

Workforce Development

Asset Building

Advocacy & Education

Capacity Building

Chatham Apprentice Program

- 38 CAP graduates YTD; 23 jobs
- Completed E3 class on 3/31/16 with 4 participants obtaining their forklift safety training and 7 receiving TWIC card (19 total graduated)
- 4/25 – Class for returning citizens at the Moses Jackson Advancement Center in partnership with Coastal Transitional Center and Dismas Charities
- CAP will host an E3 class on the east side of town, July 25th to August 18th

Savannah Graduates

- SG interim report was submitted to Lumina Foundation on 3/9; report from executive leadership meeting states it was favorably received
- Leadership is looking for a sharper focus; core team recommended targeting support for college readiness and enrollment for public K-12 students
- Online workforce training directory is complete; Step Up webmaster is posting on our website. CWS will handle future maintenance & updates.

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Financial Education

- 1,110 participants 123% increase in knowledge
- Bank On Savannah banks invited to open accounts as part of “Summer 500” program for high school seniors

Benefit Enrollment

- 94 screened for benefits, 42 SNAP renewals through 5 SNAP partner sites.

Life Line Loan

- 67 loans made at 6 employers, total of \$234,550 loaned.
- City of Savannah signed MOU; city employees are applying for loans

VITA

- 9 VITA sites in Savannah this season
- Two Super Saturdays held on 2/6 & 4/9
- 54 served through Step Up

Campaign for Healthy Kids

- 1,907 children enrolled- 84% of goal
- 167 children enrolled in Jan & Feb
- CHIPRA proposal sent to expand campaign, Safety Net will lead this multi-county effort.
- Step Up received 2nd NLC grant for \$20,000 to continue the work in Chatham.

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Policy Issues

- GBPI working to educate state legislators on state EITC this session; Step Up supporting
- DHS shut down online applications to the public; community partners have access to COMPASS. Consumers have to go to local DFCS offices to apply for SNAP.
- HB 811, bill brought by Ga’s Department of Banking and Finance, was amended in the final days of the session to allow title pawn loans to be even more costly. It was opposed by many; the bill passed without the amendment.

Communications

- Significant media coverage for McKnight events, National Day of Service, and poverty simulations (WSAV, SMN, Connect Savannah, WTOC, WJCL)
- Suzanne’s letter to editor (SMN), “Pay raises good for employees, local economy”
- 2 staff from new Rochester, NY/UWay poverty initiative visited for 2 days with staff.

Poverty Simulations

- Next poverty simulations (open to the public) are May 4th 2-4:30p at South University and June 22nd 1-3:30p at Civic Center
- 43 participants, 15 volunteers at 4/11 simulation; WJCL, WSAV, WTOC all covered

Development

- \$9,000 grant from State Farm
- Bank of America approved grant request for \$6,000; United Way approved grant request for \$50,000
- Metro Rotary, Frueauff Foundation, International Paper, Babcock Foundation grants were submitted
- LOIs for Nathan Cummings, Kresge & Rose Foundations

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Center for Working Families

- Next meeting, Apr 21 featuring Coastal Workforce Services.
- Met with Georgia Department of Labor representative at Savannah Tech to discuss adaptation of Georgia BEST, a soft-skill program originally designed for HS students.

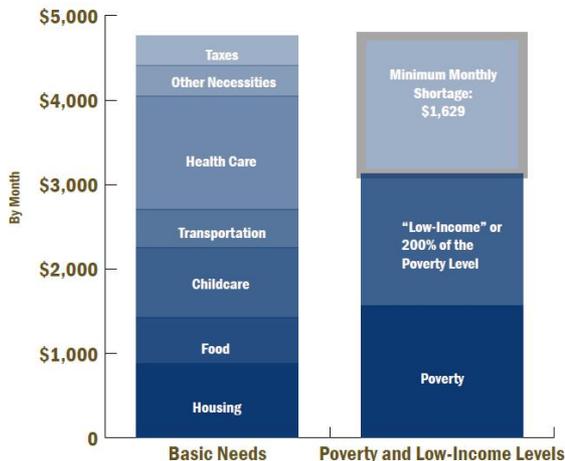
NLA/Resident Team

- Community organizer John McKnight was a “conversationalist in residence” in Savannah, 3/31-4/5; Events co-sponsored with Emergent Savannah & Chatham Savannah Citizen Advocacy. NLA alumni & Resident Team members attended various events

Community Indicators Coalition

- “Community Blueprint” presentation to Step Up board on 2/16; committee to be organized to consider how our work can complement.
- Step Up participating in “Economy” committee, which has set “top priority goal” as “Increase by XXX number of youth (ages 16-24) who have participated in a work readiness program or training...” (Need to establish baseline first)

Low-Income Georgia Families Cannot Afford Basic Needs



Source: Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator, 2013. Costs for one parent and two children in the Atlanta metro area.

Child Care Assistance That Meets the Needs of All Poor Working Families

“A dialogue about the best way to deliver child care assistance to poor families is important. And while several reforms are possible, refundable child care tax credits may be most effective at targeting poor working families with more child care resources..

In order to work, poor families must find someone to care for their child at no cost (like a relative), find resources to pay for it, or forgo work altogether. Forgoing work is often not possible nor desirable. And finding stable, full-time child care at no cost can be difficult.

U.S. Census data shows that almost half of mothers with a child under five pay for child care. Yet, many poor families don’t get help. According to federal data, only 41 percent of poor children (with family income below poverty level) received child care assistance in FY 2011.”

Read more at the Spotlight on Poverty website.

<http://spotlightonpoverty.org/spotlight-exclusives/child-care-assistance-meets-needs-poor-working-families/>