



# Cumberland Community Action Program, Inc.



eNews

April 2011

## Free tax prep leads to half-million in refund dollars



Local residents receive free tax services from CCCS employees.

This year, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Fayetteville (CCCS) continued its free tax preparation services as an IRS selected VITA site. This year, more than 800 residents used the service provided to those residents who may be

otherwise unable to pay for professional tax filing assistance.

Appointments were taken throughout the week and on weekends from January through April 18 to provide confidential, expert assistance in filing taxes. Services will continue to be provided for many who required assistance filing extensions.

This year alone, the total amount refunded to those who participated in VITA tax prep services through CCCS was \$1,358,725. This money goes directly into the hands of residents who need it most.

"Our expert staff and volunteers are skilled at providing guidance to individuals and families filing their taxes," remarks Patricia Tyson, CCCS Director. "Without their experience and advice, many of these individuals would not receive the credits and exemptions for which they qualify."

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## SHFB assists in tornado relief



**Volunteers stack bottled water and food at Lowe's that will be used to help those affected by the storm.**

Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina (SHFB) is distributing food at the request of the American Red Cross to those who were affected by Saturday's storms.

SHFB's mobile food pantry is providing bottled water and other non-perishable food items donated by Walmart. CCAP will continue to assist residents that require assistance through the SHFB and other programs and services. The first distribution took place Monday on Reilly Road.

"Every day we work to provide food assistance for those in need in our community which uniquely positions us to use our resources and capability to assist our community in the wake of Saturday's devastating storms," said David Griffin, SHFB Director.

The food bank also sent its largest semi-trailer to the Lowe's on Skibo to collect food donated by the community. SHFB will process the donated items to ensure their safety and redistribute them during mobile pantry and other disaster relief efforts.

Individuals can donate food items at the SHFB warehouse on Deep Creek Road, or contribute online through the [virtual food drive](#).

"It is both a humbling and gratifying service we are providing to those in need, and one that we are deeply committed to until these families are able to begin rebuilding their lives."

Please call 1-800-758-6923 for additional information or visit [our website](#)

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## Head Start participates in DSS fair



Visitors at the Head Start information fair were able to find out about helping resources in the community.

Head Start recently participated in an informational fair at the Department of Social Services for families in Cumberland County to learn about programs and resources that could be available to them.

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# SAVECSBG

[www.thecaap.org](http://www.thecaap.org)

## ASPIRE Graduate Letter of Thanks

My name is Angelique Ollins. I am an ASPIRE Self-Sufficiency success story. In 2008, I moved to NC and was referred to the program. In the first few appointments, I set goals and was given information about what the program had to offer. My first goal was to find a job. I was given a job list and resources each week to assist in my search. Vouchers were provided to assist me in getting the proper clothing to wear to interviews. As well as assistance in fixing my car to get to and from appointments and work after finding a full-time job, I was assisted in getting uniforms to wear to work. I was also given resources to take computer classes for the work place. My next goal was to find an apartment, because I was living with family.

I was assisted in finding an apartment, as well as securing deposits for utilities. In only 8 months, I was ready to graduate from the program. I was so excited, and I learned a lot about setting and achieving my goals because of

ASPIRE. I have since then, obtained my job on Ft. Bragg and my apartment. I am now being assisted by Blake from Kingdom in the first-time home buyers program. Because of ASPIRE, I will be a homeowner. I want to thank the program for the time and resources that were made available to me. I will be forever grateful to Kathleen Lowe, Tinola Brown, Tiffany Anthony, and the CCAP and ASPIRE program and staff for helping me build my future.

Forever Grateful,

Ms. Angelique Fleming-Ollins

## Head Start centers earn 5-STAR ratings

The Ashton Woods, River Commons 1, River Commons 2, River Commons 4, and Lewis Heights Head Start Centers recently received 5-STAR ratings during a review of their star rated licenses. The star rating is granted by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development.

The STAR rating system throughout North Carolina minimizes confusion and maximizes understanding for parents seeking an early education center for their children. A STAR rating from 1-5 is assigned to each center after in-depth assessment and scoring in the areas of staff education, program standards, and compliance history. A STAR rating of 5 indicates the center has achieved the highest possible quality.

Achieving excellence has become the Head Start standard and requires a tremendous amount of time, energy and resources for which Head Start is grateful. Congratulations Head Start Centers and staff!



**CCAP CEO, Cynthia Wilson at the grand opening of the Southern Avenue Head Start Center.**

## Cool, Comfortable Summer in Store for Cumberland County Resident

Last summer Clari Martinez's home was so hot that she would often walk her children down the street to her mother's house just to cool off.

With no functioning air conditioner in her home and being constantly uncomfortable, Martinez decided to look for answers to cool her home down. She discovered the Weatherization Assistance Program through Cumberland County Department of Social Services and decided to check them out, and she was glad she did.

"They came in and replaced my air conditioning unit and insulated the pipes and blew insulation in the attic," she said. "They did so much and I'm thankful I was able to find out about them."

After receiving weatherization services, Martinez said her home is much cooler in the summer and also much warmer in the winter. Her utility bills have also been reduced, she said.

"Overall, I'm very happy with what they did in my home," she said. "It's a great program and I'd recommend it to anyone."

## SHFB, Food Lion, Tyson Foods partnership



**SHFB Operations Manager, Gideon Adams (far right) assists in unloading the chicken with the Tyson delivery staff.**

Recently, Tyson Foods and Food Lion donated 29,000 pounds of boneless chicken to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina as part of an effort to feed people in need and promote public awareness of hunger in America.

"There are millions of hard-working adults, children and seniors who simply cannot make ends meet and are faced with the realities of hunger and malnourishment," said John Tyson, chairman of Tyson Foods. "We are trying to make a difference in their lives by providing nutrient-rich protein and by increasing understanding of hunger in our country."

Meat and poultry are nutrient dense foods and, according to health experts, can be especially helpful to people who need more protein including growing children, pregnant women, the elderly, and anyone undergoing severe stress disease or disability. According to food banks nationwide, meat is the most requested and least available food.

"Our network of member agencies, volunteers, staff and community partners like Tyson and Food Lion are a critical part of our service delivery system," remarks David T. Griffin, SHFB Director. "Without the support of these local businesses and organizations committed to the fight against hunger, we could find it difficult to consistently meet the ever-increasing demand for nutrition assistance."

Tyson Foods has been an active participant in the fight against hunger for a decade, donating more than 78 million pounds of protein, or the equivalent of 300 million meals. The company partners with Share Our Strength, Lift Up America, Feeding America, the League of United Latin American Citizens to raise awareness and help feed the hungry across the nation.

Tyson Foods' year-long "KNOW Hunger" campaign is focused on helping more people understand and join the effort to eliminate hunger in America. It includes the recent release of a study on public perceptions of hunger, as well as a commitment to donate one million pounds of protein to food banks in 23 U.S. markets during the month of March.

Tyson and the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) recently commissioned a study on public perceptions of hunger. Among other things, it found that most surveyed believe hunger is a much smaller problem in their own community than it is in the state or the nation overall. Yet, 24 percent of those surveyed worry they will have trouble putting food on the table this year. Survey details are available by clicking on [www.tysonhungerrelief.com](http://www.tysonhungerrelief.com).

To hear the testimony of three prominent Americans who experienced hunger as children, go to [www.tysonfoods.com/Media-Room.aspx](http://www.tysonfoods.com/Media-Room.aspx) and click on "three perspectives." Information about how to get involved in the fight against hunger is available at [www.tysonhungerrelief.com](http://www.tysonhungerrelief.com).

## Continuing Quality Improvement

During April, CCAP implemented a new procedure related to the distribution of payments for mileage, travel associated with training/meetings, and other reimbursements payable to employees. CCAP employees already receive paychecks via direct deposit. Now, reimbursements from CCAP will also be directly deposited into the account employees have provided. This new approach is part of the Finance Office's effort to continually



improve processes for employees and the agency.

This new procedure will save you a trip to the bank, and for CCAP, reduces the number of paper checks we issue. In a constant effort to improve process, increase productivity and integrate technology into CCAP culture, this improvement is proof of the agency's commitment to continual process enhancement.

Before launching the new process, the CCAP Finance team cooperated with several selected employees to test the procedure for efficiency. One lucky participant, Tinola Brown, a case manager for CCAP's ASPIRE Program was happy to help.



**Tinola Brown**

"I think direct deposit for travel/reimbursements is wonderful!" remarks Brown. "I don't need to worry about remembering to come to Green St to pick up my check or be concerned whether it will be ready on time, it seems to work out a lot smoother for me."

In addition to employees, CCAP has also extended the option for direct deposit payments to vendors.

## MoneySmarts

Tune in to 640AM WFNC Talk Radio Wednesday's at 9:00 am for Money Smarts with Patricia Tyson, Director of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Fayetteville. Learn about better ways to handle your money and call in for financial advice during this half hour radio show. Special Projects Manager, Esther Acker is a regular guest offering additional advice and knowledge.

Call in with your questions today. You can also submit questions in advance by email to [MoneySmarts@ccap-inc.org](mailto:MoneySmarts@ccap-inc.org).

You can reach WFNC at (910) 864-6400.

## Get The Latest CCAP News Instantly!



CCAP is now sharing published news stories about our programs that you may be interested! You can follow the CCAP News Feed by clicking on the link below, or accessing the feed from the Press Room at [www.ccap-inc.org](http://www.ccap-inc.org).

## Verizon Employee Discount

You can save 8% off your Verizon Wireless bills as a CCAP employee! There is no need to start a new account, existing customers can take advantage of this discount too!

Contact the local representative, Mary Baskerville, at [mary.baskerville@VerizonWireless.com](mailto:mary.baskerville@VerizonWireless.com) or register your current account at [www.verizonwireless.com/getdiscount](http://www.verizonwireless.com/getdiscount). You will need to enter your CCAP email address to apply the discount to your plan.

## SHFB receives egg donation



**SHFB Director, David Griffin stands with the donation of 360 cases of eggs (30 dozen in each case). Additionally, 60 cases of Egg Beaters egg substitute were also donated.**

As the economy makes a sluggish recovery, families in Fayetteville continue to find themselves struggling with food insecurity. Neighboring egg farmer Rose Acre Farms donated 129,600 eggs to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina recently to help these families in need.

"Rose Acre Farms is a multi-generational family business, and we are proud to be partnering with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina to provide much needed protein to the most needy in our community," said Bob Niewedde of Rose Acre Farms.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina provides emergency food for an estimated 100,300 different people annually, and 34 percent of the members of households served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina are children under 18 years old.

The partnership here in North Carolina and throughout the nation will help feed 37 million of the more than 50 million men, women and children in America who are at risk of hunger, up significantly since the beginning of recession in December 2007.

"This donation is especially meaningful as we continue to heal our community from the recent, devastating tornadoes," remarks David Griffin, SHFB Director. "The delivery of these eggs, a vital protein source for those at risk of hunger, represents the ongoing commitment of individuals and businesses to the fight against hunger."

For the fourth year in a row United Egg Producers and Feeding America's network of food banks are teaming up in the fight against hunger and egg farmers nationwide will be donating nearly 12 million eggs to help make sure America's food banks are well stocked with nutrient-dense eggs.

An analysis from the USDA indicates eggs have much less cholesterol than previously thought and contain 64 percent more vitamin D. Nutritious for their size and caloric content, every egg has 13 essential nutrients including the highest quality protein – choline, folate, iron and zinc – with only 75 calories.

"Our members make it a priority to help their local communities," said Gene Gregory, president of United Egg Producers. "We hope this donation will make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most."

## CCAP personnel changes, announcements

CCAP recently announced the following promotions and personnel changes:

Evelyn Miller, Human Resource Manager, has been appointed Interim Human Resource Director. She will report to the CEO.

Kim Stafford, Finance Officer, has been appointed Chief Financial Officer. She reports to the CEO.

Andrew Brossia, Computer Systems Technician has been appointed Network Manager, reporting to Kim Stafford, CFO.

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## New HIRES

The greatest asset in the CCAP family is the staff and volunteers. Every employee comes to the table with the specific skills necessary to bring about the change in the lives of those we touch through the various programs and services.

CCAP welcomes our new employees hired March 15 through April 15, 2011:

- Rasheda Chasten, Head Start
  - Ronnie Lambert, Head Start
  - D'Leone France, Head Start
  - Ezviedy Pastrana, Head Start
  - Stephanie Morrall, Head Start
  - Dayla VanSchaick, Head Start
  - Cherie David, Head Start
  - Sheena Jordan, Head Start
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## GET INVOLVED TODAY!

### May is Community Action Month

Volunteer for any CCAP program this month to help us celebrate Community Action Month. Sign up at [www.ccap-inc.org](http://www.ccap-inc.org) or contact Nicki Maynor-Brown at (910) 485-6131.

### HUNGER DAYS is coming...

Participate in SHFB's new Hunger Days Events to raise awareness and help fight hunger in our community. For more information, visit [www.hungerdays.org](http://www.hungerdays.org).

### ASPIRE Day is May 27

The Second Annual ASPIRE Day will be held May 27 from 10-4 p.m. at Walker Spivey Recreation Center. Vendors from local organizations will be there providing information about area services. Food and entertainment will also be provided. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tiffany Anthony at 910-223-0116.

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