIN REACH
64	LEADING THE PATH TOWARD RECOVERY
65	SOMETHING UNIQUE IN MEXICAN CULTURE
66	LOS PORTALES PREPARING FOOD, TO PROVIDE THE BEST QUALITY AND TASTE

FINANCIAL

67	EMPOWER PEOPLE TO MOVE BEYOND DEBT
68	WORKING IN FINANCE EMPOWERS YOU TO HAVE MORE CONTROL
69	TRUSSELL JOINS ABB AS VICE PRESIDENT
69	JENNIFER KIMBRELL JOINS AS CRA OFFICER
69	WATTS ELECTED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE NAFA
69	MARCOS ANAYA NEW BRANCH MANAGER
71	THE IMPORTANCE OF VALUING AND RE-VALUING YOUR BUSINESS
72	DO THE MATH: BUYING A HOME NOW IS POSSIBLE
73	SYNOVUS

HEALTH

74	ALZHEIMER'S VS. DEMENTIA
75	A LEAP FORWARD
76	CARESOUTH CAROLINA RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE
77	DHEC, CARESOUTH CAROLINA HELD GRAND OPENING
78	A PRACTICE PROVIDING THE FUTURE OF CARE
80	FIVE WAYS TO BETTER VISION
81	HOPEHEALTH WELCOMES NEW PROVIDERS
84	PRIORITIZING YOUR HEALTH
87	ADVANCED MANAGEMENT OF OVERACTIVE BLADDER
89	DIETITIAN AND PEDIATRICIAN WEIGH IN ON BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE

LIFESTYLES

90	HONORING FATHER WISHES WHILE COMPLETING HER PURPOSE
92	PROVIDING CARE AND EMPATHY TO THOSE IN NEED
93	GOLF, NOW A SPORT UNITING AND CONNECTING BROTHERS FOR LIFE
94	BETHEA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
95	THE 2022 CLASS OF FLORENCE COUNTY CENTENARIANS
95	LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER HONORS MOTHERS
96	STANDING BESIDE PEOPLE IN NEED
97	HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ASIYA
97	AKA SORORITY INC., EPSILON CHI OMEGA CHAPTER CELEBRATE MILESTONE MEMBERS
99	BUILDING A LEGACY OF GENERATIONAL WEALTH

FEATURED ARTICLES



65

Ivan Segura
SC Commission for
Minority Affairs



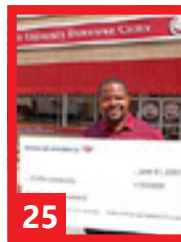
26

Ruiz Foods Scholarship Team



15

Bridget Fulmore
ADP Tax Credit Service



25

Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack
Claflin University President



51

Aroha Afro Latin Dance



61

Erica Buffkin
Circle Park

5 THINGS SUSTAINABILITY AND DEI HAVE IN COMMON

Submitted By Dr. Nika White, President and CEO, Nika White Consulting, Best Selling Author of "The Intentional Inclusionist®" and "Next-Level Inclusionist: Transform Your Work and Yourself for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Success"



Dr. Nika White

GREENVILLE—For too long, the sustainability and diversity, equity, and inclusion sectors have been considered separate industries with very different goals and interests. Justice and equity-minded folks have been forced to choose between the two. You're either into sustainability and saving the environment. Or you're into diversity, equity, inclusion and helping people. But the time has come to see these two disciplines as co-equal

partners in the pursuit of a more just, and equitable world. They have more in common in their approach to change than people think.

Here are 5 things the sustainability and DEI sectors have in common and how the two disciplines can work together to make lasting change.

Both focus on lasting solutions rather than band aids

In sustainability, the focus on creating lasting solutions that positively impact the environment in the future is a key pillar. We see this in the worldwide effort to rid the ocean of harmful plastics, the investment in clean energy like solar and wind and the fight for environmental justice.

The same goes for DEI. While improving diversity, equity and inclusion are the ultimate goals, DEI professionals focus on lasting cultural and social change that promotes safety, equity and equal justice for all. From the legislative level down to the grassroots, DEI professionals are focused on decreasing discrimination against certain identities, building psychologically safer spaces and bridging the gaps in resources and understanding. Both disciplines know that dedicated solutions are the way to make lasting change.

Both value intersectionality

Both sustainability and DEI focus on intersectionality and building cross-disciplinary partnerships. Both understand how change isn't made in a vacuum and connecting across industries and identities is essential to making progress.

Sustainability advocates know that reducing carbon emissions on our warming planet isn't just about driving fewer cars. It's about reaching into the agricultural sector to reduce animal emissions or partnering with the fashion industry to reduce pollution.

DEI professionals know that working to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQIA+ folks go beyond sex and gender but also involves analyzing the intersections of race, class, faith and ability.

Both disciplines acknowledge that no issue is two-dimensional. In order to make real progress, we must see the larger web of interconnectedness and work across difference to actualize change.

Both take into consideration impact versus intention

In DEI, impact vs intention is a huge conversation. While

many people don't intend to cause harm with their words or actions, they may. DEI professionals seek to raise awareness about the difference between impact versus intention. The goal is to get individuals to become more mindful and respectful in their cross-cultural interactions.

The same goes for sustainability. While most people don't intend to release a plastic bag into a river or stream nor do they intend to increase air pollution by driving their kids to school, that may be the impact. Sustainability advocates also seek to educate the population on how their actions impact the larger environment and how they can pivot to become more environmentally friendly in their day-to-day life.

Both offer actionable steps to improve lives

Both DEI and sustainability focus on simple steps individuals can take to make a change. It's not about overnight success or immediate transformation, it's about slow progressive steps that improve life as we know it.

DEI focuses on how educating ourselves, becoming more conscious about our actions, and facing our own biases and prejudices can help us become better allies, partners, and friends. With thoughtful everyday actions, DEI advocates believe we can all adopt an inclusive and equitable mindset in our personal and professional lives.

The same goes for sustainability advocates. By reducing our dependence on cars, being mindful of our waste, and moving consciously through the environment, we can preserve it one individual at a time. A number of small steps can lead to great results.

Both promote harmony, peace and cooperation

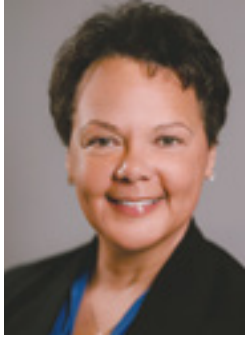
The end goal for both the DEI and sustainability disciplines is to live in a world that's harmonious, peaceful, and just. DEI advocates dream of a world where many identities can live alongside one another in peace and harmony. The same is true for sustainability advocates who dream of living in a world that's clean and harmonious with nature. Both disciplines want nothing more than a planet that feels safe and equitable for everyone and everything living on it.

Final thoughts

Although the sustainability and DEI industries have historically been in opposition, the time is now to join forces and build a world that works for all of us. We have a unique opportunity with the issues facing our world to join together and form solutions that make a lasting change for everyone and everything. Infusing DEI into sustainable businesses or adding more sustainable practices into DEI organizations can be the first steps towards building partnerships across these two disciplines and creating the world we want to see.



HONDA ISSUES FIRST-EVER INCLUSION & DIVERSITY REPORT



Yvette Hunsicker

TORRANCE, Calif. and MARYSVILLE, Ohio - As part of Honda's efforts to promote equality in its workforce and society, in May the company released its inaugural Inclusion & Diversity Report: "Living Our Values." The report outlines Honda's commitment to advancing inclusion and diversity and shares recent actions the company has taken, including key initiatives within its workforce and the communities where its associates live and work. The report, which will be released annually, marks the first time the company has publicly shared comprehensive data on the diversity of

its US operations, including its workforce, dealers, suppliers and corporate giving, demonstrating Honda's focus on transparency and accountability.

"We initiated this report to emphasize our commitment and share our progress in the areas of inclusion and diversity. The report is an important tool in holding ourselves accountable for continuous improvement," said Yvette Hunsicker, vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility and Inclusion and Diversity at American Honda Motor Co., Inc. "Honda was founded on a strong respect for people, and we are committed to living our values through actions that strengthen equality in our own workplace and in communities across America."

While Honda has always prioritized aligning its actions with its belief that inclusion and diversity make us stronger, the social awakening of 2020, led the company to reexamine and renew its efforts in championing fairness, justice and equality. The company committed to several new actions to better reflect the demographic makeup of America within its operations and deepen its support of social justice. One of these actions was to be more transparent in sharing its commitments and beliefs, and the diversity of key stakeholder groups.

The report also outlines new actions Honda has taken over the past

two years, including:

- Improved processes for hiring and promotion by implementing diverse slates of candidates and diverse interview panels, and a more transparent job posting process
 - Revised the company's social media policy to enable Honda to take action when anyone affiliated with the company posts racist or discriminatory content
 - Prepared Honda leaders throughout the company to hold meaningful discussions with associates about race, with organizational tools that included a leadership check-in conversation guide and manager resource guide to help facilitate candid conversations
 - Provided tools for associates to educate themselves on the topic of social justice
 - Introduced anti-racism and allyship training to leaders and associates to promote social justice and inclusion across Honda's US operations.
- "We have more work to do, but this report shows that Honda is making progress and is deeply committed to creating the inclusion, diversity and equity that is rooted in our values and will make us stronger as a company," said Hunsicker.

Honda's Commitment to Inclusion & Diversity

Honda is committed to advancing inclusion, diversity and equity within the company and in communities across America. This includes both Honda's longstanding efforts as well as new actions to create a more diverse and inclusive workforce, advance the diversity of its dealer and supplier networks, provide educational opportunities to marginalized communities, and support diverse organizations, among other efforts. One example is the special relationship Honda has with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, forged through more than 30 years of support that has impacted the lives of over 200,000 students, including over \$14 million in grants to HBCU education programs and facilities improvements.



Quality Careers Built Daily.

Want a career in welding?

Apply for our MIG welding training program where you get paid while learning AND have a job opportunity waiting afterwards!

Adecco, in partnership with Honda S.C. Manufacturing (SCM), is hiring weld production associates and offering a 2-week paid training program. Upon completion of the program, participants are guaranteed a job opportunity with Adecco at SCM.

Honda Careers
[BRING THE FUTURE]



Apply Today for a Better Tomorrow!

Benefits Highlights:

- 2-week paid training
- \$500 sign-on bonus after 30 days
- Wages starting at \$15.20-\$16.30/ hr
- Wage increases every six months (Honda top out wage \$20.00+)
- Paid over-time
- Shift premiums
- Quarterly Attendance Bonus
- 11 paid holidays & PTO after 90 days
- Eligible for direct hire after 30 days on assignment



More opportunities
available at
[Honda.com/careers](https://www.honda.com/careers)

DUKE ENERGY SUPPORTS SC FIRST RESPONDERS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Articles submitted by Ryan Mosier, Corporate Communications Duke Energy-South Carolina



GREENVILLE – As hurricane season begins, first responders and emergency managers turn their eyes to the tropics as

they continue to prepare their communities for the possibility of impacts from severe weather.

Duke Energy is preparing as well and stands in support of these communities across South Carolina by announcing more than \$500,000 in microgrants to help increase their resiliency and their ability to help residents prepare for and recover from the devastation brought by significant weather events.

“The key to successful emergency preparedness and recovery after a major storm begins and ends at the local level,” said Mike Callahan, Duke Energy’s South Carolina state president. “Households and businesses across the state in recent years have endured a number of significant and costly storms. Helping our communities prepare for and recover from these events takes significant resources and these grants will help give our fellow first responders the tools and training they need to tackle whatever Mother Nature throws our way.”

Duke Energy’s Emergency Preparedness and Storm Resiliency Grant Program was designed to help organizations with roles in emergency preparedness increase their resiliency to these events through advanced preparation, planning, equipment and training. The program was first announced in March at the annual gathering of the state’s emergency managers in Myrtle Beach, and grantees were notified of their successful requests for funding mid-May. Applicants could request funds up to \$20,000. Nonprofits and governmental entities across all regions of the state were eligible to apply.

A complete list of recipients can be found here.

Quotes

- “The American Red Cross is honored to partner with Duke Energy to build resilience in the Pee Dee region through community preparedness programs. This grant will power outreach initiatives, equipping local families with essential skills so that they may respond whenever disaster strikes,” said Michael Hesbach, executive director for the Eastern Chapter of the American Red Cross of South Carolina. “Prepared communities are resilient communities. Knowing how to act in an emergency, big or small, empowers individuals to better protect their homes and loved ones.”
- “Sumter County has a long history of working side-by-side with Duke Energy before, during and after major storm events,” said Donna Dew, emergency management director for Sumter County. “This grant will supply our team the equipment necessary to clear hazards and open roadways faster following severe weather situations, making it easier for all first responders to restore our communities back quickly and safely to normal. As a critical first responder, Duke Energy has always worked alongside Sumter County to prepare for and respond to storms, and we value our partnership.”

- “With the implementation of a mass notification system, we will now be able to quickly broadcast reliable emergency information to the public and our employees through virtually any communication device available,” said Travis Glatki, emergency management division manager for the City of Myrtle Beach. “This grant from the Duke Energy Foundation opens up a world of opportunities for the City of Myrtle Beach to evolve and adapt our level of emergency preparedness to meet the needs of our community, our visitors and our employees.”

- “Oconee County Emergency Services is incredibly grateful for the grant from the Duke Energy Foundation which will allow us to better serve the citizens of Oconee County and the surrounding areas,” said Scott Krein, director, Oconee County Emergency Services. “The UTV purchased with these funds will be used to bring critical supplies to remote areas during severe weather events.”

- “This grant will allow the purchase of solar- and battery-powered weather radios that provide real-time hazardous weather and emergency news information to our community even in the event of a power outage,” said Josh Hawkins, director, Anderson County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Management. “We are always grateful for our strong partnerships with Duke Energy and look forward to this grant positively impacting our community.”

Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides more than \$30 million annually in philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The foundation is funded by Duke Energy shareholders.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of America’s largest energy holding companies. Its electric utilities serve 8.2 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, and collectively own 50,000 megawatts of energy capacity. Its natural gas unit serves 1.6 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The company employs 28,000 people.

Duke Energy is executing an aggressive clean energy transition to achieve its goals of net-zero methane emissions from its natural gas business and at least a 50 percent carbon reduction from electric generation by 2030, and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The 2050, net-zero goals also include Scope 2 and certain Scope 3 emissions. In addition, the company is investing in major electric grid enhancements and energy storage and exploring zero-emission power generation technologies such as hydrogen and advanced nuclear.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune’s 2022, “World’s Most Admired Companies,” list and Forbes’ America’s Best Employers list. More information is available at [duke-energy.com](https://www.duke-energy.com). The Duke Energy News Center contains news releases, fact sheets, photos and videos. Duke Energy’s illumination features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

DUKE ENERGY PROGRAMS OFFER HIGH COOLING COSTS RELIEF



Duke Energy Worker

GREENVILLE – The warm days of summer are a prime time for outdoor activities and the cool comfort of the indoors. Duke Energy programs help customers reduce energy usage and manage their bills. Over the past year, costs for the fuel Duke Energy uses to produce energy have more than tripled. In fact, due to

global demand and tight fuel supplies, the energy industry is seeing the highest sustained fuel prices in a decade. The good news is these are not permanent rate increases. Fuel costs rise and fall, and these costs are passed to customers so they pay what the company pays. Duke Energy’s priority is to purchase fuel at the best possible price, through steps such as long-term contracts and using a diversity of suppliers.

“With the price of everything going up right now, we want to relieve the impact on our customers as much as possible,” said Larry Hatcher, senior vice president of customer experience and services. “We offer a variety of programs ranging from payment flexibility to financial assistance that will help our customers who may be grappling with higher bills.”

Payment Options

Flexible payment plans allow residential customers to pay their

DUKE ENERGY PROGRAMS CONT'D

balance over a protracted period. Options are available for customers who either need a few extra days or require an extended installment plan.

The budget billing plan is a free and popular option for customers who like to know what to expect each month. It provides predictable monthly energy bills to help customers with their household budgeting.

With Duke Energy's Pick Your Due Date option, you can choose the date you want your energy bill to be due each month. For even more control over your energy bills, combine Pick Your Due Date together with Budget Billing.

Energy Efficiency

There are several programs to improve energy efficiency for customers hoping to take proactive measures to keep their energy bills manageable.

Tools intended to give customers insight and control over their energy use are available to customers who have an email on file and a smart meter. Mid-cycle usage alerts provide a mid-month view of their current usage and projections of their monthly bill. They can also access daily usage through their online account profile.

The Home Energy House Call is a free program for eligible Duke Energy homeowners (In Florida, the program is called a Home Energy Check). Customers receive a free assessment detailing steps they can take to increase efficiency and lower their energy bill and a free kit with energy-saving products valued at over \$180.

The company also offers the Lower My Bill Toolkit that shows customers how they can save money on energy bills by switching to more efficient products and making energy saving improvements.

Duke Energy customers can find savings at the online store at duke-energy.com. It offers energy-efficient fixtures such as thermostats, lighting and faucets. Also on the website, customers can discover rebate offers for making energy-saving home improvements.

Income-Qualified Programs

To help connect our customers in need of assistance, Duke Energy partners with community and state agencies to help those who qualify access Duke Energy and federally funded programs. Programs vary by service territory. For more information visit duke-energy.com or call the customer care center.

- The Crisis Intervention Program covers heating- and cooling-related crises available throughout the year.
- The Weatherization Program helps income-qualified customers save energy and reduce expenses through energy conservation measures like weatherstripping and HVAC repairs or replacements.
- The Neighborhood Energy Saver Program is also available to income-qualified customers to help them lower their energy bills through in-home energy assessments.
- The Duke Energy Share the Light Fund also assists qualifying customers struggling to pay their energy bills. Employees, customers and Duke Energy shareholders contribute to these funds, which the Duke Energy Foundation matches.

If customers are struggling to pay their energy bill, they might also qualify for assistance from various government and nonprofit programs that help with utility bills and other household expenses. Customers can learn about agencies that serve our community by dialing 211, texting "electric" to 211211, or visiting sc211.org online. This free service helps connect South Carolinians to local agencies supplying aid for a wide range of needs, including help with energy bills.



Building a stronger community.

Working together, through community grants, workforce development and hands-on volunteer efforts, to build a brighter future for all of us.

DUKE-ENERGY.COM/COMMUNITY



BUILDING A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURE®

LAKE CITY RECEIVES RADIO GRANTS



The City of Lake City was presented with a \$20,000 check June 22, from Duke Energy Foundation municipality and nonprofit grants supporting first responders and emergency preparedness. The funds granted to Lake City will be used to help purchase new emergency radio communication equipment for the fire and police departments. Pictured, from left, are William A. Hall, City of Lake City, city administrator, Drew Godwin, fire captain, Mindy Taylor, district manager for government and community relations at Duke Energy, and Jody Cooper, Lake City police chief and deputy city administrator.

LAKE CITY – The City of Lake City has been selected as one of 34 South Carolina municipalities and nonprofits to receive Duke Energy grants supporting first responders and emergency preparedness.

Duke Energy announced the grants June 1 – the first day of hurricane season – to stand in support of local communities preparing for potential significant weather events and their aftermath. The Duke Energy’s Emergency Preparedness and Storm Resiliency Grant Program was announced in March. Totaling \$500,000, the 34 grants range from awards of \$3,250 to \$20,000.

“The key to successful emergency preparedness and recovery after a major storm begins and ends at the local level,” said Mike Callahan, Duke Energy’s South Carolina state president. “Households and businesses across the state in recent years have endured a number of significant and

costly storms. Helping our communities prepare for and recover from these events takes significant resources and these grants will help give our fellow first responders the tools and training they need to tackle whatever Mother Nature throws our way.”

Duke Energy awarded Lake City a \$20,000 grant to help purchase new emergency radio communication equipment for the fire and police departments.

Additionally, in May, the Lake City Fire Department was awarded a South Carolina Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment, V-Safe grant for \$30,000 to help fund new emergency radios.

Together the two grants total \$50,000 and will cover about a third of the city’s costs to replace radios.

“These grants help bring us in line with the direction the county is going in for their communication systems and reduces the city’s approximately \$150,000 costs for upgrading and replacing our equipment that will become obsolete in 2025, and 2027,” said William A. Hall, city administrator.

“The county is moving forward with a \$1.9 million project to upgrade all their radio systems by 2027,” said Police Chief and Deputy City Administrator Jody Cooper. “The radios we will be purchasing with these grants will work in tandem with the Florence County Sheriff’s Office call system to improve communications and response rates during emergencies.”

In recent years, Lake City has been impacted by several significant storms including Hurricane Florence in 2018, which dropped more than 20 inches of rain in areas of the state; and Hurricane Matthew, which flood many areas of Lake City.

Lake City is a community of 6,000-plus residents who invite you live – work – play – and visit in the southern part of Florence County.



FINKLEA, HENDRICK & BLAKE, LLC
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

814 W. EVANS STREET - FLORENCE, SC 29501
PHONE 317-4900 • FAX 317-4910

101 S. MAIN STREET - HEMINGWAY, SC 29554

2254 E. HWY 76 - MARION, SC 29571

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

- Purchase/Refinance
- Equity Line/2nd Mortgage
- Investment/Commercial
- Reverse Mortgage
- 1031 Exchange
- Mobile Homes
- Wills/Probate

FAMILY LAW

- Divorce
- Custody Disputes
- Child Support

CRIMINAL LAW

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY



CHARLES J. BLAKE, JR. ATTORNEY WILLIAM J. EDWARDS ATTORNEY J. GREG HENDRICK ATTORNEY GARY I. FINKLEA ATTORNEY SUSAN C. MCGILL ATTORNEY PATRICK B. FORD ATTORNEY

CIVIL LITIGATION

- 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



Handling a full range of legal services in a timely manner with proficiency and professionalism.

Finklealaw.com

Hablamos Español



LAKE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Submitted by Donna Tracy, public information officer



William A. Hall,
city administrator

LAKE CITY— The City of Lake City started its fiscal year July 1, with recent changes in leadership. The formation of a public information office and new positions in several departments. City administration leadership changes:

William A. Hall, city administrator

- Hall was officially appointed city administrator after a unanimous city council approval in the March 8 council meeting. Hall joined the finance department in 2008. In 2017, he became the director of finance and was named chief financial officer and interim city administrator in March 2021.

Police Chief Jody Cooper

- Cooper was appointed deputy city administrator June 1. Cooper will remain Police Department's chief while taking on additional duties as deputy administrator.

Marshann Terwilliger, city clerk

- Terwilliger joined the city administration May 23, as the new city clerk. Terwilliger previously served as a township business manager and moved to Lake City in January after retiring from a senior budget analyst position with the federal government.

The new public safety positions and economic development coordinator roles are expected to be filled by the end of the summer. Individuals interested in the positions can visit LakeCitySC.gov for current openings.



Marshann Terwilliger,
city clerk

The public information office is located at 106 East Main Street and provides the city with a presence in the heart of downtown. The role of the office is to help keep residents informed on matters concerning the city, help engage the public regarding events, and provide news and information from the city public safety departments such as the Lake City Police Department and the Lake City Fire Department.

Lake City is a community of 6,000-plus residents who invite you live – work – play – and visit in the southern part of Florence County.

BRIGHT IDEAS TEACHER GRANTS AVAILABLE



KINGSTREE— Teachers in Williamsburg, Georgetown, Clarendon and Florence counties—applications are now open for the Bright Ideas grant!

Bright Ideas grants are intended to fund projects outside normal school funding parameters and are available to all disciplines in grades K-12. They are not intended for professional development. A school may submit more than one application, but a teacher is limited to one application per school year.

This fall, teachers will be competing for grants totaling \$15,000. Grants are awarded for up to \$1,000 each. Recipients will be announced in November with the Bright Ideas Prize Team.

If you have questions about the grant program or application procedures, please contact Joanna Arnsmeier at (843) 355-0599 or 1 (800) 922-1604. Please also feel free to reach us by e-mail at brightideas@santee.org.

Apply online at Santee.org/bright-ideas. Completed applications are due by Monday, Oct. 3.



Berlinda Mack, Kenneth Gardner elementary principal, Angel Miles, Bright Ideas grant recipient, Jay Kirby, SEC vice president of public affairs and Joanna Arnsmeier, SEC manager of community relations. Miles received a \$1,000 grant for her project proposal, Markerspace Lab in 2021.

Santee Electric puts the power in your hands!

Manage your account whenever—and wherever you are—with the SmartHub app.



Whether you're homebound, facing a weather event or need to quickly access your account on your own time, the free SmartHub app from Santee Electric Cooperative is here when you need it!

Available for all smart devices like iPhones, iPads and Androids.

With the SmartHub app you can:

- ◆ make bill payments
- ◆ stop and start service
- ◆ report power outages
- ◆ check on monthly energy usage
- ◆ review bills and payment history
- ◆ request maintenance



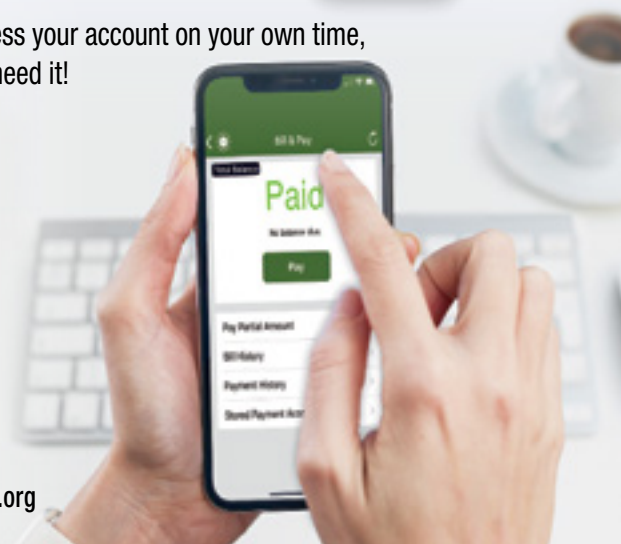
Santee Electric Cooperative Inc.

Download your FREE Santee Electric SmartHub app at the App Store or Google Play!

1-800-922-1604

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

For more information, visit santee.org



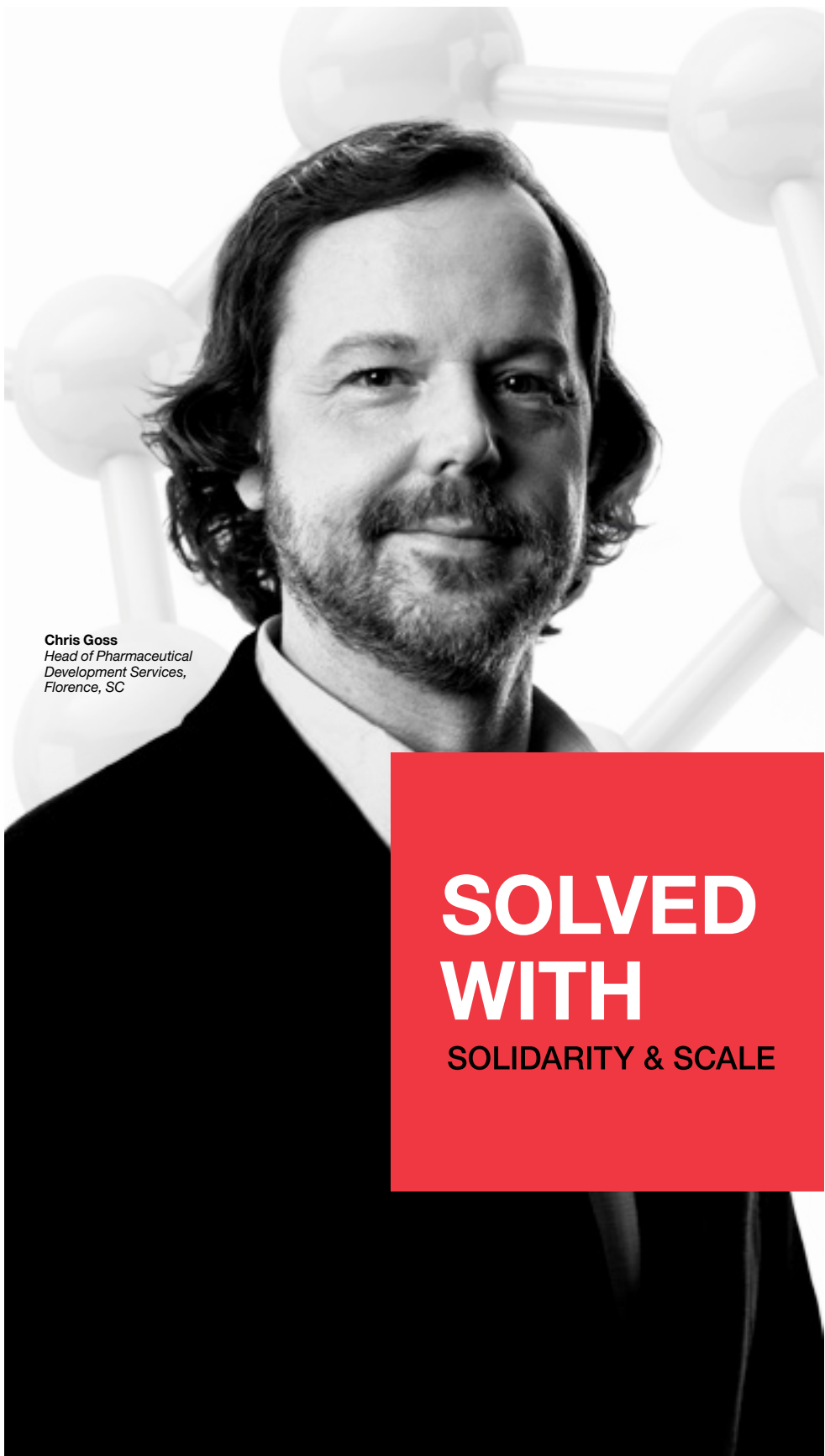
**HOW A SMALL NON-PROFIT
TEAMED UP WITH A GLOBAL
MANUFACTURER TO BRING THEIR
ALS DRUG TO CLINICAL TRIALS**

Before she lost her own battle to ALS in 2003, Jenifer Estes started Project ALS, raising over \$17 million dollars for the non-profit in hopes of a breakthrough in the fight against Lou Gehrig's disease. As her family continued the quest, in 2019, they got a hit with a new compound that seemed to stop or even reverse motor nerve damage. The promising new drug would need to begin trials immediately, but as a non-profit, all they had was a half gram of material and a journal article, and the deadline was approaching quickly. That's when Chris and his team at Thermo Fisher Scientific sprang into action. They worked around the clock to come up with an ingenious solution to scale a half gram of material into a kilo of purified product suitable for clinical trials. Now, with more than enough material in clinical trials to potentially treat or cure one of humanity's most pernicious diseases, there's hope for ALS patients.

Learn why new and emerging companies put their trust in Thermo Fisher Scientific at thermofisher.com/patheon



patheon



Chris Goss
Head of Pharmaceutical
Development Services,
Florence, SC

**SOLVED
WITH
SOLIDARITY & SCALE**

• API

• BIOLOGICS

• VIRAL VECTOR
SERVICES

• EARLY & LATE
PHASE DEVELOPMENT

• CLINICAL TRIAL
SOLUTIONS

• LOGISTICS
SERVICES

• COMMERCIAL
MANUFACTURING

INCREASING CULTURAL AWARENESS AT PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE-FLORENCE *by Les Echols*



Thyra White Austin

Performance Foodservice-Florence, SC prides itself on having a diverse and inclusive workforce, and has shown a strong commitment to community, workforce engagement and development.

Thyra White Austin has been in human resources for more than thirty years, and currently serves as vice president of Human Resources at Performance Foodservice-Florence. Having joined the organization in August 2021, Austin is responsible for the overall people and culture strategy for

the organization. Austin stresses that she has a dynamic team, which includes Jessica Arellano, Kimberly Davis, Sylvester Wallace and Liz Watford. “Together we support more than 600 associates throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.”

Austin is well versed in working in the diversity, equity and inclusion space. Prior to joining Performance Foodservice, Austin held leadership roles with several Fortune 500 companies. She also led her own consulting company, where she provided business solutions, including human resources, diversity, inclusion and belonging, change management, and federal and state contracting.

Austin has also worked on developing women initiative programs, which help foster a diverse and inclusive workplace aligned with organizational mission, values, goals and objectives. “Our parent company, Performance Food Group (PFG) is dedicated to building a diverse, inclusive and engaged workforce that reflects the diversity of our customers and the communities we serve. Associate Resource Groups (ARGs) are one way we increase cultural awareness and a

sense of belonging. We celebrate the culture and heritage of our employees and communities. We are committed to develop leadership competencies, build allyship and advocacy, and increase cultural fluency,” explained Austin.

“I am very excited to have been selected to serve corporately as the co-chair of the Women of PFG ARG,” Austin continued. “We are committed to building an inclusive community and advocate for the development and advancement of all women at PFG. Our focus areas are career development through training, mentorship and sponsorship. We also spotlight and recognize the women in our organization to ensure that women’s voices are amplified in the organization.”

Performance Foodservice – Florence, SC, initiated the local ARG group with a kick-off and interest meeting. Erika Davis, executive vice president and chief human resources officer PFG, and Jane Mannion, vice president of human resources, Performance Foodservice, attended the inaugural event. “We know that this group will make a great impact on the women here in Florence and will add to the continual success and growth at Performance Foodservice – Florence,” Austin concluded.

Austin is a Riley Institute Fellow, as a past participant in the Diversity Leadership Initiative at Furman University and a Fellow of the University of South Carolina – SC Collaboration on Race and Reconciliation. Austin is obtaining her master’s in Organizational Leadership with Columbia International University in Columbia, SC. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of South Carolina.

Austin is a native of Columbia, SC and currently resides in Lexington, SC. She has three children, Amber, Aaron and Alan.

NOW HIRING DRIVERS & WAREHOUSE

APPLY TODAY:
[PFGC.COM/CAREERS](https://www.pfgc.com/careers)



PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE



EOE/WOMEN/VETS/DISABLED

SATISFIED CLIENT GIVES TESTIMONY



Annie S. and Henry L. Chapman

It is a pleasure to share our experience with Starlee Alexander's State Farm Agency. At least 35 years ago, our agent, Larry Brice was retiring, and he suggested we go with Alexander. He believed in her and felt she'd be caring, capable and trustworthy. He was right! Alexander has provided quality and knowledgeable service about our auto insurance and surety bonds for our business throughout the years. On a more personal note, she

gave much-needed advice concerning teenage drivers, and during the years, State Farm offered safety videos for students to view. Now, I'm grateful to have her guidance for our oldest grandson. When we needed understanding about various types of insurance or filing claims, she was prompt in helping us, not to mention our gratitude for the discounts given during the pandemic. After my husband, Mr. Henry L. Chapman's, recent death, Alexander expressed sympathy and shared kind words. She has lived up to State Farm's motto, "Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there."

We could not have found a better agent, so grateful for Brice's referral.

Thank you, Ms. Alexander, for your service. As Brice said, for anyone looking for a caring, capable and trustworthy insurance agent, give Alexander's State Farm agency a call at (843) 662-4164. You won't be disappointed with her as your agent, with a helpful staff to assist you.

Annie S. and Henry L. Chapman
Satisfied Clients

There when things go wrong.
Here to help life go right.™



Starlee B. Alexander
Owner/Agent

**LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
STATE FARM IS THERE.®**

2027 S. Irby Street
Florence, South Carolina 29505
(843) 662-4164 • Fax (843) 665-7373
www.starleealexander.com

**THE LAW OFFICES OF
LINWARD C.
EDWARDS, II
L.L.C.**

821 W. Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501
Fax: (843) 536-0715
Linward@LEdwardslaw.com
www.LEdwardsLaw.com

SERIOUS PROBLEMS REQUIRE A SERIOUS ATTORNEY

Criminal Defense • Auto Accidents • Family Law • DUI / Traffic

CALL NOW (843) 410-9605



- Complimentary WiFi
- WXYZ Bar
- Adaptive Event Room
- Indoor Splash Zone Pool
- Patio with Fire Pit
- Outdoor Sports Court
- Media Room
- Home2 Market
- Plug & Play Connectivity Chargers in every Room

Aloft Florence
820 Woody Jones Blvd.
Coming soon!



- Complimentary High Speed Internet
- Complimentary Breakfast
- Complimentary USA Today
- 24 Hour Business Center
- Indoor Heated Saline Pool
- Spacious Suites with 42" TV's
- Game Room
- Complimentary Laundry
- Home2 Market

Home2 Suites by Hilton
900 Woody Jones Blvd.
843-664-9008



- Complimentary High Speed Internet
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast
- Evening Reception
- 24 Hour Business Center
- Outdoor Saline Pool and Sports Court
- Meeting Room with AV
- Complimentary Laundry
- Suite Shop

Homewood Suites by Hilton
3450 W. Radio Drive
843-407-1600



- Newly Renovated
- Complimentary High Speed Internet
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast
- Complimentary USA Today
- 24 Hour Business Center
- Indoor Heated Saline Pool
- Meeting Room with AV
- Complimentary Laundry
- Sundry Shop

Comfort Suites
2120 W. Lucas Street
843-662-5295



- Complimentary WiFi
- Complimentary Breakfast
- Indoor Saline Pool
- Patio w/Grill & Fire Pit
- Game Room
- Complimentary Laundry
- 24/7 Market
- Fitness Room

Tru by Hilton
2140 W. Lucas Street
843-629-7050



- Newly Renovated
- Complimentary High Speed Internet
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast
- 24 Hour Business Center
- Indoor Heated Saline Pool
- Complimentary Laundry
- Fitness Center

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
2101 Florence Harlee Blvd.
843-629-9779



- Complimentary High Speed Internet
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast
- Complimentary Cookies and Coffee
- 24 Hour Business Center
- Outdoor Saline Pool
- Meeting Room
- Complimentary Laundry

Country Inn & Suites
1739 Mandeville Road
843-317-6616



HIGH-RISE
HOTELS

www.High-RiseHotels.com
121 Dozier Blvd. - Florence, SC
843-667-4630 - info@high-risehotels.com

TRANSITIONING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY Submitted by United Way of Florence



United Way of Florence County has adopted a new business model designed to promote collaboration among nonprofit, government, civic and business organizations to

target resources toward Florence County's most pressing needs.

The collective impact model was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors and is widely regarded as best practice among United Way organizations nationwide.

"The Board has recognized for some time that for our United Way to thrive, we need a more innovative, forward-thinking and strategic approach," said Les Ward, chairman of the board. "This shift opens up so many possibilities to strengthen and expand our impact in Florence County."

Cameron Packett, president of United Way of Florence County, said, "the collective impact model will shift the organization's efforts from broad and shallow to intentional and focused."

"The collective impact model is a much more strategic approach than the original community chest model, allowing us not just to mitigate persistent issues in our community but to identify and work to resolve our key challenges at their roots. The concerted, intensive nature of the collective impact model can help us bring substantial and sustainable change to Florence County."

"The collective impact model is also more in line with current trends in giving," Packett said.

"Individuals and businesses are more interested than ever in giving back to their communities, but they want to know that their dollars are addressing an essential need and producing substantive results," Packett said.

"This initiative is data-driven from start to finish. It begins with

clear data on our most fundamental needs. It ensures that proven approaches are employed to help solve the problem, and it measures results."

United Way has assembled a task force composed of community leaders from across Florence County to help guide the transition to the collective impact model. The task force will help conduct a comprehensive needs assessment, assist in evaluating research-based approaches to address issue priorities and help develop results-based accountability measures. One of the main priorities of the task force is to obtain community input at every step, Packett said.

"Community input is an important and necessary component of a successful transition to collective impact. We want to know the issues that community members see and care about," she said.

A community-wide survey is available on the organization's website, and a series of community conversations will be held across the county from now until September. Survey responses will help United Way, and other organizations across the county, form impactful initiatives that will create lasting change in Florence County.

To complete the survey and offer your feedback, please visit www.uwflorence.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

For more information about the collective impact model or United Way of Florence County, please visit www.uwflorence.org or contact Cameron Packett at cpackett@uwflorence.org or 843-662-2407.

About the United Way of Florence County:

The United Way of Florence County is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that has been a cornerstone of the social service sector in Florence County for more than 65 years. Our mission is to positively impact the needs of our community by strengthening relationships, programs, and services that produce measurable results and improve the quality of life and to be recognized as the leading health and human services support agency in the Pee Dee through resource development and community impact initiatives. For more information, please visit www.uwflorence.org or call us at 843-662-2407.

Community Chest | **TRANSITIONING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

We're moving from Community Chest to Collective Impact.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

- BROAD/SHALLOW → NARROW/DEEP
- LIMITED → COMPREHENSIVE
- IMPACT UNKNOWN → IMPACT KNOWN

In order to address the community's most pressing needs, we first need to know what they are.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOU!

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

What have you experienced?
 What have you seen?
 What are you passionate about?
 What do you think are the greatest needs in our community?

LET US KNOW BY ANSWERING OUR SURVEY!

United Way of Florence County | **Collective Impact**

SCAN ME

Are you SPARKing Generational Change?

Spark Solutions provides the tools and insight for Generational Impact with:

- Social Branding
- Strategy Plans for Community Leaders
- Business, Nonprofit & Ministry Blueprints for Community Impact

WWW.SPARKSOLUTIONSCC.COM
 @sparkolutionscc | @SparkSolutionsCC

SPARK SOLUTIONS

STRIVING TO BE HER BEST SELF *by Les Echols*



Bridget Fulmore

OLANTA - Bridget Fulmore is a seasoned professional who has enjoyed a long, consistent record of successful positions at Automated Data Processing. She has worked a number of positions as a leader and individual contributor for ADP in Florence, South Carolina and Augusta, Georgia which has earned her a strong reputation throughout ADP.

Fulmore joined ADP in 2007, as an account manager. After working as an account manager for two years, she was promoted to implementation specialist, then to implementation consultant. Steadily moving up the ranks, she became an implementation project manager, team lead and supervisor. After eight rewarding years of working in Tax Credits, her work continued to be rewarded, as she relocated and transitioned to the Healthcare Reform Team in Augusta, Georgia as manager of client service. After three years with Healthcare Reform, Fulmore was recruited back to the Tax Credits unit to join the Government Relations Team.

Currently, Fulmore serves as senior government relations analyst, a role she had been in for the past four years. In her current role, Fulmore is responsible for developing strategies to communicate with state elected officials in order to improve work opportunity tax credit issues within states. She serves as a liaison with federal and state government agency staff, clients, ADP internal departments and senior leaders to convey the ADP Tax Credit Services position on issues. "During my 14 plus years with ADP, I've been able to work with some amazing and talented individuals, travel to places I've never been and grow personally and professionally," Fulmore states.

Fulmore has also seen growth and development within ADP. "Over the years, I've seen where ADP has come to truly embrace coming to work as your authentic self. We've transitioned from working in the office daily to having a permanent, flexible work from home hybrid model, where associates select the two days, they work remote each week."

Fulmore is a native of Olanta, South Carolina, and is the mother of three beautiful children, Ahmad -19, Hailey-11 and Prince - 3. "My children are my motivation and I know they're counting on me. They continue to push me to be the best that I can be. They love me unconditionally," Fulmore continued.

Fulmore was the first person in her family to attend college and earn two degrees. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration & Management from Limestone College and an MBA in Business Administration & Management from the University of Phoenix.



ADP, the ADP logo, and Always Designing for People are trademarks of ADP, LLC.

What are you #WorkingFor?

The things we work for are what define us.

At ADP we're designing a better way to work, so you can achieve what you're working for.

Discover HR, Talent, Time Management, Benefits & Payroll, informed by data and designed for people. Learn more at design.adp.com



301 Quinby Plaza, Quinby SC 29530

843-409-1567 843-662-7379

www.atfctooling.com



"Promising to Serve, Vowing to Commit"



Family Law



Automobile



Wills



Criminal



181 East Evans Street
Suite C12
Florence, SC 29506
843-610-7969
www.tiffanyjbrownlaw.com

EQUAL PAY: HOW WOMEN CAN BENEFIT FROM A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION



The disruptions of the pandemic led to not only job losses but also the Great Resignation, with many Americans reevaluating their careers and searching for better opportunities. While some areas are recovering, studies from the Pew Research Center, the National Bureau of Economic Research and others suggest that more women have lost their jobs overall, largely due to the higher percentages of women employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, retail, education and health services - which all took a big hit during the pandemic. If you're one of the many American women seeking a career pivot, you should consider the construction industry.

"Women join the construction industry because they see a good career that will keep them challenged and support their families," said Doreen Bartoldus, president of the National Association of Women in Construction. "We need more women in the field, and our organization develops materials designed to get kids excited about construction. We have female-specific programs for high school girls, and we see that changing attitudes."

Here are the top two reasons women should consider a career in construction:

1. Pay parity is better in the construction industry

Construction has one of the lowest gender pay gaps in the nation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US women earn an average of 81.1 percent of men's earnings, but in construction, fare much better - making over \$0.94 for every \$1 that men make.

And the best news is the demand in this field shows no sign of stopping. "Women should join this industry because it's everlasting. There will always be new homes to build and remodel," said Maggie Hardy Knox, president of 84Lumber. "We've truly seen this over the last year. The career opportunities are endless."

2. Careers for people from all backgrounds

Opportunities in construction offer variety in levels of training, experience and education. Whether you're just out of high school, have a trade certification, vocational/technical or associate degree or a four-year college degree, there are available positions that not only pay well, but are challenging and fulfilling. Many positions can be learned on the job, and a number of companies offer trainee programs for those seeking experience.

The basic requirement to make it in the field is to genuinely care for customers and associates. And like anything else in life, a great work ethic can make you super successful. If you demonstrate those traits, companies will train you on everything else.

Today's labor shortage also means companies are striving to boost recruitment from a more diverse labor pool, resulting in the industry being much more welcoming to hiring women than ever before.

One of the best ways for construction companies to recruit women is to make women in construction more visible. The more we see women succeeding, the more likely it is other women will view the construction industry as a viable option for their careers.

To explore opportunities in construction, visit NAWIC.org or 84Lumber.com.

THE BEST IN BLUE Submitted by The City of Florence



The City of Florence Police Department has a mission to improve the quality of life for citizens through a community partnership that promotes safe and secure neighborhoods and businesses. The objective is to be proactive in fulfilling the community's needs while delivering

excellent service to each individual while displaying dignity and respect.

As a State Accredited Law Enforcement Agency, the focus is on community-oriented policing. The department has implemented many effective programs to accommodate the continued expansion of the city limits and is always looking for ways to help citizens minimize, if not eliminate, crime. While operating under an agency-wide community policing concept, the department meets regularly with the forty neighborhoods and business crime watch associations. One of these programs includes The National Neighborhood Watch program. This program empowers citizens to become active in community efforts through participation in Neighborhood Watch groups. Florence has over thirty Neighborhood Watch groups within the community.

City of Florence Police Chief Allen Heidler said, "Successful community policing also requires building strong, effective, and trusting partnerships with surrounding state, federal and local law enforcement. In 2021, the Florence Police Department and the Florence County Sheriff's Office developed a Pee Dee area Criminal Intelligence Council to do just that. The PDCIC is a monthly face-to-face meeting of local, county, state and federal law enforcement officials to share information about crime occurring in the Pee Dee region and develop strategies for reducing those crimes, especially violent crime. As we move forward, we expect to continue to develop strong bonds with our law enforcement partners and to grow our neighborhood and business associations to the point that

every facet of our city has an effective crime watch program in place."

Heidler has served as the Chief of Police since 2014. He rose through the ranks over his 35-year career with the department and has focused on building community and business partnerships. He also works to provide the proper tools, training and leadership to employees in order to produce effective and fiscally responsible services that elevate the well-being of all citizens and visitors. Building relationships is essential to fostering growth in every corridor of the city. By establishing community programs and local partnerships, officers can get to know the public they serve daily. The Police Department dedicates itself to providing the highest quality service to the community and a way for the citizens to know the officers who serve them. Through these efforts, the department strives to further strengthen partnerships with the community through education, transparency and service.

Recently, the department integrated the use of social media as a tool to expand community engagement. Used to present matters of public interest in Florence, this network also develops a platform of transparency and open communication. In addition, the department expanded its website resources to provide services such as requesting Special Patrol for your property(s), scheduling off-duty officers as security through the Jobs in Blue program, or even completing a form to update business contact information. Please visit www.florenceSCpolice.com to learn more about the City of Florence Police Department and its available local community outreach programs, employment opportunities and more.

The City of Florence Police Department strives to be the best in blue by building trusting partnerships, displaying dignity and respect and shaping the community to live Full Life. Full Forward.



**THE BEST IN BLUE
WANTS YOU**

**CITY OF FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
STARTING AT 45K | TAKE YOUR VEHICLE HOME
www.florenceSCpolice.com**

CONGRATULATIONS DARRYL DAVIDS

by Diana Murphy-Eaddy



Darryl Davids

SOCIETY HILL - I recently found out that a friend was getting ready to retire after 35 years in the Human Resources field. Let me share some details on the career of Darryl Davids. When I started Diversity Works Magazine®, Davids was the Director of Human Resources at GE Healthcare here in Florence. He had started the Tribute to Women in Industry, which yearly recognized professional women with a banquet at the SIMT. I knew then that Davids was committed to expanding diversity, so I asked him for his support, which he has given since day one for us.

The companies where Davids worked to develop talent, in addition to GE, included Campbell Soup, Gold Kist, Mar-Mac, and none more committed to growing talent like McCall Farms here in Florence County. McCall Farms, where Davids is retiring as vice president of Human Resources, is a local company with deep roots and family focused, and here Davids found a management philosophy that allowed this school of thought to prosper -- growth within the family.

I asked Davids if he could recall some of the folks, he mentored during his HR career. He told me this list includes those who have today reached the level of Manager in the HR field: Barbara, Rick, Jerry, Donna, Rhonda, Kili, Brittany, Jenny, Nina, Ivan and Claudia; and each of these are diverse in gender or race and, for some, include military service. For Davids, cultivating talent is a true gift. In reaching out to Danielle T. Cannon, SHRM-CP, she said "Davids has been influential in both my professional and spiritual growth. We crossed paths more than 15 years ago while I was a teenager and before I knew I wanted to become an HR professional. He immediately recognized my strong work ethic and became a mentor for many years, supporting and encouraging me throughout my career. He has been a great supporter and cheerleader to me as I serve as the President of the Pee Dee SHRM Chapter, a role he previously occupied."

Davids is a remarkable HR leader and man of God. He sees the good in everyone and strives to bring out the best in others. He has had a very accomplished career in the HR profession and has blazed the trail for me and other young professionals. I am truly blessed and

honored to have come into contact with him many years ago and wish him all the best in his next chapter.

As the former Florence Chapter President of the Society of Human Resources Management, Davids has touched the communities where he has lived. He has served the following agencies: President of the Lions Club, Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, held offices in the United Way, and coordinated work at his companies with South Carolina Voc. Rehab with Sue Courtney, where on three occasions his company was recognized as the Employer of the Year by the governor.

Davids is also a Bi-vocational Pastor. He has served churches in Sumter and Florence Counties after graduating Seminary. His work in this arena included starting the Baptist Student Union at USC-Sumter, organizing a chaplaincy program with the police department and at Tuomey hospital and held several offices with the local Clergy Associations. He was once recognized by the Jaycees as the Religious Leader of the Year. A trained Hospice Volunteer, Davids says giving back matters. And the one thing that Davids did in each community he served as pastor was to bring the white and black churches together for worship and outreach. Again, with a complete commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and unity he has truly made a difference.

Noted as the Human Resources Professional of the Year in the past, there is no surprise Davids had an amazing career. So, my friend, enjoy your retirement. I wish you only the best, and on behalf of our community, thank you for your leadership. Maybe someone can entice you out of retirement -- the new 60 is really 45!

(Davids is married to the love of his life, Beth Davids, a teacher in Darlington County; they have four children and two marvelous grandsons. For the past five years, Davids has served as the pastor at Welsh Neck Baptist Church, where he says living in Society Hill, life is good!)



DISTINCTIVE

ONE DESIGNER TO STREAMLINE YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS!

From business cards to web design, hosting & maintenance, let us help you stand out! Also check out our editorial services like book covers, magazine layout and ad design.

Let's Get Started Today!

NEED MONTHLY DESIGNS?

Distinctive Design Graphics is now available on retainer. Visit our website for more details!

For a list of services call (843) 601-9290 or visit www.distinctivedesigngraphics.com



TOGETHER WE CAN!

FAMILY OWNED  USA GROWN

McCall Farms, is a family-owned company in Effingham, SC. We have been harvesting a wide range of fresh vegetables for over 180 years. Most of our produce is locally grown by generations of proud South Carolina farmers. But the flavor of our Real Southern Style cooking is savored beyond the south, to every region of the country. And our offerings continue to grow. Our brands include Margaret Holmes, Glory, Peanut Patch, Allens, Veg-All, Popeye Spinach and Bruce's.

Come Grow With Us! **Now Hiring for All Shifts** – Laborers – Machine Operators – Forklift Drivers – Clerks - Mechanics & more. For employment opportunities visit McCallFarms.com, or call us at 843.662.2223. We offer benefits including: paid time off, medical insurance, healthcare savings or reimbursement accounts, 401-K, education assistance and flexible schedules in some areas.



**Call today to ask about
Sealcoating & Patching**

Specialists in Driveways & Parking Lots
Asphalt • Gravel • Line Striping • Gravel Asphalt
Hot Tar Crack Filling • Concrete Driveways

www.scpaving.com
Bobby Guzman • 843.319.0461



“
The path to diversity
begins with
supporting,
mentoring, and
sponsoring diverse
women and men to
become leaders and
entrepreneurs.
—
Denise Morrison

DOWNTOWN FLORENCE AND FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY Submitted by Florence Downtown Development Office Staff

Originally appeared in the Main Street America Blog, June 2, 2022 Marta Olmos, communications coordinator at Main Street America



Downtown at dusk (Photo credited to True Light Photography)

Since 2011, Downtown Florence has been engaged in a thriving partnership with Francis Marion University. The partnership came about during the development of the FMU Performing Arts Center. The University's president recognized the importance of a vibrant downtown in attracting and retaining students at the university, and

Downtown Florence gained a strong local partner. "This partnership has helped us transform our downtown's physical landscape, but it has also helped us grow the soft skills of our community, recruit new businesses and have a communication pipeline fairly unique to a Main Street program," said Downtown Florence Development Manager Hannah Davis.

A cornerstone of this partnership has been their shared work on entrepreneurial ecosystem building. In 2012, the City of Florence, in partnership with Downtown Florence, leased an underutilized commercial building downtown, initially with the intent of opening a retail incubator, the North Dargan Innovation Center. At that time, Downtown Florence partnered with the on-campus FMU Center for Entrepreneurship located seven miles outside of Downtown to provide training courses for businesses on-site in the incubator.

This initial phase was successful, and in 2016, FMU was asked to take a larger role in the Innovation Center. The University began running daily operations and programming while Downtown Florence oversaw building and tenant management. In 2018, the City of Florence purchased a building on N. Dargan Street and shared renovation costs with Francis Marion University. That building became the new home for the Kelley Center for Economic Development, which opened officially in 2019. "Our initial partnership with the Kelley Center started off with simple programming assistance and grew into a powerhouse entrepreneurial development team that touches nearly every business owner interested

in opening a business downtown," said Davis.

The Kelley Center has resulted in many successful new businesses, most notably, downtown's first full-service grocery store, virtually eliminating a USDA-designated food desert in the community. The grocery store proprietor began his small business journey as an incubator client in the FMU Kelley Center. Downtown Florence, the City, the SC Community Loan Fund and the local housing authority came together to support the Black business owner's dream with small business training, facility usage, marketing training, and partnership development. The grocery store opened in October 2021. In addition to this achievement, the Center has assisted more than 100 entrepreneurs in the community.

During COVID-19, the Kelley Center and Downtown Florence formed a task force to help support businesses, share resources, and ensure that business owners had the tools they needed to be successful during tumultuous times.

Downtown Florence has also partnered with FMU to bring two health sciences campus buildings downtown, one of which located most recently in the Old Post Office (c.1906), National Landmark Historic Building, which now serves as psychology and speech pathology classrooms for the university. Across the street from the Old Post Office building, FMU built the Luther F. Carter Health Sciences Building, which brings nearly 500 students downtown daily for training classes in nursing and physician

assistant programs. "Having a higher education partner like Francis Marion University, one that believes in the power of place, that recognizes the importance of preserving our historical assets, and that wishes to be part of the growth of future entrepreneurs is truly invaluable," said Davis.



Kelley Center (Photo credited to Francis Marion University)

Your small business dreams begin in
DOWNTOWN FLORENCE

*Andrena Mullins, owner
Lil Jazzi's Cafe*

Let our team help you realize your small business dreams. Contact our office for free business plan review & training programs. Visit www.florencedowntown.com or call us at 843-678-5912 to launch your business.

WE'RE PROUD TO CALL FLORENCE HOME!



Ruiz Foods Florence is hiring.
We have a variety of positions
available including:

- PACKAGING
- BAKERY
- SANITATION
- PRODUCTION
- PRE-BATCH
- MAINTENANCE
- PROCESSING

— *All Shifts Available* —

Offering excellent medical benefits, life insurance, dental and vision coverage, paid holidays, 401k ... and more.

Send resumes to: <https://www.ruizfoods.com/careers/florence-sc/>



CALIFORNIA • TEXAS • SOUTH CAROLINA

ARE YOU HEADED FOR OVERWHELM? by Robin Lewis



HEMMINGWAY - Have you noticed that stress levels are higher than ever? From the recent school shootings to the angry protests, our world is in trouble. People may try to blame their feelings on others, but it begins in our own hearts and minds. I talk to hundreds of women every month and they are struggling with stress, anxiety and feelings of overwhelm that are piling up on them. You need to know how to measure your stress levels and keep your life balanced.

WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO FIRST



Take time to assess where you are emotionally and mentally. Most people believe they are too busy for self-care, but if you don't take care of you, who will? So, believe that you are worth the time to check-in with yourself. Look over the list below and circle

the ones that resonate with you.

12 Signs You're Headed for Overwhelm

1. You care too much about what others think and seek the approval of others.
2. You volunteer and take on too much responsibility thinking you have to do it all.
3. You don't have good boundaries and have a problem saying, no.
4. Your self-care is lacking. You may have stopped eating well.
5. You're not sleeping well, not getting adequate sleep, and not thinking clearly.
6. You feel a deep exhaustion and most days wish you could just go to bed.
7. You have trouble regulating your mood and seeing the positive side, or you lose your temper easily and seem frustrated by those closest to you.
8. You have heard yourself say things like, I just can't do anymore, or I'm just so overwhelmed.
9. You may find you get sick more often. Headaches, blood pressure, and other illnesses tend to go along with being in a state of overwhelm.
10. You may feel lonely, angry or inadequate with the mindset that there's just no solution available.
11. You find you are listening to too much news or spending too much time on social media.
12. You find you are using things like alcohol to calm down more often.

WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO NEXT



Remember your oxygen mask! If you've ever flown commercially, you've heard the flight attendant give the instructions for what to do if the oxygen mask drops in front of you. They say to put it over your mouth and nose, adjust

the straps, and breathe easily. They also say that if you're traveling with a small child or with someone in need of assistance, place your oxygen mask on first, then assist them with theirs.

This is one of the best illustrations of self-care. Are you always putting others before yourself? If so, then you won't be able to recognize or prevent overwhelm. Here are some tips on preventing overwhelm in your life and family.

Steps You Can Take to Prevent Overwhelm

1. Think about how you really want your life to be. Create a plan for your time and build in, margin, to give yourself space.
2. Know your limits. If you only have three hours to work on a project each day, don't try to cram five hours' worth of work into three.
3. Take a break and step away. Find a friend to hold you accountable and get outside and blow the stink off!
4. Breathe and breathe deeply. When your spirit, soul, and body are overwhelmed, you tend to breathe in shallow breaths. Inhale to a count of four, hold it for four, then exhale for eight. Do this several times a day to get fresh oxygen into your body.
5. Set needed boundaries – with your work, yourself and with others. Learn to say, no, without explaining yourself. No, I'm sorry but that just won't work out for me this week. Maybe I can help you next time.
6. Practice improving your self-care. Eat well, take breaks, get your nails done, go fishing, go for a walk, take vitamins and soak in the tub.
7. Most importantly, PRAY. Renew your relationship with God. You must shift your focus from all you think you're responsible for back to God. He's great with priorities.

If you're not including God in the equation, then you're believing you can do it all in your own strength. Exhaustion is headed your way. Whatever you focus on grows larger, for better or for worse! Learn to focus on His presence with you. Discover where wrong beliefs are driving your life over the edge and RENEW your mind to agree with God's truth.

3 John 1:2 says, "Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul, mind, will and emotions is prospering."

WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO FOREVER



Don't go it alone. Do you want to be healed of overwhelm and stress? You might say, "of course, I do!" But if you never take any steps to make that possible, your situation will only grow worse.

We all need support and personal growth – a listening ear, prayer, and encouragement... even accountability! Choosing to ask for and get these things are signs of faith, self-care, and love and shows you believe that more is possible for your life.

As a Certified Christian Life Coach, helping you is what I am called to do! It's my purpose – I coach women to overcome stress, anxiety, overwhelm and low self-esteem.

If this, is you, it's time to reach out and book a Free Virtual Coffee Chat with me. We can get a picture of what's happening in your life and then create a three-step action plan you can begin implementing right away. All chats with me are pressure free! I am here to help! What have you got to lose except all the stress, fear and negativity?

Sign up for a Free Virtual Coffee Chat and grab your copy of my free e-book that boosts your self-image and confidence on my website at www.RobinLewisLife.com.

FLORENCE 1 SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES NEW PRINCIPALS FOR 2022-2023

Articles submitted by Melissa Rollins, communications specialist

Three longtime educators have been named to new posts for the upcoming 2022-2023, school year.



Wanda Williams-Parrott

Wanda Williams-Parrott has been named principal of Brockington Elementary School in Timmonsville.

Currently, Parrott serves as assistant principal at Savannah Grove Elementary School, a role she has been in since 2015. As assistant principal, her responsibilities have included assisting in the management of curriculum and instruction, facilitating school safety drills and serving as the Title I and Title 4 site coordinator.

“I am honored to be able to serve Brockington Elementary and the Timmonsville community as the new principal,” Parrott said. “I look forward to many years of learning and growing together to ensure that all Brockington students achieve at high levels.”

Parrott began her educational career at Wallace-Gregg Elementary School where she served as a teacher before moving to Savannah Grove. She is a graduate of Coker University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education. She also earned a Master of Education in Administration from Cambridge College and a Read to Succeed Administrators Endorsement from the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Virtual Education.

Michelle McBride, Florence 1 assistant superintendent of Elementary Education, said that Parrott’s extensive experience, with a variety of different roles and responsibilities, made her a great fit for the Brockington position.

“Ms. Parrott has been an exceptional educator and administrator in Florence 1 for the last seventeen years,” McBride said. “We are thrilled that she will now be part of our lead administrative team as the new principal of Brockington Elementary School.”

Tina Johnson was named principal at Greenwood Elementary School. Johnson currently serves as an assistant principal at Mossy Oaks Elementary School in Beaufort County School District, holding that position since 2016. As an assistant principal, she has been responsible for analyzing school-wide data and making instructional decisions based on that data, managing IEPs, 504 Plans and MTSS meetings, as well as coordinating observation cycles and professional development sessions.



Tina Johnson

Prior to her role as Assistant Principal, Johnson served as a numeracy coach, a TAP master teacher and a sixth and seventh grade math instructor.

She is a graduate of Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Merchandising. She also graduated with a Master’s in Elementary Education from Wheelock College, a Master’s in Gifted Education from Converse College and a Master’s in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina.

“I am excited and energized for the opportunity to serve the students and community of Florence One at Greenwood Elementary,” Johnson said. “I look forward to growing students while sharpening my tool as an instructional leader within Florence One.”

McBride said that Johnson’s experience as an administrator and a teacher will be valuable as she takes the lead at Greenwood.

“We are very happy to have Ms. Johnson join Florence 1 Schools this upcoming school year as a principal,” McBride said. “She is a strong educator, and we believe she will be a wonderful leader at Greenwood.”



Joni Bown

Joni Bown will be the new principal at Sneed Middle School. Bown currently serves as an assistant principal at South Florence High School. As Assistant Principal, Bown’s responsibilities have included acting as a Local

Education Agent for IEPs, designing the school’s master schedule, implementing Student Support Teams and managing ESSR funds to develop academic achievement in afterschool programs.

“I am very thankful and excited to be the new principal at Sneed Middle School,” Bown said. “I believe in academic excellence, community building and educational equity. As principal, I will strive to ensure students are provided the best opportunity while implementing these core values. I look forward to an outstanding school year!”

Bown is a graduate of California State University, San Marcos with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with Education. She also earned a Master’s in Education Leadership with a Mathematics Specialization from George Mason University and a K-12 Principal Certificate in Supervision and Leadership from the University of Mary Washington.

Prior to coming to Florence 1, Bown had worked as an instructional coach, a high school and middle school English as a second language educator, a mathematics specialist, a middle school math teacher and a fifth-grade teacher.

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools, Gregory Hall, said that Bown will bring a wealth of knowledge to Sneed. “I am excited about the selection of Mrs. Bown as the next leader of Sneed Middle School,” Hall said. “Her experience in schools across the country, in classroom and school leadership roles, have prepared her to be a great leader at Sneed Middle School.”

All three administrators will officially begin in their new roles on July 1. The first day of school for Florence 1 Schools students is August 1st, 2022. Online registration is open now for new and returning students at fls.org/registration.

FSD1 STUDENT EARNS PRIVATE PILOT’S LICENSE



Student, Abigail Buddenborg and Joe Rogers the FAA-Designated Pilot Examiner.

West Florence senior Abigail Buddenborg has become the first student in Florence 1 Schools to earn a private pilot license through Advantage Academy’s aviation program.

Buddenborg recently completed her Federal Aviation Administration Practical Test, also called a checkride, with Joe

Rogers, an FAA-Designated Pilot Examiner for the Florence area. This test consists of two parts, an oral exam and a flight portion. She is set to attend Charleston Southern University in the fall and will continue her journey to become a commercial aviator.

“To be able to get an opportunity to accomplish this in high school is unbelievable,” Buddenborg said. “I am going to be so much further ahead than my other peers at CSU.”

Advantage Academy partnered with Carolina Flight School for their aviation program starting in the 2021-22, school year after a needs assessment identified it as an area of interest. The inaugural group of students, including Buddenborg, took their first flight in December at the Florence Regional Airport.

Carolina Flight School instructor Robby Peed said that Buddenborg was a great student.

“I would say that Abigail is one of the hardest working students we have ever seen,” Peed said. “She really put in the time and effort needed to get it done and we can’t be more proud of her.”

In December, Florence 1 was notified that it was awarded an FAA grant for \$339,000 to go toward aviation education. The workforce development grant will allow Florence 1 students to receive a scholarship to cover the cost of completing flight training to get their private pilot’s license.

Find out more about the aviation program and other courses offered at Advantage Academy at www.fls.org/advantageacademy.





**CELEBRATING
MORE THAN 150 YEARS OF
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND
VISIONARY LEADERSHIP!**



Clafin University offers more than 40 nationally-accredited academic programs, including affordable and flexible accelerated online and on-campus degree programs for adult learners.

U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges 2022 Rankings

- Clafin was named a Top 10 HBCU for the 11th consecutive year and the No.1 HBCU in South Carolina

Also:

- 7th Best Regional College in the South
- 3rd Best for Top Performers on Social Mobility

**ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S AND
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**ONLINE • ORANGEBURG • FORT JACKSON (COLUMBIA, SC)
Earn Your Bachelor's or Master's Degree
in as little as 12-18 Months!**

**Bachelor of Arts in
Criminal Justice**
ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE
(803) 535-5573
conedu@clafin.edu

**RN to Bachelor of Science
in Nursing**
100% ONLINE
(803) 535-5843
nursing@clafin.edu

**Bachelor of Science in
Organizational Management**
ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE
(803) 535-5573
conedu@clafin.edu

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
100% ONLINE
(803) 535-5573
conedu@clafin.edu

**Master of Business
Administration (MBA)**
ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE
(803) 535-5715/5200
mba@clafin.edu

**Master of Science
in Criminal Justice**
100% ONLINE
(803)535-5898/5573
civey@clafin.edu
conedu@clafin.edu

Master of Science in Nursing
ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE
(803) 535-5843
nursing@clafin.edu

**Master of Education
in Curriculum
and Instruction (M.Ed.)**
100% ONLINE
(803) 535-5673
dwaymer@clafin.edu
mastersed@clafin.edu

**Master of Science
in Biotechnology**
ON-CAMPUS, 2-YEAR PROGRAM
(803) 535-5459/5405
gmccutcheon@clafin.edu
ncherry@clafin.edu

APPLY NOW

www.clafin.edu/admissions-aid/how-to-apply



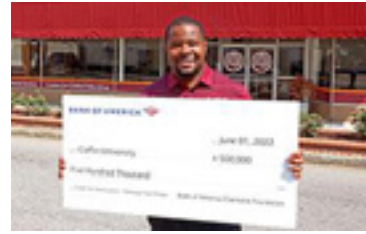
**The Center for Professional and
Continuing Studies**
(803) 535-5573 | conedu@clafin.edu

Clafin Online
(803) 535-5108
anparker@clafin.edu | conedu@clafin.edu

**400 Magnolia Street | Orangeburg, S.C. 29115
1-800-922-1276 | www.clafin.edu**

**BANK OF AMERICA SUPPORTS CLAFIN
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Submitted by Clafin University and Bank of America



Clafin University receives \$500,000 check from Bank of America

Clafin University announces that Bank of America will invest \$500,000 to support the University's Center for Social Justice and the Pathways from Prison Program. The Pathways from Prison Program is a historic collaboration between Clafin and the South Carolina Department of Corrections that provides incarcerated individuals

in South Carolina access to the University's exceptional academic programs.

Incarcerated individuals that meet Clafin and SCDC requirements can earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, psychology and organizational management. They can also earn minors and certificate credentials.

Bank of America's investment will support student scholarships; enhance technological resources such as laptops, keyboards, printers, routers and wi-fi hotspots. Funding for the partnership will also be used to increase the number of qualified faculty and staff to ensure incarcerated students receive the same high-quality educational experience that has earned Clafin national recognition as one of the nation's premier liberal arts universities.

"We are extremely grateful for Bank of America's support for our Center for Social Justice and the Pathways from Prison Program. Research indicates a dramatic reduction in recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals who participate in prison education programs," said Clafin President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, a 2019, USA Eisenhower Fellow. Warmack's research during his fellowship explored global best practices for reducing mass incarceration through education and rehabilitation.

"Bank of America's reputation as a global leader in banking and finance is widely recognized. This partnership amplifies their commitment to equality, equity and expanding economic opportunities for diverse populations."

"Education is a gateway to a better life," said Kim Wilkerson, president, Bank of America South Carolina. "We appreciate Clafin University's leadership and recognize the success and progress made through the Pathways from Prison Program. Issues of racial equality and economic opportunity are deeply connected, and it's important to remove the barriers to success and focus on areas where systemic, long-term gaps have existed."

The Pathways From Prison Program was established through the Second Chance Pell Grant Pilot Program, a US Department of Education initiative. The grant provides need-based Federal Pell Grants to individuals incarcerated in federal and state prisons. Clafin University was the only HBCU in South Carolina among 67 colleges and universities nationwide selected for the program.

Clafin University

Clafin University is a comprehensive institution of higher education affiliated with the United Methodist Church. An HBCU founded in 1869, Clafin is dedicated to providing a student-centered, liberal arts education grounded in cutting-edge research, experiential learning, state-of-the-art technology, community service and life-long personal and professional fulfillment. Clafin is a diverse and inclusive community of students, faculty, staff and administrators who work to cultivate practical wisdom, judgment, knowledge, skills and character needed for globally engaged citizenship and effective leadership.

Bank of America Environmental, Social and Governance

At Bank of America, NYSE: BAC, we're guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better, through the power of every connection. We're delivering on this through responsible growth with a focus on our environmental, social and governance leadership. ESG is embedded across our eight lines of business and reflects how we help fuel the global economy,

BANK OF AMERICA CONT'D

build trust and credibility and represent a company that people want to work for, invest in and do business with. It's demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our clients, and the impact we make around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships with nonprofits and advocacy groups, such as community, consumer and environmental organizations, to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Connect with us on Twitter (@BofA_News).

For more Bank of America news, including dividend announcements and other important information, register for news email alerts.

CLAFLIN AND LONDON METROPOLITAN LAUNCH HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP



Clafin President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack and London Metropolitan University Vice-Chancellor Lynn Dobbs launch historic partnership.

ORANGEBURG - Clafin University and London Metropolitan University signed a Memorandum of Understanding on May 26, to launch a historic academic partnership that will provide international study, teaching and research opportunities for students, faculty and staff

at both institutions.

Clafin President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack and London Metropolitan University Vice-Chancellor Lynn Dobbs signed the agreement in Clafin's Ministers' Hall.

"This partnership is special. It's very different because it represents a significant financial investment by London Metropolitan University," Warmack said. "They are investing in our students by bringing them to London and providing housing and scholarship opportunities."

London Metropolitan University is a public research university in London, England, with more than 12,000 students. London Metropolitan University is commonly known as London Met. The University of North London, formerly the Polytechnic of North London, and London Guildhall University, formerly the City of London Polytechnic, merged in 2002, to create the university; however, the university's roots go back to 1848. The university has campuses in the City of London and the London Borough of Islington.

Students, faculty and staff from both universities will share their expertise, knowledge, and skills through the agreement. Students from both universities will also have opportunities for customized study abroad programs, international summer school, internships and service-learning placement scholarships.

Another critical mission of the agreement is to promote substantive social change in the United States, the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

"This MOU offers a much broader engagement than many of our other partnerships," said Warmack. "This partnership is intentional and inclusive.

It is a one-of-a-kind partnership that includes students, faculty and staff. It's not often that staff members receive research opportunities through study abroad programs."

Dobbs began her tenure as vice-chancellor and chief executive at London Met in October 2018. Previously, she served six years as deputy vice-chancellor and provost at Roehampton University, a public university in the United Kingdom.

"This partnership is very important to us," she said. "We have partnerships with many other universities, but most are commercial

partnerships. Our agreement with Clafin benefits both institutions. We spent several months researching Clafin, and we had help from other universities and students in developing our proposal.

We created three tiers for the universities. Clafin was selected as a Tier 1 partner, which means the university is an excellent investment. When we approached Dr. Warmack, he agreed that Clafin was the best fit for this MOU. We want to learn from Clafin, but we also want to share our knowledge during this partnership.

We also want to learn more about serving minority students and the communities where they live."

The MOU aligns with Clafin's Value Proposition by fostering global perspectives through strategic interactions with diverse student and faculty populations and consistent involvement with inclusive learning experiences.

"London Metropolitan University has invited a delegation from Clafin to London," Warmack said. "I look forward to visiting their campus and hosting their team when they visit Clafin."

DCSD ACCELERATING LITERACY

Submitted by Christopher McKagen, communications specialist



Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Teachers

DARLINGTON - The Darlington County School District recognized this week the 2021-2022, Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Training Class for successfully completing a full year of graduate-level coursework offered through the district's partnership with Clemson University's Early Literacy Training Center.

These teachers became a part of a community of learners dedicated to teaching young striving readers and improving instruction and student outcomes for all students.

At the conclusion of the training, six DCSD teachers became certified in Reading Recovery. They enrolled in four graduate-level courses through Clemson University and earned a total of 12 graduate credit hours. These teachers also received credit for the Add-On Literacy Endorsement through the Read to Succeed program.

The new DCSD Reading Recovery Teachers are:

- **Kim Bonnoitt, St. John's Elementary School**
- **Angela Prosser, Carolina Elementary School**
- **Kenyatta Peterson, Thornwell School for the Arts**
- **Kinsey Johnson, North Hartsville Elementary School**
- **Melanie Carpenter, Bay Road Elementary School**
- **Hilary Faircloth, Pate Elementary School**

The Early Literacy teachers participated in the same training class as the Reading Recovery Teachers. These certified teachers enrolled in two graduate-level courses through Clemson University and earned a total of eight graduate-level hours at the conclusion of the training year. These courses are approved for two of the required Read to Succeed classes, Instructional Strategies for Reading and Assessment Strategies for Reading. During the training, these teachers learned how to apply Reading Recovery instructional procedures to design-focused lessons with the goal of accelerating literacy learning for all students.

The new DCSD Early Literacy Professional Development Teachers are:

- **Lacy Jackson, Pate Elementary School**
- **Jennifer Gribben, DCSD English/Language Arts coordinator**
- **Nancy Williamson, Southside Early Childhood Center**
- **Sharon Byram, St. John's Elementary School**

Scholarships



FLORENCE STUDENTS RECEIVE \$96,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FROM RUIZ 4 KIDS

Submitted by Ruiz Foods



Ruiz 4 Kids awards hundreds of thousands of dollars of scholarships to graduating high school seniors and community college transfer students every year. Many past recipients speak from their hearts when they share their stories about the important role that a Ruiz 4 Kids scholarship played in helping them transform their dream of attending college into a reality.

“By awarding these scholarships we are letting these students know we believe in their ability to succeed”

*Tyler Beck
Ruiz 4 Kids President*



Evelyn Almers & Aiden Elder & Jim Bowman presenting at The Kings Academy

The Ruiz 4 Kids Louis F. Ruiz Scholarship Program was introduced at Ruiz Foods Florence in 2015, shortly after the company became a part of the business community. “It was new for the Florence community,” said Krista Meekins, “Member, Ruiz 4 Kids Board of Directors and Ruiz Foods Florence Executive Assistant and Office Coordinator. “And we only awarded one scholarship that first year.”

With hard work and consistent involvement in the community, the Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship Program is now known by many area counselors and principals who look

forward to sharing the details with their graduating high school seniors.

One counselor, who preferred to remain anonymous, shares, “The Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship Program is welcomed in our school district. I truly enjoy being able to share the opportunity with graduating seniors and transfer students. I absolutely hope those that oversee Ruiz 4 Kids and the Scholarship Program understand how many young students they have helped. Every bit of encouragement is important to so many students. You might not think so, but it is. I don’t know how many times a student, awarded with a Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship, looks at me and comments ‘they believe in me.’ It’s always very heartwarming.”

Meekins, who joined Ruiz Foods Florence in 2015, shortly after the company opened its manufacturing facility and distribution warehouse facility, really enjoys being a part of the company’s commitment to the community. “It was great to be hired by a company that not only said it -cared and would give back to the community, but then, shortly after it hired Team Members and opened, did exactly that.” She enjoys running into kids who have received a scholarship. “I love seeing that they’ve become successful.”

Since the Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship Program was introduced to Ruiz Foods Florence just over seven years ago, it has grown from a \$1,000 scholarship in 2015, to a total of over \$350,000 in scholarships. In fact, in 2022, Ruiz 4 Kids awarded \$96,000 to students in the Ruiz Foods Florence area.

“It’s been great to see how Krista has grown in her Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship responsibilities over the years,” explains Tyler Beck, president Ruiz 4 Kids. “My Grandfather, Fred Ruiz, co-founder of Ruiz Foods, taught all of us the importance of commitment to the community, children and education. It’s natural



Connor Holberg & Natalie McCabe with Jamie Moore and Andrew Kroeck presenting at West Florence



Kemaya Caldwell, Jordan Brown, Meredith Leach, Carrigan Woodson Myla Rahman, Samaria Ellebe and Amaya Lewis at Wilson High School

for me because it’s a commitment I grew up with. It’s great to see how Krista, and so many others throughout our company, and in Ruiz Foods Florence, have embraced that same commitment.”

As a member of the Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship Program Committee in Florence, Meekins works with other Ruiz Foods Florence Team Members who volunteer to help review the scholarship applications. “I love having



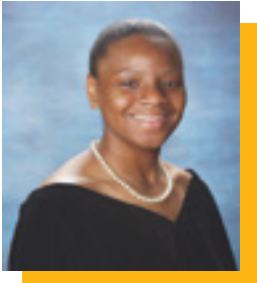
Scholarship Team: Names are left to right: Matt Merkle, Krista Meekins, Adriana Aldana, LaSonja Jackson, Tammy Cantey, Jamie Moore Not pictured: Tina Rogers and Rick Maddox

the opportunity to talk with our Team Members as we discuss applications. Everyone comes from a different perspective and it’s a great opportunity to hear what others think. I sincerely believe this is another example of where our company’s commitment to diversity comes into play ... in a very positive way. It’s great to be able to learn and grow by working with each other.”

“After several years Covid-related restrictions, Ruiz Team Members were excited to have the opportunity to attend many graduation ceremonies this year,” adds Beck. “They enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of the graduates as they receive their diploma and their Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship certificate. It’s very heartwarming.”

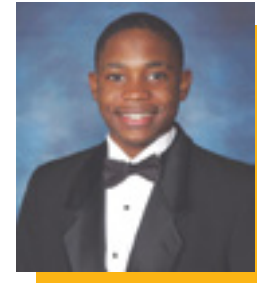
Lee County School District Congratulations Class of 2022

Lee Central High School Mr. Baron Turner, Principal



**Valedictorian
Morgan Carter**

Our Valedictorian is the daughter of Althea Carter. She was a member of Central Carolina Technical College's Dual Enrollment/Early College program where she achieved the feat of obtaining an Associate's in Arts Degree. She maintained All A's in all of her Lee Central High courses and all of her Central Carolina courses. She has been a Beta Club member, FBLA, Lee Central Marching Band, Palmetto Girls State Participant, JROTC Battalion Executive Officer, Adopt a Highway Program, and a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Member. She has earned admissions to numerous top colleges but she chooses to attend the University of South Carolina in the Fall majoring in Political Science.



**Salutatorian
Gerald Wilson Jr.**

Our Salutatorian is the son of Gerald Wilson Sr. & Anita Ellis-Miller. During his matriculation at Lee Central High School, Gerald became the Drum Major for the Lee Central Marching Band, Emerging Leader Member, JROTC Battalion Commander, Beta Club Secretary, Teacher Cadet and an athlete for LCHS Baseball and Track/Field. Gerald Wilson Jr.'s work ethic and determination to succeed made him the Salutatorian of the Lee Central High School Graduating Class of 2022. He has earned admissions to Francis Marion, Claflin University, and SC State University, where he will be majoring in Computer Science.



Top Five Honor Graduates



Morgan Carter— Valedictorian, Gerald Wilson, Jr.—Salutatorian, Kiara Prescott , Jada Johnson and Payton Ruth
Mr. Baron Turner, Principal—Mr. Bernard McDaniel, Superintendent—Ms. Sylvia Scott, Lee County School Board, Chairman

132 Graduates

54 Honor Graduates

6 Early College Graduates

Total Earned in Scholarships: \$6,308,268

79 CATE completers

18 Dual CATE Completers

37 Life Scholarship Recipients

Lee County School District Board of Trustees

Sylvia Scott, Chair—Queenie Boyd, Vice-Chair—Nathaniel Brunson, Secretary
Reggitt James, Lucretia Mack and Echo Belvin

Lee County School District Superintendent

Mr. Bernard McDaniel, Sr.



Lee County School District 310 Roland Street Bishopville, SC 29010 (803) 484-5327

A learning community where students come first!

FDTC HOSTS ELECTRIC GRADUATION CEREMONY WITH MANY FIRSTS Submitted by FDTC



FDTC President Dr. Jermaine Ford addresses 2022 graduating class.

Florence-Darlington Technical College's Graduation Ceremony held in May was absolutely electric as hundreds of graduates walked across the stage to receive their degrees, diplomas and certificates.

"I have attended hundreds of graduations throughout the years, but this was my favorite thus far," said FDTC President Dr. Jermaine Ford.

The ceremony marked the first for Ford, who arrived at FDTC last October to serve as the institution's fifth president. By the end of Ford's opening remarks, the crowd was going wild with electric energy, setting up the night for a special celebration.

"FDTC's North Star is student success," Ford said. "I'm proud of all our graduates, as well as our faculty and staff. My journey started at Moraine Valley Community College in 1994, with my Associates Degree. In 2022, I got an opportunity to pay it forward and witness my graduates accomplish their first degrees and certificates. Education does matter!"

This year's graduation also marked the first for FDTC's new ceremonial mace that was manufactured on-campus at the SiMT. The mace symbolizes FDTC's integrity and its promise to put students first. It was used to lead the graduation, and it will be used during future events as well.

"It was an honor to be the first Mace bearer at Florence-Darlington Technical College," said Faculty Senate President and Paralegal Instructor, Tracy Evans. "As the Faculty Senate President, I had the

privilege of leading the procession and sitting on the dais. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve my college."

Nursing alumna and City of Florence Mayor, Teresa Myers Ervin served as the guest speaker. Throughout her speech, she shared her life story and her journey through FDTC's nursing program.

"It was our motto that if you could get through Florence-Darlington Tech through that Nursing program, you could pass the Board, and you could do anything from that point," Mayor Myers Ervin said.

She continued and said, "It's okay to be great. It's okay to be the first. Go ahead and shine. Light up the universe with your talent, and if anyone can't stand your shine, let them put on shades. You go ahead and do it anyway. I'm going to ask you, as a part of your alumni, keep it moving, and as you're moving, allow everyone to know that you graduated from Florence-Darlington Technical College. One of the leading colleges in this state. A college that is committed to the community. A college that is committed to being sure that you have a future. That you have a job in a career that you have chosen. Keep it moving."

FDTC's 600-plus graduates will now have an opportunity to enter the workforce or continue their higher education at a four-year institution.

For individuals in the community, if you are looking to advance your career, you still have an opportunity to register for Fall 2022, Semester classes that begin in August. FDTC has its main campus in Florence, and it also has a Health Sciences location in the downtown area. There is also a FDTC site in Hartsville, Mullins and Lake City at The Continuum. FDTC has a Cosmetology Center in Darlington as well.

For more information on the upcoming Fall 2022, Semester at FDTC, please visit fdtc.edu or call 843-661-8324.



843-661-8324 | WWW.FDTC.EDU



MORE THAN

\$7.1 BILLION

HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED TO SUPPORT EDUCATION IN S.C. SINCE 2002.



HIGHER EDUCATION

More than
2.4 MILLION

Scholarships and Grants have been awarded to S.C.'s Students.

- **Palmetto Fellows** Scholarship
- **LIFE** Scholarship
- **S.C. HOPE** Scholarship
- Lottery **Tuition Assistance**
- **S.C. National Guard College** Assistance Program
- S.C. **Need-based Grants**
- S.C. **Tuition Grants**



K-12 PROGRAMS

More than
\$1.1 BILLION
to K-12 programs.

2,400+

school buses have been purchased with lottery proceeds.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

More than
\$53 MILLION

Has supported community Education programs in the Palmetto State.



sceducationlottery.com



Each year the **General Assembly** appropriates lottery net proceeds for **educational purposes**.

BRAND RECEIVES FMU'S AAFSC DIVERSITY AWARD Submitted by FMU



LaTasha Brand

LaTasha Brand, dean of students at Francis Marion University, received the FMU African American Faculty and Staff Coalition's Diversity Award at the organization's annual scholarship banquet. Brand, a native of North Charleston, has deep ties to Francis Marion University. Before graduating in 2002, with a bachelor's degree in English, she served as president of the Student Government Association. In 2004,

Brand was hired to FMU as assistant dean of students, and in 2018, was elevated to her current position as dean. The AAFSC Diversity Award is given annually by the coalition to highlight the work of individuals who are dedicated to celebrating diversity and inclusiveness at FMU and beyond. The banquet was held at the FMU Freshwater Ecology Center.

The Diversity Award presentation was just one highlight of the evening. Recipients of AAFSC-sponsored scholarships were also recognized. Florence City Councilman and FMU alum Chaquez McCall was the keynote speaker.

FMU President Dr. Fred Carter announced the creation of a new scholarship named for Bishop Donald Jackson to benefit members of the Young Gifted and Blessed Choir. Jackson is the longtime advisor for the group and an FMU accountant. Carter also announced he would ask the FMU Board of Trustees to name the university's Academic Computing Laboratory in honor of recently retired network administrator Teresa McDuffie.

Both Jackson and McDuffie are founding members of the AAFSC.

The AAFSC's scholarships are funded jointly through the AAFSC and the Francis Marion University Education Foundation. These include six endowed and four flow-through scholarships. Two FMU students benefiting from endowments were recognized; Ma'kya Fitts, recipient of the Dr. Joseph E. Heyward Scholarship and Jalen Miles, recipient of the Dr. LeRoy "Pete" Peterson Scholarship.

The AAFSC was founded at FMU in 1995, to stimulate and enhance cultural awareness, and to promote professional development and welfare among faculty, staff and students.

The organization's goals include increasing morale and communication among members; creating an atmosphere of community for FMU African-American faculty, staff and students; serving as a liaison between the administrative personnel of FMU and the African-American faculty and staff; and examining the university's efforts in recruitment and retention of African-American faculty and staff.

Linda Sullen, a long-time employee in FMU's payroll department, is the current president of the AAFSC.

Past winners of the AAFSC Diversity Award included Dr. Rebecca Lawson, Dr. Louis Venters, Ms. Angela Crosland, Dr. Rhonda Brogdon, Ms. Yvonne Davis, Mrs. Crystal Graham, Dr. Will Wattles, Dr. Jason Owens, Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price, Dr. Shayna Wrighten, Dr. Erica James and Dr. Daniel Brauss.



HAPPINESS IS BEING FIRST.

*Support the First Generation Fund
at Francis Marion University.
Scholarships for those who need it most.*

MAKE A GIFT TODAY | WWW.FMARION.EDU/FIRSTGEN | 843-661-1225



FMU HONORS GRADUATE HAILED AS THE 'EMBODIMENT OF RESOLVE' Articles submitted by FMU



Ke'Ziyah Williamson alongside her parents Joy and Alex Williamson

Ke'Ziyah Williamson is a rock star.

The praise is figurative, of course. Williamson isn't a singer, dancer or musician. She is a first-generation college student who graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in biology from Francis Marion University.

Dr. Jon Tuttle, the director of FMU's Honors Program, is Williamson's adviser and one of her biggest fans.

"She is the very embodiment of resolve," Tuttle said. "She gets stuff done, and she will not quit. I think she looked around her when she was a kid and thought, 'I'm going to have to take over here. I've got to do this myself.'"

That hard work has paid off. Williamson is just 20 years old. She skipped fourth grade and graduated from Darlington High School when she was 16.

Her grade-point average at FMU is 3.97. She has gotten all As except for a B-plus in physics, which she took online during the pandemic. She also took an internship last semester with SC Rep. Jim Clyburn's office.

Like many first-generation college graduates, Williamson had to overcome many hurdles to get to where she is now. When COVID-19 hit in the middle of her sophomore year, Williamson had to worry about more than just the disruption to her classes. She was raised by her grandparents, Joy and Alex Williamson, who she calls mom and dad. Their house in Darlington is a busy one, with two siblings, three cousins and a young niece. An aunt lived with them until she died recently of bladder cancer. Williamson's grandfather is battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"Full house," Williamson said.

Full hands. Williamson has been a caregiver to her parents and family, a role that accelerated during the pandemic.

"There were seven kids doing homework at a table at the same time on the same broadband, and then you're getting dinner ready," Williamson said. "I'm trying to make sure we all stay focused, and everybody does their homework, and everybody does classwork, and

everybody is getting time away from each other, because everybody needs a little bit of personal time. I made sure the kids were staying active. Everybody has a little tension in their family, but nothing that wasn't manageable. We all love each other as much as anybody could."

Jennifer Floyd, FMU's biology laboratory manager, marvels at Williamson's ability to excel at her studies, while taking care of her family.

"She was always there for her family," Floyd said. "They were definitely the top priority on her list, but I was always impressed about how she was able to take care of herself and her schoolwork and her job on top of everything else."

In many ways Williamson's efforts sound more superhuman than a rockstar. That might explain her love of comic books, fostered by an FMU class that fulfilled her literature requirement.

"I found out I like them, and they're just as complex as a regular book," she said.

Though she does like superheroes, Williamson says she is not one herself.

"I don't have too much of an inflated view about myself," she said. "I hope my siblings can look up to me and see how hard I'm working for them. I hope that my family is proud of me, but I wouldn't say that I'm a superhero."

Williamson will say this, "I wouldn't trade any of my experiences," Williamson said. "They've made me who I am."

And just who is Ke'Ziyah Williamson?

"She's a workhorse," Tuttle said. "There are no excuses. There is no falling short. There is no stopping. She just gets it done. She's not phony or dramatic. She just sees the problem, solves the problem, moves on and is very authentic. She has potential that she maximizes. She uses every ounce of energy and talent that she's got, and she gets it done every time."

Graduate school is next, though Williamson is not yet sure where she will go or what she will study.

"I'm considering physician assistant school along with a Masters in either epidemiology or public health," she said. "That would give me an opportunity to blend my political science background as well as my biological background."

Whatever the future holds, Tuttle feels confident in predicting success for Williamson.

"She'll be running an agency at some point," he said, "or she'll be running her own business."

FMU ACTIVATE ACADEMY INSPIRES YOUTH



Rising ninth graders

Rising ninth graders across Florence County had the opportunity to participate in a unique comprehensive learning experience at Francis Marion University known as Activate Academy.

Sponsored by FMU and its Center of Excellence for College and Career Readiness, Activate Academy is a three-day learning experience where students are exposed to different career paths and learn about what it takes to get there.

"The middle school to high school transition can be a very difficult

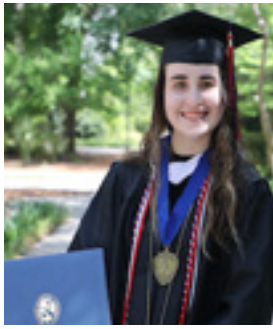
one as the school itself is often much larger, grades begin to count towards the overall high school GPA and students are expected to be more self-motivated and responsible," said Dr. Meredith Love, co-director of the Center of Excellence for College and Career Readiness. "We hope that the students who attend Activate are given tools to help them develop a mindset that will carry them through this transition and into a successful high school career."

Nominated by guidance counselors, the soon-to-be high schoolers were trained on strategies for success in high school and college. The students were lodged in FMU residence halls and worked with teachers from local school districts, as well as Francis Marion faculty.

Created and facilitated by middle and high school teachers, Activate Academy seeks to educate and prepare students for high school, college and life beyond. During the program, students are exposed to many industries and career paths through hands-on instruction and visits to local businesses.

Activate Academy also seeks to inspire and motivate students to set goals and work toward achieving them. Students participate in workshops and engaging activities designed to build confidence.

To learn more, visit the Activate Academy website <https://www.screadiness.org/programs/activate-academy/>.



Elizabeth Henry

What does a standout in Francis Marion University's Class of 2022, have in common with some of the most notable figures in modern history? They're family.

Elizabeth Henry, received her diploma at FMU's recent commencement, is a direct descendant of American Founding Father Patrick Henry. Yes, Patrick Henry of "Give me liberty or give me death," fame. Patrick Henry's family tree is a virtual "who's who" of historical figures. From Sir Winston Churchill to Billie Eilish, Helen Keller, Bing Crosby, Marilyn Monroe, Walt Disney and

Gen. George S. Patton, just to name a few.

Henry's link to Patrick Henry is something others are more impressed with than she is; however, history is a major part of her present and future.

It was her major at FMU, with minors in anthropology and geography. Henry plans to take a year off and travel to Australia and New Zealand with her father, Benton Henry (FMU Class of 1988). Then she'll continue her history studies in graduate school.

Henry's current focus: German youth resistance to Nazism during World War II. Her honors thesis argued that youth resistance proved Hitler's re-education and Nazification policies weren't all that successful.

"Youth resistance was often overlooked, because they weren't this huge organization that had united efforts and did these big, grandiose acts, like plotting to assassinate Hitler," she said. "They were smaller. They printed leaflets. They wrote slogans. They held parties and had critical discussions."

They filled walls with graffiti, risked arrest and even execution.

For Henry, history was always one of her favorite subjects.

"To me, it's all stories," she said. "That's history."

Through high school, she was well-educated on U.S. history, but was grateful for the opportunity to explore broader historical vistas at FMU.

"I was super excited about entering college, because I knew there would be a greater variety of history courses to take," Henry said.

Three courses, including one on modern Germany, were taught by Dr. Alena Eskridge-Kosmach.

"I was impressed from the very beginning with her work ethic, how she was listening to the lectures, how she was responding," Eskridge-Kosmach said. "I was impressed with her intellectual curiosity, her broad-mindedness, her ability to work with me as her teacher and her ability to do the work by herself to look for the materials to look for new angles."

While she wants to study internationally as she pursues a master's degree. Henry has already seen much of the world. In addition to last year's travel, she has been to China, Quebec, Montreal, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein.

In China, she visited Shanghai and Beijing, from which she saw a portion of the Great Wall, and during a trip to the countryside, she saw the Terracotta Warriors.

"With my interest in archaeology, this was really cool to see," she said. "It's like a football stadium-size excavation pit."

In Germany, Henry visited Munich and nearby Dachau, the Nazi's first concentration camp.

"It's just one of those things that you have to see for yourself, and it helps you understand the magnitude of something that's happened," she said.

Henry will be an intern this summer with the Marion County Museum and is looking forward to helping with an oral history project on Green Book sites in South Carolina, particularly Marion and Mullins.

She also plans to help Dr. Christopher Barton, an FMU assistant professor of archaeology, with some archaeological work at Jamestown, near Mars Bluff not far from the FMU campus.

"It's a plot of land that was historically owned by a Black family shortly after the Civil War and has remained in the family ever since," Henry said. "There are few original foundations of roads and houses. One of the owners, Terry James, has worked with us a long time as part of the

broader oral history project that we have here on campus, studying slavery. Connecting this campus to history is very important."

The straight-A student plans to get her doctorate after she decides between history and anthropology. First, she will pursue her master's in historic preservation. One school she is considering is Appalachian State.

FMU GRADUATES FIRST MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CLASS



Mechanical Engineering Class

Francis Marion University has a new starting five.

No, not the basketball team. The first students to graduate from FMU's Mechanical Engineering program received their diplomas during Saturday's commencement ceremony.

Colton Mims and Matthew Todd of Pamplico, Kevin

Smith of Cheraw, Maximo Rainwater of Florence and Devin Warren of Greenville were all awarded diplomas and became a part of university history.

Warren, who was also awarded FMU's first ever Mechanical Engineering Award earlier this year, called the experience "mind-blowing," and said being one of the program's first five graduates "definitely feels big."

"When we come back years from now and visit this program to see how large it becomes, it will be kind of cool to know that we started at its beginning," Warren said. "That'll be awesome."

The head coach – that is, program coordinator – of Mechanical Engineering is Dr. Rahul Renu. Renu came to FMU in 2016, after earning a master's and Ph.D. from Clemson University. According to him, FMU could not have hoped for a better team of graduates.

"They represent everything that our program is about. They have all gained industry work experience, through internships, prior to graduating, some have performed undergraduate research, they've all actively participated in the FMU community and have all grown to become well-rounded professionals," Renu said.

The Mechanical Engineering program has attracted many students in the first three years since its inception, according to Renu. The program expects this trend to continue, which they attribute to the strong regional need for mechanical engineers.

The Mechanical Engineering program, along with its Industrial Engineering counterpart, was created in direct response to regional and statewide industry leaders. The first ME classes were offered in the fall of 2019, and a dozen students were initial participants. Last fall, 85 students were enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering program, and two ME assistant professors have been added to the faculty in the past two years.

Plans to expand the program further are already well under way, both academically and with facilities. Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering programs are expected to be added in the coming years, and a new \$1 million, 5,000-square-foot applied learning facility to support engineering programs is slated to be built on FMU's main campus by August 2023.

According to the "Starting Five," FMU's ME program was attractive because of its small class sizes and the opportunity to get to work closely with instructors.

The program gives students the opportunity to work with local industry, which for this class included GE Healthcare's MRI production plant in Florence and Meritor in Manning.

Commencement marked the end of one game for this starting five, but new games are about to begin. According to Renu, wherever these FMU graduates go, success won't be far behind.

"These students are great people. They are compassionate, empathetic and considerate. These qualities along with their educational preparation will hold them in good stead for a long time to come," he said. "I won't be surprised if they become leaders within the next three to five years."



Trinity Collegiate School

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2022



**CLASS OF
2022 TOTAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
\$19,484,905**

THE CLASS OF 2022 WAS ACCEPTED TO THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES:

Accepting Enrollment Now for Grades 6-12

- College Preparatory
- Extensive Advanced Placement Selections
- Performing & Visual Arts
- Athletics

5001 Hoffmeyer Road,
Darlington, SC, 29532

843.395.9124

www.Trinitycollegiate.org

To schedule a tour, contact
April Munn at
(843) 395-9124 or email
amunn@trinitycollegiate.org

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Dartmouth University | William and Mary | University of Pennsylvania |
| Davidson College | West Point | Naval Academy |
| Brown University | Villanova University | The George Washington University |
| Clemson University | Ohio State University | Francis Marion University |
| University of South Carolina-Honors College | Pennsylvania State University | Auburn |
| Purdue University | Notre Dame | Virginia Tech |
| Air Force Academy | University of South Carolina | Lehigh University |
| Furman University | Eckerd College | Middle Tennessee State University |
| Wofford College | Catawba College | University of North Carolina-Charlotte |
| Anderson University | St. Thomas University | Appalachian State University |
| University of Louisiana- Monroe | American University | University of Tampa |
| Belmont University | University of Alabama | Jacksonville State University |
| University of Mississippi | Ersine College | College of Charleston-Honors |
| Gardner-Webb University | University of North Florida | Newberry College |
| High-Point University | Florence-Darlington Technical College | Florida Polytechnic |
| Dickinson College | Lander University | Arizona State University |
| James Madison University | Mercer University | Presbyterian College |
| University of Pittsburgh | University of Akron | University of Cincinnati |
| Eastern Illinois University | Arizona State University | Indiana University |
| Roanoke College | Oklahoma State University | Stetson University |
| North Greenville University | University of Jacksonville | Furman University |
| Hardin-Simmons College | Winthrop University | South Carolina State University |
| Texas Christian University | New College of Florida | University of Tennessee-Chattanooga |
| BlueField State University | Hollins University | The Citadel |
| College of Charleston | Coker University | Southern Methodist University |
| Tennessee State University | Wingate University | University of Akron |
| North Carolina A&T | Liberty University | Louisiana State University |
| Providence College | Belmont Abbey College | Charleston Southern University |
| Austin Peay State University | Rollins College | Houston Baptist College |
| Guilford College | University of North Carolina-Wilmington | Rogers State University |
| Miami University- Ohio | Clayton University | University of Buffalo |
| The King's College | University of Tennessee | Wilkes University |
| Rhodes College | Biola University | Fordham University |
| Knox College | Sewanee | University of Tulsa |
| Lehigh University | Wake Forest University | St. Andrews University |
| University of Delaware | Princeton | University of Iowa |
| University of Georgia | Duke University | College of the Holy Cross |
| | | Florida State University |
| | | North Carolina State University |

HGTC CELEBRATES YEARS OF SERVICE

CONWAY – Horry-Georgetown Technical College is excited to announce the employees celebrating Years of Service in 2022.

Jacquelyne Snyder, vice president of human resources (10 years); Kyle Prince, director of multimedia support (20 Years); Vince Myers, workforce development manager (30 Years)

Not pictured:

Erick Greer, custodian on grand strand campus (20 Years); Susan Greer, new student enrollment advisor (20 Years)

“I am very proud of the commitment our faculty and staff have made to the College, not only in their tenure, but also in their love and dedication for our students and community. We are truly blessed with the best employees who are well regarded and highly skilled in their fields, and I believe they’re second to none,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president.

Learn more about HGTC programs and FREE tuition for summer and fall 2022, semesters at www.hgtc.edu.



Jacquelyne Snyder

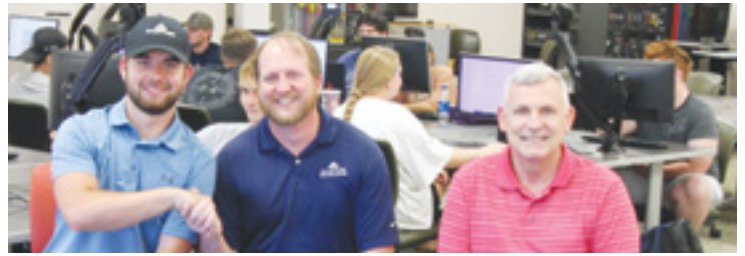


Kyle Prince



Vince Myers

HGTC PARTNERSHIP SECURES INTERNSHIP



Cameron Feagin, HGTC electronics engineering student, secures summer internship with Georgia-Pacific. (left to right) Cameron Feagin, HGTC electronics engineering student, Georgia-Pacific Intern; Jamey Gowdy, Georgia-Pacific Human Resources Business Partner; Ed McCarthy, HGTC associate professor of Electronics Engineering Technology

CONWAY – Horry-Georgetown Technical College is proud to announce that an electronics engineering student has secured a summer internship at Georgia-Pacific, Clarendon. Cameron Feagin has accepted a summer internship position in the Electrical and Instrumentation Department to provide a high-quality work experience prior to his second year in the electronics engineering technology program at HGTC.

“We are very excited to enter this partnership with Georgia-Pacific to provide an opportunity for our students to get real life experiences that support our mission of providing a high-quality, comprehensive, student-centered education and workforce development. We appreciate Georgia-Pacific for their willingness to assist in the professional development of our students,” said Ed McCarthy, HGTC associate professor of Electronics Engineering Technology.

The partnership was developed as students in the HGTC Electronics Engineering Technology program are using modern technology in the classroom and gathering the necessary skills to work on the machines of tomorrow.

“This coincides with the new equipment and technology that we have installed at our Georgia-Pacific plant in Clarendon. Cameron will



JOIN OUR TEAM.

As Gators, we believe we’re at our strongest when we support and celebrate our similarities as well as our differences. That’s why diversity and inclusion are more than buzzwords at HGTC. It’s about communities and individuals—students, staff, and professors who combine their own unique identities and views by working together.

- Over 600 employees
- Employer of choice in Horry and Georgetown Counties
- Helping our community grow
- Competitive benefits package
- Three campus locations:

Conway Campus
2050 Hwy. 501 East,
Conway, SC

Grand Strand Campus
743 Hemlock Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC

Georgetown Campus
4003 South Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC



hgtc.edu | 843.347.3186

Horry-Georgetown Technical College prohibits discrimination against students and employees. Please direct discrimination and accessibility issues to the Office of Student Affairs at 843.347.5228. Public Institution of Higher Education.

HGTC PARTNERSHIP CONT'D

have the opportunity to put the skills and knowledge he has gained in the classroom to work in a modern-day plant where automation has become commonplace,” said Jamey Gowdy, human resources business partner for Georgia-Pacific, Clarendon.

The tasks Feagin will encounter will provide a solid foundation for his continued learning in the Electrical Engineering Technician Program at HGTC.

“I am grateful to HGTC and Georgia-Pacific for offering me this internship position and experience. I would also like to thank Professor McCarthy for believing in me as this internship will allow for other opportunities and experiences in the future,” said Feagin, HGTC electronics engineering student, summer intern at Georgia-Pacific.

“We hope that Cameron is the first of many students to benefit from this partnership as we strive to provide a highly-trained workforce that meets the growing needs of our region’s high-tech industries,” continued McCarthy.

Registration for summer and fall classes is underway. Tuition is free. For more information about the HGTC Electronics Engineering Program, visit www.hgtc.edu or call 843-347-3186.

HGTC EMT STUDENTS COMPLETE PROGRAM

Articles submitted by HGTC



HGTC had 12 Emergency Medical Technology students successfully complete their practical examination. Left to right: Front row- Mario Stephens, Alex Fisk, Nick Sutton, Georgia Speier Back row- Matthew Lincoln, Gage Hicks, Nate Ellis, Rob Anderson, Joey Lawson, Greg Johnson, Dwayne Wright, Cody Toomer, Danielle Dougherty, Bryan Levy and Bret Holland

CONWAY – Horry-Georgetown Technical College is proud to announce that 12 Emergency Medical Technology students successfully completed their practical examination and are on their way to becoming certified EMTs. The completion of the program is part of collaboration between HGTC and the Myrtle Beach Fire Department.

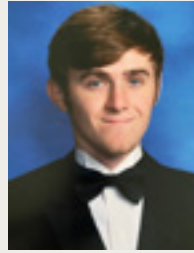
The Associate in Applied Science in Emergency Medical Technology degree prepares students to provide emergency medical support to people who are injured or critically ill and to transport them to a medical facility, if necessary. When working in a first-responder situation, such as an ambulance service or fire department, EMTs are dispatched to the scene of the emergency, which can be as varied as a car accident, a fire, a falling injury, a dog bite, a shooting or stabbing, a birth or a person who’s suddenly fallen ill. Once at the scene of the emergency, EMTs assess the situation, determine if additional assistance is needed and, if necessary, request additional help.

The flexibility of the EMT curriculum allows you to enter the profession at two levels - Basic EMT and Paramedic. This enables students to continue their education while working. In addition to receiving the technical education necessary for the profession, you will take general-education courses. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Registry Examination for EMT and Paramedic level.

The EMT Program is available for enrollment starting in the fall semester with day and evening options available. The EMT program is a two-semester program with student taking their certification exams in May. There are many opportunities for employment both locally and throughout the state of South Carolina.

Registration for fall classes is underway now! Tuition is FREE. For more information about the HGTC Emergency Medical Technology degree, visit www.hgtc.edu or call 843-347-3186.

HGTC STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP



Austin Ix

CONWAY – Horry-Georgetown Technical College is proud to announce that Austin Ix is one of nine students to receive a scholarship from South Carolina Federal Credit Union in the 12th annual scholarship program. The current Wando High School student received a \$4,000 scholarship in the specialized-technical college category and plans to attend HGTC in the fall. He is registered for the Electrical Lineman Technician Program.

“I have always admired the lineman who put their lives on the line to repair the power lines during storms and severe weather. While visiting the HGTC Campus and seeing the lineman course and programs offered, I realized that is where I want to be. I know that a technical college environment will be the best fit for me, and I am eager to get started this fall,” said Ix.

“We are very excited that Austin Ix has selected Horry-Georgetown Technical College as his college of choice for the fall 2022, semester. Our faculty and staff are proud to work with students like Austin who have made an impact in their high schools and plan to make their futures even brighter. It is our mission to make his dreams a reality through our programs of study,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president.

Registration for summer and fall classes is underway. Tuition is free. For more information about the HGTC Electrical Lineman Technician program, visit www.hgtc.edu or call 843-347-3186.

HGTC STUDENTS EARN 2ND PLACE HONORS



Jacquelyne Snyder

CONWAY– Horry-Georgetown Technical College, HGTC is proud to announce Surgical Technology students were awarded 2nd Place national honors in the Association of Surgical Technologists, National Scrub Bowl Championship held at the 52nd Annual AST Surgical Technology Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana June 2-4, 2022.

HGTC Surgical Technology students competed against other technical colleges and community colleges from across the nation. Students were required to hit their buzzers and answer questions in a matter of seconds about Surgical Pharmacology, Anatomy, Microbiology, Aseptic Technique, Sterile Technique, Law and Consents, Surgical Procedures, Instrumentation, Preoperative, Intraoperative and Postoperative Technique. HGTC was a fierce competitor and the difference in the lead between the first and second place came down to the final five-point question. Holmes Community College in Mississippi took the first-place prize with 170 points, HGTC secured the second-place prize with 165 points and Nassau Community College in New York achieved the third-place position.

“The event was so close as our team kept scoring for the lead. We were on the edge of our seats the entire time hoping for the win. We are extremely pleased with the performance of our students and these outstanding results at a national competition,” said Erin Ivey, AASCST, FAST; HGTC assistant chair and professor of surgical technology.

HGTC’s Associate in Applied Science Surgical Technology degree prepares skilled students to enter the healthcare environment as surgical technologists. Graduates work with other healthcare members, performing duties vital for surgical patient safety and care during operative procedures, such as preparing and maintaining sterile fields; passing instruments, sutures, and sponges; and functioning as a key part of the surgical team. Students are trained in aseptic techniques, medical-equipment nomenclature and human anatomy for the operating room. HGTC’s Surgical Technology program provides students with classroom study, laboratory practice and clinical experience.

Tuition is free at HGTC for the summer and fall semesters 2022. For more information about the Surgical Technology degree at HGTC, visit www.hgtc.edu or call 843-347-3186.

THE SCHOOL FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS TO FLORENCE 1 SCHOOLS

Submitted Debbie Hyler, executive director



Left to right are: Dr. Karen Long, Rebecca Campbell, Dr. Erick Figueras, Janna Palliser, Lacey Boswell, Dr. Michelle Heyward, Dr. Catherine Sanderson. Not Pictured: Hugh Pressley (WFHS)

Trisha Caulder, chair of The School Foundation's grants committee announced the foundation will distribute a total of \$130,000 in grants to Florence 1 Schools for the 2022-2023, school year. The announcement was made at a reception for the grant writers at the Floyd Conference Center.

The grants committee funded six grants submitted by F1S educators. Southside Middle and South Florence High were awarded \$36,700 for their, Taking F1S Arts Magnet to the Next Level, which will fund two key additions to their curricular arts programs, musical instrument and vocal lessons and clinician/conductors for secondary Choral Performance Assessments, pre-festivals at all F1S high schools and feeder middle schools.

- \$10,000 was awarded to West Florence High for their F1S Achievers Program grant that will give a cohort of 60 academically gifted low-income students the ability to take unique advanced classes each of their four high school years.

- \$12,300 was awarded to Wilson High for their Outdoor Classroom grant, which will create a place for classes to gather and

engage in lessons in the natural environment.

- South Florence High was awarded \$41,000 for The Bruin's Innovation Lab-A Gamechanger for the Next Generation grant, which envisions a collaborative learning environment to foster student creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit.

- RN Beck Childhood Development Center was awarded \$20,000 for their Riding, Rhythm and Recess-An inclusive tricycle path grant, which will provide a tricycle track that will offer students an opportunity to socialize while improving balance and eye-hand coordination required for academic work.

- Briggs, Dewey L. Carter, Carver and Savannah Grove Elementary schools were awarded \$10,000 for "Fine Motor FUN"amentals grant, which will assist with reversing fine motor delays in their kindergarten students that have been amplified by school and preschool closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are very excited about the caliber of grants we received for the upcoming school year," Caulder stated. "Our students will be afforded new and exciting opportunities for growth, both academically and physically." Debbie Hyler, executive director of TSF stated, "We are thankful for our outstanding F1S educators and their vision to improve the lives of their students. Our students can only excel from the innovation and creativity displayed by these educators who are committed to helping their students excel."

To date, TSF has awarded \$1,970,572.78 in grants to F1S. This funding would not be possible without the support of the community and their donors.

For additional information, please contact Debbie Hyler, executive director, at dhyl@theschoolfoundation.org or call (843) 662-9996.

BRIGMAN NAMED WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Submitted by Melissa Rollins, communications specialist



Carrie Ann Brigman

Carrie Ann Brigman will be leading Williams Middle School for the 2022-2023, school year after receiving unanimous approval from the Florence 1 Schools Board of Trustees during their May 12 meeting. Brigman has been interim principal at Williams since April.

Prior to her interim appointment at Williams, Brigman had been the assistant principal at North Vista Elementary since 2016. During her time

at North Vista, Brigman's responsibilities included overseeing special education programs, evaluating teachers, creating improvement plans, updating schedules and serving on the Primary Years Program, IB Leadership Team. While at North Vista, Brigman was named the 2021-2022, assistant principal of the year for Florence 1 Schools.

Brigman is no stranger to Williams, having served there as assistant principal from 2012 to 2016. During that time, her duties included handling 7th grade discipline, overseeing textbooks, completing evaluations and documentation for the Southern Regional Education Board and AdvanceED.

Brigman said that she is thrilled to serve as the principal at Williams next school year.

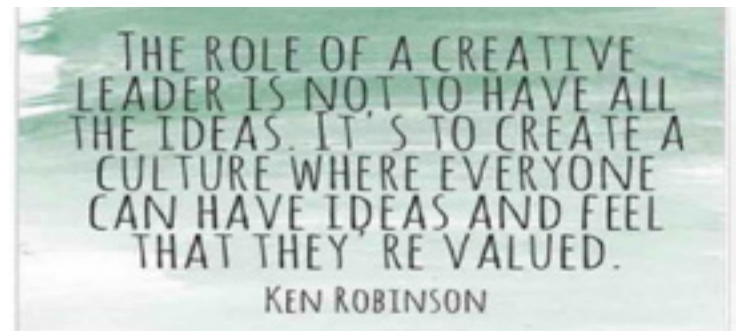
"I am excited to be returning to Williams Middle School to serve as principal," Brigman said. "I look forward to continuing my partnership with our families, students, staff members and community to ensure that we create an environment that encourages student growth and success through opportunities that make them 21st century scholars."

Brigman began her educational journey as a middle school math teacher after graduating from Francis Marion University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Mathematics Collateral. She received her Master's in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Brigman also holds Gifted and Talented and Read to Succeed endorsements.

After going through an interview process with a panel of elementary, middle and high school administrators, teachers, school staff, parents and a school board member, finalists for the Williams position took part in a community forum with stakeholders who were able to provide feedback at the end of the night.

Greg Hall, Florence 1 assistant superintendent for Secondary Education said, "Brigman received the most support in all three steps of the selection process and is an excellent choice for Williams."

"I am excited about the selection of Mrs. Brigman as the next leader of Williams Middle School," Hall said. "She has been an effective leader in the Williams community for many years. I believe that she has great leadership skills and a great heart for the Williams Middle School community."



MOVING TO A MODIFIED SCHEDULE

Submitted by Dr. Kandace Bethea, superintendent



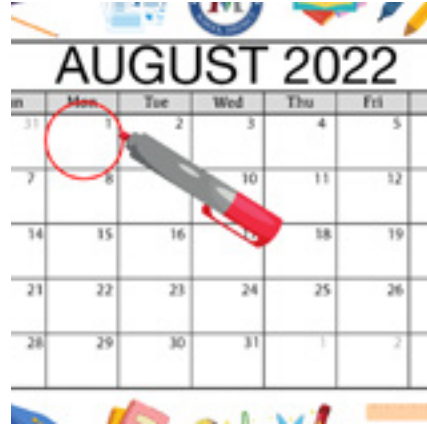
Dr. Kandace Bethea

MARION - For the 2022-2023, school year, Marion County School District is thinking out of the box and exploring a different approach to the equational calendar. The district is moving to a modified calendar which will begin with teachers returning the final week of July and students returning the first week of August. This cuts the summer break a little shorter, but, despite this, students are not losing break time and the school year will still consist of 180 days of instruction and testing. The main purpose

of the modified schedule is to allow for intersessions placed strategically during the calendar year.

Past yearly schedules would often have long stretches of time in which there were no breaks. This led to the potential for burnout of teachers, support staff and students. Nobody, children or adults, can perform to the best of their abilities, when they feel exhausted and time to recharge seems too far away. Now, there will be an intersession in October and one at the end of February, leading into March. Given the holiday breaks, which remain unaffected, this ensures that there will be time to rest and refocus throughout the school year.

There are future benefits to the new calendar. Once established, intersessions may be increased both in frequency and in length. This time will allow staff to work with students who may need extra instruction or support on certain standards recently introduced. The ability to provide more timely interventions will benefit the student both academically and emotionally. Imagine being able to conquer a concept in early fall so students can build on that knowledge as the year progresses rather than have them sit in a class, confused and lost, until June when they can attend summer school. The quicker teachers can address student



challenges the sooner the students are able to move forward in their schooling. These timely intersessions will reduce classroom anxiety, and promote healthy learning.

Outside the classroom, families will have more flexibility with their vacation plans. The summer is a great time to travel for pleasure or to see family and friends but so are other times during the year. The ability to travel in off-peak times may reduce cost and avoid major crowds. Summer will still be the longest break from school, but with a more balanced calendar, the time away from class will be less, avoiding what is known as the summer slide when students often forget some of their learning from the prior year.

Switching to a modified year-round schedule can be a huge adjustment and a bit of a shock for students and their families. Change is often difficult. The 2022 – 2023, school year, is a phase in the year to bring about change in the least disruptive manner. But the educational rewards are great. Districts that have implemented the modified calendar report:

- a positive impact on student achievement.
- improved attendance.
- reduction in the number of disciplines incidents.
- reduced teacher burnout; and
- balanced time inside and outside the classroom for students, teachers and staff.

Hiring Great Teachers

Join us on an exciting journey as we transform the lives of Marion County students together

Teachers have the biggest in-school impact on student achievement. Our top priority is to ensure our teachers and leaders have what they need to provide our students with a world-class education, including:

Personalized professional development

Career ladder opportunities

Opportunity to continue your education from a choice of local universities

Cultivating Excellence

MarionCountySchools

@MarionCountyScho

@marioncounty10

Explore more at www.marion.k12.sc.us/jobs

#CultivatingExcellence

JEBAILY LAW FIRM EXPANDS IN THE GRAND STRAND by Glacia Brown Mason



Brian Yost

MYRTLE BEACH - If you live in or around the Pee Dee area, you're familiar with the name and work of the Jebaily Law Firm. The established and well-respected South Carolina legal practice proudly announces the grand opening of their newest location, nestled in the bustling Market Common area, near highway 17, at 126 Iris Street, Unit A, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29577.

With its flagship office located in Florence, SC, the firm continues to expand into the Grand Strand, to meet the needs of residents and visitors, in South Carolina. A top tourist destination with over 19 million visitors annually, expansion in the Myrtle Beach area is a brilliant and strategic move, to serve the broader community. Jebaily Law Firm is no stranger to Myrtle Beach. The first office location was in the Crescent Beach neighborhood of North Myrtle Beach. The firm relocated, and since 2020, occupies professional office space at 697 Main Street, in North Myrtle Beach. The Jebaily Law Firm stands ready to assist local residents, visitors and out-of-state travelers, who get hurt while on vacation.

Abraham Lincoln said, "a lawyer's time and advice is his stock and trade." The attorneys and staff at the Jebaily Law Firm have a long history of dedication to the communities which they serve. Founded in 1969, in Florence, SC, the Jebaily Law Firm has been a vital part of the community. The three active partners of the firm are George Jebaily, Rangeley Bailey and Brian Yost. George Jebaily is the managing partner of the firm and handles matters involving personal injury and products liability. Rangeley Bailey handles matters involving personal injury, nursing home negligence and social security disability. Brian Yost handles matters involving workers compensation, personal injury and products liability. Moreover, the attorneys have over 100 years of combined expertise with cases involving personal injury including car, truck and motorcycle crashes, liability

claims including dog bites, slip-and-falls and swimming pool injuries, Social Security disability and workers' compensation claims, wrongful death cases and more.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Understanding the importance of community service, giving back and establishing relationships, the Jebaily Law Firm is committed to continuing the tradition of community involvement through service, by actively seeking sponsorship opportunities with local organizations using the power of their memberships to make a difference in the lives of its citizens. Historically, Jebaily Law Firm's attorneys and staff have been active participants in numerous community engagement activities. The firm supports the Society of Stranders, a fun local organization for enthusiasts of shag dancing, one of the area's most significant



Jebaily Law Firm discussing the best strategies.

cultural contributions in the Grand Strand. Additionally, the Jebaily Law Firm has also sponsored the Myrtle Beach Car Club, an organization of auto enthusiasts that hosts car shows and cruise-ins, in the Grand Strand area.

The firm's support doesn't end there, Jebaily Law Firm is an annual supporter with the American Heart Association's Heart Walk as more than 650,000 people die each year from heart disease. The firm's current community involvement includes work with organizations and events such as the:

- Heart Association
- Pecan Festival
- Humane Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- End Distracted Driving
- South Carolina Association for Justice
- McLeod Health Foundation and,
- Kid's Chance.

The attorneys and staff at Jebaily Law Firm are guided by the firm's mission statement, "We are experienced lawyers fighting with determination and passion for injured people; committed to serving our clients with dignity and respect."

The Jebaily Law Firm's staff is committed to client care. They have dedicated their careers to making a difference in clients' lives and in the life of the communities the firm serves. They operate on the principles of hard work and determination in order to achieve results. The firm's attorneys and legal staff are focused and prepared to seek and secure justice on behalf of people in the community who need legal help. As trial lawyers who care about right and wrong, the Jebaily Law Firm's attorneys listen to their clients' needs and always fight for their rights with a warrior mentality. Active Jebaily partner, attorney Brian S. Yost (captured on cover) told Diversity Works in 2019, "Hopefully, you never need an attorney but if something comes up, ask around, do your homework and turn off the TV. Find an attorney that will sit across the table from you, discuss your situation, show you respect and earn your trust." Sage advice given with a, 'warrior,' Jebaily Law Firm mentality.

Throughout more than 50 years of service, the firm has been just like family for many citizens of South Carolina. Attorneys and staff have been selected for their abilities and their careful attention to client service. Clients are treated with compassion, fairness, respect and dignity. Their level of care understands the struggles that injury victims face and how stressful any severe injury can be. They care about the impact injury can have on the victim and loved ones. The staff's approach for each client, is with empathy, letting them know they will be taken care of, and the Jebaily Law Firm will be there to meet their legal needs. The firm also knows what it takes to help clients get back on their feet. If you are injured in South Carolina, and you want expert and compassionate legal representation, contact the Jebaily Law Firm for a free consultation at 843-GET-HELP.



Brian Yost

JEBAILY
Law Firm, P.A.



*Lawyers Helping
Injured People.™*



George Jebaily • Rangeley Bailey • Ron Jebaily (Retired) • Suzanne Jebaily • Brian Yost

PERSONAL INJURY

- Auto Accidents
- Accidental Death
- Wrongful Death
- Truck Accidents
- Defective Products
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Slip and Fall & More

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

- Disability Benefits
- Social Security Benefits

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

- On the Job Injuries
- Occupational Diseases
- Exposure to Harmful Substances
- Repetitive Trauma Injuries & More

Hospital visits and weekend appointments available upon request.

843-667-0400 • www.JebailyLaw.com
Offices in Florence, North Myrtle Beach & Myrtle Beach, SC.



**OUR
PARK AND
RECREATION
STORY!**

PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

PARK WORKS TO BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITY

by Jennifer Robinson



Adam Bedard

We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation! That’s not just a statement but a theme and declaration for National Parks and Recreation Month. When one thinks of parks and recreations, pictures of childhood adventures should bring great memories! The freedom of stadiums filled with parents and other family members cheering on nervous little league baseball players who want to hit their first home runs. Excited players running the bases of orange fields and sliding into home base. Across the park are women who chose to have aerobic classes in fresh air while some of their toddlers played on blankets not far from the chorus line of women stretching and working toward wellness goals.

Parks can be a part of our everyday lives. For most adults, they have difficulty remembering moments in their childhood that did not include park play. Outdoor play at schools were limited to school days, but park play could occur well into dusk. Those memories allow for pause to celebrate the places that brought joy to so many energetic children and eager parents looking for energy outlets for them.

We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation, is the theme for Parks and Recreation

Month which is observed annually in July. This year, the goal is to recognize those workers who use parks to build stronger communities. “This July, we are bringing attention to how important it is to rise up and support our field, because every day, park and recreation professionals rise up for their communities in service of equity, climate-readiness and overall health and well-being.” (<https://www.nrpa.org/events/july/>).



The City of Hartsville Parks and Recreation has several parks the community uses to improve their quality of life. Byerly Park, a 93-acre multi-use recreational complex, is one of the finest sports facilities in the Southeast. The result of numerous land gifts to the City of Hartsville, the park is named for the Byerly Foundation, a longtime donor to the facility. This magnificent facility offers year-round activities for both youth and adult athletes. Venues such as soccer, softball, baseball, football, basketball, volleyball, tennis and track and field are all inclusive within Byerly Park.



Terrence J. Herrington track

Those who want to enjoy the outdoors and be healthy may use out 1.2 mile lighted walking trail, the Terrence J. Herrington Track or the fitness center in the Coach T.B. Thomas Sports Center. In addition, Byerly Park has a handicap playground for our future athletes to play on and be a part of the action located in the heart of Byerly Park between the Tennis Courts and the Track.



NEPTUNE ISLAND
A WATERPARK ADVENTURE

During the summer months, the cool place to visit is Neptune Island. “Neptune Island is an undiscovered island in Hartsville, South Carolina. Inhabited by pirates, mermaids and endangered oceanic creatures, the island is a lost oasis waiting to be discovered. Your adventure awaits at Neptune Island Waterpark, that is hosting its fifth season this year. This adventurous place has a capacity of 1,300 visitors. Guests can enjoy more waterpark features, including a 1,000-foot lazy river, a zero-entry pool, a wave pool, a speed body slide, a pair of tubular water slides and three mat racing slides. Cabana

PARK WORKS CONT'D

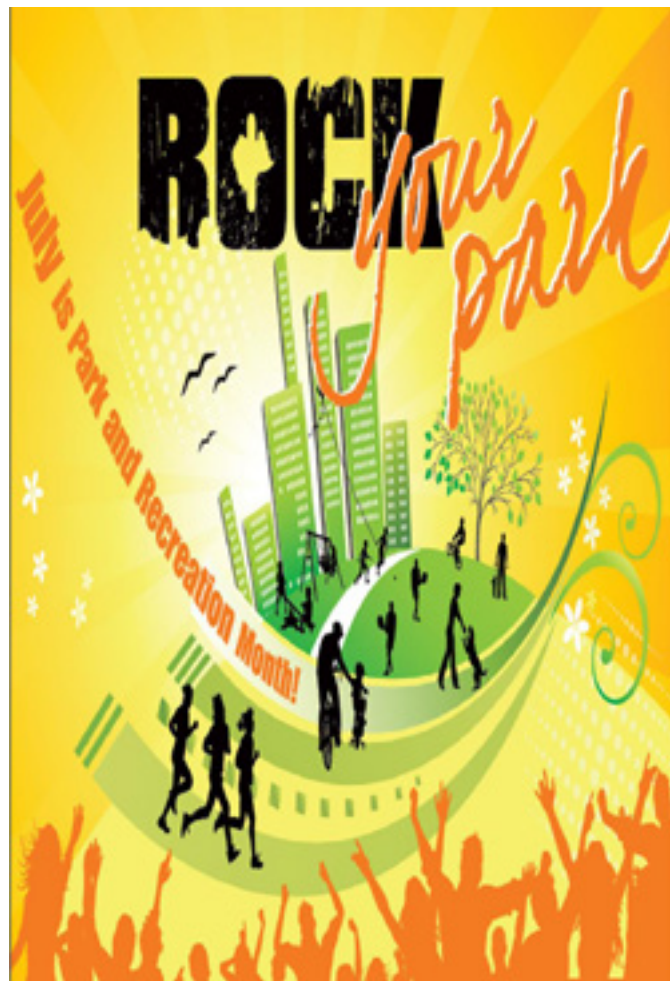


Byerly Park

rentals, party huts and food trucks assist in making the new waterpark a celebrated destination for residents and visitors from throughout the region” (hartsvillesc.gov). And when pets need an awesome place to hang out, the Byerly Dog Park is available for them to play.

Adam Bedard, director of Parks and

Recreation, says Parks and Recreation is community focused and “they offer a diverse array of activities for our local community for older age groups that has not had the opportunity to stay active once they completed high school level activities. The programs offered include adult kickball, wiffleball, pickleball and dodge ball. We also bring in organizations that share activities to help fill the needs of the community such as corn hole, cricket and adult kickball tournaments. These events help keep the locals engaged in events and provide them with sports they may not have seen or played before.” The popular Byler Park on some weeks host travel baseball/softball, kickball, cornhole and indoor cricket tournaments. Bedard stated Parks and Recreation has good representation from all their elected officials, city employees and faith leaders. These collaborations make it easier to keep momentum in, rising up, for the City of Hartsville Parks and Recreation.



Celebrating Our Parks & Recreation

B
BYERLY
FOUNDATION

A **CATALYST** for positive change.
A **FOUNDATION** for Hartsville's future.

AREAS OF IMPACT



Education

Economic

Social

GIVEN OVER \$23 MILLION
to the Hartsville

The Byerly Foundation is proud to support eligible organizations that positively impact the Hartsville community. These organizations work to improve education, economic and social outcomes for the people of Hartsville.

101 North 2nd Street | Hartsville, SC 29550
843.383.2400 | www.byerlyfoundation.com

LAKE CITY RECEIVES PARK GRANT

Submitted by Donna Tracy, public information officer



The City of Lake City accepts a \$5,000 check from the Duke Energy Foundation

LAKE CITY– The City of Lake City accepted a \$5,000 check from the Duke Energy Foundation Wednesday afternoon as one of many the foundation is awarding across the state in recognition of Earth Day 2022.

Mindy Taylor, district manager for government and community relations at Duke Energy, presented the check to city representatives at Dew Park on Wednesday, April 20. The funds will be used toward adding a swing set to the playground area and beautifying the park with additional shrubs and plants.

“These microgrants are really targeted at helping our communities improve their parks,” said Taylor. “I think neighborhood parks are so important and kids learn a lot from playing outside in a safe environment.”

The addition of a swing set will be a welcome addition to Dew Park, located at 314 Fairview Street, which already boasts brightly colored playground equipment installed in September 2021, and a basketball court.

“You wouldn’t believe the people who played on this very court and went on the play at the collegiate and professional level,” said Lake City Police Chief Jody Cooper who recounted playing on the court with then classmate Derrick Faison, the late NFL wide receiver who also played basketball. “The first time he learned to dunk a basketball was right out here at this court,” said Cooper.

Neighborhood parks like Dew Parks are important to our communities and essential public services provided by the city. Not only do parks provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors, but they also improve neighboring property values, increase the quality of life for the community, help promote the health of families and youth, and contribute to Lake City’s environmental well-being.

For more details about Lake City parks, visit LakeCitySC.org. Lake City is a community of 6,000-plus residents who invite you live – work – play – and visit in the southern part of Florence County.

LAKE CITY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Articles submitted by Donna Tracy and Jonathan Laster, public information officers



LAKE CITY–The City of Lake City has launched a free program with the Police Department to provide structured activities and pathways to success for youth.

The Y.O.U.T.H. Intervention Program, or Youth with Opportunities Unifying & Transforming Humanity, is a pilot program developed through a grant awarded by the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Program. The goal of the program is to redirect and mentor the youth within our neighborhoods and communities.

“We hope this exciting new program will result in improved social behavior and promote a solid academic foundation for our children and our communities,” said Police Chief Joseph Cooper who was instrumental in securing the three-year grant for the city.

Under the umbrella of the Y.O.U.T.H. Intervention Program,

the city and the Lake City Police Department has sponsored several opportunities for Lake City youth this summer, including Police Explorers and scouting, which have long provided children across the nation experiences and activities they may otherwise not experience.

- Girl Scouts Troop 2722 – For girls ages eight to 18
- Boys Scouts Troop 500 – For boys ages 11-18

For more information on the Lake City scouting troops, contact Ashley Page at apage@cityoflakecity.org.



- Police Explorers Post 503 - Exploring provides activities and mentorship for youth looking to discover their future for boys and girls ages 12-18. For more information about Post 503, contact Chief Jody Cooper at jcooper@cityoflakecity.org.

Lake City is a community of 6,000-plus residents who invite you live – work – play – and visit in the southern part of Florence County.

LAKE CITY FAMILIES TO TAKE FIELD TRIPS



Lake City Families Field Trip to the Riverbanks Zoo

LAKE CITY– The City of Lake City in partnership with Florence School District 3 will take preselected families on field trips this year to help promote community and provide experiences for children.

The first field trip was a day-long excursion to Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia in June. The families invited to attend included:

- parents who have attended the FSD3 Social Emotional Learning Parent Workshops that teach parenting and healthy coping skills
- families selected by school principals based on parental involvement in their children’s

education

The field trip program stems from a community meeting hosted by the city in March to identified areas the city and community could work on together to benefit youth and build a strong community. The collaboration included about leaders from the local community, FSD3, and clergy, in addition to city administration. The three areas selected to focus on are:

- Parent/child workshops
- Esports
- Family field trips

“Working together, we can set a path for future generations and build the community in which we all live, work, play and visit,” said William A. Hall, city administrator. “This collaboration is the beginning of the future of our community.”

Florence School District 3 has been providing access to SEL workshops and those families who participate are eligible to attend a field trip. The first field trip was financed by the City of Lake City and included transportation from Roosevelt Bryant, entrance to the zoo and breakfast and lunch.

The city has been developing its Esports program with input from FSD3 and will launch Esports summer camps and a tournament this summer. Visit LakeCitySCEsports.com to learn more!

Lake City is a community of 6,000-plus residents who invite you live – work – play – and visit in the southern part of Florence County.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR Submitted by FCVB

On June 4, 2022, the South Carolina Revolutionary Rivers® trail in Florence County was designated a National Water Trail by the US Department of the Interior. This classification puts the river trail on a short list of the best paddling trails in the country. It's a very timely designation, with the state's initiative to commemorate the events surrounding the War of Independence beginning this year.

The South Carolina Revolutionary Rivers® trail highlights the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, and in particular, the famous, Swamp Fox, General Francis Marion.

This trail follows the Lynches Scenic River from Lynches River County Park to the confluence with the Pee Dee River. The 60 miles of river offers paddlers the captivating experience of floating through swampland that was traversed by Patriots engaged in guerrilla warfare against the Loyalists in 1780-81.

These stretches of river appeal to more than just history enthusiasts. Birders and ecologists also appreciate this terrain's rich biodiversity. Paddlers often spy wild boar, beavers, otters, endangered birds and a variety of fish and vegetation along the trail.

For more information, please call 843-664-0330 or visit visitflo.com/revolutionary-rivers to view a map of public access points. A waterproof river map denoting boat landings is available at no cost. Before heading out on the water, call an outfitter or guide listed below for excursion recommendations. Both short and long excursions, as well as screened platforms for overnight use, are available.



Lynches River County Park



Naturally Outdoors



RiverRat's Canoe

Lynches River County Park

5094 County Park Road, Coward
843.389.0550

Park open daily 9 a.m. - sunset
Environmental Discovery Center
Tues-Sat, 9am-5pm; Sun, 1pm-5pm
Splash Pad (seasonal) - Tues-Sat,
11am-6pm; Sun, 1pm-6pm

lynchesriverpark.com

Naturally Outdoors

2519 West Palmetto Street, Florence
843.665.1551

Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm;
Saturday, 10am-5pm

naturallyoutdoors.com

RiverRat's Canoe

RiverRat's Canoe Rentals
2740 Indigo Landing Road, Scranton
843.389.4656, 843.687.1673

heatherpage@yahoo.com

riverratsc.com

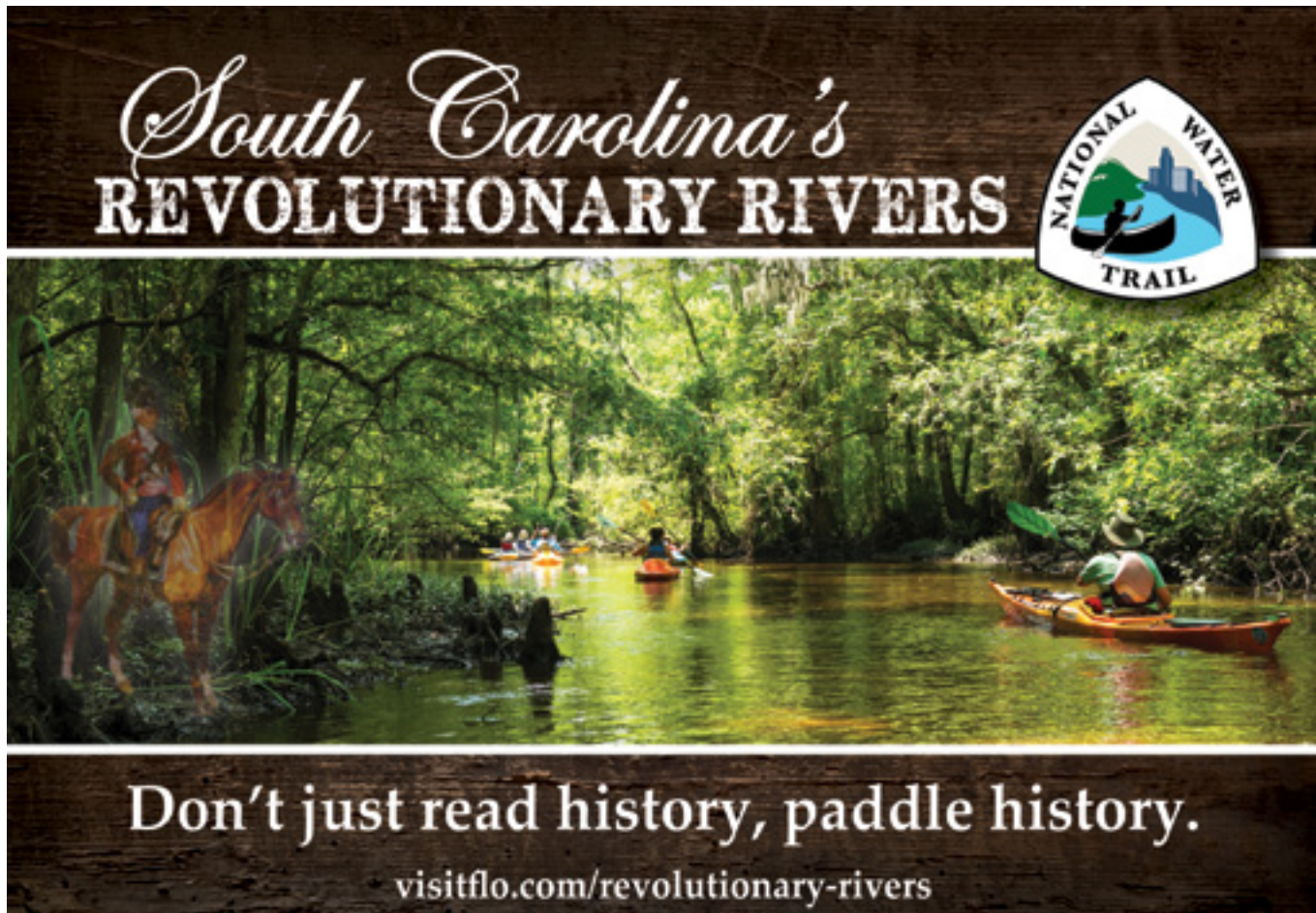
Canoeing • Kayaking • Camping

• Fishing • Heritage & History •

Swimming • Wildlife Observation

Get Involved

To be a part of the friends' group for the 60 miles of Lynches Scenic River included in the SC Revolutionary Rivers National Water Trail (from Lynches River County Park to the Great Pee Dee River), contact Barry Frick with RiverRat's at 843-389-4656, or Jade Perkins at the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau at 843-664-0330, jade.perkins@visitflo.com.



South Carolina's
REVOLUTIONARY RIVERS

NATIONAL WATER TRAIL

Don't just read history, paddle history.
visitflo.com/revolutionary-rivers

Celebrating Our Parks & Recreation

PARK GIVES VISITORS MEMORIES AND INSPIRATION

Submitted by Stephanie Gamoneda, Amazing Grace Park manager



MARION-As Amazing Grace Park closes in on our first year, we have so much to be thankful for. Over the past 12 months, we have welcomed thousands of visitors onto our grounds, held countless events and hopefully left our visitors with beautiful memories and a touch of inspiration for a peaceful future.

If you haven't visited AGP yet, you are missing one of South Carolina's newest and most welcoming parks. We have a quarter mile walking trail, a dog park, musical instruments, a covered pavilion, art installations, a memorial fountain and learning opportunities from one end to the other! You can relax on one of our handcrafted swings or do some work under the covered pavilion with free Wi-Fi. Health-conscious individuals love an early morning run around the track and families enjoy picnics in the evening. No matter what you are looking for, you can find a little bit of it here.

While developing the park, we tried to anticipate the needs of Marion County residents as well as tourists alike. We hit a lot of the major needs of our community already, but we are also always looking for ways to improve. Just this year, we were able to install QR code signage throughout the park so visitors can learn more about the park flora, Clementa Pinckney, the Emanuel nine and our one-of-a-kind climbing structure, Faith the Fox. This



Stephanie Gamoneda

project was completed in partnership with Marion High School's JROTC students and funded by grant money received from T-Mobile. As we progress, we hope to continue to grow to attract more visitors to not only Amazing Grace Park, but Marion County as a whole with our ongoing improvements.

One way we are able to bring new people to the park is with our calendar of events. The worst thing that could happen would be to build a beautiful park that no one uses. We keep our calendar full of events for our community and region to enjoy. Over the past year, we have welcomed thousands of people to Amazing Grace Park at our special activities. One of our most enjoyable events was our inaugural trick or treat trail. We partnered with local businesses



Community kids enjoying activities at the park

and invited them to hand out candy to our local youth. Hundreds of trick or treaters loaded their bags with candy, businesses received additional exposure and we were happy to see so many enjoying AGP. This spring, we partnered with Marion County School District to host Art in the Park, which ended up being our biggest event to date. The community showed up to support our budding artists, band performers, drama students and culinary chefs! As we look

forward to events for this upcoming year, we are excited to offer a variety of activities. We have planned two, one-week long summer camps for kids, wellness walks, free yoga classes, and Friday night flicks - a monthly free movie on the event lawn. These movies are family friendly and themed. We will offer concessions for sale and host food trucks for families to enjoy an entire evening at Amazing Grace Park. As we work to build bridges among our community members, we are especially excited to show Encanto during the month of September to celebrate Spanish Heritage month. We will continue with our Trick or Treat Trail and our holiday Village of Trees. We are also working on more initiatives in our community centered around wellness - including physical and mental health.

We hope to provide an inspirational space for everyone to enjoy with activities that appeal to our community. You can keep up with our progress by visiting www.amazinggracepark.org or following us on Facebook and Instagram. Plan your next visit to Amazing Grace Park today; you won't be disappointed!



Memorial Fountain

Celebrating Our Parks & Recreation



THE ARTS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE 2021 ARTS AWARDS

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance presents the winners of the 2021, Arts Awards. The Arts Awards are a series of awards recognizing the important contributions that individuals, groups and businesses make to the cultural life of Florence County. Nominations are solicited from the community and awarded by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance's Board of Directors.

FRAA Board Member, Ms. Kelly Jokisch presented the following awards to each recipient:

The John W. Baker Distinguished Service Award, presented to Dr. William Carswell, recognizes an individual from Florence County who has significantly impacted the quality of life in our community through his/her activities, contributions and/or accomplishments in the arts. Carswell is the music director of the Masterworks Choir and faculty at Francis Marion University. "Dr. Carswell is not only a consummate musician, but also excels at outreach and promotion of serious choral music to a new generation. He was the impetus behind the founding of the Masterworks Children's Choir, directed by Sandra Howard. He is also an unfailing encourager of both performance musicians and those who support the musical arts through philanthropy," states a nominator.



FRAA Board Member Kelly Jokisch presents award to Jim Gleason alongside Erick Figueras

The Business and Arts Partnership Award recognizes a Florence County business for its vital commitment to the arts as evidenced by operational and/or project support provided on a substantial and ongoing basis. Presented to Jim Gleason, Old World Music, who opened his instrument repair shop in 1994, after

retiring from 24 years of service in the US Marine Corps. Gleason graduated from the Navy School of Music, served in three field bands and toured with the Bicentennial Military Band. In 1977, Gleason was one of two Marines selected to be the first to attend and extend civilian training courses in the manufacturing/retrofitting and repair of music instruments at a school operated by one of the country's premier instrument manufacturers, The Getzen Corporation. As a professional musician and master technician in the repair of brass and woodwind instruments, Gleason has spent much of his life devoted to extending the lives of instruments. When the parts and pieces of whole instruments are no longer in a state that makes sense to repair, Gleason gives them new life, saving them from being discarded completely by turning the parts into lamps, music boxes and sculptures.

Awarded to Mr. Johnny Powers, the Gregory Fry Arts Educator Award is presented annually to an educator who either resides or works in Florence County. Public and private school educators are eligible for this award, as well as individuals in higher education and those who teach through registered 501(c)(3) arts organizations.



K. Jokisch presents award to Johnny Powers

Powers is in his 11th year of teaching and his third year as director of bands at West Florence High School. Under the direction of Powers, students have received the highest ratings at State Concert Festival, State Marching Band Championships and Solo and Ensemble Festival, while individual students have been selected by audition to District, Regional and

All-State Bands.

The Outstanding Arts Organization Award is presented annually to the Florence County arts organization that has a tremendous impact on the community. This may be through programming, projects, resource development, advocacy or other innovation. The Florence County Museum is presented with the Outstanding Arts Organization Award. The Florence County Museum reflects the region's rich artistic, cultural and historic heritage. Through dynamic range of exhibitions, studios, lectures and family programming the FCM provides an engaging educational experience to our community and beyond. Stephen Motte, Curator of Interpretation and Collections of the Florence County Museum, accepted the award on behalf of the museum.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance Community Arts Award is presented to the South Carolina Pecan Festival. The Community Arts Award recognizes a Florence County Artists or arts-based project

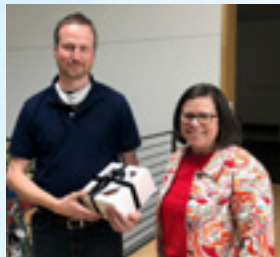


Councilman George Jebaily and Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore receives award from S. Cook

that provides an immediate return to the community. Celebrating its 18th year, the festival is held in Historic Downtown Florence, designated as a South Carolina Cultural District. Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore and Councilman George Jebaily accepted the award for the City of Florence and Downtown Florence.

The Frank H. Crow Award is presented annually to a Florence Regional Arts Alliance board member, staff member or volunteer who has had a tremendous impact on the organization's growth and success. Jokisch presented the award to Ronald Jagggers, a retired executive pastor who has served on the Board of Directors of the FRAA. He is instrumental to our agency, serving as the FRAA's Treasurer.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance commissions a local artist to create the Arts Awards for presentation. This year, artist Uschi Jeffcoat, created the awards. Jeffcoat is German-American, and lives in Florence. Jeffcoat selected various songbirds as the subject matter of the watercolor paintings. In her statement, Jeffcoat adds, "Some of us hear them, others sight and name them, whether it is the colorful



Stephen Motte receives award from K. Jokisch

plumes, birdsong or the winged flight in motion, their presence compliments a local landscape. I feel it is the same with those individuals working or supporting the Arts; be it visual, literary or performing. An absence of these artists or advocates would leave a lonesome place. It is with much gratitude that I celebrate the hues, song and movement these individuals create, guide and bring to our community. May their stories continue to take flight and leave Florence a better place."

Jeffcoat's watercolor painting awards are a perfect complement to these recognized through the Arts Awards.

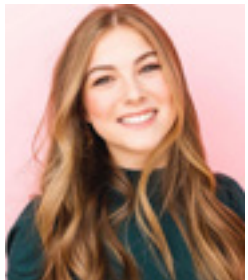
The Arts Awards were presented to the community by video posted on April 26, 2022, to the Florence Regional Arts Alliance Facebook page. For more information about the Florence Regional Arts Alliance please visit the Florence Regional Arts Alliance's website at www.florenceartsalliance.org or contact Director, Sandra Cook at 843-407-3092 or by email director@florenceartsalliance.org.

FRAA ANNOUNCES BETTY ANN DARBY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Submitted by Sandy Cook, executive director of FRAA

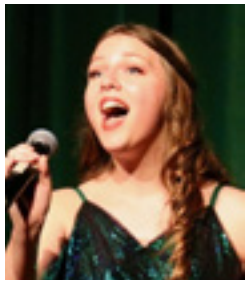
The Florence Regional Arts Alliance awarded three Florence County high school students the Betty Ann Darby Scholarship, a competitive scholarship for graduating seniors who will be pursuing advanced academic or professional degrees in an arts discipline or in arts education.

This year's recipients are West Florence High School senior Ella Naylor, West Florence High School senior Bailey Barefoot and South Florence High School senior Alana Yarborough.



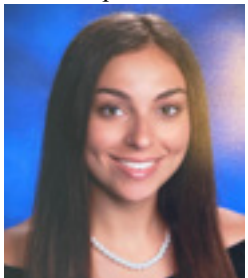
Ella Naylor

"I have always known that the arts would be a part of my life, and I have never questioned it," Naylor said.



Bailey Barefoot

"My ultimate goal is to be able to wake up every morning and do what I love and be the best musician I can be. Going into the performing arts has been my goal since elementary school," Barefoot said. "I know with the right equipment, assistance, and people who believe in me, I will leave Florence feeling confident that I can pursue what I am called to do."



Alana Yarborough

Yarborough states that everyone around the world can relate to music making it a universal language and from as far back as she can remember she has been active in trying to master this universal language and to be a part of the musical conversation. Yarborough has performed with Clemson University's Choir, South Florence Show Choir, Choraliers and has served as the president of the South Florence Tri-M Music Honors Society. As she pursues a degree in music and genetics at Clemson University, Yarborough said she hopes to produce music, compose music and work with others to help them produce music to gain a sense of self-fulfillment.

"I hope to change the world of music with my voice and my compositions," Yarborough said. "I want to contribute to the global music conversation. I want to research how music can help people physiologically. Music enriches our lives and without it life would be a mistake."

Since 1997, the Florence Regional Arts Alliance has awarded 49 Florence County students with the Betty Ann Darby Scholarship.

The Betty Ann Darby Scholarship Program is named in honor of one of South Carolina's most distinguished music educators. A former member of the South Carolina Music Educator's Hall of Fame, Darby served Florence Public School District One for 39 years as a much beloved and highly revered music administrator and music teacher.

To be considered for the scholarship, seniors' primary residence must be in Florence County or graduating from a Florence County

public or private high school.

The Betty Ann Darby Scholarships are merit scholarships awarded predominantly on the basis of demonstrated talent, passion for the arts and intention to pursue a career in an arts discipline or in arts education. They are made possible by the generous support of HONDA to the Florence Regional Arts Alliance.

For more information, visit the Florence Regional Arts Alliance at www.florenceartsalliance.org or contact the Director, Sandra Cook at 843-407-3092 or by email director@florenceartsalliance.org.

DJ'S CREATING THINGS FROM AN ARTISTIC STANDPOINT

by Adalia Ellis



VooDoo Child

As a child who grew up during the time when Hip-Hop was coming into its own and currently being the host of Latin Dance parties, I deeply appreciate the role of the DJ. Darian Bethea, also known as Voodoo Child, is a popular Florence based DJ. As a youth he was drawn to all things hip-hop; MCing, DJing, graffiti and breaking. It was a form of expression that allowed him to put form to his thoughts and he describes DJing as

a way to transfer and display his emotions musically.

As a youth he was inspired and influenced by an eclectic diversity of artists such as James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Nirvana, Little Richard, Korn, Prince, Metallica, KRS-1, Public Enemy and much more. This interest in a diversity of artists would make him a versatile DJ.

Bethea has been involved in music from the age of 13, when he would set up and carry equipment for other DJs. As he got older, he moved into producing, songwriting and performing. He has been DJing professionally for fifteen years. In his time as a DJ, he has seen it evolve and grow in leaps and bounds and he loves all of it. "You have DJs on local and international scales that are creating things from an artistic standpoint that absolutely no one could have seen coming. And today's technology is also helping DJs perform more efficiently without hindering creativity. But regardless of all the great technological advances... if you are not a true student of music and the artform that is DJing...it will show... you cannot hide behind technology. That will always stay the same."

Bethea speaks of the relationship with the crowd as a spiritual one. "The most important job that a DJ can do is pay attention to the people in the room. If you can get mentally in sync with the crowd, then you will both go on a journey together. But if you are out of sync, you will be in for a rough ride, no matter what style of playing you are doing... It's universal. The DJ's job is to express themselves and control the vibe."

Art, in all its forms, can be a powerful way to connect with people. It allows for thoughts, emotions and experiences to be expressed. The art form can have an impact positively or negatively depending on the intentions of the artist so with this, comes great responsibility. Bethea shared the following thoughts on the impact a DJ can have on the people and the responsibility it carries, "It is the responsibility of the DJ to introduce themselves to the world using music as the medium. We are here to bring you a new sound or vibe and also to remind you of music or a feeling that you have forgotten about that are the impact. Make someone feel better when they have had the worst day of their life. Put on a song that reminds someone of a lost loved one. Play something for a couple that makes them reminisce about why they fell in love with one another, that's the impact."

ARTIST APPRECIATION



SYMPHONY PLAYS A HUGE ROLE IN MUSICIAN'S LIVES

Submitted by Pamela Glass, Executive Director Florence Symphony Orchestra



In December of 1948, a group of twelve musicians gathered in the auditorium of McKenzie School in hopes to form a community band. As word got out, more musicians, many of them string players joined the group and soon the “band” had the makings of an orchestra. Originally chartered under the name of the Florence Civic Orchestra, the group performed its first concert in Lake City in November 1949. Since its humble start in that school auditorium, the Florence Symphony Orchestra has become an integral part of the local arts community and now has the good fortune to be a resident of the FMU Performing Arts Center in downtown Florence.

Today the orchestra is comprised of approximately 70 musicians from Florence and surrounding cities. The musicians come from all areas of our community working as teachers, doctors, engineers, etc. Five concerts are performed per season as well as an additional concert for families and area fourth graders. Guest artists from across the globe are brought in to perform with the symphony.



FSO Music Director, Dr. Terry Roberts

Music Director, Dr. Terry Roberts has been the conductor for the past 20 years. “Music has always been around me,” said Roberts. “My father is a music educator and instruments were always in the house. I attended rehearsals and concerts since I can remember. I started with piano at age six, the French horn at age eight and the cello at age nine. Ultimately the horn became my principal instrument. I learned other instruments through the years, performing in rock bands, jazz and all



The FSO’s “Broadway by Request” concert with Broadway singers Teri Hansen and Destan Owens, April 11, 2022.

genre of music.”

For the 2022/23 season Roberts is looking forward to conducting Mahler’s first symphony with the FSO in October. “This composition has long been on my wish list to perform. It’s difficult to choose favorites, but I love the Romantic composers of the 19th century including Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Berlioz. I also like to introduce our audience to 20th and 21st century composers such as Stravinsky, Milhaud, Gershwin, Phillip Glass and even lesser-known young composers.”

The five concerts in the FSO’s 2022/23 season, Symphonic Soul, are as “diverse as can be,” said Pamela Glass, FSO executive director. “This season starts in October with a huge orchestra performing Mozart and Mahler’s first symphonies. In November we are excited to bring an innovative ensemble of five female brass musicians called Seraph Brass. Local singers Amesha McElveen and Jerinda Davis will be featured in the December Holiday Pops concert, and pianist Mackenzie Melemed will return to the FSO in February to perform Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2. The April concert is going to be tons of fun when, Serpentine Fire, a group from Las Vegas joins the FSO playing the greatest hits from Earth Wind and Fire.

A concert for families will be performed in March. The Star Wars theme will likely be included in this year’s program. Before each family concert, children have the opportunity to experience an “instrument petting zoo.” They get and up-close look at the instruments demonstrated by the FSO musicians. The concert will be repeated for area fourth graders to attend. “Music

programs in the schools start in fifth and sixth grades. By exposing children of this age to a live symphony performance we hope to inspire and show them what is possible if they stick with an instrument,” said Glass.

“The symphony plays a huge role in our musician’s lives. Some of them have been with the FSO for over 40 years,” said Glass. “When the pandemic started, of course our regular concerts were canceled. We felt it was important for the



Arthenius Jackson singing with the FSO at the FMU 50th Anniversary concert, February 2020

community that the music to continue so we played a series of socially distanced outdoor concerts at the PAC amphitheater.”

“I am very proud of the musicians and all their hard work. Florence is blessed to have a wealth of talented artist in the community which I like to promote as much as possible,” said Roberts. “The arts directly influence the quality of life in any community, not just music, but all of the arts,” he added. “It is important to support the arts, not just financially, but with attendance and/or participation. The arts are not an expense, but an investment in the community.”

View the FSO’s 2022/2023 season brochure, Symphonic Soul: www.florencesymphony.com



The FSO’s “Broadway by Request” concert with Broadway singer Teri Hansen, April 11, 2022.

Experience the FSO's 2022/23 Season

Symphonic Soul



Mozart & Mahler
October 10



Seraph Brass
November 14

Holiday Pops,
December 12



Featuring **Amesha McElveen**
& **Jerinda Davis**



McKenzie Melemed
February 13, 2023



Earth, Wind and Fire's Greatest Hits
Performed by **Serpentine Fire** and the
FSO April 17, 2023

Season tickets include all five concerts starting at \$135 for adults, \$115 for seniors. Call FSO, 843-661-2541 or FMU PAC, 843-661-4444

See full season brochure at www.florencesymphony.com

FLORENCE **FSO** SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FMU Performing Art Center, 201 S. Dargan St., Florence SC



MUSIC DEFINED BY AN ENSEMBLE OF MUSICIANS by Jennifer Robinson



Subliminally when someone says the word, music, the thought of a favorite song may come to mind. That may then lead to a memory that is associated with the song like a first kiss or the day a baby was born. Music has a way of moving hearts, minds, bodies and spirits. People may be connected

through various genres and each of those genres speak to human conditions. In the Pee Dee area, Florence Area Big Band has made an impact on people who appreciate music history. “Big Band music is a style of music defined by an ensemble of musicians, known as a jazz orchestra, playing together,” [masterclass.com](https://www.masterclass.com). This genre of music was popular during the Harlem Renaissance, 1920s and 1930s, and showcased popular musicians such as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie. To hear this music for some is to travel back to a time when fun seemed to be more innocent and freer. The Florence Area Big band music provides an outlet for the economic and racial turmoil of the era.

In Florence, the music of that era has been revived and the Florence Area Big Band is providing music that entertains and teaches. The Florence Area Big Band was founded in 1997 by the late Allan Brown, a long time Florence music educator, pianist and arranger. His vision in forming the band was to keep Big Band music alive and give young talent opportunities to learn and perform music. The Big Band exists to foster appreciation for big band jazz music among all age groups, as well as those of diverse educational, social and economic backgrounds. It also promotes music education through public performance of big band jazz music. The 2piece ensemble perform publicly in various venues to strengthen and enhance the musical environment and adds diversity to the area it serves. Florence Area Big Band member percussionist, Randy Oswalt, agreed with the vision for preserving music and the Florence Center for Contemporary Music, Inc was created.

FCCM, Inc exists to further the creation, performance, publication and preservation of contemporary American music

through private instruction, real time ensemble experiences, audio and video production and start-up workspace for entrepreneurs entering the music and media fields. It combines music history and modern technology to create exposure for those who probably would not have known about Big Band or jazz.

Younger generations in many schools are missing opportunities to experience various genres of music due to lack of funding. FCCM collaborates with local organizations like Florence Regional Arts Alliance to produce ways to educate students about the arts. Oswalt has lived in the Pee Dee many years and worked teaching music to students. His goal for the collaboration with the Florence Regional Arts Alliance and other contributors is to provide venues and shows for the community. The awareness is to encourage young people to practice more individualistic art as a way of expression and appreciate the history of music. Appreciation for music also showcases various cultures in music like Hispanic or Celtic or different beats as Afro Centric or Western Asian. The Florence Area Big Band plays mostly jazz, and they honor jazz players from places like New Orleans, which some believe in the origin of jazz music, and other cities where jazz is widely known. Oswalt says jazz is an expression and there is freedom in listening and performing. Teaching jazz to younger generations preserves its legacy and allows jazz aficionados to participate in sharing its greatness. Oswalt’s passion is driven by his belief in preservation. He shared one of his favorite quotes, “Music washes away the dust of everyday life” by Art Blakey. Those are words that will keep music alive.



Florence Area Big Band



DANCE IS GOOD MEDICINE by Adalia Ellis



Attendees of Grand Opening social September 2021 (Photo by Aroha Afro Latin Dance)

What if you could experience emotional, mental, physical and spiritual wellness all at once? What if every time you engaged in this activity you would be filled with positive energy and joy? This is what the Aroha Afro Latin Dance studio offers to the Pee Dee. Dance has been linked to improving mental acuity, weight loss, stress relief, and a general sense of well-being. Although I have been focusing mostly on the social aspect of Latin dances, I am really drawn to the whole self-wellness applications of dance, so I am expanding my class offerings starting in August. There have been nights that I am so tired, and I don't feel like going to the studio and teaching. Every time a class is done, I am filled with positive energy. Over and over again my students tell me that they experience the same thing. Some come to class because they need to let go of the stresses of work. Some come because they have always wanted to dance. And some come with their significant other so they can have an activity to do together. Whatever the reason, people get what they need through movement, music and learning something new. There is such a range of applications for dance and its potential positive impact on the lives of those who pursue it as a hobby.

In many communities, dance has been relegated to dingy clubs or performances requiring mastery of the dancers. I think this is a disservice to the art that is dance and its importance to the human experience. The sock hops and social dances of my grandparent's era are no more. The important social etiquette for how young women and men approach one another in a social space has been lost for the most part. I think that so many skills of communication, cooperation and trust are learned when engaged in social dancing.

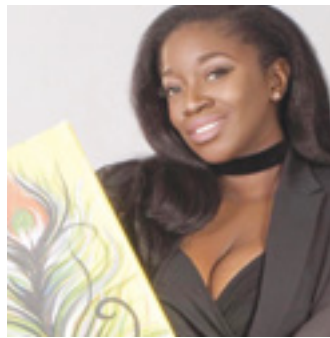
The style of dances I teach are meant for connecting with others and socializing. I teach partner dancing with a focus on adults. In my classes people not only learn the steps for Salsa, Bachata, Kizomba and Chicago Step, they also learn how to hold space, how to give and receive non-verbal communication, and most of all, they gain the confidence to trust themselves and their partner. Clients don't need to have a partner when they come to my classes because I teach with a focus on cooperative learning, meaning that we change partners.

The most common response I get when people find out I teach Latin dances is, "I can't do that. I don't know how to dance" or "I have two left feet." And my response is, "That is why I teach so you can learn if you want to." And I also provide a safe, friendly, welcoming space for people who are new to dance. It can be scary to learn something new as it does make one feel vulnerable. What I have found though, is that once we get started and everyone sees that everyone else is in the same place then that initial discomfort falls away. There is also a lot of humor and laughter which helps people to not take their mistakes too seriously.

Dance like anything else is a learning process. The fun is in the process and seeing yourself grow in ability as time passes. Add to this the social aspect of learning with a significant other and a group of people, and you have a place you look forward to coming to every week for four weeks at a time.

If you are interested in learning more about our classes, visit ArohaAfroLatinDance.com or come by the studio located at 167 North Dargan Street, Florence, SC.

WINTER'S ART WORLD by Jennifer Robinson



Winter Moore

Who knew that staring at pictures of animals under letters in an elementary school classroom would turn into a career that would serve and entertain people throughout the state of South Carolina? Winter Moore, owner of Addie's Baby Studio in Florence, was a child who learned art from studying and drawing patterns at the age of seven. She said she studied the animal pictures that matched the first letter of their type on the wall. Moore said she looked at the pictures daily and drew each one multiple times until she had copied it almost perfectly. "It is a matter of hand eye coordination and if you practice something long enough, you will master it," said Moore. Her love and appreciation of art morphed into graphic design.

Later in high school, she started to paint. Upon graduating from South Carolina State University in 2007, she turned her interest in converting art into digital format or graphic design. Moore signed with a public relations company while working a part time job. Her design work created opportunities to work with famous celebrities and travel.

When her employment with the public relations company ended, she became a student of a former coworker who started her own business. Moore's observances and the death of her mother moved her in the direction of finalizing her plan of entrepreneurship. Moore didn't share her vision with many people at first. She forged ahead with her plans to open Addie's Baby Studio. Addie's Baby Studio was named after her mom, Mrs. Addie Moore. Moore and her mom were very close, and she encouraged her to pursue her dreams. Unfortunately, Mrs. Moore passed away and Winter honored her by creating the studio as her namesake. Addie's Baby Studio is in Florence, SC, and offers painting classes for people of all ages. Using the technique she learned in elementary school, Moore teaches people how to paint by presenting predrawn canvases and then providing paint and other art tools to help them create their own masterpieces. Addie's Baby Studio hosts clubs, organizations and church groups. Some businesses go to encourage building relationships and bond while having fun painting. Because her paint studio is so innovative, painting classes are requested throughout the state of South Carolina. Addie's Baby Studio is not just a paint studio, it's an experience.

Alongside her business, Moore is an advocate for keeping children engaged in art. She partnered with Florence School District 1 to teach art to students in afterschool programs. Moore stated that art programs lack funding to keep students involved and interested in art. There is a need for more involved art projects that helps with their development. With Moore's mentorship, students can see there is more than social or artistic value in art projects. Giving students the opportunities may not only increase involvement, but there may be an increase in academics. Moore says that her art influences are Fabian Williams and Pink Lo Mein. They motivate her through current art trends and styles.

Being an entrepreneur means learning how to stay relevant to maintain revenue. Social media potentially boosts brand promotions, and teaching this to students helps them decide their futures.

Moore's impact on the community, students and the art world has created a renewed interest that would have been lost if not for the innovative art stylings of Addie's baby. She would be proud.





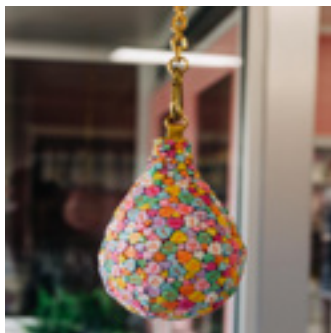
THE TOP 4 WINNERS OF ARTFIELDS 2022 Submitted by Lake City ArtFields Collective



Noah Scalin, Grand Prize Winner "of America: September 4th 1957"

Scalin is the creator of the Webby Award-winning project Skull-A-Day and the collaborative science fiction universe & performance art project League of Space Pirates. His fine art has been exhibited internationally, including installations in Times Square, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Mütter Museum and multiple solo exhibitions at the Krause Gallery in NYC. His work has been featured in dozens of publications including USA Today and the New York Times. Scalin is the author of six books and the founder of Another Limited Rebellion an art & innovation consulting firm which he co-runs with his sister and business partner, Mica Scalin.

Artwork statement: Growing up in the south in the 1970s I was completely unaware of the history of the public educational system in which I was enrolled. Only a few decades earlier young activists like Dorothy Counts took the brunt of abuse by racist community members who resisted school integration. I wasn't introduced to the powerful images of her difficult journey to school until just a few years ago and was so moved by her stoicism and bravery in the face of the sheer mass of resistance. It feels important to revisit this image today, in light of the continued need to uproot the racist foundations of America. As some people still try to erase or whitewash our unpleasant past it's ever more important to look closely at inspiring moments of resistance like this one. It felt apt to use a material meant for children to create this piece. These microcosms of our culture, represent the cacophony of voices that are continually vying for our attention and distracting us from what's important in our world.



MyLoan Dinh, Second Place Winner, "Thanks. No Thanks."

and narratives within the greater cultural context of which she is a part.

Born in Saigon, Vietnam, she studied visual arts at UNC at Chapel Hill and the School of Arts and Design at Wollongong University, Australia. She has exhibited internationally, and her work can be found in public and private collections in the USA and Europe including the Muhammad Ali Museum and Center and the Mint Museum of Art. Notable recent accomplishments include Arts & Science Council Creative Renewal Fellowship, Charlotte Magazine BOB Best Local Artist, McColl Center Residency and Community Impact Grant from the Partnership for Democracy,

Dinh is a multidisciplinary artist. Reflecting on her experiences as a refugee and woman of color, her work addresses manifestations of cultural identity and memory. She explores, through diverse media, the porous boundary between personal and collective history. She deconstructs materials, images, objects and texts to (re)construct personal experiences

Berlin.

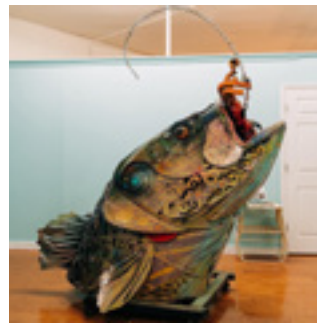
Artwork statement: At first glance, the boxing speedball appears playful—sugary sweet, even, given the mosaic of clay conversation hearts that enfold it. But more serious currents flow beneath its eye-catching veneer. While its central refrains— "Thanks" and "No Thanks"—are some of the simplest expressions available to us, their almost obsessive repetition lends them an ambiguous force. To what are they responding? The work is part of a series that challenges cultural myths and false narratives contributing to the sexual violence against Southeast Asian women in contemporary America. And more broadly the work is a repeated call to stop Anti-Asian hate.



Melvin Toledo, People's Choice 2D, "A Moment of Peace"

deepen his understanding on color theory and pictorial composition.

Artwork statement: The pandemic brought all kinds of changes to our lives. While some of those changes were easier to assimilate than others, I found my stress and anxiety levels spike more frequently in this past year and a half. Maybe that's what inspired me to paint this portrait of my niece, her eyes closed, face glowing, serene and peaceful. A gentle reminder to all of us to pause for a moment, breathe in deep and find peace and light within ourselves. This painting is also a study in color theory. Her face is aglow in yellow light, while the shadows are tinted purple, yellow's complementary color. The pink atmosphere harmonizes the entirety of the painting.



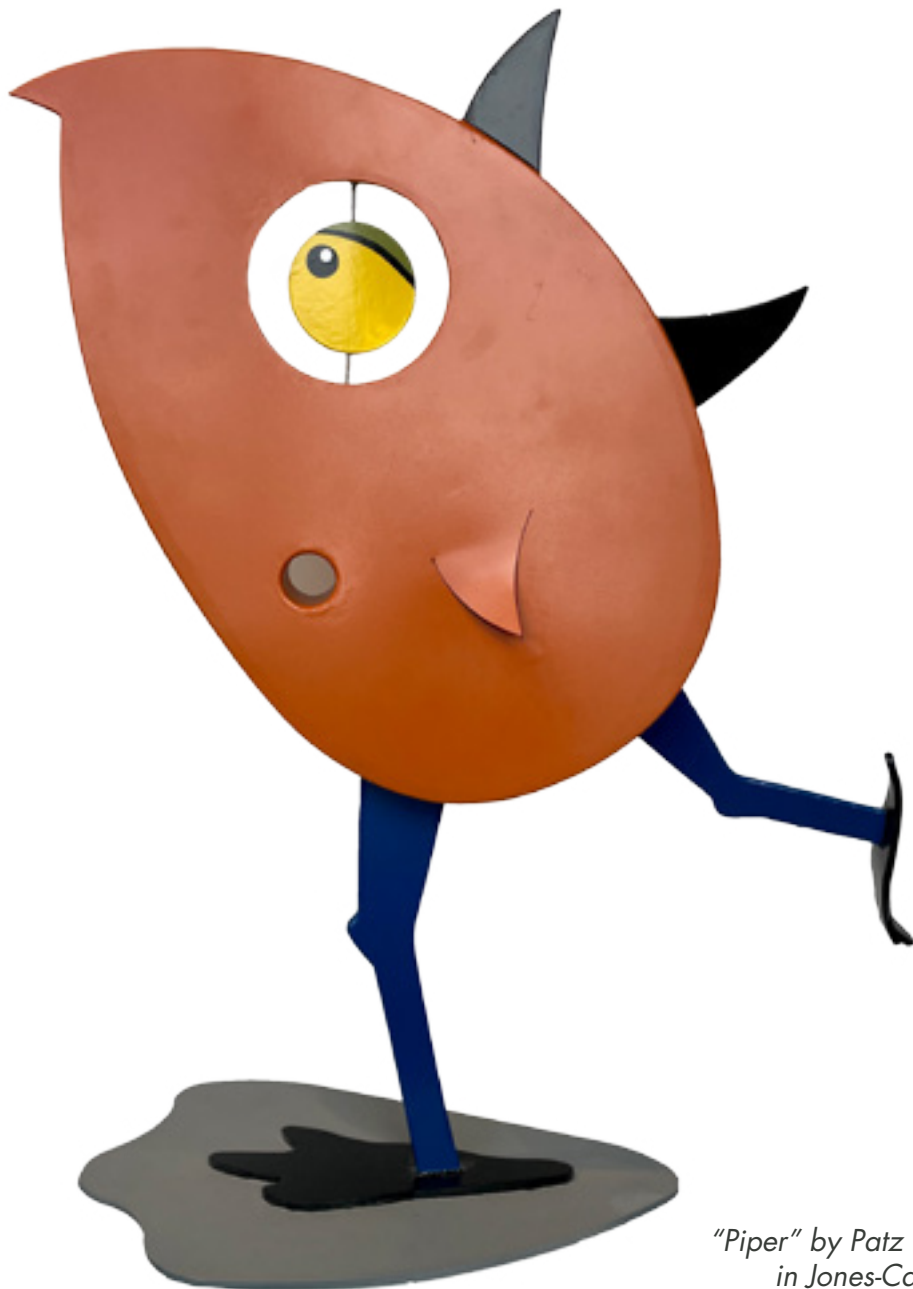
Jonathan Imafidor, People's Choice 3D, "I Lay Out a Bait"

Imafidor was born in Uneme Nekhua, a small rural town in Southern Nigeria. He grew up amidst a vast expanse of tropical vegetation, quiet flowing streams and towering mountains. Imafidor spent most of his early years fishing, hunting and creating art from natural materials. He now resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where he runs an art studio. Imafidor is happily married and is blessed with a son.

Artwork statement: 'I Lay Out a Bait' is a recollection of my many struggles, from Nigeria to South Dakota, and now Georgia; all these places are landmarks in my many expeditions while fishing for success in my art career. Having been groomed in life lessons such as the power of endurance, persistence, strategy, and reward, fishing aptly represents a metaphor that guides my approach to life. By searching for and recycling found metal objects, I am bringing back to life, that which had been neglected, with the hope that there will be a catch at the end of the hook. Words cut out in metal and strewn at the back of the fish are fragments of a poem from my journal that highlights the metaphor of fishing as it relates to life.



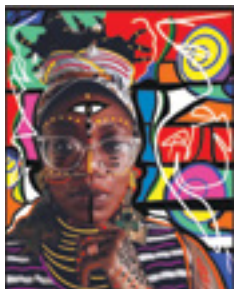
Celebrate art appreciation every month in Lake City! Visit art galleries each week Tuesday - Saturday from 11AM - 5PM.



"Piper" by Patz Fowle, on display in Jones-Carter Gallery.



ENJOYING THE JOURNEY AS AN ARTIST Submitted by Kiira Dixon



Kiira Dixon

Peace and love, my name is Kiira and I'm the owner, artist and creator of Meda Blackbird Artistry AATB. So let me start off by telling you a little about me, I am an abstract and digital artist from South Carolina, and I've been in love with art for most of my life. I studied at the Art Institute of Atlanta, but I didn't major in art I majored in video production. While I was there, I

began to lean more towards art and that's where my journey began.

With my art I have been through many different phases throughout my journey but this point that I'm in right now has to be the best. My style has ascended beyond where I was and even where I started. I'm in the midst of a new spiritual journey, an awakening and I have elevated so much. Before I thought I had it all figured out but when my eyes were truly opened, I realized I didn't know what I thought I knew, which was myself. Now I am at the point of knowing in my work and self-discovery. I have unleashed and embraced the Goddess in me and created the beauty that I see within my mind and through my eyes. When I look at the world, I see a world with the veil lifted and I am able to see beyond the physical and with that, I am able to paint the beauty I see and the beauty I feel. So, my pieces have been coming to me differently now and speaking to me differently. I am taking my world and aligning everything in its proper place; aligning my universe how it's supposed to be, and I love it. I am the creator of my own being my own universe.

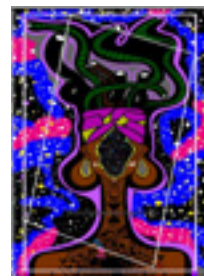
Along this journey, I have also learned new techniques and software and have gone into the digital artist platform with my work, but I still love my paint brushes and canvases which I

will start doing again but change and growth is always good. With my digital work I have been able to put my art on merchandise very easily and have been able to expand my brand. It has allowed me to put my pieces on so many different products such as tote bags, clothing, coffee mugs, book bags etc....so that is a big plus and I have so much in store.

But my journey is far from over and I still have a long way to go and so many stories to tell through my work because the ancestors always speak and I see, I listen, I hear and then I paint. But I definitely appreciate all of the love and support that I have received from the many beautiful souls that have supported my work along the way and the other new beautiful souls who will support my work along the rest of the way through my journey. I will not stop I will forever keep going even when times get hard so when I have ascended from this realm my children and grandchildren and my grandchildren's children and down the line etc., they will know the story of my time here. Please like and follow my Facebook page Meda Blackbird Artistry AATB, my Instagram page Meda Blackbird Artistry and also my store at <https://www.legaleriste.com/medablackbirdartistry>. Much love and Much gratitude.



Legacy



My Self Portrait/Self Reflection



Elevated to the Highest

VISUAL LANGUAGE - A FORM OF ART by Les Echols



Troyan Francis



Troyan Francis stands by his mural

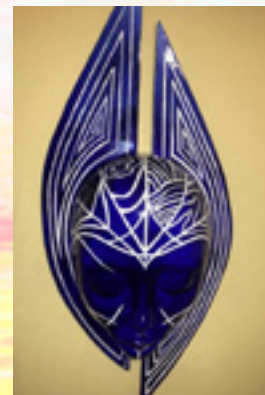
Troyan Francis has become a recognized artist in the Florence, SC community and surrounding areas. Known for his colorful and dynamic pieces and murals, Francis' style is recognizable as dynamic work with strong symbolism and deep meaning.

Francis was born in Kingston, Jamaica in a small community named Tavares Gardens also known as Pain Avenue. He says, "I was fortunate to attend two prestigious primary and secondary institutions Arden Preparatory and Kingston College which is a prestigious Ivy League high school," states Francis. "I then attended Edna Marley College of the visual and performing arts, where I received a bachelor's in art education with a studio focus on sculpture in 2008," Francis confirmed.

Francis taught art at every level since 2008 but has been practicing art since childhood. In 2017, Francis really started

taking his art seriously. And even before then while he attended college, he had been experimenting with every material from wood to paper mached, steel, ceramic and clay.

Francis notes that his major inspiration is the human figure, human movement and the African bodies. "Currently I'm constantly trying to create my own visual language through the use of figure and design, for now I'm just trying to have fun by creating visually interesting sculptural designs. I'm also inspired by fantasy-based body modifications such as wings," Francis continued. He is highlighted in several pieces throughout



Title: Blue mask
Done: 2019
Medium: Wood, Ceramic, resin, paint

Florence County, notably murals in Florence and Lake City, South Carolina. He creates an amazing array of wood pieces based on what a respective individual commissions him to do.

With all of his extensive artistic education, experience and bodies of work, Francis still feels he has more work to do when it comes to art. "I am pleased to be spotlighted and so many venues for my work but understand that I have a long way to go in developing my art," Francis concluded.

EDUCATING TEENS WITH THE POWERFUL TOOL OF DRAMA

Submitted by Carla Angus, executive director



LAKE CITY - Dramatic Coffee Beans, Inc., started brewing in 2012, in the small town of Lake City, SC. Dramatic Coffee Beans is a youth development organization that uses innovative strategies to address the social dilemmas that young people face in today's society. The mission of DCB is to educate and empower our community's youth, by delivering the skills they need to make life-changing decisions and lead them toward a

thriving and successful future. DCB has a multi-prong approach that includes using the performing arts and leadership principles to address teen issues such as drug and alcohol prevention, teen pregnancy, career development, literacy, self-awareness, mental health education and suicide prevention.

DCB is peer-led, interactive and filled with unexpected experiences at each meeting! Because teens are often the hardest group to capture, many have asked how DCB gets the teens to participate. DCB uses eight strategies that have resulted in success, and they are as follows: parent and community involvement; consistency with meetings; heartfelt adult/teen



Dramatic Coffee Beans, Inc. Class of 2022

advisors; teen leaders; open communication; partnerships; leadership activities and use of the arts. Although several organizations may incorporate many of the same strategies, the use of the arts has been the sugar in our coffee!

By using the powerful tool of drama to educate teens, we have observed positive changes in personalities and approaches to obstacles they may face at school, home and in their community. Through our partnerships, we have been fortunate to bring in some wonderful presenters to share their knowledge. Teens then expand on that knowledge by discussing what they see within their schools and homes. The students then brainstorm and create skits to address the problem and bring some resolve. By being able to step out of who they are and become a character in a scene, I have observed teens finding their voice. The quiet teen that first walked through the doors into a meeting, barely having an opinion, is now speaking up and out about what they feel are issues and how they feel those issues can be addressed.



DCB youth Asiana Acting

The students meet a mandatory two times per month and are often offered additional opportunities that occur during the month, as well. It is taught that when opportunities are presented, don't wait to see what others do, you just do it because you



Community Event with Teen Advisors on Stage

never know the benefits you gain until you go through it. Many ask, "How did you guys come up with the name...Dramatic Coffee Beans?" The name was inspired by a story entitled, The Carrot, The Egg and The Coffee Bean I heard years ago when I was going through some personal trials and tribulations of my own. From that point, I decided I would try my best to live my life as a coffee bean and inspire others to do the same. DCB teaches participants they can respond to life like a carrot, becoming mushy when it's placed in hot boiling water, hot boiling water representing the stressful times one may face in life, or they can respond like an egg, which is fluid and golden on the inside but once it hits the boiling water it gets hard, often like one's attitude when they don't get what they want or don't agree with something someone says. We should respond like the coffee bean. What's wonderful about the coffee bean is that it doesn't allow the water to change it but instead it changes the water. We want our youth to not let the outside influences of the world impact them but instead impact the world in a positive way. DCB instructs its participants and everyone they encounter to not just be a coffee bean but be a **DRAMATIC COFFEE BEAN!**

The goal of DCB is to have Dramatic Coffee Beans all over the world, starting here in South Carolina. If you are interested in creating a DCB group, being a part of Lake City's DCB or having The Dramatic Coffee Beans Sugar & Cream Drama Team perform for your church, business or nonprofit, email dcbinc@gmail.com or call 843-687-4493. Donations are accepted and go towards programming and the DCB Scholarship Fund. For more information, you can like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram and check out our website at www.dcbinc.org.



DCB bowling



STOP THE STIGMA AND INCREASE AWARENESS

Submitted by Sandra F. Barnes, MA, clinic director-Florence-Pee Dee Mental Health Center



Sandra F. Barnes, MA

We all deal with many stressors in life such as bullying, financial issues and mental and emotional disorders. These stressors can cause extreme distress that can lead to an individual having suicidal ideation. Suicide is when a person has died as a result of a self-inflicted behavior with the intent to die. A suicide attempt is when a person harms themselves with the intent to end their life and survives, National Institute of Mental Health. “In 2020, suicide was among the top nine leading causes of death for people ages

10-64. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and ages 25-34,” Center for Disease Control, [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

In order to prevent suicide among youth and adults, it is important to stop the stigma associated with mental health treatment. Family and community support are also essential. Most importantly, education is the key to increasing awareness about suicide prevention. For instance, family members and those in the communities can become aware of the warning signs for suicide. Warning signs may include the following: changes in a person’s behavior, making statements about wanting to hurt themselves, planning how they will hurt themselves, increased substance use, feeling like they are a burden to others, feeling anxious, becoming easily agitated, an increase or decrease in sleep, isolating themselves and having mood swings.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the five steps to help a person that may be having suicidal thoughts are:

- Ask questions such as, “Are you having thoughts of harming yourself?” and “Do you have a plan?”
- Keep the person safe by removing objects that they could use to hurt themselves.
- Be there and listen to the individual and acknowledge their feelings.
- Help them connect by encouraging the person to seek help. Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.
- Stay connected with the person even after the crisis.

Family and friends are usually the first to recognize a person has a problem. If a person is in crisis, it is important to seek immediate help for them. The individual should be encouraged to reach out to their local mental health center. The South Carolina Department of Mental Health operates community mental health centers, clinics and hospitals. The agency takes suicide and crisis situations seriously and has a Mobile Crisis program in place to respond to calls in South Carolina 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. The Mobile Crisis Team provides adults and children mental health crisis assistance over the phone or in person, as needed. The goal is to de-escalate the crisis, divert unnecessary hospitalizations, develop safety plans and assist with continued mental health care. The Mobile Crisis number is 833-364-2274, statewide.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health provides an array of services to assist patients in managing their symptoms:

- Adult Outpatient Services include Individual Therapy, Nursing and Psychiatric Services
- Child, Adolescent and Family Services, which includes Individual Therapy, Nursing and Psychiatric Services
- Community Integration Services including Recovery Support Services
- Mental Health is also involved in the Zero Suicide System, a system-wide approach to transforming suicide prevention.

Mental Health Professionals at SCDMH can provide evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality, and Attachment-Based Family Therapy to help support the patient’s recovery.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is another resource that provides information about mental illness and suicide prevention, at 800-950-NAMI, (M-F, 10 a.m. -10 p.m.).

Suicide Prevention and community support are essential to helping reduce suicide in communities. Increased awareness of the warning signs, risk factors and available resources are key components of suicide prevention.

If you or someone you know in South Carolina is experiencing a mental health emergency, contact SCDMH Mobile Crisis at 833-364-2274, or call 911. For non-emergency help, simply walk-in or call the Pee Dee Mental Health Center outpatient clinic near you and ask to speak to a counselor.

Additional crisis numbers include:

- Crisis Text Line
 - o Text: “Hope4SC” to 741741
- South Carolina Department of Mental Health Deaf Services Hotline
 - o Call: 1-803-339-3339 (VP)
 - o deafhotline@scdmh.org
- Veterans Crisis Line
 - o Call: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1
 - o Text 838255
- Trevor Lifeline
 - o Call: 1-866-466-7386
 - o Text “Start” to 678678

Contact Us via our website: peedeementalhealth.org or at any of the four locations listed below.

Florence Clinic • 125 East Cheves St., Florence, SC 29506 • 843-317-4073
 Hartsville Clinic • 900 South Fourth St., Hartsville, SC 29550 • 843-332-4141
 Lake City Clinic • 675 N. Matthews Rd., Lake City, SC 29560 • 843-394-7600
 Marion Clinic • 1100 South Main St., Marion, SC 29571 • 843-431-1100

HIGHER SUICIDE RATES AMONG THOSE DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM



MURRELLS Inlet - People diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder have more than three-fold higher rates of suicide and suicide

attempts than the general population. After learning this devastating statistic, SOS Care decided to kick-off a program which would help in making a change in the population we support.

Planning to live independently is an exciting but oftentimes overwhelming point in someone’s life. People diagnosed with autism may experience anxiety, stress, nervousness or uncertainty during the process to live independently. This is a milestone in their lives they’ve been working toward that comes with many brand-new experiences. These different emotions can lead to mental health challenges for those with autism spectrum disorder.

Due to SOS’s Oak Tree Farm, an affordable housing community designed for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities growing in the near future, SOS Care decided to kick-start our mental health counseling program by providing group counseling services for adults living at Oak Tree Farm and adults who are planning to live at Oak Tree Farm one day. SOS Care will begin their mental health program in July of 2022.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK AWARENESS Submitted by Emmy Boring, LPC



Emmy Boring, LPC

National Suicide Prevention Week begins Sunday, September 4, and ends Saturday, September 10, National Suicide Prevention Day. This week of awareness, education and prevention helps reduce the stigma of mental health disorders and fosters compassion for individuals who are struggling.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 700,000 people die by suicide every year globally. That is one person every 40 seconds. These deaths affect families, friends, workplaces, schools and communities, with few escaping the impact of suicide. According to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, for every one person who dies by suicide, 316 seriously consider, but do not complete, suicide. This means more than 221 million individuals worldwide experience serious suicidal ideation, thinking about, planning or intending to end their life.

Suicide awareness and prevention are more important than ever. In 2020, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline received 29,856 calls from South Carolina and about 8,000 of those callers requested the Veterans Crisis Line. The total call volume from South Carolina has increased 49 percent since 2016. Veterans, adolescents, individuals with substance use and mental health disorders, indigenous people and LGBTQ+ persons are most at risk for death by suicide.

The Suicide Prevention Lifeline theme for 2022 is #BeThe1To. This campaign encourages individuals to be the one to:

- Ask. If someone you know may be struggling, ask gently but directly if they are thinking about killing themselves. Some people worry that they will give someone the idea by asking about it, but research suggests people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relieved when someone asks in a straightforward and caring way. Talking about suicide reduces, rather than increases, risk for suicide attempts and death by suicide.
- Be there. Listen without judgment. You might not know what to do or say to change the situation, but your willingness to be present can save a life.



- Keep them safe. Reducing access to lethal means is one of the most effective ways to prevent suicide. Secure firearms, weapons and medications in your home. If someone you know is thinking about suicide, ask whether they have thought about how they would do it and do your best to separate them from the identified means.

- Help them stay connected. Build supportive social networks involving family, friends, clergy, coaches, coworkers, and mental health professionals. Having more people involved means more points of contact and increased support for an at-risk individual, which makes a life-changing difference.

- Follow up. Check in with your loved ones, friends, and yourself after a crisis or major life change. Ongoing support is invaluable for individuals who have struggled with suicidal thoughts.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide:

- Go to the hospital or call 911. Reach out if you, or a loved one, have a plan to end your life, intent to act on the plan and the means to do it. In the event of a crisis, hospitalization saves lives.

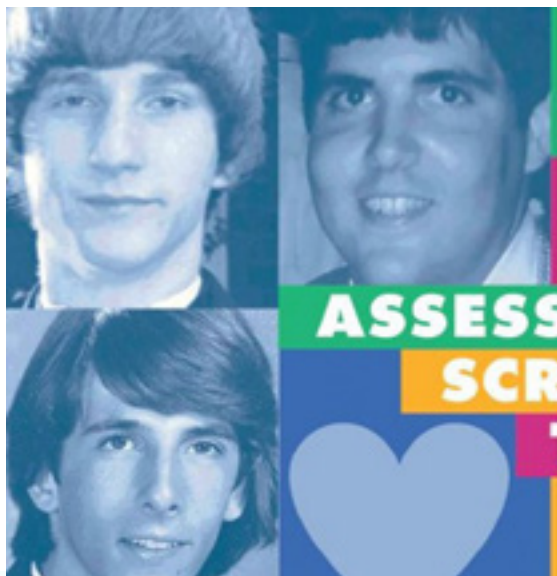
- Call 988 if you are having thoughts of suicide and need support. The US Federal Communications Commission and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health are rolling out a three-digit suicide hotline number, beginning in July 2022. Individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts can call 988 to connect directly to a certified crisis center. Spread the word!

- Seek professional help. Find a mental health professional and schedule an appointment or help your loved one do so.

Go to [SAMHSA.gov/suicide](https://www.samhsa.gov/suicide) for more information on suicide prevention and risk factors. Armed with this information, you can be the one to step in and keep yourself and others safe.

Suicide Prevention





SAVE LIVES FROM SUICIDE

ASSESS

SCREEN

TRAIN

PROJECT
2025

theJonathanFoundation4teens.org

SUICIDE PREVENTION'S PROJECT 2025 Submitted by The Jonathan Foundation

The Jonathan Foundation is aligning with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in PROJECT 2025. The Project 2025 campaign aims to reduce the rate of suicide by 20 percent by the year 2025.

Despite the fact that more is being done today to prevent suicide than at any other time in history, the rate of suicide continues to rise in the United States. Led by the largest suicide prevention organization in the United States, with guidance from the top minds in the field and dynamic data modeling, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has determined the programs, policies and interventions that will prevent as many suicides as possible. Project 2025 is the collaborative effort to implement and scale these strategies nationwide.

— American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 2021

Suicide has been the second leading cause of death for young people ages 15-24 years old, increasing since 2007. A few sobering statistics sharpen the understanding of the divide between hurting people and practical immediate care.

- 83 percent deaths by suicide were seen by healthcare professional in the last year. Most of those who died by suicide did not have an identified mental health diagnosis.
- 50 percent of people who successfully completed suicide had visited their primary care provider in the month preceding their death.
- 40 percent of these people had an emergency department visit without a mental health diagnosis.

Research has shown that 95 percent of individuals, who attempt suicide, when provided with appropriate suicide safe care, never attempt suicide again. The gold standard of healthcare and mental health services is to use evidence-based interventions that are standardized and replicable in our community. AFSP and Project 2025, issues call for effective suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention best practices for key access areas of the healthcare and service continuum.

The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention released by the U.S. Surgeon General and the Action Alliance, presents 13 goals and 60 objectives for suicide prevention. This national call describes the role that each of us can play in preventing suicide and reducing its impact on individuals, families, and communities. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Project 2025 seeks to reduce

the national suicide rate by 20 percent by 2025, by targeting key opportunity areas that have been identified in the national research. The COVID pandemic has brought heightened awareness to this need and can be the catalyst for facilitating the widespread adoption of evidenced-based suicide risk reduction in our counseling community, primary care centers, emergency departments, schools and colleges, churches and first responder services.

Three mothers, united by the loss of their sons and their determination to make a difference are stepping out to bring Project 2025, suicide awareness and prevention campaign to the region. The mothers, Lynn Bulloch who lost her son Jonathan Smith in 2011, Helen George who lost her son Will George in 2017, and Gracelyn Elmendorf, who lost her son Robert Duffee in 2003, are working through The Jonathan Foundation, to align with the work of the National Action Alliance, the Zero Suicide Initiative and the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention in this Call to Action to our health and community care systems in South Carolina to step up and make care, Suicide Safe.

The Jonathan Foundation is launching three new strategic community awareness campaigns in support of PROJECT 2025, over this next year:

- The Will George Project which will advocate for the adoption of risk assessment screening in counseling, primary care centers, and emergency departments.
- The Robert Duffee Project will advocate for the adoption of screening in educational settings- primarily middle school, high school and colleges.
- The Jonathan Smith Project will advocate for proper mental health crisis intervention training for all first responders- EMS and Police.

Just as CPR is life-saving intervention for the cardiac patient, QPR, question, persuade, refer, is a life-saving intervention for the suicidal patient. These three key elements align very closely to QPR and represent the national standard for effective suicide prevention.

Ask a Question, Save a Life, Every Life Matters
Join the AFSP and TJF by taking the pledge to Be That Friend and propel our mission to reduce the rate of youth-suicides in our communities and across the country!

We Keep Getting Better, So They Can Too.

ADDICTION RISK, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Submitted by Stephanie Ferguson, MSN, FNP-C



Stephanie Ferguson, MSN, FNP-C

Millions of people struggle with drug and alcohol addiction. The opioid crisis has taken many lives due to overdose deaths and continues to take lives daily. Addiction not only affects the individual, but also family and friends, and sometimes the community as a whole. Drug addiction changes the chemistry of the brain, making it difficult to

achieve recovery or abstain from using the drug. Prevention and education are the keys to eliminating the drug crisis. Educational tools need to be implemented in schools, the community, and at home.

When drugs are abused, the brain releases a disproportionate amount of dopamine in the reward center of the brain. According to the National Institute of Drug Addiction, this can cause the reinforcement of pleasurable but unhealthy behaviors like abusing drugs, leading people to repeat the behavior. The long-term effects of drug abuse keep the individual craving and using the drug, causing increased tolerance over time. Eventually, this cycle leads to the person only finding pleasure in the drug, while gradually losing interest in other things such as being with family and friends and participating in social activities.

The likelihood of developing a substance use disorder is greatest for those who begin alcohol or other drug use in their early teens. Prevention and early intervention can help limit experimentation and reduce risky behavior before serious social and health problems develop. Low-risk behavior does not mean, safe. Low risk means there is less chance of harm or danger. Any time a person is impaired by any substance, it is considered high-risk behavior. While this applies to both alcohol and drugs, there is one main difference. Most adults can consume a standard drink of alcohol without impairment; however, the standard dose of most illicit drugs is generally enough to cause impairment. For this reason, among others, the only known low-risk behavior for illicit drug use is abstinence, or no use.

There is substantial research to guide us on defining what low-risk behavior for alcohol is. As defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, for women, low-risk drinking is no more than three drinks on any single day and no more than seven drinks per week. For men, it is defined as no more than four drinks on any single day and no more than 14 drinks per week. A standard drink means one 12 oz. beer, five percent, one five-ounce glass of wine, 12 percent, or one 1.5 ounce serving of liquor, 80 proof. The average healthy adult processes one standard drink per hour; therefore, limiting drinks to one per hour significantly decreases the risks associated with impairment. Certain people should avoid alcohol completely, to include but not limited to: individuals under the minimum legal drinking age of 21; women who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant; people who have a medical condition that alcohol can potentiate; individuals taking medications that interact with alcohol; and people driving vehicles or operating machinery, or who plan to do so after drinking.

Treatment options are available in both inpatient and outpatient settings. The patient's drug use, mental health and other co-morbid issues determine what treatment options are best for patients. Medications such as Buprenorphine, Methadone, and Naltrexone have been proven effective in abstinence from drug abuse, when used in conjunction with behavioral health counseling to treat addiction. There is no cure for addiction, but it can be prevented and if present, treated and managed. In the outpatient setting, I have found that the combination of medications and counseling have been a highly effective treatment option for patients.

Preventing drug addiction is possible. Anyone taking opioids for pain should be careful with use and take only as prescribed. Patients taking these drugs need to make sure they are kept in a safe place. Medications should not be shared with anyone, as they could lead to overdose if taken incorrectly or in conjunction with sedatives. If alcohol is consumed, it should be done so safely and in moderation. If anyone feels they may have an addiction to their prescribed medications or alcohol, they need to notify their prescriber or medical provider.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website offers an option to explore different treatment options in your area when seeking help for drug and alcohol addiction. They also offer a national substance use prevention campaign that helps parents and caregivers start talking with their children early-on about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs. Addiction is a growing epidemic, and the introduction of more potent, life-taking drugs is on the rise. Prevention needs to start within the community including medical providers, community leaders and the media to show the negative effects of drug use. Over time, drug use can lead to memory loss, mood disorders, physical changes and loss of friends and family. The damage can sometimes be irreversible.

Overall, knowing treatment is available in both inpatient and outpatient settings will help patients get the treatment needed for recovery. There are treatment options available in the medical office setting to avoid the stigma associated with drug abuse. Patients need to know that drug addiction is a mental illness and can be treated. As a former pain management provider, I have been able to identify and treat those patients who unfortunately developed an addiction from the misuse of opioids.

There is no exact way to pinpoint who will fall victim to drug abuse. Research has correlated drug addiction to genetic, environmental and developmental factors. Once treatment is received, recovery can be a life-long process, and sometimes relapses happen during the recovery phase. Families and those involved must also be educated about drug addiction and understand this is a life-long chronic illness, but with support, recovery can be achieved and maintained.



Recovery Awareness Month

GIVING HIS BEST SO OTHERS CAN SUCCEED Submitted by Pee Dee Mental Health Center



Cedric Evans

At first glance, recovery is normally seen as the act of an individual being able to work through and deal with all that comes with their mental illness. The four dimensions of recovery include: health, home, purpose and community. Purpose entails giving your clients meaning as they engage in meaningful daily activities such as finding a job or going back to school, while working to be independent and provide for themselves with resources in the community. Cedric Evans is the proud recipient of the Pee Dee Mental Health 2021, Employee of the Year award. He became an integral part of the Pee Dee Mental Health in August 2004. He started in Child and Family Services as an outreach counselor and gradually moved into other departments including ACT, Adult Services and now Individual Placement and Support.

Evans has been part of the IPS program for the last four years as a job coach. With all the experience and knowledge, he has, Evans is the epitome of what it takes to assist individuals with job placement as they work through the recovery process in which his current position entails. His years of knowledge and expertise have led to him being exceptional helping individuals look for employment and maintain their jobs, while assisting them with gaining the confidence needed to believe and understand they can do anything they put their mind to as they work towards recovery and move

beyond the low standards that are set for many suffering with mental illness.

Part of his role in assisting patients in securing and maintaining competitive employment, includes collaborating with vocational rehabilitation to gain the knowledge they need that can continue with the recovery process. Evans travels to Hartsville, SC, to assist patients with employment, in the surrounding areas to make it easier for individuals to gain employment.

He views the ability to assist individuals with getting back into the work force as a major victory. It is his dedication and selflessness that makes the goal of getting all those who suffer from some form of mental illness, easy and rewarding. Evans' favorite part in his role is being given the opportunity to help individuals reach goals that they thought would be impossible.

One colleague shared how their patient was ever grateful for the work of Evans as it assisted him with not just employment, but for this being the first time he's been able to buy Christmas gifts for his family. The counselor also shared that this made her client extremely happy, and she even began to see him smile more during sessions.

It's results like this that continue to make the recovery process for those Evans assists more rewarding. Amongst all his other accolades, Evans is a proud husband and father of two smart children. He's also a member of Florence Baptist Temple, where he serves on the usher's ministry. Evans quotes, "I strive to help individuals in a manner that I would want to be helped, if it were me or one of my loved ones in that position."

COMMUNITY AID, RELIEF & EMPOWERMENT

Submitted by Linda W. Phillips, Marion County Long Term Recovery, coordinator EFSP, POC



Linda W. Phillips

MARION – In 2017, Marion County residents woke to an unbelievable disaster as the area was hard hit by rains from Hurricane Matthew. The tropical hurricane travelled hundreds of miles before reaching the county, but still managed to bring upwards of 14-15 inches of rain, leaving a trail of flooded homes and the lives of families in disarray. Residents were evacuated for safety, only to return to their homes in shambles; ravished by the storm waters.

In response to the disaster, the Marion County Long Term Recovery Group, was established with the intent for citizens to attain safe, secure and sanitary housing as quickly as possible. The organization was established to maintain a network within and on behalf of the faith-based, non-profit, governmental, business, and other organizations and agencies which provides a coordinated recovery of Marion County citizens who do not have adequate personal resources for basic needs.

Since its beginning, The Marion County Long Term Recovery Group has provided services that include home repairs or rebuilds. Additionally, the organization also aids with mortgages, rents, utilities and food distributions to Marion County citizens when funds are available. Presently, MCLTRG is funded by grants and donations, according to Linda Phillips, director of the organization. Initially, the Little Pee Dee Baptist E&M association served as the Fiscal Agent, however, in 2020,

MCLTRG received its own 501(c)3 status. Initial funding for the Marion County Long Term Recovery Group was a \$100,000.00 matching fund granted by the Marion County Healthcare Foundation, under the leadership of Mary Dunbar. Today, the organization has a grant writer as a member of the staff to ensure the fiscal stability of the company, and presently MCLTRG is funded by grants and donations; the organization is in the process of developing a fundraising program.

The board members for the organization are Bishop Michael A. Blue, pastor of Door of Hope Church; Dr. Kandace Bethea, Marion County School superintendent; Ogleretta White, grant writer and Linda W. Phillips, director of the organization. "As the director, my duties include managing the administrative staff, guiding operating methods, disbursing funds, monitoring the budget, analyzing financial data and improving information systems," said Phillips. She added that it's important for people to know that since the inception of the program, the Marion County Long Term Recovery Group continues to distribute much needed commodities to citizens of the county that were and still are affected by disasters.

The Marion County Long Term Recovery Group, which is in Room 113 of the Marion County Administrative Building, 2523 Highway 76 East, Marion, SC, consists of three volunteer office staff members, Dianna Owens, case manager, Roosevelt Campbell, intake manager and Phillips, director. There are 19 active volunteer agencies, known as Marion County Care Centers, established throughout the county to ensure service is available for all residents.

Recovery Awareness Month

THE IMPORTANCE OF PEER SUPPORT IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS

Submitted by Erica Buffkin, prevention specialist II



Erica Buffkin

Life after addiction isn't easy. Even though individuals in recovery are improving their life and letting go of old habits and relationships they may still struggle to deal with physical, emotional and mental changes. At times they may have feelings of guilt or grief about their past and they may struggle with depression or anxiety about their new life in recovery. Making lifestyle

changes can be exhausting, frustrating and overwhelming. Having a supportive, dependable community can help individuals overcome challenges to a successful recovery.

Circle Park Behavioral Health Services creates a supportive community through peer support navigators and specialists who support individuals seeking recovery. Both Navigators and Specialists have been successful in their own recovery process for an extended period of time. Peer support offers acceptance, understanding and validation by sharing their experience and real-life examples of the power of recovery.

Peer support navigators work in hospital emergency rooms to aid patients in bridging to needed treatment and recovery services through motivation and encouragement. They assist in completing referrals and developing a plan to help patients link with available services after discharge.

Peer support specialists also collaborate with counselors to create a streamlined recovery process to create an environment of compassion where individuals feel safe and understood. They assist

people by providing advocacy, sharing resources, building relationships, mentoring, educating the public and leading recovery groups and individual sessions.

Emerging research shows that peer support is highly effective for securing a successful recovery. Active participation in any type of peer support increases the chances that an individual will remain in recovery. Some of the benefits include increased self-confidence, a sense of self control, ability to make better choices, empathy, engagement in self-care and decreased depression and substance use.

Peer support is recovery-oriented, person-centered and relationship focused. It helps people achieve meaningful goals and identify their strengths in order to choose for themselves while recognizing that there are multiple paths to recovery. The relationship between a peer support specialist and an individual is respectful, trusting, collaborative and mutual. Treatment plans are personalized to meet the hopes, goals and preferences of each individual to create empowerment and help people take concrete steps towards building a fulfilling, self-determined life.

All peer support specialist at Circle Park have completed certification through FAVOR SC. Peer support has also proven to be a particularly effective addition to successful medication assisted treatment services offered at Circle Park.

The mission of Circle Park is to reduce the impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse on the citizens of Florence County. Circle Park's treatment services are offered Monday – Friday. For more information or to utilize services, call 843-665-9349, visit www.circlepark.com or the agency's Facebook page.



*“Everyone Deserves a
First Chance”*

Chrysalis Center
*Residential Treatment for
Women with Children*

1430 S Cashua Dr., Florence, SC 29501

843-673-0660

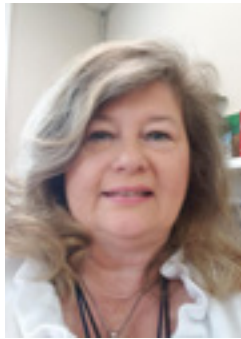
www.chrysaliscenter.com

www.circlepark.com

Funded through a Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act of 2021 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), CFDA Number 93.959 FAIN - B08TI083544

Recovery Awareness Month

RESOURCES ON THE RECOVERY ROAD by Jennifer Robinson



LaDonna Bartell

can help the process.

Recovery Month is observed in September and the theme for is “Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family and Every Community.” Addiction is indiscriminate. There are individuals who struggle with the pangs of addiction, and they are the people we see every day. Wealthy people and poor people have problems and many of them use drugs to cope. Coping mechanisms help those who are stressed from everyday events or trauma. Most treatments include addressing those stressors and their specific trauma incidents. If every person could recognize their need for help, the resources provided by counselors, mental health agencies and recovery centers would be effective. Everyone affected by addiction is qualified to receive assistance. Unfortunately, the stigma surrounding receiving help is often negative therefore addicts forgo treatment. September is also National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The Addiction Center has stated drug and alcohol abuse causes suicide. Because minds are altered while in drug induced states, enhanced suicidal ideologies may occur. Suicide, depression and addiction are interconnected. More than 90 percent of victims of suicide either suffer from depression, drug addiction or both. The National Suicide Prevention Line is available 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255.

The Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission is readily available with resources and treatment for those ready to get help. The mission of the GCADAC is to reduce the negative health, social and economic consequences resulting from the use of alcohol and other drugs. Through a variety of primary prevention, intervention and treatment strategies, the GADAC works with numerous other state and local agencies and organizations in an attempt to reduce and control problems related to the use of these substances.

“Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse has been providing services since the 70’s. We are known by so many community partners. We are active with many community boards, committees, task forces, etc., that continuously make referrals to us. We can be found on Facebook, our website and by a google search, says LaDonna Bartell, treatment director at GCADA. The resources we have available are primarily an outpatient program that strives to help individuals live a life of recovery in their own community. We have intensive outpatient programs where individuals can come for services from nine to 19 hours a week. Our outpatient program is eight hours or less weekly. We also provide a maintenance program that helps our clients treat their substance use disorder as a chronic disease and they can receive services one to two times a month once they have experienced partial to full remission. We also participate in risk reduction efforts. We have a medication assisted treatment program for those who have severe opioid use disorders in which they can receive medication to reduce withdrawal symptoms from opiates as well as reduce cravings while they are in treatment. We

GEORGETOWN-In most counties in the state of South Carolina there are programs to assist those recovering from alcohol and drug addiction but there are few programs that assist those who are struggling with ending their lives. Each year treatment centers research to find programs that will help recovering addicts improve their lives. With evidence-based programs in place to help patients, the journey to recovery may not be easy but understanding the root causes of addiction

**Georgetown
Alcohol
and
Drug Abuse
Commission**



also have Narcan available for our clients as well as their family members or caregivers. This helps to prevent overdose and save lives.

We have a prevention program that works within the community to prevent substance use disorders from occurring. We provide the Tobacco Education Program for youth to prevent smoking. We also have the Palmetto Retailers Education Program for those who serve or sell alcohol or tobacco products. We provide awareness events, educational presentations, and enable to instruct coping skills to avoid high risk behaviors for teens. We provide multiple public speaking engagements to assist with prevention efforts. Although we provide outpatient services, we have a list of resources for detox, inpatient, recovery housing, employment referral, food banks and other resources to help those in recovery become self-sufficient.”

Community partnerships with resources is important to the holistic treatment of those recovering from substance abuse. The information needed to help on their journey is readily available not only during recovery month, but every day.

CHOOSING A BETTER LIFE FOR YOURSELF

by Ta’Meeka Epps



Elizabeth Clark

Addiction is defined as an involuntary neuropsychological disorder characterized by persistent use of substances, despite substantial harm and other negative consequences. Repetitive drug use often alters brain function in ways that perpetuate craving of the substances, and it weakens self-control. (“Addiction,” Wikipedia, 2022)

Addiction is a chronic dysfunction that allows those inflicted to escape from the reality of their day-to-day life.

Elizabeth Clark, director of community services at Trinity Behavioral Care, provides services to the counties of Marion, Dillon and Marlboro. The mission of Trinity Behavioral Care is to help prevent and reduce the impact of drug abuse and addiction in Marion, Dillon and Marlboro counties on the quality of life through the implementation of effective, efficient, meaningful, quality primary prevention, intervention and treatment services.

As the Director of Community Services, Clark plans, directs, manages and oversees the activities and operations of the department. She joined Trinity in August 2021; however, she has worked in the prevention field for the last nine years. Trinity serves clients as young as the tender age of ten and as experienced with life as sixty-nine years of age. Trinity is an outpatient program. Clients receive services then return to their community knowing they have the support and resources of Trinity. Trinity has an on-call phone service which is accessible to existing clients or potential clients who are experiencing a crisis with their addiction.

Trinity Behavioral Care assessments takes a holistic look at the needs of the individual. Once the plan of care is created and implemented, the clients receive individual, group or family counseling as an integral part of addressing underlining issues which contribute to continued substance addiction. Clark knows there is no one size fits all to treating addiction and there are many contributing factors to the vicious cycle of addiction.

Recovery Awareness Month

CHOOSING A BETTER LIFE CONT'D

“Family history of addiction is a major factor; substance use disorders are more common in some families and likely involves genetic predisposition. Mental health disorders left untreated; clients tend to gravitate towards using to circumvent dealing with mental health issues. Peer pressure is also a common factor as teenagers and young adults struggle with fitting in with others,” Clark stated. The stress and strain from financial situations, psychological or physical abuse often overwhelms an individual triggering the need to use. Lack of family support and a stable, supportive environment increases the likelihood of an individual succumbing to the vicious

cycle of addiction.

Clark is a native of Horry County and has a great respect for community, especially rural areas where there are very few resources and little or no social activities. She serves to empower and educate the public about the impact of substance abuse. In connection with law enforcement, Clark identifies high risk areas where drug use and drug sales run rampant. Clark fulfills her purpose of service through identifying the needs of the community and bridging the gap to humanize and give a voice to the voiceless. For more information about Trinity, visit www.trinitybehavioralcare.org.

TRANSFORMING AND STRIVING TO PUT HOPE WITHIN REACH by Ta'Meeka Epps



Kyle Ketelsen Wayne McArdle and Jacob Embry

COLUMBIA - “Recovery really is for everyone but there was a time in my life when I felt hopeless as though recovery was not for me. I struggled with an addiction to opiates for years. I felt trapped and as if there was no way out. I spent 12 years in addiction until I met Jesus. Jesus changed my life through Teen Challenge. I now have 6 years clean and sober, living for God. I had fractured every relationship I had ever been in, but God restored them all. I am also now married to a great woman who loves me and loves God. We work together in the recovery ministry of Teen Challenge, serving those who struggled with addiction like we use too. There has been so much transformation in our lives and God has changed everything for the better. Our mission together is to try and reach as many people as possible to let them know that there is hope for recovery no matter what life currently looks like. God has no respecter of persons; what He has done for us He will do for anyone!”

That recovery story belongs to Jacob Embry, executive director of Columbia Teen Challenge (Columbia TC). The mission of Columbia TC is to offer life-transformation through Christ centered programs. Our vision is to, “put hope within reach of every addict.” “The reason we do it is for souls. We all need to be saved and Jesus offers salvation. We get to be the vessels that God uses to present the Gospel to those who need to be saved,” Embry explained.

Embry has been executive director at Teen Challenge Columbia since August 2021. The center is part of the Southeast Region of TC. He has worked for TC Southeast Region since 2018. He also served

as program manager and admissions coordinator at the Dixon, KY location prior to Columbia TC. The Teen Challenge program has a simple entry process. When a person calls, a short interview is completed. The potential student is then transferred to the regional admissions office where an over the phone application is completed. After completion, an intake date is scheduled. The process has a quick turn around and can be completed in less than 24 hours. There is a minimal \$200 per month charge however the program does not deny access based on financial support.

Teen Challenge serves adult men 18 and older. The program also serves adult women 18 and older and adolescent boys and girls 12-17 years old. Within the Southeast Region there are 20 centers in five states. South Carolina has been impacted by the growing drug epidemic. DHEC published that there was a 53 percent increase in drug overdoses from 2019 to 2020, in the state of South Carolina. From 1,131 in 2019 to 1,734 in 2020. The need for recovery is enormous. TC Southeast Columbia is committed to the



state of South Carolina. TC serves the growing need of the community. South Carolinians who struggle with life controlling issues have a place to go, where their lives are being transformed. They have witnessed individuals given back their lives. They have seen families restored. They are striving to set their students up for sustained, lifelong success. As men are restored, the families they lead and the communities they serve will also be restored.

Embry chose to serve people in the addiction recovery field because of the call to service that God placed on his life. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says, “Go and make disciples of all nations teaching them all that I have commanded you.” The job of a Christian is to serve and to teach those who

don't know or have fallen away from the Good News. It is their responsibility to give back what has been given to them. Through that service, more recovery stories become a reality. Like this story of Kyle Ketelsen.

Once upon a time I was a heroin addict. Malnourished in a jail cell facing ten years in prison. My life had not always been this way. By the time I was this shell of a man, I had stopped asking how I got that way. I was completely aware of what had happened, and I no longer cared what would happen if I continued. Looking back now, I can see it so clearly, which decisions led me to that cell years ago. I had watched my father pass away from cancer at 12 years old and found my mother after she had passed away during a night of partying at 20 years old. These are the two worst memories of my life, and I allowed those I love to justify my poor decisions as a young adult with these memories in their minds.

Truthfully, I have always known that my decisions are not to be blamed on tragedy, but by the time I desired to start living right it was too late, the spiral kept descending me into a hell of my own creation. I was sent to Teen Challenge in November of 2014, and I began a relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is when my journey to recovery truly began. I would love to say that life was perfect after that, but it's simply not true. I have fallen along the way multiple times, and I have hurt those I love multiple times.

But God, never let me go. He called me back to this ministry six years after leaving that first time, he shifted my focus on HIM again. I am now an employee of the ministry God called me to from a jail cell in 2014. I have the privilege to speak to those who come through our doors, just as broken as I once was, searching for a way out of addiction.

Teen Challenge Columbia is providing the backdrop for all who are willing to do the work to succeed at recovery. For more information about the Teen Challenge program please visit www.teenchallenge.cc.

Recovery Awareness Month

LEADING THE PATH TOWARD RECOVERY by Tu'Meeka Epps



Mara Jones

When an individual struggles with addiction, they are not the only ones affected by the disease. Families loved ones and friends endure the vicious cycle as well. Therefore, when we think of recovery, we must take them into account as well. "I dare to say there is not one single person in the world who is not affected by the negative consequences of substance use by someone they love or

themselves. Recovery is for everyone including those who have been negatively impacted by the addiction of a loved one. Recovery is available to every person but often individuals and communities struggle with knowing where or who to turn to for help."

Mara Jones, executive director of ALPHA Behavioral Health Center and manager of the Lee Center in Bishopville and Chesterfield understands how critical access to resources which directly impact recovery is to every individual touched by addiction. The acronym ALPHA means All Life's Problems Have Answers. ALPHA Behavioral Health Center is a place where individuals and the community can turn to for the knowledge and services to guide them towards recovery. Each individual who is willing to do the work to gain a life free from substance abuse is an additional life that is able to support the building of a healthier community.

Before being named executive director, Jones served as deputy director, treatment director, and clinical counselor. She has been employed with ALPHA for 19 years. She is a licensed professional counselor supervisor, professional counselor and addictions counselor by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Jones is also a national certified addictions counselor and certified clinical supervisor. As the executive director, the first and most important role is to serve the staff and community by ensuring each individual is equipped to provide tools and services to build healthier lives. She collaboratively works with the state parent agency, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to address the needs and trending issues impacting the community.

ALPHA seeks to provide quality services to individuals and their families/support systems to reduce problems associated with substance misuse/use, behavioral/mental health needs and co-occurring disorders, in an accessible outpatient setting. ALPHA's doors are open to any individual in need of services. ALPHA does not turn individuals away for the inability to pay for services. ALPHA is in Kershaw, Chesterfield and Lee counties. The agency in Lee County is called, The Lee Center, providing identification with the community at the request of County Council.

"Our local communities, state and country are in a crisis with opioids and other drugs of misuse. Too many individuals are dying from opioid/fentanyl overdoses. The high visibility of the opioid epidemic often clouds the fact that alcohol continues to be a leading cause of addiction and death. My role is to assess the needs of our community and help to develop prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery programs that are effective at saving lives," Jones explained.

Living a life of service is a selfless life. One Jones has been living since answering the call in her final semester of her bachelor's program, when she changed her major from Business to Psychology. "I went from thinking I don't want to listen to

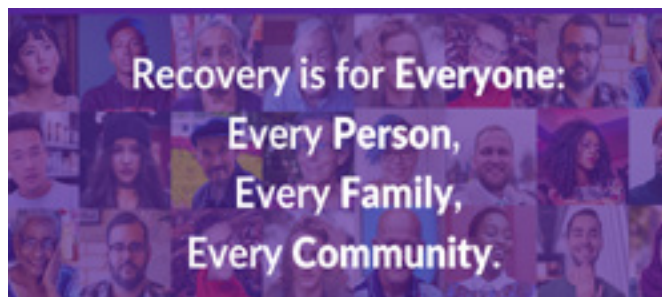
people's problems all day to thinking, I could not imagine going to work in the corporate world. I was called to serve others and it is a decision I have never regretted. There is truth in the saying, find your passion and you will never work a day in your life. I feel privileged to get up each day to serve others while earning a salary. ALPHA is exactly where I am supposed to be."

The recovery success stories are an additional bonus to being of service. The following is one such story. To protect the identity of this former client of ALPHA Behavioral Health Center, their name will be concealed. I started using drugs recreationally and never thought that the drugs would take control of my life. I felt like I had more control and really believed I would never end up like other people using drugs that got addicted and were arrested. Unfortunately, the more I used the more I needed to get the high that I desired. My circle of people I interacted with expanded to more people using illegal drugs which lead to an opportunity for me to try methamphetamines. I never dreamt I would start stealing to support my substance use and one lie would lead to another lie



Mara Standing in front of the ALPHA Center

to protect my habit. Before long, I was lying to the one person who never failed me, my mother. Then I began to steal from her and did not feel any remorse for it at the time. I have been arrested numerous times related to trafficking, possession and substance use in multiple states. I used drugs to forget how messed up and unmanageable my life had become. It was not until I was forced into treatment and had to go to prison, not jail, that I realized how unrecognizable my life had become. I even tried to fake positive drug screens and would lie to my therapist. Finally, something clicked for me when I heard the story of someone parallel to the life I was living. In that moment I made an intentional effort to make positive decisions which would support a life of recovery. I will admit it was an uphill battle because I had to face and accept all of the devastation, I had caused to people who loved me. These were all lives and innocent individuals who cared about me, but I stole from them. I never thought recovery was possible for me until I actively participated in a program at ALPHA, and I am proud to say, I have over 14 months sustained of a lifestyle of full recovery. That recovery journey is one of many. ALPHA serves over 3000 individuals per year. Visit www.alphabehavioralhealth.org for information about recovery.



SOMETHING UNIQUE IN MEXICAN CULTURE by Adalia Ellis



Ivan Segura

Latino community throughout the state of South Carolina. In addition to his work with the SC Commission for Minority Affairs, he has been dedicated to community activism, arts advocacy and grassroots leadership for twenty years.

Mr. Segura grew up in a beautiful town in the center of Mexico called Aguascalientes. It is an important town because if someone were to travel from the south to the north of Mexico, they would most likely pass by or through Aguascalientes.

“A lot of times people assume that I was born in the US, or that I completed my degree here. However, I lived in Aguascalientes until I was 26 years old, and I completed my degree in Financial Administration from the University of Aguascalientes. I learned English when I was 24. I included this during my cultural competency training to let people know that it is never too late to learn a second language.”

He misses his family that remains in his beautiful home city and tries to return home as often as possible. One thing he says he has grown to miss a lot is, “just being able to see people on the streets walking to and from work/school, people walking down to the store, to the restaurant or just people walking around. Here we get in a car to go everywhere and just walk three feet to our destination.”

Something unique in Mexican culture is how they approach death. He quotes Octavio Paz, Mexico’s Literature Nobel Laureate, “To the people of New York, Paris or London, death, is a word that is never pronounced because it burns the lips. The

Mexican, however, frequents it, jokes about it, caresses it, sleeps with it, celebrates it; it is one of his favorite toys and most steadfast love.”

This special day is called The Day of the Dead. During this holiday, people honor their ancestors by creating altars to their family members who have passed on. Segura further explains, “Within Mexican culture’s complex fusion of Aztec, Mayan and Spanish traditions, death is merely one part in the wider cycle of existence. The Day of the Dead celebration is the result of the ancient ritual venerations and offerings to the goddess Mictecacihuatl, Lady of the Dead, for deceased children and adults, and the Spaniards’ desire to accommodate these festivities within the Catholic celebrations of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day. Thus, the Day of the Dead is a celebration of life and an opportunity for us to remember those that departed before us. “Through the non-profit, Palmetto Luna Arts, of which he is the executive director, they have an initiative that is expanding the celebration of The Day of the Dead to many parts of the State of South Carolina.

When asked what the statement, Be Proud of Your Past, Embrace the Future, means to him, Segura shared, “It means an opportunity to learn and lead. I have been advocating for this community for 20 years and I know there are community leaders/brokers all across the state that are dedicating countless hours and efforts to foster the economic and social development of our community. It is very important that our community is aware of its roots, its traditions and cultural values and to make sure to keep those in mind as we move into a future that includes working with other communities and understanding other cultures.”

When considering the contributions that the Hispanic/Latino community has made to the state of South Carolina he points to the economic as well as social and cultural contributions. There exists a general misconception that all Hispanics are Mexicans and speak only Spanish. He states, “Hispanics come from 21 different countries. And as far as the language, in Mexico only there are 68 different recognized national languages. I guess one of the contributions I would highlight from our community is how we contribute to diversity and how our cultural background enriches the history of South Carolina.”



HISPANIC

Heritage



LOS PORTALES: THE BEST QUALITY FOOD AND TASTE

by Adalia Ellis



Irma Herrera

Irma Herrera, owner of Los Portales Mexican Restaurant, grew up in Mexico City, Mexico. At the age of 18, she left home to experience living in a culture and country different from her own by moving to the United States. After moving to the US, this new country became her new home where she married, had four children and opened a business of her own, a restaurant.

Los Portales Mexican Restaurant, located on West Evans Street in Florence, is an opportunity for locals to experience the food that is rooted in Herrera's culture and home country. One thing many cultures share is the important role of food in how people connect, are introduced to other cultures and is central to creating a sense of community. For Herrera, she has learned that it is important to be patient when sharing her culture's food with others. "In order to share different types of food to others, you need patience to understand not everyone will like your food and that's okay. Each person has their own preferences. I would hope when someone tries my food, they fall in love with it but that's not the case all the time."

In addition to Los Portales' dine-in restaurant with an extensive menu, their website features: ordering ahead of arrival;

ordering online for express delivery and a rewards program for frequent diners.

Herrera not only shares her culture through food, but her restaurant also contributes to Florence's commerce and economy. She is one of many people of Hispanic/Latin origin who contribute greatly to the Pee Dee area. When considering the contributions of her community, Herrera says, "In my opinion the Latin/Hispanic community has helped other communities with empowering themselves and supporting their own communities while as well others and having that respect with one another. Not only do Hispanics empower, but we share our culture with food, dance and clothing. We love when people learn Spanish or want to learn how to dance and wear traditional clothing. We love others supporting others. I think, from my experience, Hispanics push each other to learn from other cultures and not be afraid to embrace what we have and love what others have."

For her, the theme of Hispanic Heritage Month, Hispanic: Be Proud of Your Past, Embrace the Future," is, emotional. It's freeing. Knowing that people are aware Hispanics are here to help others and ourselves. I'm proud that our community has been given the respect we deserve, and I hope this continues on. Reading Hispanic: Be Proud of Your Past, Embrace the Future," reassures me that Hispanics are seen, and people appreciate us enough to understand our past history."

LOS PORTALES

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

2029 W Evans St, Florence, SC 29501
(843) 413-0990

10% off

any food entree

Bring this coupon to receive 10% off discount. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Limited time offer.

FREE

APPETIZER

Bring this coupon to receive a free appetizer with purchase of \$25 or more. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Limited time offer.

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO MOVE BEYOND DEBT



If you're dealing with personal and unsecured debt, like credit cards or medical bills, navigating financial terms can be confusing. The terms describing the entire debt settlement industry are used interchangeably, misleading the consumer. It can be challenging to find the right solution for you if you can't fully understand your options.

Last year, NerdWallet released a study on the, 2021 American Household Credit Card Debt. The average credit card debt per household is \$6,006, down 13.8 percent. Despite that, one in five Americans experienced higher prices and lower wages, so they relied heavily on credit cards to pay for necessities during the pandemic.

This kind of debt has affected millions of Americans emotionally and physically. Remember, debt is something you have, not who you are, and you have options.

One way to erode the stress connected to debt begins with understanding the diverse types of aid available. Being clear about those terms is critical for finding the right fit from a reputable financial management organization to restore your peace of mind.

The debt settlement industry got its name because it offered clients assistance to settle personal debt and alleviate its stress. A synonym that has been used is, debt resolution, because that is the goal - creating a resolution to stressful personal finance challenges.

Financial organizations such as banks, credit counseling firms and even bankruptcy attorneys have used three separate terms interchangeably within the debt settlement industry. However, they mean different things. It's essential to understand the differences and what they mean to take the proper steps for your specific situation.

1. Debt management

Consider debt management if you can't repay your debt or aren't skilled at personal finance activities like balancing a checkbook. Most people worry about damaging their credit by their inability to pay bills on time, so they call a credit counselor for help.

After hearing the situation, if appropriate, the counselor will typically ask a client to consider enrolling in a debt management plan. Based on an initial conversation, the debt management counselor designs a detailed plan to help you create and adhere to a budget while learning necessary money management skills. Additionally, the DMP company may call your creditors and ask for a reduced interest rate or waive specific fees. Your requests may not be approved. If that happens to you, another possibility is considering debt consolidation.

2. Debt consolidation

Out-of-control debt can feel like a downward spiral that pulls you down with it. The cyclone involves multiple creditors, several payments and immense stress. A debt consolidation loan becomes a possibility because it's easier to pay one general payment than several smaller ones.

If you have a strong enough credit score, you can visit online lenders or a few storefronts to get approved for a debt consolidation loan. That will roll all your bills together and make up an average - and often lower - interest rate. The loan types can vary, including a home equity loan, a 401(k) loan, a balance-transfer credit card or an actual debt consolidation loan.

What if you don't qualify for a debt consolidation loan due to poor credit? You likely feel stuck, but debt resolution may be an option you haven't considered.

3. Debt resolution

Debt resolution helps cut your total debt owed, while a debt consolidation loan helps minimize the total number of creditors you owe. Every day, reputable debt resolution organizations operate in full compliance with the Federal Trade Organization's Telemarketing Sales Rule throughout the process.

It is essential to know that you should never have to pay any, resolution, fees until you've made at least one payment toward your settlement with a creditor. The company works on your behalf throughout the process as you make deposits into a private trust or escrow account used only to pay off debts enrolled in the program.

Most importantly, debt resolution is a bankruptcy alternative. You do not have to file bankruptcy if you can't get a loan. Debt resolution allows you the right to pay back what you owe at a negotiated rate you can afford. It's best to do your research to understand the facts and choose the proper remedy.

*Community.
That's what we do here.*

Our employees know you by name and greet you with a smile as you walk in the door. If you've ever been to Dedicated Community Bank, you know what we're talking about. We're interested in you, and we will do our best to make sure you are 100 percent satisfied with your banking experience.



2016 Hoffmeyer Road
Florence, SC 29501
843.292.0016

202 Cashua Street
Darlington, SC 29532
843.395.1956

www.dcbcs.com



WORKING IN FINANCE EMPOWERS YOU TO HAVE MORE CONTROL by Les Echols



Keia Gordon

Financial literacy plays a vital role in all of our personal and professional lives. Data shows that having knowledge of how finances work empowers individuals to have more control over their respective lives and futures. We spoke to Keia Gordon of Anderson Brothers Bank about her role in the community and assuring that their clients are well versed and financially literate. Keia has been in the finance industry since 2004, and has worked in all areas of finance

from customer service representative, collections representative, manager and trainer.

As Loan Officer, Keia works daily in her role providing financial services. "Here at Anderson Brothers Bank, we offer all types of loans, from cd loans to help build credit, to auto loans to help get people into adequate transportation. We also offer personal loans, mortgage loans, business loans and commercial loans. We offer many financial services such as CD loans and credit card services". Keia also stresses the importance of financial wellness, stating that "it is important because it gives you that financial freedom and security. It also gives you peace of mind if any unexpected circumstances arise and we know they will. It also increases your health. Gives you control of your daily finances".

Keia went on to elaborate on some ways for people to improve their credit and financial standing. Most important by keeping your utilization percent on credit cards down to 30%. Making payment

arrangements with medical bills before they hit your credit report is a huge way to circumvent problems. Also, do not have too many credit inquiries", Keia continued.

Keia has been married for 15 years and has two sons, ages 12 and 6. She was born and raised in Florence, South Carolina. She graduated in 2002 from West Florence High School. She loves spending quality time with her family and she loves helping others. "The more you know the more you grow. Learn all you can and fill yourself with positive energy, have successful peers around you and Love what you do. Do not let your environment stop you. It all makes a big difference" Keia concluded.



BIG BUSINESS
SMALL BUSINESS

Your Business.

ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK
Treating You Like Family Since 1933

FREE Business Checking • Remote Deposit Capture
NO FEE Direct Deposit Payroll • Business Loans & Credit Cards

FDIC

TRUSSELL JOINS ABB AS VICE PRESIDENT

Articles submitted by Samantha Strickland, marketing data specialist



James "Jimmy" Trussell, Jr

MARION – Anderson Brothers Bank announces the addition of James "Jimmy" Trussell, Jr. as vice president/Marion City executive to our Marion City banking team. Trussell will be based in the bank's Marion Hwy 76 office located at 2500 East Highway 76, Marion, SC.

In his role, he will oversee Anderson Brothers Bank's two Marion offices; work on commercial loan requests with lenders as well as business development in the overall market. Trussell has an extensive background in the finance industry bringing with him over 15 years of experience assisting customers with their financial needs by building true and lasting relationships.

Trussell resides in Marion and is a Limestone University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is also a SC Banker School graduate.

"Jimmy will be a valuable asset to our bank and our customers. We are confident in his abilities to further enhance our continued growth in Marion," said Johnny Floyd, vice president-Marion County executive with Anderson Brothers Bank. "He has a proven ability to assist clients in financing arrangements and will make a significant impact in the City of Marion."

JENNIFER KIMBRELL JOINS AS CRA OFFICER



Jennifer Kimbrell

MULLINS– Anderson Brothers Bank announces the addition of Jennifer Kimbrell as CRA officer in Loan Compliance. Kimbrell will be based in the bank's Hemingway office located at 201 South Main Street, Hemingway, SC.

In her role, Kimbrell will be involved in all consumer and commercial loan compliance as she partners with the Loan Compliance Team and Anderson Brothers staff. Kimbrell brings with her 19 years of banking experience and extensive

knowledge in loan compliance.

"We are proud to welcome Jennifer Kimbrell to our team and family," said Christopher Carter, senior loan compliance officer. "Her background with compliance will be a valuable addition to a rapidly changing compliance environment. She is a valuable asset to Anderson Brothers Bank."

WATTS ELECTED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE NAFA



Micky Watts

Anderson Brothers Bank is pleased to announce that Micky Watts has been elected President-elect of the National Automotive Finance Association, the only trade association exclusively serving the below-prime auto financing industry – those companies involved in non-prime, sub-prime, near prime auto finance. Organized in the fall of 1996, the NAF Association supports its members and the industry with programs and education.

Watts, Senior Vice President Dealer Services, founded and oversees the bank's indirect automobile lending function that originates loans throughout South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia through over 350 car dealers. "Micky has been essential in Anderson Brothers Bank's success in its indirect lending and he continues to lead its growth" said David Anderson, CEO of Anderson Brothers Bank. "We are proud that Micky will serve as President-elect for the National Automotive Finance Association."

MARCOS ANAYA NEW BRANCH MANAGER



Marcos Anaya

MYRTLE BEACH–Anderson Brothers Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Marcos Anaya as Branch Manager in the bank's Market Common office located at 2711 Agnes Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

In his role, Anaya will continue to assist customers with a full array of consumer lending products. In addition, he will now provide supervisory support within the branch to ensure effective and efficient customer service. He joined Anderson Brothers Bank at the Market Common branch in February 2021. "I am so privileged to be in this office and I look forward to leading a team that has been doing nothing but going in an upward direction already," said Anaya.

"The Market Common branch has been a great branch for ABB and has really gone up a level the last couple of years, Marc has been fantastic in contributing to this growth. His passion to serve customers and his team reflects daily. This is well deserved," said Bryan Lenertz, vice president Horry County Executive.



ANDERSON
BROTHERS BANK

About Anderson Brothers Bank

Anderson Brothers Bank is a full service community bank offering a complete range of competitive loan services and deposit products. Founded in 1933, this family-owned bank blends the elements of traditional personal service, local market awareness, and advanced technology to meet the financial needs of its customers.

Anderson Brothers Bank offers 25 branches conveniently located in 17 communities throughout the Pee Dee, Coastal and Low Country regions of South Carolina. The bank's main office is located at 101 North Main Street, P.O. Box 310 in Mullins, South Carolina. For additional information about Anderson Brothers Bank, call (843) 464-6271 or visit ABBank.com.

WHY DIVERSITY
IN FINANCE
MATTERS ?



75%

25%



CAROLINA BANK
Building on tradition since 1936

Business Services



SCAN ME

Schedule a
Free Consultation

Long-Term Asset Financing

Cash Management Tools

Online Account Applications

Dedicated Development Team

CarolinaBank.Net
(843)413-9978

IDENTIFYING QUALITY FINANCIAL INFORMATION



When it comes to your finances, where are you getting financial information? Older generations received most of their financial advice from financial planners, family friends and print media, but more Americans are turning to social media as a trusted source for money matters.

For millennials, 38 percent said they feel unprepared for their futures, and many cite a lack of financial guidance as a challenge to preparing for retirement. With all these economic anxieties, it's no wonder that social media has become a popular place for millennials and Gen Z to learn and discuss finances.

While it's heartening to see people of all ages seeking financial advice, not all information found on social media and the internet is reliable. Not sure if you know how to spot quality financial advice online? Check out these five tips that can help you determine if your online source of financial information is trustworthy.

1. Do they have credentials?

Anyone can upload a video online on financial advice, but not everyone is qualified or legally able to give that advice. Investigate if the blog or social media profile you frequent for financial information is run by a certified financial planner™ professional.

While certification alone doesn't guarantee sound advice, it's a

sign that the information you receive is likely from a reliable source. When searching for financial advice on social media, you can find plenty of current and former CFP® practitioners who likely have the most current and trustworthy information on financial matters.

2. Is their advice in your best interest?

Is your source of financial advice committed to the best interest of their followers? This can be tough to figure out because the information on social media is often unregulated and meant to be broad and not personalized to attract as many people as possible. However, depending on your financial situation, the advice may not suit your needs.

This means that they are not responsible for providing advice aligned with your specific situation or that's in your best interest. That doesn't mean that your favorite financial blog is trying to trick you, but that you should consider if the information applies to you or if it could harm you eventually.

3. Are they compensated?

It's crucial to find out if the source of your financial information is receiving payment for what they're sharing online. Compensation itself isn't a red flag, but it does present a conflict of interest.

4. Take it with a grain of salt

No matter where you get your financial advice, you should do your own research to verify the information you've received online. Does a financial product sound too good to be true? Government groups like the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau and the Securities and Exchange Commission have resources that can help you fact-check financial advice.

5. Ask a financial advisor

At the end of the day, the best resource for financial planning is a fee-only, fiduciary financial planner. You don't have to make millions of dollars to work with a financial planner.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VALUING AND RE-VALUING YOUR BUSINESS



As a business owner, you probably know everything about how your company works. But maybe not what it's worth. If so, that might create problems in the eventual sale or transfer of your business, especially if the sale or transfer is sudden.

Proper valuation of your business helps you better protect your interests and the welfare of your family and heirs; it also eases the transition. By taking the guess work out of the valuation process you can avoid disagreements between the different parties.

Subsequently, valuation may help you in planning and saving taxes. Since valuation helps the IRS determine estate taxes and the tax basis for any future sale, with proper planning you may be able to put financial strategies in place that may save you money in the long run.

Now, even if a sale or retirement is years away, understanding what your company is worth today can have multiple pay-offs; it's information that can help you secure financing or make decisions on whether to expand or stay the course. Valuation serves as an important management tool that can give you insights on how to reposition your business to enhance its marketability.

So how do you determine the value of your business? There are generally three approaches used to calculate a business valuation. The

asset-based approach is balance sheet-focused using the difference between a company's assets and liabilities to determine its value. The second is the market approach which values the business, based on pricing multiples derived from the sale of comparable companies. And finally there's the income approach, which establishes a figure from capitalizing or discounting the company's projected economic benefit stream.

Remember that as your business changes so might your valuation, so be sure to keep it up-to-date. The best way to do that is to make it a standard part of your annual financial review. For instance, you can make it a habit to have your valuation reviewed by a specialist each year right before you meet with your agent to review your insurance policy. That will also help you ensure that you maintain just the right amount of insurance coverage for your business.

Valuation is a simple idea but one that's complex to execute. Certified financial experts who specialize in valuations are uniquely qualified to determine which valuation methods will deliver an accurate assessment for a given industry. They take the emotion out of the calculation but instill peace of mind.

Business owners have many complicated issues that they need to navigate day in and day out. The sooner you address the needs of your business, the better off you'll be.

This educational third-party article is provided as a courtesy by Julie A Cord, Agent, (CA Ins. Lic. #4166847) New York Life Insurance Company. To learn more about the information or topics discussed, please contact Julie A Cord at 317.289.3010 or jacord@ft.newyorklife.com.

Neither New York Life Insurance Company nor its Agents or affiliates provide tax or legal advice. Consult your legal or tax advisor to find out whether the concepts in this essay apply to your personal circumstances.

For 175 years The New York Life Insurance Company has served the insurance and financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses.



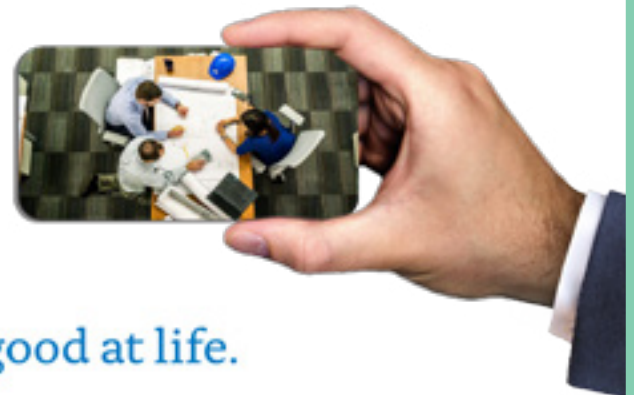
PERSONAL STRATEGIES

Life Insurance | Legacy Strategies
Long Term Care Insurance

BUSINESS STRATEGIES

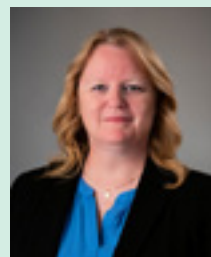
Key Person Protection | Business Continuation
Individual And Group Strategies

Financial security isn't just about money. It's a safety net for the ones you love.



Be good at life.

Together let's prepare for the future so you can continue all the good you do in your life.



Julie A Cord, MBA, MIM, CLU®, ChFC®, CFP®
CA Insurance License#4166847
Agent
New York Life Insurance Company
P.O. Box 13809
Florence, SC 29504
200 Meeting St., Ste 401
Charleston, SC 29401
317.289.3010
jacord@ft.newyorklife.com
www.julieacord.com



Registered Representation offering investments through NYLIFE Securities LLC (Member FINRA/SPICA), A Licensed Insurance Agency. NYLIFE Securities LLC is a New York Life Company.

New York Life Insurance Company, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010

DO THE MATH: BUYING A HOME NOW IS POSSIBLE

With record low housing supply and high inflation contributing to skyrocketing home prices, the barriers to owning a home may seem insurmountable. But buying a home in a sustainable, affordable way is possible with low down payment mortgage options. First-time and low- to medium-income homebuyers can qualify for mortgage financing without emptying their bank accounts and can keep some cash on hand for home improvements or a rainy-day fund.

Conventional home loans backed by private mortgage insurance have been available for borrowers for decades and helped nearly 2 million homebuyers in the past year purchase or refinance a mortgage. Private MI is a temporary cost that allows for a down payment as small as 3 percent of the purchase price. While some borrowers wait until they save 20 percent for a down payment, the added years of saving can translate to higher interest rates, more expensive home prices and lost home equity.

“Renters who are on the hunt to buy should do the math and consider what is best for them, because often they will find that purchasing with a low-down payment mortgage provides buyers with an ability to access the market sooner, and ends up being a significant advantage for them,” said Lindsey Johnson, president of U.S. Mortgage Insurers.

In today’s market, it could take a family earning the national median income up to 21 years to save 20 percent, according to calculations by USMI.

If you are one of these renters looking to buy your first home but don’t have 20 percent down, don’t worry: you are not alone. According to the National Association of REALTORS®, the typical down payment in 2021, was seven percent for first-time homebuyers and 17 percent for repeat homebuyers.

How can buying now save you money later?

Consider you want to purchase a \$375,000 home, the median

sales price for a single-family home in 2021, according to NAR. A five percent down payment is \$18,750 versus \$75,000 for 20 percent down. With a 740-credit score at today’s MI rates, your monthly MI payment would be about \$157, which is included in your monthly mortgage payment until the MI can be canceled, usually after five years once you reach 20 percent equity in the home.

Due to robust home price appreciation that came in at 17.5 percent for 2021, today’s \$375,000 home will likely cost more in the years ahead. This will also have an impact on the necessary down payment and length of time required to save for it. There are other variables in the equation too, such as interest rates. As interest rates rise, so too can the cost of mortgage financing.

Not all low-down payment mortgages are the same. Importantly, government-backed loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration require at least a 3.5 percent down payment, an upfront charge that must be paid at closing or added to your loan balance, and the monthly insurance is permanent for the life of the loan.

There are many online mortgage calculators that can help.



LOCAL lending decisions mean a *faster* **YES.**
UNbank with us.

PALMETTO FIRST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

843.669.5619

PALMETTOFIRST.COM Federally insured by NCUA.



SYNOVUS[®]

For over 130 years, at Synovus we've stayed true to the concept that banking is a service to our communities in the Southeast and to the people who live here.

Our humble beginnings date back to a Georgia textile mill in 1888, and a simple act of kindness. At the Eagle & Phenix Mill in Columbus, Georgia, a mill worker's dress became entangled in the factory machinery. To the surprise of her co-workers, her hard-earned savings -- that she had sewn into her dress hem for safe-keeping -- spilled across the floor. G. Gunby Jordan, the mill's secretary and treasurer, witnessed the incident and offered to keep her money in the mill safe and pay her monthly interest on the deposits. He soon offered the same service to all the mill workers. Their deposits marked the beginning of the company that would become Synovus.

Our company is founded on the principles Jordan modeled the day that mill worker's dress was torn -- integrity, character and the principle of treating people right and doing the right thing. This foundation has endured over the years, and while we've grown from helping customers and small businesses across three different centuries to financing modern corporate

expansions, we're still proud to be part of our local communities and to do the right thing.

We hope you'll stop by your local branch and tell us what we can do for you. At Synovus you find that we have:

Personal banking solutions to help whether you're just starting out, supporting a young family or getting ready to retire. We offer everything you need to help you reach your financial goals, find stability and enjoy the future you envision for yourself and your loved ones.

A passion for business—our business and corporate banking solutions are based on our knowledge of the local community and our financial strength that allows us to deliver sophisticated customized solutions for businesses large and small.

A financial services company based in Columbus, Georgia, Synovus has approximately \$56 billion in assets. We provide commercial and retail banking, and a full suite of specialized products and services, including private banking, treasury management, wealth management, mortgage services, premium finance, asset-based lending, structured lending and international banking through over 250 branches in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee. With more than 5,000 team members, Synovus is a Great Place to Work-Certified Company and is on the web at synovus.com, and on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

From here. For here.

Here is where we're from. Here made us who we are. We believe relationships are worth more than dollars can measure. It's a value that grows over time, strengthens under pressure, and thrives when serving others. And, we're glad to be here.

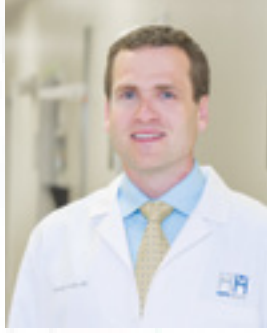
1-888-SYNOVUS
synovus.com

SYNOVUS[®]



Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.

ALZHEIMER'S VS. DEMENTIA Submitted by Dr. Joseph Hoyle, MD, MPH



Dr. Joseph Hoyle, MD, MPH

September is World Alzheimer's Month – and there's no better time to discuss some of the most common questions about this disease.

First, what is the difference between Alzheimer's disease and dementia? Dementia is a general term used for symptoms of reduced ability to think, reason, or remember. There are many causes of dementia, but the most common cause is Alzheimer's disease. While evidence has not determined the exact cause of Alzheimer's disease, we do know that there are certain changes in brain structure that set this type of dementia apart.

What can be done to treat Alzheimer's? While there are FDA-approved drugs that can have some effect on the symptoms of Alzheimer's, there is not yet a cure for the disease. However, significant advancements in research yield hope for new treatments in the coming years. Currently, treatment begins with identifying and treating other chronic health conditions. There are other strategies that can help: regular exercise helps slow the development of disability and prevent falls; avoiding certain high-risk medications to prevent complications; maintaining functional ability with the, "use it or lose it," mantra.

What is being done to find better treatments? Because there is no cure for Alzheimer's, research on Alzheimer's needs to be a priority in the United States. It is the most expensive disease in the nation, and most of the costs are borne by Medicare and Medicaid. Over the past few years, Congress has wisely invested additional funds in the National Institutes of Health to fund Alzheimer's research, and it is vital that they continue doing so. The Alzheimer's Association also funds research directly and convenes scientists from around the world to share their ideas and results at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference held annually.

If there is not a cure, why should you find out if memory changes are due to Alzheimer's disease? Many people rationalize that there is no benefit to knowing that one has the disease. However, according to surveys, 90 percent of people say they would want to know. Additionally, identifying the specific type of dementia can help identify ways to prevent progression of the disease. Here are two important reasons for early identification of dementia:

Empowerment: People with early stages of the disease can still participate in their care decisions. As dementia progresses, care decisions become harder, but that's even more reason to consider long-term care options, discuss advance care planning preferences, make legal arrangements and assess finances as early as possible. Individuals may also choose to enroll in clinical trials, which can provide access to potential treatments and top-notch care, as well as contribute to the process of finding better treatments for others with the disease. The Alzheimer's Association can help you learn about clinical trials that match your interests through its free Trial Match program.

Safety: When family members know about the disease, they can make sure their loved one is safe from financial exploitation or highway dangers. They also have time to learn

about common behaviors before they find themselves in a crisis.

What resources are available to help? The Alzheimer's Association offers a 24-Hour Helpline at 1-800-272-3900 for patients, families and caregivers impacted by Alzheimer's or other types of dementia. Their website at alz.org offers a variety of resources to help identify clinical trials, provide support for families to prevent caregiver burnout and to educate Americans regarding multiple aspects of the disease. If you know families that are facing Alzheimer's or another dementia, please share the information regarding these resources!

Can dementia be prevented? While we cannot control our age or our genes, there are steps that we can take to reduce our risk of cognitive decline. Science has shown that physical activity and educational attainment both promote brain health. In addition, avoiding traumatic brain injury (wearing a helmet when biking and stopping play if concussion is suspected), not smoking and making nutritional changes (such as pursuing the Mediterranean diet) may help as well.

The good news is that rates of dementia and Alzheimer's are falling. You are less likely to get dementia than your parents were 20 years ago. The reasons for this are not clear, but perhaps it has to do with improved rates of healthy lifestyles. Estimates suggest that more than 1.5 million cases of dementia have already been prevented in the United States. However, even though rates of dementia are falling, there are more people with dementia than ever before due to the aging of our society. The total number of those with dementia is expected to triple by 2050.

HopeHealth realizes the unique challenges facing patients with dementia and their families. In order to partner with our patients impacted by dementia, HopeHealth has worked to become South Carolina's only Federally Qualified Health Center with Age-Friendly Health Systems designation from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. "This means we have systems in place to identify what matters most to our patients, and our plan of care will center around preserving those priorities in our patients' lives," explains Dana Jones, family nurse practitioner at HopeHealth Bethel. "The leadership team at HopeHealth has made dementia care a priority. My recent credentialing as certified dementia practitioner by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners is just one of the many steps we are taking to be sure we are equipped to offer, not only love, but also expertise to our patients with cognitive impairment."



A LEAP FORWARD Submitted by Helen Adams, MUSC Catalyst News



Rami Zebian, M.D.

The CEO of MUSC Health has seen firsthand how helpful a pocket-size device that's going systemwide at MUSC can be when it comes to quickly figuring out what's wrong with a patient.

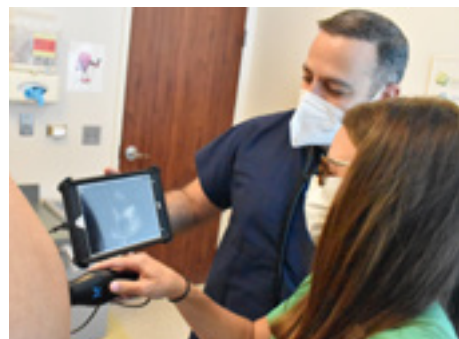
"Just a couple of weeks ago, I had a family member in the hospital at MUSC Health-Charleston. He needed some fluid taken off his lung, and the pulmonologist pulled the Butterfly out of his pocket and began to take care of him right away," said Patrick J. Cawley, M.D.

The Butterfly, an ultrasound device about the size of an electric razor that connects to a smartphone or tablet to give an on-the-spot reading, immediately showed the pulmonologist what Cawley's family member's condition was. That meant the doctor was able to start treating the problem with precision – and without delay.

Ultrasounds are considered essential tools for diagnosing and taking care of patients. They use sound waves to create clear images of the inside of the body without the radiation that can come with other types of scans, such as X-rays and CTs.

Cawley called MUSC's adoption of the Butterfly ultrasound devices and the system that supports them, the Butterfly Blueprint, a leap forward. "For a long time, hand-held ultrasound has been out there. Different companies have offered different technology. But the second we saw the Butterfly technology; we knew it could be transformational in a way that other portable ultrasounds have not been to this point in time."

The device has 20 presets, meaning it's capable of doing ultrasounds on 20 different areas of the body, using artificial intelligence. It earned the broadest Food and Drug Administration approval ever for an ultrasound system. Another feature hospital leaders like: The Butterfly



MUSC Health Florence Medical Center Pulmonary and Critical Care physician Ramzi Hourany takes a look at a patient's lungs using the new Butterfly handheld ultrasound, with assistance from Nurse Practitioner Brooke Chamberlain. The compact size of the device allows it to be used in the physician's office.

is powered by a small chip instead of the piezoelectric crystals traditionally used in ultrasounds, making it more affordable.

Some doctors had already made the Butterfly leap, buying devices for their own use. But until now, the results didn't go into patient health records. They were just in-the-moment updates. That changes with the



The Butterfly allows providers to look at the inside of the patient's body right away to determine if further action is needed. (Photos provided by MUSC Health Florence Medical Center)

implementation of Butterfly Blueprint, technology that allows for systemwide integration of the information gleaned through Butterfly ultrasounds.

Rami Zebian, M.D., chief medical officer of MUSC Health Florence and Marion medical centers, was an early user of the Butterfly

ultrasound. He's had his own device for a few years and was part of the push for MUSC Health to begin using it on a large scale in its hospitals and clinics.

"The portability of it is the biggest game changer, the price of it also because it's much cheaper than a regular ultrasound. I think that it does not replace a formal ultrasound, right? This is not to replace radiologist or radiology imaging but serve as an adjunct. And the wow factor is still there. Every time I take it to clinic, and I connect it to my phone and show patients what I'm looking at. They love it."

Florence, Marion and Charleston are the initial focus of the device's rollout at MUSC Health. Aalap Shah, M.D., co-director of the Emergency Ultrasound Division in MUSC's College of Medicine and an emergency medicine specialist, said the new technology could be a game changer for clinics and hospitals that aren't in big cities.

"A lot of providers have been practicing medicine for most of their lives without having been able to have access to this sort of technology. And so, it's important to find a really robust system to make sure they're able to train and feel comfortable with the indications that they're going to be using this for and provide quality care to their patients."

Shah, who is also an assistant professor in the College of Medicine, likes the fact that the Butterfly will become part of the training that students receive as well and be available to researchers at MUSC.

Cawley, CEO of MUSC Health, agreed. "If we start training clinicians and providers on the front end – using a device that's intuitive and easy to use, it will push us forward in all kinds of ways," Cawley said.

Zebian said it could save time and energy in the process. "A lot of times, people don't use an ultrasound because we're running, in a rush. You can schedule an ultrasound for a patient, but that takes a few days. But if you take a quick look with the portable ultrasound, you may still say, 'Hey, I still want an official read,' but if you look and you see a blood clot or something like that, then you would say, 'No, we need to do something today.'"

MUSC Health
Medical University of South Carolina
Florence Medical Center

The ONLY regional hospital to make the "A" list in patient safety for TEN consecutive times

LEAPFROG HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADE

CARESOUTH CAROLINA RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE

Submitted by Denise L. Jones, communications specialist



CareSouth Carolina Chesterfield Site Administrator Meisha Thomas, Atmosphere Church Pastor Dennis Rivers (gave the invocation), Chesterfield Mayor Pro Tem Latonya Myers, Rep. Pat Hengan, CareSouth Carolina, CEO Ann Lewis and Rep. Richie Yow

CHESTERFIELD – CareSouth Carolina held a Ribbon Cutting and Open House at its Chesterfield location, 204 Perry Wiley Way, Thursday, June 16.

For more than 15 years, CareSouth Carolina has served the Chesterfield community and the organization opened a 17,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility illustrating its long-term commitment to the community. The facility opened its doors on January 12, 2021, but COVID delayed the ceremony.

The facility more than quadrupled CareSouth Carolina’s capacity to provide services to Chesterfield County and its surrounding area. “When we first opened our office in Chesterfield in 2005, we never dreamed that there would be such community support,” CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis said. “Now, having this beautiful new building with expanded services such as pharmacy, radiology and dental, the future looks exciting and very bright. Soon we will be

announcing the availability of a Community Room as an additional resource for Chesterfield needs.”

CareSouth Carolina is a private, non-profit community health center delivering patient-centered health and life services in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. CareSouth Carolina operates centers in Bennettsville, Bishopville, Cheraw, Chesterfield, Dillon, Hartsville, Lake View, Latta, McColl and Society Hill. Services provided by CareSouth Carolina include family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, women services, OB/GYN, HIV/AIDS primary care, dental, chiropractic services, pharmacy, geriatrics, social services, clinical counseling, laboratory, 4D ultrasound, X-Ray, migrant services and veteran’s choice provider.

TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

See a CareSouth Carolina Provider with Your Smartphone, Tablet or Computer!

- Schedule your appointment by calling 843-309-8102.
- Must be an existing CareSouth Carolina Patient.
- Available 8:30AM to 5:00PM Monday-Friday

EXCITING NEWS!

Dr. Jennifer Evans Scott is proud to announce that she has been **VOTED** Best Acupuncturist, Best Chiropractor & Best Chiropractic Practice in the Pee Dee Region for 2022!!! It's a honor & privileged to be recognized for the fifth year in a row by my clients and community.

Thank You! And Much Appreciation...

Follow us on social media at One Source Integrative Med for updates and first access to the exciting news to come! We have always prided ourselves in bringing the most innovative, advanced, and best options to our patients.

DHEC, CARESOUTH CAROLINA GRAND OPENING FOR NEW COMBINED LOCATION

Submitted by Denise L. Jones, communication specialist



Representatives from CareSouth Carolina, Department of Health and Environmental Control along with local and state representatives gathered in Dillon on Saturday, June 11, 2022, to celebrate the Ribbon Cutting of their combined facility.

DILLON – Through a collaborative effort, CareSouth Carolina and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control celebrated the opening of their new office with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House on June 11.

The new 18,640-square-foot facility, located at 1016 Old Latta Highway, has more than quadrupled CareSouth Carolina’s capacity and allows the two organizations to provide more convenient and accessible services to Dillon County residents.

“This unique sharing of the new building with DHEC is an exciting opportunity to expand services in Dillon County, providing a medical home for those who do not have a consistent source of care,” said CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis.

The new facility provides space for additional primary care providers, dental services, behavioral health counseling, x-ray, lab, ultrasound, a pharmacy with a drive-thru, and a community room for various health and community events.

“This is a one-stop shop innovation that brings together partners who have been successfully working together for a considerable length of time to make the vision of this new building and the combined services a reality,” Lewis said. “With the DHEC provision of WIC services combined with the expansion of the CareSouth family planning and immunization services, residents of Dillon County will have simple, easy access to a wide array of care and services in one building.”

DHEC Pee Dee Region Public Health Director Jim Bruckner said, “We truly appreciate CareSouth Carolina’s commitment to expanding the provision of primary care and other related health services in Dillon County. This change will benefit Dillon County Health Department clients as they now will have access to all of CareSouth Carolina services. We appreciate this opportunity to improve services to the residents of Dillon County.”

Bruckner added that, “In this partnership CareSouth Carolina will be assuming some of the direct clinical services previously provided by DHEC. DHEC will continue to see WIC clients and focus on the more traditional core public health services like community epidemiology, communicable disease surveillance/management; tuberculosis surveillance and treatment; compliance work, Title X, vaccines for children, newborn home visits when applicable; community health promotion and education efforts. DHEC’s goal in all of this is to make Dillon County a healthy and thriving community to live and work in.”

CareSouth Carolina is a private, non-profit community health center delivering patient-centered health and life services in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. CareSouth Carolina operates centers in Bennettsville, Bishopville, Cheraw, Chesterfield, Dillon, Hartsville, Lake View, Latta, McColl and Society Hill. Services provided by CareSouth Carolina include family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, women services, OB/GYN, HIV/AIDS primary care, dental, chiropractic services, pharmacy, geriatrics, social services, clinical counseling, laboratory, 4D ultrasound, X-Ray, migrant services and veteran’s choice provider.

Convenient Locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bennettsville Center
999 Cheraw Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.479.2341 | Hartsville Center
1268 S. Fourth Street
Hartsville, SC 29550
843.332.3422
843.339.5520 Chiropractic |
| Bennettsville Pediatric Center
210 W. Main Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.479.1200 | Lake View Center
103 N. Kemper Street
Lake View, SC 29563
843.759.2189 |
| Bennettsville Women’s Center
1076 Marlboro Way, Suite 1
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.454.2294 | Latta Center
122 Latimer Street
Latta, SC 29565
843.627.6252 |
| Bishopville Center
545 Sumter Highway
Bishopville, SC 29010
803.484.5317 | McColl Health & Wellness Center
3080 Highway 15-401 E
McColl, SC 29570
843.523.5751 |
| Bishopville Pediatric Dental
101 Harris Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
866.815.9845 | Society Hill Center
737 S. Main Street
Society Hill, SC 29593
843.378.4501 |
| Cheraw Center
715 S. Doctors Drive Suite E
Cheraw, SC 29520
843.537.0961 | Public Employee Health Services - Marlboro County
100 Matheson Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.456.7752 |
| Chesterfield Center
204 Perry Wiley Way
Chesterfield, SC 29709
843.623.5080 | |
| Dillon Center
1016 Old Latta Highway
Dillon, SC 29536
843.774.4337 | |

Pharmacy Locations:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| HARTSVILLE
1280 S. Fourth Street
843.339.5530 | BISHOPVILLE
545 Sumter Hwy
803.588.7960 | BENNETTSVILLE
999 Cheraw Street
843.456.7777 |
| SOCIETY HILL
737 S. Main Street
843.378.4148 | CHERAW
715 S. Doctors Drive, Ste. A
843.865.4080 | |
| LATTA
122 Latimer Street
843.627.6261 | CHESTERFIELD
204 Perry Wiley Way
843.927.1030 | MCCOLL
3080 Highway 15-401 E
843.523.6212 |

We Accept:

Medicaid • Medicare • Private Insurance • Sliding Fee
www.caresouth-carolina.com

Health Care For The Entire Family!

- Family Practice
- Pediatrics
- Women’s Care
- Behavioral Health Counseling
- Chiropractic Care
- Substance Abuse Prevention Lab
- Radiology/Ultrasound
- Dental Care
- Family Support Services
- Infectious Diseases Primary Care
- Senior Support Services
- Community Pharmacy

Welcome
HOME
TO BETTER
HEALTH



Contact us today to schedule an appointment for you and your family!

follow us!   

A PRACTICE PROVIDING THE FUTURE OF CARE Submitted by Dr. Diane Jones Chapman, Founder



Keith Jarrell and Dr. Diane Jones Chapman, contour light specialists

At A New Beginning Health and Wellness, we are excited to have implemented an FDA Cleared Medical Class II device. A device cleared for fat loss AND pain relief!

Reflect on the days that you felt great about your weight, the days you felt good about yourself, the days that your clothes fit better than perhaps now. Those were the days, as they say. But unfortunately, for most of us, dieting and exercising are complex. For many of us, we don't see results quickly, and therefore we give up. Suppose you could lose one to eight inches around your waist in 30 minutes. How would that change your life or the life of that someone we know who has been struggling physically and emotionally with the extra "pudge?"

The device that we have implemented does precisely that. The manufacturer marketed this device for ten years and took 3.5 years to get FDA clearance. A clinical study was required by the FDA in order to obtain clearance. The study took 118 participants; all were measured around the waist, given a spa-like 30-minute session, and again measured. Participants lost one to eight inches with an average of 2.5." These are the clinical study results filed with the FDA for the device to get its clearance. No pain – No needles – No surgery – No exercising – No Dieting – just a warm pad device with technology completely safe that is truly like a spa treatment. This device has not only been cleared for fat loss but also for pain relief.

Sound too good to be true? Think again! Red and near-infrared light have already been proven in over 3000 scientific studies to do all that and more!



Here at A New Beginning Health and Wellness, we are very cautious in what we offer in our practice. This device is the "future of care." Of course, it's not a silver bullet for all concerns, but from what it has been FDA certified for and proven to do, it is simply amazing.



Red Light Contour Therapy-A noninvasive light body sculpting weight loss therapy that uses an FDA medically cleared red laser device, concentrated on areas of the body for 30 minutes. The results are clinically proven to be between 1 – 2.49 inches of weight loss per session.

"If there were a pill that was proven to have powerful anti-aging effects on our skin, combat neurological disease, fight depression and anxiety, increase fat loss, speed recovery from exercise, increase strength and endurance, combat certain autoimmune conditions, fight hair loss and speed healing from injury, combat aging, make your skin healthier, reduce wrinkles,

get rid of cellulite, improve metabolism and hormonal health – all with no side effects – it would be a billion-dollar blockbuster drug. Hundreds of millions of people would be told to start taking it by their doctors. Doctors all over the world would call it a "miracle drug." Here's the crazy part: That drug exists. But it's not a pill. It's red and near-infrared light." The Wonders of Red and Near-Infrared Light Therapy. <https://www.sgrowled.com/info/the-wonders-of-red-and-near-infrared-light-55075679.html>

A New Beginning Health and Wellness Center is a place for holistic health and wellness. Clients do not need a referral to visit or receive services. Services can be performed individually but work better if done in synergy. The center accepts all major credit and flexible spending plan cards. For more information, personalized consultation or evaluation, visit our website at www.anewbeginninghealthandwellness.com or contact our mobile office at 843-621-0194. A New Beginning Health and Wellness Center, 1354 Celebration Boulevard in Florence, SC, is open M-F from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. by appointment only.

Let's get started with A New Beginning Health and Wellness Center.

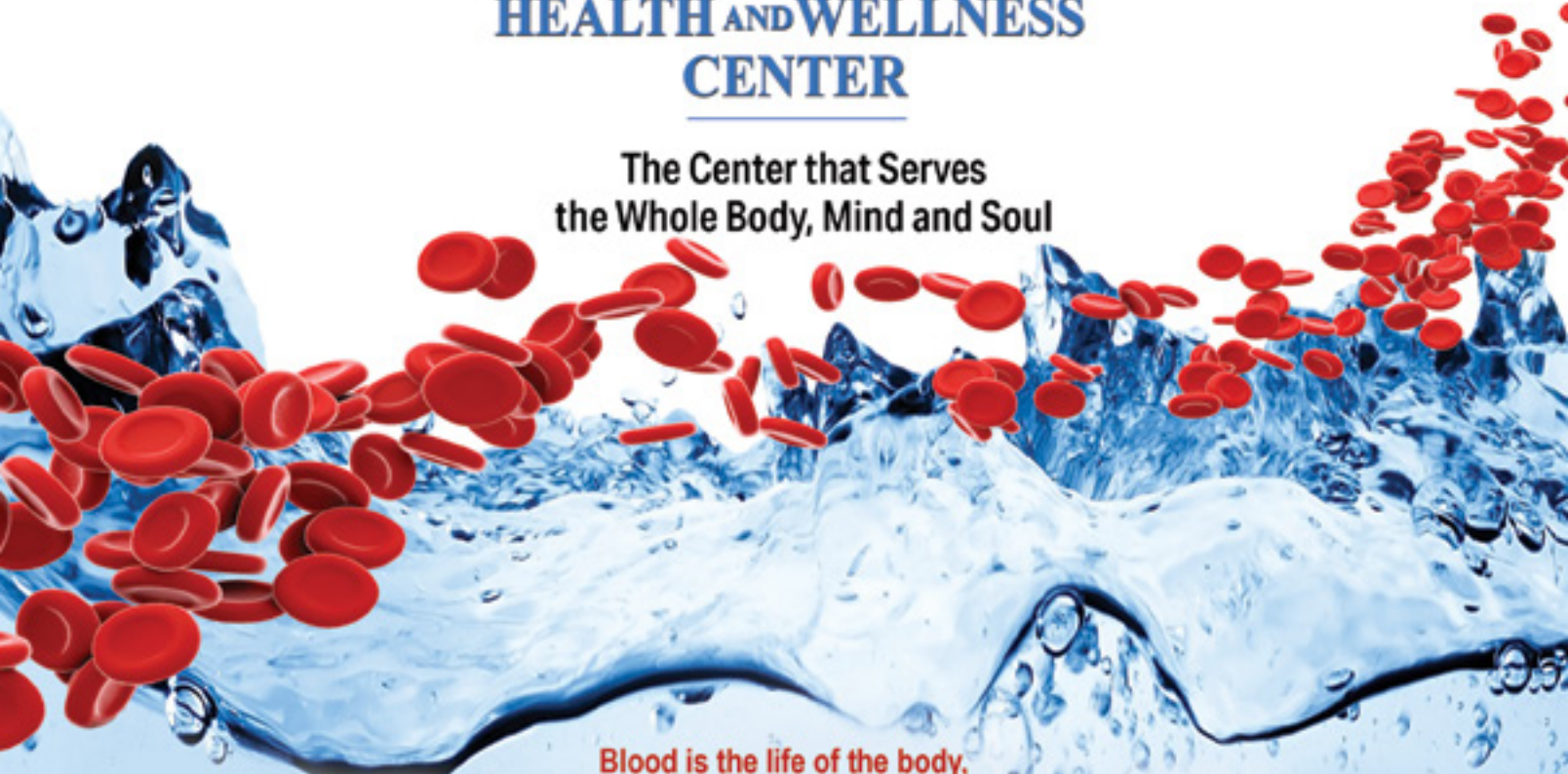
"By the yard, it is hard, but inch by inch, everything is a cinch." -John Bytheway





A NEW BEGINNING HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

The Center that Serves
the Whole Body, Mind and Soul



Blood is the life of the body,
Water is the life of the blood.
- Dr. Diane Chapman, Founder

FOR THE BODY



EXECUTIVE DELUXE FOOT DETOX

Healthy Weight Loss • Less Fluid Retention
Removes Toxins • Rejuvenation

STEM CELL SUPPLEMENTS

Enhances stem cell regeneration

NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

Focus Up • Multi-Vitamins
Probiotics • Enzymes

X2O MINERAL ALKALINE WATER

Support Weight Loss • Reduces Inflammation
Alkalizes • Improves Hydration
Includes 70+ Organic Minerals

WHOLENESS



CONTOUR LIGHT BODY SCULPTING

Contour Light Body Sculpting, the revolutionary red light treatment system, activates the body's natural response. Contour Light Body Sculpting offers numerous health benefits, stimulates the mitochondria to energize and cleanse the cells while triggering the lymphatic system to detoxify the body.

MEDICAL MASSAGE THERAPY

FOR THE BLOOD



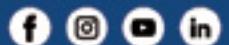
BLOOD ANALYSIS

Live and Dried Blood Analysis reveals health and lifestyle choices, helps to detect nutritional deficiencies, toxins, parasites, bacteria, and more.

BEMER THERAPY

Improves Circulation
Enhances Blood Flow
Relieves Stress
Increases Nutrients & Oxygen Supply

(Office) 843.407.5190 • (Mobile) 843.621.0194
1354 Celebration Blvd, Suite B Florence, SC 29501
anewbeginninghealthandwellness.com



FIVE WAYS TO BETTER VISION Submitted by Dr. Michelle L. Brooks, O.D.



Dr. Michelle L. Brooks, O.D.

Having good vision is a precious commodity. I say that not only because I am endowed with the task of providing comprehensive vision care for all patients, but because it is simply a truth that cannot be denied. All our senses are of utmost importance in our day to day lives but I believe with vision, things would seem most amiss to any individual who suddenly realizes he may not be seeing the world as clearly as he used to. July is Healthy Vision Month. As an

optometrist and primary eye care physician, it is my job to care for, treat and educate my patients on the importance of the upkeep of their precious sight.

Here are a few ways to do just that:

1. Have an annual dilated eye exam with an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Many conditions that affect the eyes such as diabetic eye disease, hypertensive retinopathy and glaucoma can go undetected for long periods of time and are only fully diagnosed through an eye exam with your eye care professional. The earlier these issues are caught and treated, the better the visual prognosis.

2. Take frequent breaks to rest your eyes when using digital devices. Computer Vision Syndrome is a real thing and we all may be experiencing it now more than ever with the increased use of digital devices for work and virtual learning. We tend to blink our eyes less often when using digital devices such as computers, cellphones, i-pads, etc. This can cause undue eyestrain, fatigue, and dryness to the eyes. As a rule of thumb in optometry, we often recommend what is called the 20-20-20 rule: For every 20 minutes you are using a digital device,

take a break and focus on an object 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. Additional treatment and eyewear can be recommended as well, as necessary.

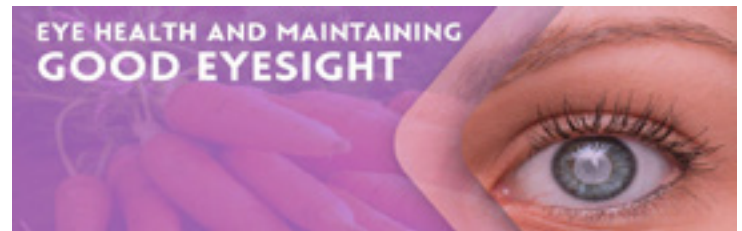
3. Maintain a healthy lifestyle. As stated above, certain conditions such as diabetes and hypertension can affect the health of your eyes and your vision. It is very important to follow the direction of your primary care physician, getting regular exercise, eating a diet rich in green leafy vegetables and colorful fruit to keep those conditions well controlled. And once again, have a yearly dilated eye exam!

4. Wear proper eye protection. Summer is right around the corner. We want to protect those peepers by wearing sunglasses if you are out in the sun for longer periods of time. Also, while using any type of power tools at work or home, it is advised to use safety glasses or goggles.

5. With contact lens wear, use proper handling/care. It is important to follow the direction of your optometrist as far as the wear, removal and proper hygiene of your contact lenses to prevent issues such as red eye, irritation and infection.

May we endeavor to maintain healthy, clear vision and insight into 2022 and beyond!

Dr. Michelle Brooks is a licensed Doctor of Optometry. She practices in the city of Florence at Eyes Over Florence (inside Eyemart Express).



Genesis Health Care, Inc.

[Genesis Health Care of Darlington](#)
201 Cashua Street
Darlington, SC 29532
Phone: (843) 393-6591

[Pee Dee Health Care](#)
201 Cashua Street
Darlington, SC 29532
Phone: (843) 393-7452

[Prof. Pharmacy of Darlington](#)
115 A Exchange Street
Darlington, SC 29532
Phone: (843) 393-9421

[Prof. Specialty Pharmacy](#)
201 Cashua Street
Darlington, SC 29532
Phone: (843) 548-4121

[Genesis Health Care Florence](#)
1523 Heritage Lane
Florence, SC 29505
Phone: (843) 673-9992

[Lamar Family Care](#)
301 W. Main Street
Lamar, SC 29069
Phone: (843) 395-8401

[Walterboro Family Care](#)
457 Spruce Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 781-7428

[Valcourt Pediatric Associates](#)
124 Medical Park Drive
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 782-3636

[Olanta Family Care](#)
211 South Jones Road
Olanta, SC 29114
Phone: (843) 396-9730

[Prof. Pharmacy of Olanta](#)
211 South Jones Road
Olanta, SC 29114
Phone: (843) 669-2009

The newest practice Genesis Health Care Florence (Formerly named Dr. Brent Baroody) now includes OB/GYN, Urology, and Case Management.

Call to Schedule Your Appointment Today:



HOPEHEALTH WELCOMES NEW PROVIDERS

Submitted by HopeHealth



Madison Edwards, PA-C

Madison Edwards, PA-C

Madison Edwards is a physician assistant at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence, SC. She is providing annual wellness visits required for current Medicare patients 65 and over and is not accepting new patients at this time. Edwards earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology, summa cum laude, from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, and a Master of

Science in Physician Assistant Studies from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. From Florence, she is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the South Carolina Association of Physician Assistants.



W. Keith Queen, PMHNP-BC

W. Keith Queen, PMHNP-BC

W. Keith Queen is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence. He graduated magna cum laude from Liberty University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and obtained a Master of Science in Nursing from University of South Carolina specializing in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program.

He is a member of the National Leadership Honor Society Sigma Theta Tau, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the American Assembly for Men in Nursing.



Krissy Huntley, PA

Krissy Huntley, PA

Krissy Huntley is a physician assistant serving patients of Access Hope at the Medical Plaza in Florence. From Florence, SC, Huntley graduated from Clemson University in Clemson, SC with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Sciences, and from Francis Marion University, in Florence, SC with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.



Rona Ewart, RDN LDN

Rona Ewart, RDN LDN

Rona Ewart is a registered and licensed dietitian/nutritionist providing care for patients of the Diabetes & Nutrition Institute at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence, SC.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Food, Nutrition & Institutional Management and a Master of Education in Nutrition from the University of North Carolina

Greensboro in Greensboro, NC. Ewart has extensive experience working in both inpatient and outpatient settings and is certified in pediatric and adolescent weight management.



Harmeet Gill, MD

Harmeet Gill, MD

Dr. Harmeet Gill is an infectious diseases physician at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence.

He earned his medical degree from A.N. Magadh Medical College, Gaya, Bihar, India and completed his fellowship at Palmetto Health USC in Columbia, SC. Gill is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases and has vast experience managing

rural health initiatives. He ran the national polio eradication program and is the recipient of a state level award for efficiently managing a cholera outbreak in India. Fluent in English, Hindi and Punjabi, Gill is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American Medical Association.

HopeHealth is a nonprofit leader in providing affordable, expert health care and infectious diseases services for all ages in Aiken, Florence, Clarendon, Orangeburg and Williamsburg Counties. Our federally qualified health centers are the primary care providers of choice for nearly 60,000 patients. To become a patient, call 843-667-9414 or visit hope-health.org.

Your Home For Women's Health Services

Services:

- Cervical Cancer Screenings
- Pap Smears
- Colposcopy
- Contraceptive Methods
- Health Screenings & Counseling
- Cryotherapy
- Cyst & Tumor Surgeries
- Endometriosis Treatment
- Family Planning
- Preconception Care
- Interconception Care
- LEEP Procedures
- Medication Therapy for Menopause
- Referrals for Mammograms
- Annual Preventive Care Visits
- + More!



Become A Patient Today!
hope-health.org/services



PRECISION & ACCURACY GET YOU BACK IN THE GAME

Dr. Rodney Alan



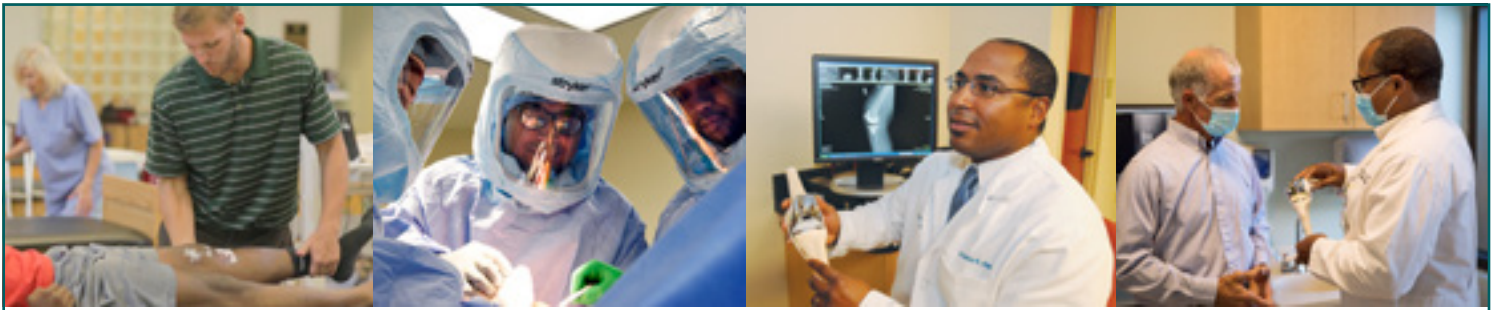
YOU WIN WITH ROBOTIC-ASSISTED KNEE REPLACEMENT



Precision and accuracy are essential for the most successful knee replacements. Dr. Rodney Alan of McLeod Orthopaedics is now performing this specialized robotic-assisted procedure in Florence. Using advanced technology designed to create a customized joint, Dr. Alan is able to provide patients with the perfect fit.

Call to schedule a consultation with Dr. Alan at (843) 777-7900.

MCLEOD ORTHOPAEDICS FLORENCE
1005 E Cheves Street, Florence, SC 29506



ROBOTIC-ASSISTED KNEE REPLACEMENT: ENHANCED PRECISION AND A FASTER RECOVERY

Dr. Rodney Alan, McLeod Orthopaedics Florence

Knee replacement is a very effective treatment for many patients with arthritis, one of the most common causes of knee pain in adults. Robotic-assisted knee replacement provides increased accuracy and precision with a goal of helping to make knee replacements last longer.

Just like traditional knee replacement surgery, robotic-assisted knee replacement surgery involves removing the damaged cartilage and abnormal bone, then replacing it with an artificial prosthesis. Current robotic-assisted knee replacement systems still require the surgeon to perform the procedure. The surgeon uses the robotic assistance to make sure that the bone cuts are at the correct depth and the correct angle. By removing just the right amount of bone at just the right angles, the knee replacement will be well-aligned and well-balanced. Just like the wheels on a car, when the tires are well-aligned and well-balanced, they will last longer. Additionally, moving around on an implant that is well aligned and well balanced may feel smoother.

After surgery, physical therapy is often part of a patient's recovery to help restore the strength and range of motion of the knee. Most individuals are back to their everyday activities within two to three months after surgery, but recovery depends on many factors such as age, weight, and activity level prior to surgery. In a robotic-assisted knee

replacement, patients may have a more rapid recovery because of the enhanced accuracy and precision. Additionally, using a robot allows the surgeon to avoid traditional instruments that have been associated with increased blood loss.

During robotic-assisted knee replacement surgery, a standard surgical incision is made by the surgeon. Trackers known as optical arrays are placed in the thigh bone and leg bone so that the robot will know where the knee is located. The surgeon then identifies various landmarks in the knee and then registers the landmarks with the robot. The robot uses this information to calculate the exact size prosthesis for the patient based on the patient's size and anatomy. The robot then analyzes the patient's anatomy, and the surgeon uses the robotic arm to make precise bone cuts. An infrared camera and optical arrays provide real-time feedback so that the surgeon can make ongoing adjustments, which can provide greater stability and range of motion of the knee after surgery.

Although robotic-assisted knee replacement is very exciting, knee replacement is usually only indicated for patients with end-stage arthritis. Before deciding that a knee replacement is the best option for you, your doctor may try more conservative treatment, including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as Motrin or Aleve, steroid

injections into the joint, physical therapy or weight loss.

You may be a candidate for a knee replacement if you have the following symptoms: knee pain that keeps you awake at night, knee pain that sidelines you from activities, and knee pain that limits daily functions such as climbing stairs. If your conservative treatment of chronic knee pain is no longer working, then it may be time to consider a knee replacement. The first step is to have a medical exam with an orthopedic specialist. Weight-bearing X-rays can usually help your doctor determine the condition of the knee. Knowing the condition of the knee prior to surgery helps your doctor determine how much improvement you can expect after surgery.

With robotic-assisted surgery, there may be significant improvements in both short-term and long-term outcomes. Many patients can be discharged from the hospital the same day as their procedure. Knee replacement is one of the most effective and reliable medical procedures performed. It can significantly reduce pain and improve your ability to move.

Determining if robotic-assisted knee replacement is right for you requires careful evaluation and consultation with an orthopedic surgeon.

Dr. Rodney Alan is an orthopedic surgeon at McLeod Regional Medical Center. Dr. Alan cares for patients at McLeod Orthopaedics in Florence, Sumter and Manning and is accepting new patients. He specializes in total joint replacement of the knee and hip and performs robotic-assisted knee replacements.

For more information, call 843-777-7900 or visit McLeodOrtho.org.

McLeod Health
McLeodHealth.org

PRIORITIZING YOUR HEALTH

Submitted by Kendrea Moore, FNP-C



Kendrea Moore, FNP-C

This summer is obviously going to be one SIZZLING summer. We are here to encourage you to make sure that you are prioritizing your health by making sure that you are properly staying well hydrated. Not just hydrated with your normal intake of water. This time of the year many are going to the Emergency Room for symptoms such as urinary discomfort, urine burning, dizziness, headaches, fatigue and more. Remember that these are classical signs of dehydration. When the body is dehydrated, the body is working

harder so we encourage you to make sure that you take your multivitamins to prevent decreased energy.

As you move throughout the day remember to make sure you drink as much water as you can when you have down time. If you know that you are going to be outside for extensive amounts of time, make sure to intake water prior to going outside. We suggest 1 gallon of water per day is preferred if you do not have any conditions that recommend a fluid restriction. As always get advice from your provider. Also be mindful of the foods that your intake. High sodium foods can lead to dehydration as well if not properly hydrated while in taking that food.

If you do not like drinking water, there are many ways to make drinking water enjoyable. Some of the many ways include adding fruits or vegetables, if you like icy water, make sure to leave it in the refrigerator or a cooler on ice (if it lasts). Create challenges within your environments with other individuals. You can also add lemons, limes and other fruits and vegetables to your water which will also help enhance the detox within the body.

Remember hydration is key to nutrients being able to travel through your body, detoxifies the body and helps organs regulate properly. Hydration also helps keep joints moist; in return helps to minimize exacerbated pain. Hydration decreases premenstrual syndrome. In addition, it helps with the blood circulatory system in the body.

If you have problems getting in the proper amount of fluids and or are dealing with symptoms despite the amount of water you intake, schedule an appointment with Practical Purpose Solutions. Also, if you are having cosmetic surgeries, it is essential to schedule your hydration session before and after surgery to prevent dehydration which is a complication post-surgery.

So, remember to **HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE** and **DO NOT FORGET TO TAKE YOUR MULTIVITAMINS. EAT HIGH NUTRITIOUS FOODS AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER!!**



Practical Purpose Solutions



RESTORE, REPLENISH AND REFOCUS!

TRY OUR IV HYDRATION THERAPY

- IMMUNE SUPPORT
- ENERGY BOOSTER
- FITNESS RECOVERY
- VITAMIN C SUPPORT
- FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS/ COLD RECOVERY



SCHEDULE YOUR CONSULTATION TODAY!
843-799-2210



Practical Purpose Solutions
2215 West Palmetto St., Suite F
Florence, SC 29501



Pee Dee Dental Group
 DR. CHARLES R. CONNER JR., DDS



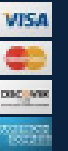
FIRST IN THE AREA TO OFFER IMPLANTOLOGY!



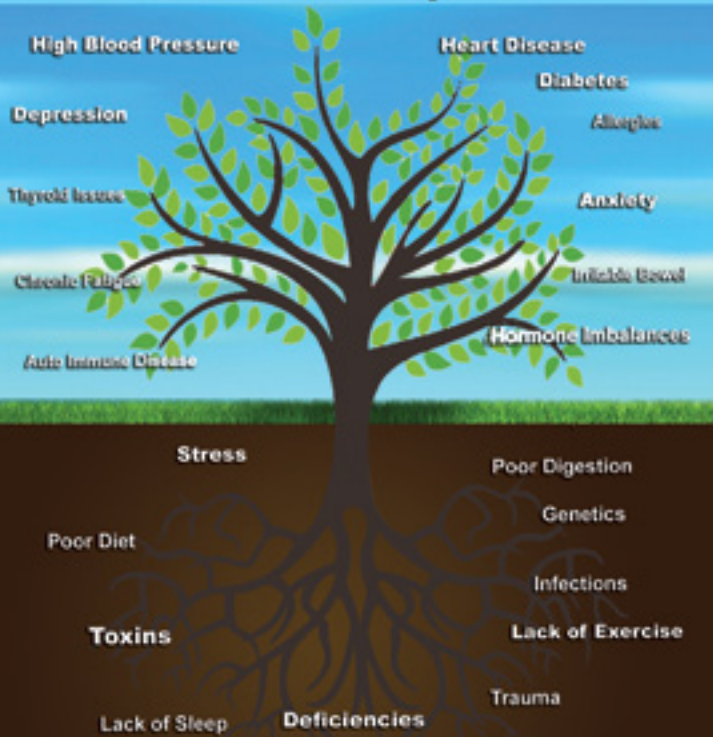
The Pee Dee Dental Group is not your ordinary dentist's office. Toothless patients come from all over the country to see Dr. Charles Conner. When they walk out of his office, they have teeth. Dr. Conner's practice attracts a nationwide clientele with patients from as far away as Florida, New Jersey, and California because of his groundbreaking work in implantology, in addition to a wide range of other dental services. After 40 years in business and more than 14,000 implants, Dr. Conner has proven them wrong. His practice attracts patients from all over the country to the Florence area.

461 W. Cheves Street · Florence SC 29501 · www.drcharlesconner.com

CALL US TODAY AT (843) 669-2456



Stop Chasing Symptoms and Get to the Root of the problem



333 W. Palmetto Street Florence, South Carolina 29501
 843-678-9394



Shyam Tantry, MD

HopeHealth Endocrinology

Endocrinology is a specialty that offers diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the endocrine system, such as diabetes, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and adrenal insufficiency.

For More Information

(843) 432-3716 | hope-health.org/services



Now Accepting New Patients!

SAVE THE DATE



**MAGNOLIA'S
BREAST
CANCER**

AWARENESS SEMINAR

"A Natural Approach to Breast Health"

Learn about the difference between prevention and early detection along with strategies to prevent or reduce your risk for Breast Cancer

19 OCTOBER 2022

FMU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

201 South Dargan Street
Florence, SC 29506

REGISTRATION
843.432.2502
www.magnolia-health.com



ADVANCED MANAGEMENT OF OVER-ACTIVE BLADDER

Submitted by Dr. Karthik Tanneru



Dr. Karthik Tanneru

Overactive bladder syndrome is a group of symptoms such as a feeling of urgently and often having to go to the bathroom. Some other symptoms of OAB are difficulty holding urine, involuntary urine leakage and getting up more than one or two times to urinate during the night. Statistics show that OAB affects women almost twice as much as men. The good news is there are multiple ways of treating OAB, including lifestyle modifications, medical management, advanced management and surgical

management.

Initially, your physician might suggest lifestyle modifications to address any of the aforementioned symptoms. One lifestyle modification is to avoid caffeinated beverages. Other modifications might include reducing other bladder irritants and restricting fluid intake in the evening hours. Behavioral therapy, along with bladder retraining and pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation, are effective treatment options too. If lifestyle modification isn't getting the desired result, we then will prescribe medications called antimuscarinic agents and beta-3 agonists. The vast majority of people will benefit from these medications. Some people may not be able to continue medications due to side effects, cost issues or just stop taking them due to not having an improvement in their symptoms.

Patients who haven't responded to more conservative treatments or medications are offered more advanced options like botulinum toxins injections – better known as botox. These injections relax the bladder muscle and provide relief from OAB symptoms but will need repeated injections every 6-8 months.

Another advanced medical management option involves placing a device in your back with tiny electrical wires implanted close to the sacral nerve. The sacral nerve is a network of nerves controlling part of the pelvis, the posterior thigh and most of the lower leg. The sacral neuromodulation device generates small electrical impulses to address the nerve component of urinary control. Due to recent technological advancements, these small devices and wires are manufactured and compatible with MRI machines. Previously, patients with older devices could not get MRI scans as they were not MRI safe. Sacral neuromodulation devices are also used in patients with urinary urge incontinence, frequent urination urgency and non-obstructive urinary retention.

When your doctor determines a sacral neuromodulation implant is needed, the procedure is done in two stages. Most patients with this device are significantly helped, but there is still a small chance it may not be effective. The first stage is to surgically implant the device temporarily to see if it helps decrease symptoms. Patients who have at least a 50 percent reduction in their symptoms will move on to the Stage-II.

The second stage is a more permanent implanted device. The battery lasts from approximately 10-15 years before it needs to be changed. Recently, rechargeable devices have been introduced. The new devices are recharged wirelessly, which eliminates the need for batteries and allows them to be much smaller.

Dr. Karthik Tanneru is a dually fellowship trained in urological oncology and reconstructive urology. For more information call MUSC Health – Urology at 843-673-7525 or visit MUSChealth.org/Florence.

Think you have an overactive bladder?



Frequent urination may be either a large volume of urine or multiple small volume voids.

A large volume of urine could be due to drinking a lot of fluids.

Multiple small volume voids could mean you have a urinary tract infection even if you are not having pain.



Rubicon Family Counseling Services

Counseling Families Since 1973

Counseling Services for children, adolescents & adults
Preventative Services
Intervention Services
Addictions Counseling and Behavioral Health Counseling
MAT (Medication Assistance Treatment for persons with opioid addiction)

We offer drug/alcohol screenings Monday - Thursday

510 E. Carolina Avenue • Hartsville, SC 29550

Office 843.332.4156

24/7 Helpline 843.861.27400

Like us on Facebook or check out rubiconsc.org

DIETITIAN AND PEDIATRICIAN WEIGH IN ON BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE



Kristi Fogg

CHARLESTON - Mother of two Ellen Burnette has developed a ritual during the baby formula shortage.

“Basically, several times a day, I check [Target.com](https://www.target.com) for the formula because obviously I don’t have the time to go into a bazillion stores. And from what I hear, there’s nothing on the shelves anyway. And then I order; and then half the time I get an email that says, ‘Oh, sorry, we have to cancel your order.’”

The federal government is working to get more formula in the pipeline and help families find the formula that’s out there. The trouble is tied to supply chain issues and a recall by the baby food maker Abbott Nutrition.

Dietitian Kristi Fogg says red tape needs to be peeled away during the shortage. “WIC serves a large percentage of our population, and they are liberalizing their formulary,” she said.

Elizabeth Mack, M.D., says relief is coming – but not as quickly as she’d like. She’s a division chief in the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, specializing in pediatric critical care and patient safety.

Mack says babies who don’t have any health conditions that limit which formula they can use can shift to different types and brands if their regular supply is out. Fogg agrees. “For the most part, if you’re getting a standard cow’s milk-based formula, they can be pretty interchangeable. That’s where utilizing a generic can come in.”

She explains what goes into most formulas. “They take cow’s milk, and they modify it. That’s why it’s not interchangeable with cow’s milk. Cow’s milk is a lot higher in fat and protein, and by itself,



Elizabeth Mack, M.D.

it doesn’t have enough iron and vitamin C in it for a baby. So, the formula just takes cow’s milk as the bones of it but then modifies it to make it more comparable to breast milk.”

There are also specialty formulas – like the type Burnette’s baby drinks. “Some babies have a cow milk protein allergy, and they do different modifications to it to make it more hypoallergenic,” Fogg said.

Those babies’ parents have to be more careful, she said. Some have brought their children to the hospital after formula substitutions didn’t go well.

While a lot of recipes for homemade formula are circulating, Mack and Fogg strongly advised against trying them. The FDA regulates commercial baby formula to ensure safety. Homemade versions won’t give a baby the nutrition it needs – and can lead to serious health problems.

When it comes to getting breast milk from someone else, Fogg said it needs to be screened. “Breast milk is a human fluid that can transmit infections. So, if you do not have a reliable source, if you do not know their infectious disease status and what medications they’re taking, you shouldn’t be taking their milk.”

She also said some “breast milk” for sale isn’t as advertised. If you’re having trouble finding formula, call your pediatrician’s office for help. Nutrition specialists such as dietitians and WIC can also be good resources.

You can call lactation support services at 843-792-0410 to help you breastfeed.

At MUSC, we are continually developing a collaborative and inclusive environment for learning and healing.



MUSC is a special place. We are committed to leveraging differences and building inclusion, allowing people to understand and be understood. As we look toward the future, we must not tire from this hard work, and we must lead the way as a model for inclusion and engagement.

We must be our best selves.

MUSC is implementing a series of strategic initiatives to:

- Eliminate health care disparities
- Build MUSC leadership, students, and workforce to reflect our communities
- Elevate a culture of “One MUSC”

 **MUSC**
Medical University
of South Carolina

HONORING FATHER WISHES WHILE COMPLETING HER PURPOSE



Officer Samantha K. Toney

Born and raised in Florence, SC, where her late father policed for 39 years, Samantha K. Toney attempted over the years to honor her father's wishes, by circumventing her own passion for one-day policing into pursuing other areas of law. In 2014, she graduated college with her Bachelor's in Sociology to prepare her for entering law school to one day, becoming an attorney. Prior to her graduation at the College of Charleston, she found herself recruited into the financial services sector of business and was already beginning to see success.

At the height of her success in finance, in May of 2015, Lt. Toney passed away. Officer Samantha Toney suffered a detrimental loss and grief that required several weeks of emotional support and therapy, to regain her grounding. That same month of his passing, Officer Toney launched what is now an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in honor of her dad, named the Samuel Lee Toney Sr. Foundation.

The SLT Foundation was founded to support positive growth and influence among our youth with the help of mentoring from law enforcement officers, similar to what Lt. Toney did during his tenure. The mission is achieved through officers building a deeper connection through similar interests they share with their mentees, and the foundation providing consistent opportunities of such from which the bonds can continue to grow. The investment of time allows for better connection and conversation. The foundation designs all of its programs from any of its three focal pillars—morals, education and professionalism. These were three values known to be important to Lt. Toney of which he sought to instill progression into the youth he served.

Officer Toney has since obeyed the passion inside of her by entering into the police force, and handles calls for service on day watch as a Patrol Officer with North Charleston Police Department in her 4th year. She's identified that she has a pronounced strength in firearms accuracy, de-escalating situations and building rapport with both victims and suspects—traits well-known to also be strengths of her father.

Wearing several hats-- she has also since become a mother of one, has established her own successful life insurance brokerage, The Toney Group, became a public notary, built an online retail store, elected as a Board member for a Professional Equity Theatre and became a member of Black Wealth in Charleston.



The late Samuel Lee Toney Sr. mounted on horse Star

Toney strongly believes in being mentally tough, spiritually grounded, passionate and intentional. She is a proud mother, and fights to accomplish goals and inspire others while leading her daughter by example, like her father did

with her.

Officer Toney shared her desire to police with her dad when she was 14 years of age. "He wasn't too thrilled...", she stated. As a second-generation officer, Toney says, "I understand why my dad didn't want this lifestyle for me, though. It's hard, and policing is like it's never been before. People hate us, some appreciate us, but everyone needs us. We sacrifice so much in our personal lives for people who could care less, and in fact, want to harm us. We run to the fight despite the family and children we have at home. Doing it as a single mom is a sacrifice unlike any I could try to explain. It's very tough."



Horses Princess and Star

But to shed light onto her reason for sticking around she affirms, "Despite my successes outside of policing, I'm here until my purpose is done... until the impact I've attempted to make is felt. At SLT, we believe in being the change you wish to see. For now, it's more effective for me to

display what my father's impact would continue to look like, in regard to his style of policing with the community and his position of influence among the youth, by mirroring this as one of the troops myself."

On patrol, Officer Toney enjoys following up with youth from domestic calls, emergency protective custody orders, repetitive family disturbances, and runaways—situations where youth are at a disadvantage or lack a positive outlet. Often, she keeps the trunk of her patrol car full of toys and teddy bears for youth that are in distress. Officer Toney's hope is to find and duplicate her father's approach to building community and



Officer Toney feeds and visits with the horses

influencing our youth with the help of other passionate likeminded officers around the nation.

"Most of these kids don't have someone that's present in their lives... someone that is consistent... A good example. What a plot

twist! Why not let that person be an officer of the law? This must be done from the platform of **RELATABILITY**. It's such a powerful tool from which we **EARN** our ability to even reach and influence the youth. We have to connect with them through a language they understand—a common interest. With this, done righteously, it prevents the community from seeing us as merely tools of enforcement and order— but also as people. The community craves to see who we **ARE... BEHIND THE BADGE** (our character, our talents, our interests). We are comedians, cooks, singers, dancers, caregivers, sports enthusiasts, etc. Establishing access to our personalities breeds humanization. Using this approach, we have an angle at which to better connect. That warmer connection with the youth, plus consistent

HONORING HER FATHER CONT'D

opportunities for conversation, and a little food...has more power and positive influence than a single arrest ever will.”

“Our badge represents known power, but our character behind it is the true influence.”

-Samantha Toney

The Samuel Lee Toney Sr. Foundation - a Police Mentorship Organization for the Youth- Join the Movement is currently concentrated on promoting its fundraising campaign aimed at reaching 4,000 supporters by the end of 2022.

Upon reaching 4,000 individual supporters, their entire 2023, year will be completely funded. Individual supporters are asked to join the movement with a small contribution of only \$1.50 per week. This small reoccurring donation is easily set up through a nationally used platform for churches and nonprofits named, Continue to Give. The campaign also has tiers for small business and corporate/franchise sponsors as well.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs may give a \$5.00 tip per week on behalf of their business in exchange for regular publicity through the foundation, and in-house priority for service needs for the nonprofit. Corporate or franchise level sponsors receive the same with a \$10.00 weekly tip donation.

Supporters can also make a pledge to help find additional donors towards the campaign. By doing so, they can secure prizes dependent on how many additional supporters they obtain. Prizes can be stacked and range from gift cards valued from \$50-\$150, dinner vouchers valued from \$50-\$350, and travel vouchers valued at \$600.

SLT is currently establishing a presence among the Charleston, Florence and Columbia areas. There are plans to expand along 15



Officer Toney teaches dance to students

additional states up the east coast over the next decade of growth, while growing partnerships with other organizations.

The foundation currently offers a few programs such as: Equine Therapy with Star & Princess (Lt. Toney's original police horses), Hip-Hop & Gospel Hip-Hop

Dance Therapy, Christmas from a Cop, Motivational Car Club and Career Shadowing Program.


The foundation has partnerships established to sustain the following activities for 2023 upon successfully reaching their campaign goal:

Martial Arts Classes (Bully-Proof Program), Relaunch of Camp FEVER, Visual Arts Therapy, Yoga & Meditation Classes, Educational Field Trips (National African- American Museum for 2023), College Tours, Tutoring Assistance, Annual Field Day with Officers, Motivational Speakers, Clinical Therapy Sessions, Driver's Ed Program, Amusement Park Visits, Shared Hobbies (water sports, fishing, food adventures, billiards, cooking, comedy shows, etc.). Young Business Owner's Grant Program, etc.

To support the campaign with a reoccurring tip, visit: www.tinyurl.com/SLYRALLYFORTIPS

To make a pledge or learn more about other tiers of sponsorship visit: www.samtoney.com under the tab "Get Involved."



 Samuel Lee Toney Sr. Foundation (SLT)

Grow. Inspire.
Change.

Samantha K. Toney- Founder, CEO

843.250.5798 cell/direct

Email: connectwithSLT@gmail.com



cashapp: \$ToneyFoundation

Website: www.samtoney.com

www.facebook.com/sltfoundation

PROVIDING CARE AND EMPATHY TO THOSE IN NEED

by Anna Bowman



Throughout her 15-year career, Miriam James-Singley has advocated for resources to improve the quality of life for low income and disadvantaged individuals since obtaining her Bachelor of Social Work from South Carolina State University. She has worked with diverse communities, children and families in the field of social work and education.

During her career, she's held numerous positions: benefit counselor, child care center director, applied behavior therapist; family, child and parent facilitator; early childhood interventionist, adoption specialist and medical social worker-hospital; patient care advocate; behavioral interventionist, childhood interventionist and community health worker/case manager.

After years of working in the social work field, she noticed that even though there were other organizations providing resources, there was a lack of compassionate and connectivity of services to help clients to successfully advance in life. She wanted to find an answer to this dilemma. In 2021, James-Singley, founded Miriam's Persevering Abundant Resources and Services to fill voids she felt were causing high rates of recidivism amongst clients, forcing them to continuously seek the same services repeatedly, instead of advancing and leading productive lives.

Miriam's Persevering Abundant Resources and Services, currently awaiting 501(c)3 status, was originated from James-Singley's past and present involvement working with the community and her own life experiences. She stated, "Because of the different trials and tribulations I faced over the years and working with those in the community who faced many adversities, I knew that no matter the obstacle, perseverance, was needed, yet to persevere, sometimes you can't do it on your own, you need support and not everyone has it." She continued, "Sure, there are other organizations out there that provide support, but they don't provide the care and empathy that's needed to go along with the one-on-one plan and structure needed to support an individual," she acknowledged.

The mission of the organization is to assist families in becoming more sustainable and

self-sufficient with abundant love, care and compassion, according to James-Singley. "We serve anyone in the community who feel they are facing adversity and need help, although we do have a process on how we distribute that help. Our organization is not a day resource center, we are a program-based organization. Those who we serve must enroll in the program," she said. "At the time of enrollment there is an open assessment to complete to see where the client is and what services they may need. Some of the clients we serve may come from referrals, while others don't have to be referred to receive assistance," she explained. "If there is a service that we are unable to assist with then we also have a referral process where we can refer them out to other organizations that can." Enrollment in the PARS program is a 12 month, steps, or less program. "Our goal is to ensure we can help our clients get to their desired achievements within a year, with a six-month follow-up after completion of the program. All services we provide are free," said James-Singley. The clientele are primarily females between the ages of 18-30, with and without children.



Miriam James-Singley

The organization provides services for families who have been dealing with homelessness, as well. She stated that the resources clients have requested assistance with the most are housing applications, assistance with finding employment, and assistance with applying for government assistance, such as SNAP, WIC, Child Care Vouchers, rental assistance and finding a healthcare provider. To ensure that clients are receiving all the resources available to them, the PARS organization currently partners with

several organizations and agencies. "One of the major agencies I'm in partnership with is SC Thrive," she explained, "With SC Thrive, our clients can apply for some governmental programs through our organization. We also partnered with a local shelter, A Place of Healing, and A Choice to M8ke, who work directly with expected mothers and new moms.

Funding is always a top priority, said James-Singley, currently most of their funding has come from donations and fundraising. People can donate through their website, www.keys2PARS.org or through their PayPal account, according to James-Singley. The items that are most in-demand currently are diapers, pull-ups, wipes, toiletries, gas cards and kid books. People are encouraged to donate by contacting Miriam James-Singley at (803) 747-4140 or (843) 733-PARS, via the website for more information.

James-Singley credits her exceptional board members as the reason for their initial and future success. The board members are Lisa Brown, chair; DeAndra Ketter, vice chair; Avery Fleming, vice president; LJ Thomas, treasurer/secretary; George Scipio and Lisa Samuel. "We teach our clients how to become self-sufficient, through job connectivity, resume building, teaching money management skills, and more. Our staff will be certified benefits counselors, certified community health workers and with our partnership with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. Our organization's goal is to become a HUD certified agency that can provide housing assistance. We are still in our infancy phase but with the partnerships and the connections we believe within the next year 2023, our organization will be fully thriving in Florence County, although our service area is beyond Florence. We plan to roll out in phases to have offices in Darlington, Dillon, Marion and Upper Williamsburg County," James-Singley proudly stated.

Miriam and Tavaris Singley, are the parents of four children, Tavaris Jr., Tierra, Tyler and Tamia.





GOLF, NOW A SPORT UNITING AND CONNECTING BROTHERS FOR LIFE

by Jennifer Robinson



Charles "Block" Bagwell, club president

Southern Pines, NC is a small quaint rural town of 15,000 residents which abuts its more recognizable neighboring golf community – Pinehurst, home to several PGA Open Championships. But once a year, for the last 10 years, it is home for one week to a golf club of 60 men who migrate from 15 states across the country. The Elite Golf Club has become a close-knit group of Black men from all walks of life who fully embraced the club mantra of, Brothers United...Connected for Life!

Without question, the 'spoke of the wheel' for bringing these distinguished men together is its club President, Charles 'Block' Bagwell. In 2012, a small group of 12 gathered in Southern Pines for four days of golf, fellowship and sharing life experiences – the good, bad and ugly. From there, because of the bond that was established built on trust, respect and love for each other, the group expanded. As everyone returned to their homes and shared how inspiring it was to meet men who became part of an informal brotherhood which has now become 65 members. Interestingly, as President, Bagwell was concerned and sensitive to growing the club because the connections and trust became so deeply woven that he didn't want to disrupt the dynamics.

However, 'good people know good people,' and when you have good Black men who have

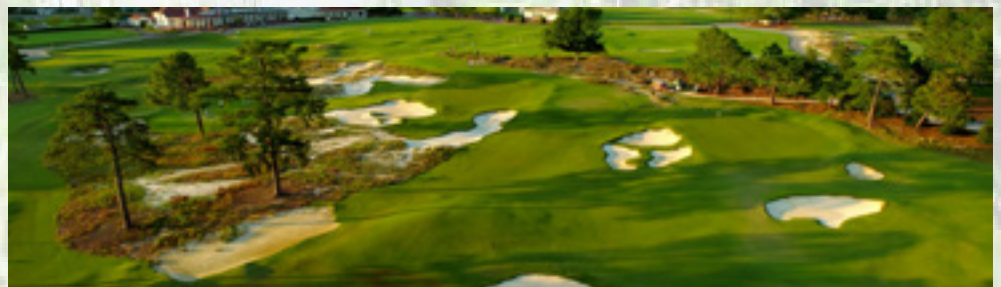
a great experience, they want to share those same experiences with those who are closest to them. So, slowly but incrementally over the past 10 years, the group grew into the 20s, 30s and now into the 60s. Bagwell wants to cap it at that number...but he's said that many times before, so don't count on it. At the end of the day, Bagwell is a 'connector of people' who's leadership, humility and accountability ensure that everyone stays grounded. The best example of what exemplifies an Elite Golf Club member is John 'Butch' Dickerson, their unparalleled best golfer who is a three handicapper who will often play in clogs, buy women's golf balls because they're on sale and has clubs over 20 years old! Dickerson is a NASA testing officer who lives on a golf course and has every right to be a braggart for what he's accomplished, but instead, he's incredibly humble, kind and fun as anyone you'd ever meet.

The week begins with a Tuesday evening meet and greet under the pavilion in which new golfers introduce themselves to the group. One cannot be thin-skinned as insults and humiliation will fly in a good-natured manner. Bagwell will then cover the expectations and announcements as guys settle into storytelling, libations, cigars, card playing and chess. Later, guys will adjourn to their patios for a night cap where the stories become so epic that guys shed tears from laughter and stomachs ache from stories shared by the likes of Barry Watson, Darrell Fosque and Ken

Wooling to name just a few.

Oh, and yes, there is the golf tournament and three flight winners, runners up and skins winners tallied by Administrator, Phil Manley, who so happens to be the first Black quarterback at Yale and encompasses the same humble attributes of Dickerson. But to a man, each member will say that golfing has become secondary to the camaraderie and fellowship. And as much as they laugh, they also learn from the historians and deep thinkers like Hildred White and Clestis Dozier who bring depth and insights which are thought provoking, informative and inspiring. When members pass, the average age is 55-60, they're able to console with long time member and Pastor T.J. Henderson, who has an appropriate mix of spirituality and self-awareness that enables guys to enjoy themselves around him without judgment.

So, by week's end, after all the laughter, tears, experiences and awards, the members all dap each other up, hug and leave with a renewed sense of pride in old and new relationships which will be everlasting as "Brothers United... Connected for Life!" We would like to recognize our brothers that have gone on before us: Fred Bryant - Tennessee, Cedric "Swoles" Brigman - Florence, SC and Johnny W. Ludd Sr. - Society Hill, SC., R.I.P. Lastly on behalf of the club we'd like to show our appreciation to Gregory Eaddy, one of our brothers, and his wife Diana Murphy-Eaddy, owners of Diversity Works Magazine©.



It's tee time



Helping our residents & patients get back to living

IN OUR NEW SKILLED NURSING & REHAB CENTER

Community is a word that has become more important worldwide as Covid has forced us into varying degrees of isolation over the past two years. Simply put, we need each other to live and thrive. Bethea Retirement Community has captured and fostered the essence of community for senior adults from all walks of life. Seniors who choose to live or rehabilitate at Bethea find themselves feeling part of one big family, surrounded by dedicated staff and other residents who share a common goal - to nurture relationship and to create an environment of wellness.

Betha Retirement Community is celebrating the one year anniversary for its most recent expansion, the healthcare and rehabilitation center. As Director Ben Spurling has stated, "We all live our lives in pursuit of opportunities to grow, to learn, to experience moments of joy. At Bethea, we refer to these principles as 'Abundant Living'. Working toward this goal of providing Abundant Life for seniors is always a challenge, and nowhere is this truer than in the skilled nursing environment, where it's easy to lose sight of those principles focusing on the very real health needs of residents. That's why we are so excited about the Household Model, which provides us with an innovative framework that weaves the threads of Abundant Living directly into the fabric of care that we provide to residents every single day." The household model features four distinct households that prioritize residents' privacy and the feel of being at home with well-appointed and comfortably sized living spaces, private bedrooms or suites with private bathrooms, and spa/amenities of personal choice.

One of these households is devoted to rehabilitation guests for short-term stays while recovering from illness or injury. The new healthcare center also contains a new state-of-the-art rehabilitation gym where seniors both within the retirement community and senior adults outside of the community referred by physician for rehabilitation can receive physical and occupational therapy.

What our Rehab Grads are saying about Bethea:

"Bethea Retirement Community is the best place to go if you need to rehabilitate from an illness or injury. I stayed here in October and November of this 2021 year. I was most comfortable and very happy during my stay...The food was good, the service excellent and the staff most competent. The Community is located in Darlington, SC, just 4 miles from Florence. Registered Nurses (RN's) and other medical providers and a doctor are on staff...Everything inside and out was freshly painted and the home smelled so good. My goal was to be able to walk again. The best Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy trained professionals helped me meet my goal. I have been to many Rehabilitation Centers and they do not compare. Yes, they pushed me but not where I just could not stand it. They were all so personable...When I was leaving to go home, I was given the choice of "in home" Physical and Occupational Therapy. I chose to do outpatient therapy with Bethea as they were so good in helping me"

- Kathy Belew

When I came to Bethea, I was in a wheelchair. In the month that I have been here, I went from a wheelchair to a walker and now I use a cane. The next goal is to be able to independently walk without support. Tyler and all the physical and occupational therapists are professional and treat everyone equally...All in all, everyone was friendly and supportive. I couldn't have done rehab without the prayers of people and God working through these people to move my heart and bring me to where I am now. It is through God's strength, power, and His love that I have successfully completed treatment. I give God all the praise and glory! Thank you Bethea from the bottom of my heart!

- Kenneth Turner



Visit [BetheaRetirement.com](https://www.BetheaRetirement.com) or contact Jenny Doll, Director of Marketing, 843-395-4402 for more information or to schedule a tour.

157 Home Avenue Darlington, SC 29532

Bethea
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



THE 2022 CLASS OF FLORENCE COUNTY CENTENARIANS Submitted by Joyce Black, marketing and grants specialist



Pictured Linda Mitchell Johnson, SCA executive director, Patricia Parr, SCA board member and Teresa Myers Ervin, mayor City of Florence

The Senior Citizens Association in Florence County recognized, and honored Florence County citizens born in or before 1922, at its 18th Annual Dorothy Blackwell celebration. Information on each centenarian was provided from various churches, nursing homes, community leaders and family members.

SCA has identified eight Florence County seniors ranging in age from 99-104. Since our May 20, 2022, celebration two more were identified, Wilbur Robinson and Catherine Miller Harris. If you would like to add a centenarian born or who resides in Florence to our class of 2022, please contact the Senior Citizens Association at 843.269.6761 ext. 231 or email us at info@scaflorence.org.

Florence County 2022 Centenarian Class

Wilbur Robinson 99 (100 on 11/22/22), Uneedia Deas 99 (100 on 8/9/22)
Mable Lemmons 100, Bernice McCutcheon 101, Doris Lewis 101
Charlotte Berry 102, Elizabeth Rogers Simonds 102, Kathleen Baskin 103
Evelyn Guile 104, Catherine Miller Harris 104

The seniors were asked what significant changes they have seen in their lifetime. They responded:

“I remember when Highway 76 was a dirt road.”

“They can’t believe the growth of the hospitals in Florence... from a little hospital to all of this”

“As a witness and an active participant in the civil rights movement, I’ve seen significant changes in laws and practices to the advancement of African Americans.”

“My family lived in a farmhouse and farmed the land where the Super

Walmart is today on South Irby Street.”

“The creation of the Internet.”

The initial opening display and welcome was held Friday, May 20, at 11:30 a.m. The display and information will be available June 1 - 10, 2022, at SCA. Virtual displays and printed materials will be available on our website www.SCAFlorence.org.

Over 20 companies, non-profits, churches, foundations and individuals stepped forward to sponsor the Florence Centenarian Class of 2022. Each year SCA celebrates Dorothy Blackwell’s memory and honors her work with a community luncheon. Proceeds from this event will help SCA programs such as, Meals on Wheels of Florence County, Home-Bound Delivered Meals and other senior programs.

LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER HONORS MOTHERS

Submitted by Jonathan Lester, City of Lake City



Attendees gather during the Mother's Day breakfast at the Lake City Senior Center.

LAKE CITY – The Lake City Senior Center members celebrated their annual Mother’s Day breakfast, Saturday, May 7. The breakfast began with a greeting and opening remarks from event emcee, Barbara Wilson with invocation from Pastor Hazel Epps.

Lake City Senior Center Coordinator Mildred Brown was the featured speaker and spoke about the importance of mothers in the community. The event closed with a meal and a group song. For more information about senior center activities, memberships and programs call (843) 394-2432 or visit the center at 198 N. Acline Street, Lake City, SC.

Looking for a change...in your Nursing Career! Wilson Senior Care is Hiring CNAs, LPNs, & RNs!

- Student Loan Payoff Assistance
- Sign-on Bonus
- Tuition Assistance
- Attractive Benefits Package
- Outstanding Healthcare Reputation
- Employee Owned Company
- Over 50 Years in the Industry
- Locations in: Loris, Darlington & Hartsville



Loris | Medford | Morrell | Oakhaven
The Rehab Center at Morrell

Apply online at:

www.wilsonseniorcare.com



**Sign-On
Bonus**

“Helping People Make Better Financial Decisions”



Quentin Williams, Agent
 Quentin Williams Insurance & Financial Group
 Telephone: (843) 694-9252
 que.williams03@gmail.com
 SC Lic#536835

LET US HELP YOU...

Life Insurance

- Whole Life
- Universal Life
- Variable Universal Life
- Senior Market

Term Insurance

- “Basic” Level Term Policies
- “Plus” Level Term Policies

Disability Income Insurance

- Coverage for Individuals
- Coverage for Small Business Owners

Retirement Plans

Offers Debt / Credit Consultations



Mission

To make a difference in your life by helping you achieve financial security and independence today – and for generations to come.

Vision

To be your company of choice – through integrity, trusted relationships and financial strength.

Values

We hold ourselves, the relationships we build, and the products we deliver, to the highest standards of quality. These values represent the core of who we are and what we do, every day

Stay Connected:



STANDING BESIDE PEOPLE IN NEED *by Anna Bowman*



Wendy Kale

Wendy Kale is CEO and founder of, The Stand Fast Project, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 2020, to help alleviate poverty, suffering and injustice through sustainable change. Even though there are other governmental and private agencies dedicated to eradicating these issues, she couldn't stand by silently and witness people in her community going without essential basic items and services.

She said she chose the name, The Stand Fast Project, because she wanted to take a position in her community to “stand” beside people in need and remain firm when they seek help. Not

everyone believed in her vision, but nothing dissuaded her. Since its inception, the organization has become well respected within the community.

The organization works with families (men, women, and children), and provides clothing, shoes, and food, along with other everyday essential items. “We partner with local agencies like Miriam’s Pars and The Place of Healing. The Miriam’s Pars agencies help clients applying for government assistance, such as SNAP, WIC and child care vouchers, as well as housing/rental issues and finding health care providers,” she said. “The Healing Place in Darlington also works with clients for housing assistance. We serve residents of Florence, Darlington, Timmonsville, Society Hill, Lamar, Olanta, Scranton, Coward and Pamplico.”

In September 2021, the organization presented its inaugural Small Business Expo, which brought employers and job seekers together. “We realized, during our research phase, that adults needed decent jobs in order to break the cycle of poverty, and this was one of the most useful tools we could provide for all parties involved.” The success of the business expo has led to another project that the organization is implementing in the

immediate future. “Our organization is currently in the first phase of accepting gently used business attire (suits and shoes), for both women and men so that clients can attend job interviews.

In two short years, the organization has had several success stories. One such story is of a mother and her pregnant daughter, homeless and jobless, who were assisted with housing through a transitional shelter. Currently, the mother, daughter and grandchild are all doing well, and are financially stable.

The Stand Fast Project relies heavily on donations and volunteers. “Food and clothing can be received at the organization’s storage location at 1021 West Dixie Street, Florence, SC, or we can pick up the items. And for monetary donations, individuals can use cash app \$thestandfastproject/; Zelle using info@thestandfastproject.org; or mailing donations at 1021 West Dixie Street, Florence, SC, or call 843-601-5459. Volunteers can apply online via our Facebook page, call the office or submit their resume. The current board members of The Stand Fast Project are Wendy Kale, CEO; Gloria Gallashaw; DeAndra Ketter; Oneida Erinna; Brenda Cooper; Ashley Brown and Patrice Andrews.

Wendy Kale, who retired after a 25-year career in the medical field, is a graduate of West of Florence High School, received an Associate in Science degree, Health Care Administration, from Augusta Technical College and received numerous advanced certificates in the medical field. She and her husband are the parents of a blended family: four adult children and twelve grandkids, whom they love spoiling. She enjoys gardening and fishing, and is a member of One Church Worship Family of Florence, SC.

For additional information, on The Stand Fast Project, contact the organization by phone at: Phone: 843-413-2819 office Phone: 843-601-5459 cell, or via social media at: info@thestandfastproject.org; <https://www.thestandfastproject.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/pg/thestandfastproject/community/>

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ASIYA by Anna Bowman



Shalanda Waiters

When Shalanda Waiters welcomed her beautiful daughter Asiya Jordan into the world on January 20, 2003, she knew instantly her little girl would change her world, but what she couldn't fathom at that very moment, was just how much her little girl would change the world.

Jordan, affectionately known as, Nu Nu, to family and friends, was, "funny, full of personality, sweet, humble and determined," said her mother. Like so many young girls she dreamt of being a princess and her dreams were fulfilled when she wore the crowns of Miss Pee

Dee Teen and Miss Elk of South Carolina. She was an honor student, an entrepreneur with an online tutoring business, Jordan's All A's Initiative Group, where she tutored students from six to 50 years of age; an honor student, and a Junior Varsity cheerleader, just to name a few of her accomplishments. She was amazing and always excelled, I grew to expect that from her not knowing she was moving at this rapid pace because God had other plans," her mother recalled.

God's plans allowed Jordan to share her beautiful smile, talented gifts, and dreams with the world; leaving those who knew her with a lifetime of beautiful memories. On September 26, 2019, her mother received a knock at her front door that no mother wanted to receive – her daughter had passed. An immediate outpouring of support from the community showed her mother and family just how much Jordan's life had touched people. "I knew my daughter was a wonderful person, but as time went by, the outpouring of love and caring continued, especially from my daughter's friends who wanted to keep her legacy alive." Waiters knew she had to do something for her friends and to share in Jordan's vision of helping others. "I created the Pink Purpose Group on Facebook to uplift God and honor the life and legacy of Asiya and to have a place to bring her friends and the community together." But those who loved her dearly wanted more than an online legacy.

A prayer breakfast in Jordan's memory in 2020, was a great success. Judge Cheveron Scott, of The Elks of South Carolina, presented the family with a proclamation, proclaiming October 2nd as, Asiya Jordan Day, gave her the strength to pick up the torch, and create a foundation in her daughter's memory. In 2021 the Asiya Jordan Foundation became a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, focusing on education, which Jordan believed to be a universal language that could change the trajectory of one's life. "As the founder of the foundation, I work closely with our five board members to

accomplish our various fundraising activities, and community engagements, such as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and My Brother's Keeper to feed the homeless in our community." Under the umbrella of the foundation, the Sparkle Scholarship Gala committee has 10 board members, who work to present the annual gala for the foundation. In its second year, the foundation has presented seven scholarships and four additional awards to graduating high school seniors to pursue postgraduate studies.



The Asiya Jordan Foundation's inaugural Sparkle Scholarship Gala, which was held October 2, 2021, at the Francis Marion University's Performing Arts Center, in Florence, SC, received tremendous support from the community. Dr. Carter, President of Francis Marion University donated the use of the Performing Arts Center for the gala, at no

cost to the foundation. The Sparkle Scholarship, named for Jordan's favorite motto, "Leave a Little Sparkle Everywhere You Go," allows high school seniors to receive a scholarship in the amount of \$500 by competing in five categories: (1). Community Service (100+ hours); (2). Academic (3.5 GPA or higher); (3). Entrepreneur; (4). Athletes (Any sports 2+ years); and (5). Best all Around (2 or more of the five categories). Candidates are asked to submit via one-page essay on one of the categories for the committee to review. The 2022, Asiya Jordan Foundation's Sparkle Scholarship Gala will be held Saturday, October 1, 2022, at the SIMT Building, Florence, SC. Candidates applying for scholarships can submit a one-page essay, and/or find out more information about the requirements and/or deadline can email: ThePinkPurpose1@gmail.com.

Shalanda Waiters is still amazed how her daughter's life touched so many people and continues to change the lives of young people in the community. "I would say that God truly works in mysterious ways, in one of my darkest moments, I heard the words, 'I want you to serve me.' So, I will serve as instructed," she stated. "It's mind blowing at times, but I know that God makes provision for his vision, so I'm very grateful and thankful for the sponsors and donors and everyone that continues to help in any capacity," said Waiters. For additional information about the Asiya Jordan Foundation please call Shalanda Waiters at 843-250-7843, or email: theasiyajordanfoundation@gmail.com. Visit the Facebook page at The Asiya Jordan Foundation.

AKA SORORITY INC., EPSILON CHI OMEGA CHAPTER CELEBRATE MILESTONE MEMBERS

Submitted by Earline McClary, Ivy Leaf reporter



Front Row (L- R) Golden members: Mrs. Gwendolyn Gibbs, Mrs. Gloria Frieson, Ms. Janet Spry, Mrs. Carolyn Mack, Mrs. Betty P. Malloy, Mrs. Sophia Davis and Mrs. E. Juanita Gerald. Second Row (R- L) Silver Star members: Mrs. Blanchie James, Mrs. Carla Jefferson, Mrs. Marlene Williams, Mrs. Patricia A. Toney (Epsilon Chi Omega Chapter, President), Milestone Celebration Chairman-Mrs. Tempestt Johnson, Milestone Celebration Co-chairman-Mrs. Anica Bennett, Ms. Nia Johnson, Ms. Valerie Wilson and Ms. Willie M. Gasque

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Chi Omega Chapter provided a Legacy of Excellence in Sisterhood and Services with a Milestone Celebration for their Golden and Silver Star members. The event, sponsored by the Membership Committee, took place May 22, 2022, at the Floyd Conference Center. As loyal and dedicated honorees were escorted into their specially prepared brunch, the Total Package Jazz Band from Darlington High School serenaded them, under the leadership of Mr. Brandon Johnson. Chairman Mrs. Tempestt Johnson and Co-Chairman Mrs. Anica Bennett gifted each honoree with a decorative plate to commemorate her special milestone celebration. Reflections were shared by Mrs. Gloria Frieson, a Golden Member and Mrs. Carla Jefferson, a Silver Star. Frieson has been a member of AKA since 1959, and believes, "service is the rent that we pay to live on this earth." The event concluded with closing remarks from the president, Mrs. Patricia A. Toney and an encore from the Total Package Jazz Band.



2671 Hospitality Blvd, Florence
843-432-3001



3440 W Radio Dr, Florence
843-432-1500



3000 W Radio Dr, Florence
843-629-9900



150 Westpark Dr, Florence
843-519-5200



1735 Stokes Rd, Florence
843-662-7000



RALDEX

HOSPITALITY

www.raldex.com

BUILDING A LEGACY OF GENERATIONAL WEALTH by Adalia Ellis



Melanie Spears

Melanie Spears and Marcus Crawford are a mother and son team that shares a real estate business. It was Spears' parents who planted the idea of land ownership in her mind, and she passed on this same passion to her son. Spears says, "going out riding with my parents on Sundays to look at homes always fascinated me," in which I continued to do with my son when he was growing up. It has allowed her to help others to achieve property ownership, have a flexible work schedule and be build wealth that could be passed on to future

generations. This same vision was passed onto her son Crawford, who says, "A large part of what I wanted in a career and profession was the opportunity to build a legacy and generational wealth. Through my mom, I was exposed to the opportunity that real estate presented. I saw real estate as an opportunity that allowed growth and wealth building. Even more, I realized it was a field that afforded me a chance no matter my race."

Their collaboration with this shared vision has brought them closer and has added a new element to their relationship that they get to talk about. They each bring their own strengths which allow them to learn from one another. "Marcus is passionate about the investment side of real estate and I, (Melanie), am passionate about the residential side of real estate." When speaking on working so closely with his mother, Crawford says, "Being so close it was not hard to become business partners because it is fun to work with someone you love. Also, I believe we complement each other very well."

It is a potential buyer's body language and the questions they have, which tells Spears whether or not the house is a good fit. It is also important that buyers feel at ease being honest with her which is a direct response to how transparent she is with her clients. It is important to them that their clients feel heard, and that they are getting the best information needed to make an educated decision. Buying a home is also about the heart, how clients feel when they walk into a potential new home. "When your client walks in a door and they feel something special in their heart that says, 'Wow, I want this to be my home,' that is when you know a house is for a family or person." says Crawford.



Marcus Crawford

Mother and son are involved in various organizations that offer important services to the community. Spears is a donor for the McLeod Heath Foundation, an active sponsor of various YMCA sports activities, an active member of the Pee Dee Baptist Association YWA, and is also a member of the Pee Dee National Realtors Association. Spears has been inspired to be involved in these organizations because, "they ALL have been near and dear to my life in some manner directly or indirectly. I believe it to be a blessing to be able to give

back to these organizations/associations for all they have done for my family or me in some way or another."

Just as with their shared profession, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree when it comes to giving back to the community. A particular initiative Crawford is passionate about is financial literacy for young people. He believes, "knowledge is power, and when you teach a child how to spend and invest their money from a young age you are empowering them to be successful." He also has a background in marketing and has already begun to consult with local small businesses. "Small businesses are the heart of our town and offering marketing services is a way I can give back to them."

Florence is fortunate to have people like Spears and Crawford. They are examples of not only benefiting from their work but also giving back because of it. Spears' favorite quote is, "You are the artist of your own life. Don't hand the paint brush to anyone else." While for Crawford, it is the wise words of Langston Hughes, "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."

Steps to Becoming a **REAL ESTATE INVESTOR**

COMMITMENT TO LEARN THE NUMBERS

PUT A BASIC TEAM TOGETHER

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY

GO! TAKE ACTION. GO! MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN.

Terry L. James
Professional Photography

Over 25 Years Experience
Associate Degree in Photographic Technology Portrait Studio Management

Weddings • Portraits • Corporate
Anniversaries • Special Events

Cell: (845) 519-0660 • Office: (845) 661-5679
james955@att.net

Ready to BUY or SELL?



Mallory Brayboy, REALTOR
(C) 843-598-9739
mallorybrayboy@gmail.com



EFIRD

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

COME SEE THE 2022 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE



The 2022 Jeep Cherokee Latitude features an award-winning interior with clever storage and flexible design along with a simply striking exterior. And with reassuring safety and security features, you'll find that the Latitude is a step beyond the competition.

HWY 52/I-95 EXIT 164 IN FLORENCE
www.efirdautogroup.com 843-669-1881



1 Serving | 20 Minutes



The Remedy

INGREDIENTS:

Simple Syrup

- 10 oz. water
- 5 oz. honey

Cocktail

- 1.5 oz. HH BeSpoke Gin
- 2 oz. Monin Blackberry Syrup
- 1/2 oz. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- rosemary sprig & blackberry to garnish

Directions:

1. Combine water and honey in a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat. Stir until water and honey blend together. Let the 3 oz. you will use for your cocktail stand for 5 minutes until ready to use.
2. Combine gin, honey syrup and lemon juice in a shaker filled with ice. Shake vigorously for 10-15 seconds.
3. Pour shaker contents into a rocks glass. Garnish with a rosemary sprig and a blackberry. Enjoy!



The **ONLY** regional hospital
to make the “A” list in
**patient safety for TEN
consecutive times**

For the 10th consecutive time MUSC Health Florence Medical Center has achieved a prestigious “A” rating—the highest grade given from Leapfrog Group—a national organization dedicated to patient safety.


This hospital safety grade represents how well the hospital protects our patients from errors, injuries, and infections. We are proud of our care team members’ work every day in delivering quality, safe care!

When it comes to your safety, it matters where you go.



Florence Medical Center

muschealth.org/florence



Celebrating the spirit
of *Juneteenth*
and the new bonds of
friendship and
understanding it brings.

FOOD  LION
community
Nourishing a Sense of Belonging