

CROSSROADS | CHARLOTTE

It's the year 2015.

What Kind of Community Do You See?

CROSSROADS CHARLOTTE ORGANIZATIONS & INITIATIVES

American Red Cross Greater Carolinas: The American Red Cross Singing Group

Using music as a vehicle, this initiative will spark people to action by building alliances and creating bridges of acceptance and understanding, thus improving trust in our community.

Contact:

Pamela Jepsen 704-347-8229

jepsenp@usa.redcross.org

AT&T: Access and Equity Charlotte Through Technology (AECTT)

To provide access to information and community connectivity - where the community can and is connected to its members. This is all in an effort to support public education. AT&T hopes to achieve a sense of equity around education in under resourced communities.

Contact:

Todd Lanham

T10785@att.com

Centralina Council of Governments: Communications Crossroads: Connecting Community to Seniors

The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the community's ability to effectively interact with senior citizens, resulting in improved quality of services, self-respect, dignity and greater engagement by adults as they age. This initiative will train professionals, front line workers and volunteers in the community using the Aging Communications Training (ACT) curriculum developed by the SPRY Foundation. This sensitivity training enables the community to understand and recognize aging factors and become more senior friendly. Centralina COG, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff and senior volunteers will Partner with the SPRY Foundation to conduct training sessions with participants and assess their impact through evidence-based evaluation.

Contact:

Al Sharp 704-372-2416

arsharp@centralina.org

Catawba Lands Conservancy: Enhancing communities via the Carolina Thread Trail and through conservation of natural areas

Develop the Carolina Thread Trail and related conservation areas in the Lakewood community as a resource for neighborhood empowerment, improved quality of life, and protection of natural resources. Engage residents to shape The Thread to serve Lakewood in one or more of the following ways:

1. Growing community gardens
2. Fitness & health
3. Alternative transportation
4. Outdoor, nature and conservation education
5. Recreation
6. Annual relay between neighborhoods and other inter-neighborhood events

Contact:

Dave Cable 704-342-3330 x 202
dave@catawbalands.org

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce: Business Corridor Support Package

Develop a business support a business package (to be further defined) for distressed Charlotte business corridors in support of diverse business and neighborhood development.

Contact:

Keva Walton 704-332-2227
kw Walton@charlottechamber.com

Communities in Schools: Partners for Success

The target of this initiative is to increase the number of relationships i.e. volunteers, mentors, tutors, partnerships in schools served by CIS. The purpose is to strengthen the community connection with the schools and work towards keeping kids in school.

Contact:

Bill Anderson 704-335-0601 x 9442
banderson@cischarlotte.org

International House: Live, Learn, Grow – Basic Skills for Living Here
(formerly called Newcomers Orientation)

In our increasingly diverse community, Live, Learn, Grow will serve as a replicable model and vital resource for low-income immigrants unable to access basic services and lacking functional living skills, due to cultural and language barriers. The program will promote adult literacy activities to increase self-sufficiency and English language

competence as well as stimulate civic engagement for low-income immigrants. Specifically, the program will 1) develop a resource manual for low-income immigrants to use as an informational tool regarding available community services and 2) conduct a series of informational workshops with community service providers to educate low-income immigrants about the availability of support services.

Contact:

Beverly Grant 704-333-8099

bgrant@ihclt.org

Leadership Charlotte: Parent University Partnership

Leadership Charlotte will collaborate with CMS Parent University by working with the seven CMS learning communities and the CMS staff in those learning communities in order to provide parents access to Parent University offerings within these neighborhoods. This initiative aligns with the a tenet found in Crossroads Charlotte's "Eye to Eye" scenario - that "education is the key to lifting people out of poverty toward a more positive future."

Parent University offers classes in four primary areas: *Parenting Awareness; Helping Your Child Learn in the 21st Century; Health and Wellness; Personal Growth and Development.*

This initiative will be the service project for the current Leadership Charlotte class and, if successful, would be ongoing with subsequent classes. We understand the importance of creating a sustainable plan for our project.

Contact:

Elizabeth McKee 704-688-2888 x 1

emckee@leadershipcharlotte.org

Partners in Out of School Time (P.O.S.T): Leaf & STEM

Leaf & STEM expands opportunities for youth in afterschool and summer programs to use the outdoors to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Leaf & STEM provides free training, curriculum, and resources to afterschool and summer providers to target the need for youth exposure to high-quality outdoor/STEM education beyond what can be provided during the school day. By increasing access to information and knowledge by providing youth with opportunities to explore STEM subjects in an informal learning environment, Leaf & STEM has the potential to provide young people with increased access to jobs in STEM careers.

Contact:

Claire Tate 704-375-1845

ctate@postcarolinas.org

Piedmont Natural Gas: Upgrade and update homes for energy efficiency in selected neighborhoods

This initiative will provide upgrades, updates and assistance to improve energy efficiency of homes. Also, we will provide education to the homeowners and neighbors on ways to update for efficiency and maintenance of updates, and encourage conservation and use of rebate program. Neighborhoods that are older and in established areas will be targeted. Target criteria may sway toward the elderly, lower income, and/or single-parent households. We will also look to community assistance organizations (i.e. American Red Cross, Crisis Assistance Ministry, United Way, Salvation Army, etc.) for possible nominations of families, areas, and homes that may need weatherizing

Contact:

Marty Viser 704-731-4484

Marty.viser@piedmontng.com

Queens University of Charlotte: Center for Active Citizenship

The Center for Active Citizenship will serve as an umbrella for existing and future service and service-learning initiatives that promote access, inclusion and equity in the greater Charlotte community. One key goal of the Center is to engage students in becoming effective leaders and active and responsible citizens who have the ability to translate individual success into social change that will foster a more "Eye to Eye" Charlotte.

The Center for Active Citizenship will initially include Queens' students, faculty and staff and later expand to include alumni/ae, board members, community and business partners, and Crossroads Charlotte organizations including other higher education institutions. Through the Center, participants will form active partnerships with communities throughout Charlotte to advocate for systemic change, based on community assets, needs and goals.

Examples of current initiatives that will be coordinated through The Center for Active Citizenship include:

- **Billingsville Elementary School reading program,**
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service,**
- **Room in the Inn.**

In addition, we will launch new initiatives including:

- **Politics of Food** -- collaborate with local organizations and communities to raise awareness of food-related socio-economic, cultural, ethical, and environmental questions in the Charlotte area. Specifically, identify low-income neighborhoods and communities to assess the health of the food system in various geographic areas, to determine the level of access to healthy food, and to compare the economic impact of food costs in these areas.
- **Judicial Candidate Debate** -- engage the community in a dialogue with local judicial candidates, to better understand their perspectives and positions.

Contact:

Bill Clyde 704-337-2492

clydew@queens.edu