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# NC Empowered

Connect. Advocate. Innovate.

North Carolina Community Action Association / 2016 / JULY EDITION

## YOU ARE BORN CHOOOSERS!

"You are not born winners or losers; you are born choosers!".....these are the words of Shawn Harper, the keynote speaker for the SEACAA 2016 Annual Conference, *People, Performance and Partnerships*, coming up September 13-16 in Myrtle Beach, SC. His is a true rags-to-riches fairytale and living proof that anyone can win in business and in life.

Born to a single mother fighting to provide for him and his five siblings in Columbus, Ohio, Shawn grew up in poverty. Diagnosed with several learning disabilities, suffering through speech challenges and the lowest GPA in his class, Shawn was assured of becoming just another inner city statistic.

Leaning on his tenacity and his dreams, despite his dire circumstances and the insurmountable

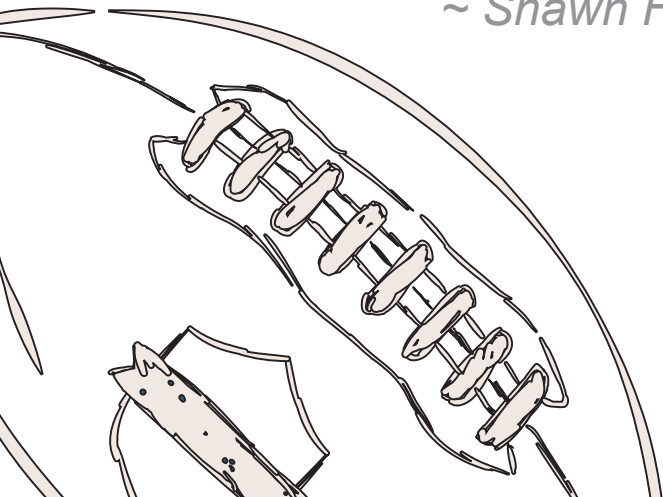
*"You are not born winners or losers; you are born choosers!"*  
~ Shawn Harper

odds working against him, Shawn achieved his goals of college graduation, induction into the College Football Hall of Fame and being drafted into a 7-year career in the NFL. He has since retired and owns a successful security guard firm. He founded Bridge Builders International, Inc, a platform for his motivational speaking and writing aimed at teaching corporate staff and business leaders the fundamentals of attitude, teamwork, achievement, and inner motivation. And if that wasn't enough, Shawn also heads "Shawn Speaks", which addresses personal development issues for teens and young adults by inspiring them with a decisive message and a concrete road map to achieving greatness.



**Shawn Harper**  
Founder, Bridge Builders  
International  
Former NFL Pro Football Player  
MTV Made Coach

From the NFL locker room to the corporate board room, Shawn Harper has proven that he knows the true meaning of hard work, dedication, and teamwork to win! Register to attend the SEACAA Conference so you don't miss his inspirational message of empowerment and living life to the fullest.



A **FREE** one-day preconference workshop, "High Involvement Teams" is also being planned at the beginning of the conference on Tuesday as an introduction to the SEACAA Certification Program, September 13. The Welcome Reception will kick-off the event later on that evening. Denise Harlow, President/CEO of the Community Action Partnership (CAP), will bring Greetings and Partner Updates. The conference will conclude with updates from David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation, about latest developments on the Hill.

**Register Now!**... for the SEACAA 2016 Annual Conference on the SEACAA website, SEACAA-US.org or <http://www.seacaa-us.org/#!2016-annual-conference/u70dc> for more details.

Register separately for the preconference workshop at <http://nccaa.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=15>

## YADKIN VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. (YVEDDI)

### Waiting List Eliminated by Walking Waggles

Donna McLamb, DVM was presented with a certificate of appreciation and recognition at the YVEDDI June Board Meeting for her lasting contributions to the success of the agency's 5K/10K fundraiser event.

Ms. McLamb served on the Walking Waggles 5K/10K race committee and was one of the biggest advocates and driving forces of this event. She took the homebound meal waiting list seriously as her own personal mission. With her efforts, the waiting list for homebound in Surry County has been eliminated. This year's race brought in almost \$16,000 to date; donations and love offerings as a result of this event are still pouring in. **You made the difference, Donna!**



(Pictured: Commissioner Eddie Harris, -Vice Chairman of the Board, Donna McLamb, Lisa Money-Senior Enrichment Director, Kathy Payne-Executive Director, and Tom Beckom-Program Specialist/Deputy Director)

## Happy Home....Happy Life

The PNC Healthy Housing & Energy Neighborhood Beautification Improvement Program has launched and is making a tremendous difference for homeowners in area communities. This two year program will provide eligible low income homeowners with external home beautification upgrades. Homeowners will also be provided financial literacy and home maintenance education. Beautification consist of exterior painting, siding, windows and door repairs, landscaping and roof repairs. Check out the amazing Before and After results for two projects.

### BEFORE..



### AFTER...



# Blue Ridge Community Action Attacks Poverty

**“Poverty is a mindset.”~ Pastor Travis McEntire**

Forest City, NC – Travis McEntire agrees that rising out of poverty is not an easy thing to do, but with some guidance, training and a roadmap tailored to specific needs it can be done. McEntire has been in the ministry for 20 years and has worked with Blue Ridge Community Action (BRCA), for the past three years.

“We work with people who are below the federal poverty level,” McEntire said. “It is not hard to find people who need help. But it can be difficult to get people who will commit to the self-sufficiency program.”

“Poverty is a mindset,” McEntire said. “People in poverty often feel inferior, may have low self-esteem and even feel that they don’t deserve better.” Sometimes, according

to McEntire, trust and honesty are issues that must be addressed.

“The most difficult part of this job,” McEntire said, “is making people



Pastor Travis McEntire

believe that they can make changes in their life and don’t have to be dependent on the Department of Social Services.”

Not everyone who enters the program successfully completes it. But there are successes, includ-

ing a young man able to be trained and now working as an electrician. And the woman who spent time in transitional housing and ultimately gained employment as a very successful salesperson, earning large commissions at a high end furniture and accessory store.

McEntire credits BRCA and the leadership of Executive Director, Mattie Paterson. He is also hopeful about participating in the new anti-poverty collaboration known as NETworX. “Helping people to help themselves in partnership with the community” is BRCA’s mission statement which McEntire embraces.

From article by Scott Carpenter, The Daily Courier

## ROMA TRAINER CANDIDATES MAKE PROGRESS!

NC’s ROMA Trainer Candidates are making steady progress toward becoming Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers! The cohort successfully completed the second Phase of the Peer-to-Peer Certification Process on June 1-3 in Raleigh, NC. ROMA Master Trainer, John W. Edwards, Jr., provided oversight during this session and made note of the apparent talent of the group. Stay tuned for upcoming “Intro to ROMA” training events as the Candidates work toward Certification. **Way to go, Candidates!**



2016 NC ROMA Trainer Candidates



# Community Action Loses a “Sonny” Leader

An influential force for a host of causes, such as integrating schools, making Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a state and national holiday, and founding one of the first Head Start education programs, William “Sonny” Walker, died on June 14 after a brief illness.

A civil rights activist born in Pine Bluffs, Arkansas, William “Sonny” Walker, helped many people in his community and championed causes he believed were worth fighting for. He fought for the integration of Little Rock Central High School in 1956 during the Brown vs. Board’s U.S. Supreme Court decision by working with fellow civil rights activist, Ozelle Sutton. Walker was able to transport the courageous teenagers to and from school.

He graduated from Merle High School and received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he majored in English and History. In 1965, Walker started the Crusade for Opportunity, one of the first Head Start programs in the U.S. and then began serving as director of the Economic Opportunity Agency of Little Rock and Pulaski County. Then, in 1969, Walker became the first African American to hold a position in a Southern governor’s cabinet as head of the Arkansas State Economic Opportunity Office.

His thirst to help his community was still not quenched and he decided to move to Atlanta, Georgia in 1972 where he began serving as a division director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal. In Atlanta he was known as the sunny spirit of Atlanta as he was well known in the community and was a true altruist.

His eldest child Cheryl Walker said, “People loved him, and he was always helping somebody. He opened doors and left them open for people to come through.”

Later on, Walker became a member of the Board of Directors for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Eventually, Walker became Coretta Scott-King’s speech writer. He

also worked with her and the King Holiday Commission to establish that national and state holiday and in 1994, served as interim director of the King Center.

Walker’s true enjoyment came from helping others look for job opportunities and searching for talented and competent professionals to strengthen businesses. This interest led him to found the Sonny Walker Group, which specializes in networking, marketing, and employee training allowing people to connect with community and organizational leaders.



*“Call it principled passion,” Curley M. Dossman, Jr., president of the Georgia-Pacific Foundation and chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., recalled at Walker’s funeral service. “Sonny actively sought ways to make things how they should be, instead of passively accepting things as they were. In as much as he was a consensus builder, if Sonny saw something that was not right in his eyes, he would lead a cause to correct it. He was a leader who was an advocate in just about everything he did.”*

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local-obituaries/william-sonny-walker-82-lifelong-advocate-for-civi/nrp5D/>

## The MOOvement has Begun

Raleigh, NC - Holy Cow Tee shirts can be purchased for \$15 + shipping from the NCCAA. Baseball caps are also available for \$10 each. Request yours today via email addressed to [info@nccaa.net](mailto:info@nccaa.net).



Passage Home staff sport their Holy Cow Tee's in this photo.

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

### Eastern Carolina is on the MOOve – Creating a Better Future

Jacksonville, NC - Challenged by a recent and unexpected move, Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency Inc., (ECHSA) in Jacksonville, NC, has recently transitioned to a new location. Determined to maintain the same level of service for their customers, despite this disruptive “stone in the road,” Eastern Carolina has not slowed down one bit. The agency continues its dedicated efforts to not only improve the lives of low-income families but also empower them to become economically and socially self-sufficient.

Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency Inc. has approached the issues that many low-income families constantly battle with through its Family Self-Sufficiency Program that covers needs related to: employment and training programs, skill building, crisis and emergency safety net services, housing, energy services, assistance in locating and applying for education/training programs, etc. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is an umbrella program that includes Family Unification, Disaster Housing Assistance, and Home Ownership Programs, as well as Mainstream Housing for Persons with Disabilities to help citizens in every aspect of their lives and reduce their dependency upon Federal and State programs. In addition, it strives to obtain an increase in the total family income.

While the adults are away working hard to provide a better future for their children, East Carolina Human Services provides a daycare for children between the ages of six weeks to twelve years old. The Day Care Center is rated “five stars” and provides the ideal environment for children to foster their knowledge and provides a learning experience to stimulate growth in all developmental areas. A wise person once said, “All kids need is a little help, a little hope, and someone who believes in them.” Eastern Carolina Human Service Agency Inc. provides all that and a loving, stimulating, and safe environment that each child is entitled to.

Thanks to programs like the Family Self-Sufficiency Program at Eastern Carolina and other community action agencies, citizens can dream big and build a reputable image in today's society. The American Dream no longer seems like a mirage, but rather an attainable goal to the low-income families in counties like Onslow, Duplin, New Hanover, and Pender.

<http://echsainc.com/>

# Coastal Community Action: Building Bridges and Making Connections

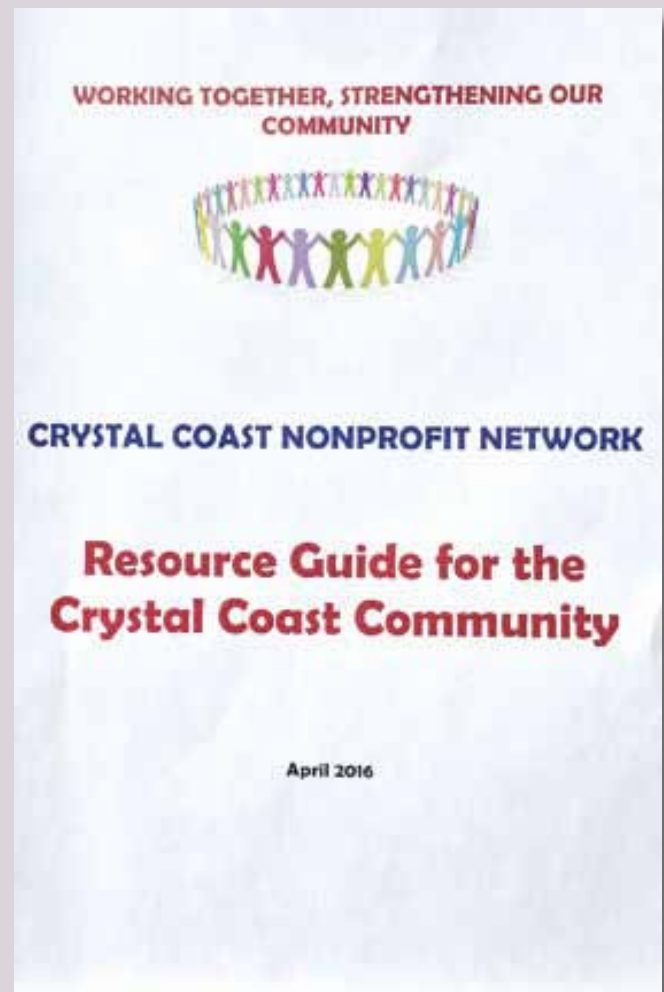
Newport, NC - Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." In order to achieve success and unity among the nonprofits in their county, the Crystal Coast Non-profit Network (CCNN) recently published a Resource Guide for the Crystal Coast Community. The Guide serves to inform residents of the programs offered in their community by 28 local nonprofits through a listing that assists county residents. Ms. Paula Dickinson, Executive Director of Coastal Community Action Inc. (CCA) in Newport, NC, a nonprofit, community action organization that provides a multitude of services to low-income residents, said that there are copies of the guide available at the CCA office, as well as digital versions.

The main goal that Crystal Coast Nonprofit Network hopes to accomplish is to be able to connect nonprofits so that they can see the programs offered by other nonprofits and help each other out. With the help of this guide, they will be able to work together to provide

residents with the best services possible. The guide contains the name and detailed descriptions of the nonprofits, as well as an index to easily navigate services. Topics range from arts, business developments, children's programs, community and family support, to food and nutrition. Ms. Dickson has proposed that nonprofits who would like to be included in the guide contact Ken Hunt via email at [ken.hunt@coastalca.org](mailto:ken.hunt@coastalca.org).

Monthly CCNN meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at various nonprofit locations to increase collaboration and provide an opportunity to tour facilities. Those interested in obtaining a copy of the directory can email [paula.dickson@coastalca.org](mailto:paula.dickson@coastalca.org) or [lura.taylor@coastalca.org](mailto:lura.taylor@coastalca.org) for the link or more information. Copies are also available at the CAA office; 252-223-1630.

[taylor@coastalca.org](mailto:taylor@coastalca.org) for the link or more information. Copies are also available at the CAA office; 252-223-1630.



## 2016 NCCAA Calendar

**AUG.** **Community Action Partnership Annual Convention**  
August 30 - September 2 • JW Marriott, Austin, TX

**SEPT.** **SEACAA Preconference Workshop - High Involvement Teams**  
September 13 • Embassy Suites, Myrtle Beach, SC • [Click here to register!](#)

**SEACAA 2016 Annual Conference**  
September 13-16 • Embassy Suites, Myrtle Beach, SC • [Click here to register!](#)

**NASCSP Annual Conference**  
September 28-30 • Omaha Hilton, Omaha, NE



# AGENCY UPDATES

**Wendy Covington, Executive Director of Alamance County Community Services Agency, Inc. (ACCSA)** in Burlington, NC, steps down for an early retirement the end of July. As the agency's chief administrator she provides leadership to ACCSA and is responsible for the overall management of the organization. Wendy has been employed with ACCSA for 28 years. After obtaining her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro in 1987, she worked as a social worker in Rockingham County before coming to ACCSA in 1988.



Wendy has been a champion for ACCSA and the constituents the agency serves over the years, having served in various roles fulfilling the mission of eradicating poverty. An active community leader, Wendy has and currently serves on a variety of non-profit boards in the Alamance County community. She and her husband of 26 years and are the proud parents of four adult children and grandparents to an adorable grandson. Wendy enjoys gardening, singing in her church choir, and writing songs. We wish her well!

**Patricia Beier, former Director of WAGES Children & Families Division, President of the NC Head Start Association,** has been named as the new Executive Director for WAGES, upon Marlee Ray's retirement last month. Shirley Ed-



wards, Wages Board Chair, announced that the appointment was a unanimous decision by the full Board. No doubt, you are familiar with Patricia's accomplishments in her previous role. Marlee Ray said, "Patricia will be an excellent Executive Director in that she is knowledgeable and passionate about the programs and people at WAGES. She brings an enthusiasm and a vision for continuous growth for the future

ensuring that WAGES' 50 year legacy and impact in the community will be increasing strong." *Congratulations, Patricia! - You rock!!*

**Eastern Carolina Human Service Agency Inc.,**

**(ECHSA)** in Jacksonville, NC has a temporary new address. It is 1201 Hargett Street, Suite B, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540. Mail should be submitted to P.O. Drawer 796, Jacksonville, N.C. 28541-0796. The agency has set up a [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/26nh4sc) page to support the costs associated with their sudden move. Follow this link if you would like to make a contribution: [gofundme.com/26nh4sc](https://www.gofundme.com/26nh4sc).

**All contributions appreciated!**

**Meghana Mettu, joins the NCCAA Team as a Summer Intern**



Meghana is currently a rising senior at Panther Creek High School pursuing a career in the medical field. She hopes to go to college to major in Psychology and become a Pediatrician. On behalf of the NC Community Development Initiative Summer Youth Leadership Program, she is interning at NC Community Action Association to gain exposure to the community economic development and the general nonprofit sector. As the Youth Leadership Program is geared towards creating a pipeline of young leaders who creatively address community economic development challenges, Meghana has worked on projects that involve several nonprofit organizations and has been

learning about the foundation, beliefs, and principles of nonprofits. Experiencing a learning and work experience, Meghana enjoys coming to work everyday and being assigned new projects that allow her to gain a better understanding of the multitude of programs that nonprofit organizations provide to local residents. She hopes to continue helping nonprofit organizations even after her summer internship as she is very passionate about serving her community. *Welcome, Meghana!*

# Agency Happenings

## EXPERIMENT IN SELF RELIANCE, INC. (ESR)

### 1. ESR and Forsyth County Public Library Co-Host Summer Movie Series

Winston-Salem, NC—Experiment in Self-Reliance, in partnership with Forsyth County Public Library, is excited to announce its Family Film Fest, Outdoor Movie Series. This free admission, community-centered series will be held July 30th, August 13th, and September 17th at 6:30 PM at Experiment in Self-Reliance, located at 3480 Dominion Street NE, Winston-Salem, NC. Before the movie screening, children will have the opportunity to enjoy educational entertainment including a puppet show, book mobile, anti-bullying seminar, and crafts. All movies are equipped with Spanish subtitles. Snacks, candy, and drinks will be available for sale. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.



For more information about the Family Film Fest at Experiment in Self-Reliance, call 336-722-9400 or visit [www.eisr.org/events](http://www.eisr.org/events).

### 2. ESR Hosts Stomp Out Poverty: Yard Sale Edition

Winston-Salem, NC - Experiment in Reliance will host its annual Stomp Out Poverty event, Yard Sale Edition on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The event will be held at 3480 Dominion Street NE, Winston-Salem, NC, and will feature a yard sale, food trucks, free health screenings, and other resources.

For table rental information, food truck space information, and more, call 336-722-9400 or visit us online at [eisr.org/events](http://eisr.org/events).

## AT&T PARTNERS WITH NCCAA

AT&T has announced the launch of the AT&T Access program that provides low-cost internet service to eligible low-income customers. Two NC Community Action Agencies, Experiment in Self-Reliance, Inc. and Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. have agreed to host a launch event to educate the community about the AT&T Access Program which provides \$5 and \$10 broadband services to eligible low-income customers. All NC Community Action Agencies can participate in this program.

To learn more about the AT&T Access Program, including service areas, eligibility requirements, and how to enroll visit [www.att.com/access](http://www.att.com/access).

## VIRTUAL CAP: GO-TO RESOURCE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

**Virtual CAP** is a clearinghouse of information and resources to support the work of CAAs across the United States.



A wide range of topics are covered on Organizational Practices and Program Models plus National Tools and Resources. **VirtualCAP RoundUP** is published monthly showcasing a Focus Topic, Successful Funding Initiatives, Innovative CAA Programs and News You Can Use – more info. NCCAA provides its dues-paying agency members and their employees with a subscription to RoundUP as a benefit. Contact your Executive Director to request the special pass code assigned specifically to your agency or email your request to [info@nccaa.net](mailto:info@nccaa.net). Let's not waste any time fully utilizing this incredible "Go-To Resource at Your Fingertips." **Register Now!** For VirtualCAP RoundUP webinar on August, 2016 at 10:00 AM EDT.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2930649663687207682>  
<http://www.virtualcap.org/about-vcap/>