

Local Community Action

Group Is Incorporated

Western Carolina

Community Action

Carolina Community Action, Inc., of Hendersonville by N. C. Secretary of State Thad Eure.

The corporation was recently for trying on the der the Act of 19 Henderson Action been in opera year.

Officers of the corporation will be elected when the 21 member board meets, p week

40 Years

of Community

Service

Times News - 5/4/66

Four Decades, Thousands Served

A History of Western Carolina Community Action

Community Action, Inc. took its first steps in January, 1965 with the passing of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson which was intended as an anti-poverty program.

IN THE BEGINNING

In the early sixties, Henderson County was perceived to be a prosperous county because of the amount of wealth in the area. However, the income level of the impoverished families was one of the lowest in the state. This made the average income statistics a far cry from reality and presented a real obstacle when asking for local support. There was a certain amount of refusal to admit that poverty existed and a fear of the stigma of poverty on the local economy.

In 1965, the county commissioners appointed a committee to study the living conditions in the area and report how poverty should be addressed. This was the beginning of Community Action in Henderson County. The Community Action Study Group was formed by the Board of County Commissioners. This group was later called the Henderson County Community Action Committee. The committee conducted a study on the conditions and made a list of projects. This list was submitted to the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity:

- *Work training program for youths ages 16-21
- *Extension of the Henderson County Public Library services for adult education.
- *Strengthen school library services
- *Remedial reading program at the public schools
- *Day care centers

In February, 1966 the Henderson County Community Action Committee was reorganized upon the recommendation of the Board of County Commissioners. They reorganized into a non-profit organization headed by a 21 member governing board. The 21 member tri-partite Board of Directors exists today.

INCORPORATED:

In March, 1966 Western Carolina Community Action was incorporated by the North Carolina Secretary of State. It replaced the Henderson County Community Action Committee which had been in operation for over a year.

ADDING TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

In August, 1966 Transylvania and Henderson County merged into a single Community Action Program.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

There have been five executive directors since January, 1965. The executive director that has served the longest was John Leatherwood, Jr. He was executive director from 1969 to 1998. The present executive director is David White.



Picture: David White (Director 1998-Present) & John Leatherwood (Exec. Dir. 1969-1998)

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

In February, 1969 the transportation department was formed at WCCA. It consisted of:

A "work mobile" which took people to the Employment Security Commission office so they could apply for jobs. Transportation to and from work or to the county Welfare Department and physician offices.



A "job mobile" whose primary purpose was to extend the services of the Employment Securities Commission, Welfare Department, and WCCA to the rural communities of Henderson county and to help rural people find a job.

In 1979, transportation was provided for elderly people to and from meal sites operated by the Council on Aging and students enrolled in special education classes are transported to and from school in a van outfitted with a hydraulic lift.

In November, 1986 WCCA was awarded a lease agreement between Henderson County and WCCA granted to Henderson County by the NC Department of Transportation to buy or refurbish 7 or 8 vans used to transport elderly and handicapped citizens in the county. These services continue to operate, traveling 260,000 miles and serving over 400 clients per year.

Above: John Leatherwood & Mel Everingham

“WCCA bought an old school bus and put 3 offices inside it, traveling to people who couldn’t come to the agencies for help.” John Leatherwood

In 1996, the vans would transport anyone who lived 1/2 mile of the regular van routes of Apple Country Transportation and not just the elderly and handicapped. If you lived within 1 mile of downtown, you paid \$1.00 one way, within 2 miles of downtown, \$2.00 one way and within 3 miles of downtown, \$3.00 one way. Today’s ticket is 75¢.

Apple Country Transportation is now a lead agency for public transportation in North Carolina. Its public transit fleet of four 18 passenger buses provides over 75,000 passenger trips each year, covering more than 171,000 miles per year.



L-R: First Transportation Bus was a used Air Force Bus nicknamed “The Blue Goose”, Driver Bill Gibbs assists handicapped client into wheelchair accessible van, Riders on one of the Public Transportation Buses.

HOUSING

The Housing Act of 1968 projected a need in the United States for 2.6 million housing units to be built in the period 1968-1978.

In North Carolina, the North Carolina legislature set up the North Carolina Housing Corporation in Raleigh. The Executive Director Joe E. Eagles stated that the counties of Henderson, Polk, Transylvania and Rutherford had not kept pace in providing housing in relation to the area's economic growth.

In December, 1969 the newly-formed Low Income Housing Development Corporation of North Carolina chose a five-county target area in Western North Carolina for providing help for low income families to build homes in rural developments. The corporation used funds of the Office of Economic Opportunity to start the program at WCCA.

The houses built were for people in the \$3,500 to \$6,000 income bracket. The owners were required to pay 20 per cent of their income in house payments.

In 1993 Section 8 Housing was in effect. Families who meet income guidelines (very low-income) move into housing of their choice and must enter into a lease agreement with the landlord. The Section 8 Housing Program, now known as Housing Choice Program, uses federal funds to pay part of the family's rent and utility expenses. The family pays 30 percent of its income. Homeless families are given priority. WCCA has preferences for people who have been displaced from a home, been living in substandard conditions or been paying more than 50 percent of income for rent and utilities.

WCCA added the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program in 1992 and Individual Development Accounts program in 2000. These programs were developed to promote self-sufficiency and bring families out of poverty. With case management, clients move from dependency to independence of governmental assistance, while escrowing money, which can ultimately be used as a down payment for homeownership, small businesses, or higher education.

WCCA began the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program in 2003. This program allows eligible families to use their Housing Choice Vouchers to assist with mortgage payments for the purchase of a home.



In November 2006, WCCA will host the ribbon cutting for the new English Hills Apartments in Brevard. WCCA partnered with Affordable Housing Group of Charlotte. to develop 40 one, two & three bedroom units of family housing . Six of these units are fully handicap accessible units.

#####

WEATHERIZATION

It was first called the Winterization Program in 1979 and funded by the Department of Energy. This program was designed to help low-income families, elderly and disabled people keep fuel costs within the family budget by preventing energy waste. Some of the methods used to weatherize a home may include the following: glass replacement, caulking, weather stripping, attic and floor insulation, window repair or replacement, door repair or replacement, water heater blankets, and water pipe and heat duct insulation. This service is available to low income homeowners at no cost and qualifying affordable rental landlords for a minimal fee.



2006
Weatherization
Projects



HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START & MORE AT FOUR

Head Start was started in April, 1965 and consisted of an 8 week summer preschool program. It was funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity under the direction of the Office of Child Development in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Thirty eight students were enrolled in two classes at Bruce Drysdale School and sixteen at Tuxedo School. While most of the children were taught to count to 10, their days were filled with activities such as group games, puzzles, coloring or painting, lessons in personal hygiene and proper etiquette and a few field trips. In 1966, 120 children were enrolled in six classes for an eight week period, ranging from the ages of 3 to 6 years old. Through the following years, more families expressed an interest in the program. In 1970, a full year Head Start grant was awarded to WCCA.



SHOWN ABOVE IS A PROJECT OF THE DAY CARE Center at Star of Bethel Baptist Church in Hendersonville, at the Eula B. Owens Center, a group of youngsters in the O.E.O. sponsored Day Care program for the county. This class was shown through Hendersonville Post Office by postmaster Bob Quinn to learn how Uncle Sam's mails are handled. Shown above are instructors Helen Campbell and Peggy Underwood in the O.E.O. program.

WCCA's Head Start/Early Head Start Program now consists of eight centers in Henderson County and two in Transylvania County. In September, 2003, the More-At-Four program was added. More-at-Four Program Center services are extended for 92 four year old children in Henderson County by the State Pre-School Program. These services operate six hours per day for the school year. The Home-Based program serves 80 children who are visited on a weekly basis from September through May by a "traveling" teacher who works with the Head Start child and the parent, as well as other family members.



JOB TRAINING

The job training program at WCCA was originally called Manpower. It taught and worked closely with industry and business in job placement and follow up for unemployed and underemployed in Henderson and Transylvania counties in 1965.

The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) of 1973 was passed by Congress. It was designed to help economically disadvantaged youth to be given summer employment. The target group was low-income youth aged 14-21.

CETA was replaced in 1983 by a new federal plan that focuses on job training and private industry call Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The JTPA matched workers to employers. It targeted the economically disadvantaged. The Land-of-Sky Regional Council administers the program.

Job Opportunities Are Being Offered Through The WCCA
8/24/67

Development of information for placement of persons needing work has been going on for several months in Transylvania county.

This work was begun in April and has received new impetus by the designation of a specialist to do that work for both Transylvania and Henderson counties, under the WCCA program.

Each business establishment, small and large, in Transylvania county is being visited to determine how many and what kind of personnel they use and referrals of job applicants will be made on the basis of these findings.

Some of the smaller companies offer excellent work opportunities, their advantage being that these jobs have no shift assignment involved, are not seasonal and provide opportunity for their work to come to the attention of the business owner.

All of the larger companies in Transylvania county have their own well-developed skilled personnel departments and are filling a genuine need in the community in the work opportunities that they provide.

One of the much-needed types of employees that small (contracting and service) companies stress constantly is that an applicant be able to read blueprints and work from them.

Instruction in this phase of work can be obtained in evening courses given at Brevard senior high school each year, as demand for it is expressed.

The operators of these companies stress, also, that if an employee will stick to a job, which may be small at first, he can learn on the job and be upgraded into a better earning bracket as soon as he is qualified to do the work required.

The City Commissioners voted to fund \$5,000 in the next two years to continue improvements at the Tom's Park Shuffleboard Courts. The \$5,000 over the two-year period is to be added to \$5,000 the Shuffleboard Club is putting into the courts on its own. The courts are leased for \$1 a year by the club.

CETA Programs Funded
n/16

Western Carolina Community Action and Blue Ridge Technical College have been awarded approximately \$375,000 to operate employment and training programs under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) for residents of Henderson County (and one program for Transylvania residents).

The programs are operated under a contract with the Division of Community Development, N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The WCCA programs include youth and adult work experience, a Youth Community Conservation Improvement Project (YCCIP), and

(Continued on Page 18)

CETA

Specialized Opportunities Service (SOS).

Blue Ridge Tech was awarded \$64,890 to operate an orientation and motivation training program in this county.

Training will be provided for 68 disadvantaged adults who are underemployed, unemployed, or unskilled. The participants will be tested, oriented, counseled and trained in job seeking and retention skills, according to Delilah Donaldson of the Division of Community Employment.

Through development of basic academic and community skills, the training is designed to orient the students to the work world, she said.

In addition there are two public service employment programs which will provide public service job experience to more than 50 participants. The training is designed to enable them to be placed in permanent jobs for the county as vacancies occur.

The Youth Community Conservation Improvement Project has enabled WCCA to provide jobs in its weatherization program for six young people. They will learn how to insulate homes, replace windows, repair roofs and other basic carpentry skills.

Specialized Opportunities Services, a component of the Youth Employment Training Program, offers specialized counseling, career and occupational information to out-of-school youth.

JTPA consisted of:
On-the-job training program provides employers with a 50 percent reimbursement of the worker's wages while they are being trained.
A program for youths between ages of 14-18.
A program for 55 years old and older who are trying to gain employment.

The JTPA program was especially useful for small businesses where training time for employees can really strap a business financially. This program was closed January 1, 2000.

“By providing the training and education to someone who has motivation and right attitude, you can create a perfect overlay that fits the job to the person.”

John Leatherwood

GENERAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

The primary function of this basic program supports individuals and families on their path from crisis to stability by identifying barriers to meeting basic needs. Services include a wide range from supplying fans and garden vouchers to helping clients find employment, maintain a budget, receive nutritional supplement, work on credit repair, become first time homebuyers or business owners, and enter matching funds savings programs. Free financial workshops are open to the public. The Transylvania County Community Services program also operates two meal sites and home delivered meals. Proceeds from WCCA's Tiger Town Thrift Shop in Rosman are used to support the meals program. Referrals to other sources also assist in achieving participant-defined goals, questions or issues. This department has seen numerous programs come and go:

- Food and medical services 1970-1972
- Food Pantry 1982
- Home Delivered Meals 1986-1996
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance 1977 to present
- Fuel Assistance 1977 to 2003
- Child care assistance 1981 to present
- Gardens program 1977 to present
- Operation fan/heat relief
- Employment Plus,
- Discretionary Fund
- Plastic for windows
- FEMA
- Nutritional supplement program
- FLEX
- Applications for Section 8

“A couple lived on top of Jeeter Mtn, someone called in about them. I could only get there partially with my car. I had to walk the rest of the way. They lived in a log cabin with feed bags stuffed in cracks. There was one light in the kitchen and it ran off a drop cord from the neighbors house. They cooked on a wood stove. I worked with Duke Power and got electricity installed in the house. They needed a refrigerator. We got one donated to the agency and delivered it in the weatherization truck (an old army 4 wheel drive). They were so happy to get it but didn't realize that refrigerators go inside. This was in the mid 70ths.”

Janice Shelton, retired WCCA CETA worker & MANNA volunteer



Left: Board members visit Crazy Donkey Restaurant. Owners participated in WCCA's Individual Development & Accountability Program and achieved their dream of owning their own business.

ADDRESSES OF WCCA IN HENDERSON COUNTY



In July, 1979 the agency moved to 526 7th Avenue East. Prior to that WCCA was located in 4 separate buildings. In October, 2003, 3 acres of property in the King Creek Project on Spartanburg Highway was purchased to build a new program services building. The Transportation and Weatherization Programs remain at the 7th Avenue location. In November 2005, Administrative, Housing, Head Start, and Community Services staff moved to the new location of 220 King Creek Boulevard.

Above: 7th Ave. Location before renovations in 1978.
Right: 7th Ave. Location still houses Apple Country Transportation and the Weatherization Program.
Below: New Program Services Building At The Village At King Creek, completed in 2005.



The “War On Poverty” still exists and WCCA staff and volunteers are proud to be its soldiers. WCCA programs will continue to grow and change according to the need of the communities it serves....*Helping People, Changing Lives.*




For more information about Western Carolina Community Action client and volunteer opportunities, go to www.wcca.net or call (828)693-1711 ext. 111.

**Thank You For Sponsoring our 40th Anniversary Event
September 29, 2006**

Autoworx
*Quality Auto Care Where Customer Service Is
Our Business.*
East 5th Ave. & Pine St.
Hendersonville, NC
Phone (828)697-7707

Mark Sterling
John McMurray



Congratulations WCCA on 40 years of service!

**Ballantyne
Insurance Group**

William J. Bradley Jr., CIC
800-687-9902
wbradley@ballantyneins.com
www.ballantyneins.com

Specializing in Workers Compensation and Property & Casualty
Insurance for NC businesses



CAROLINA FIRST
We take your banking personally.
535 Greenville Highway
South Main Branch
Hendersonville, NC 28792

201 Wren Drive
Four Seasons Branch
Hendersonville, NC 28792

We believe in being a vital part of the communities we serve.
www.carolinafirst.com



**City
Tire Service**
A HOMETOWN BUSINESS SINCE 1952

BEST TIRE VALUES & SUPERIOR SERVICE
(828)692-8248

*We carry all the latest technology products from the tire
manufacturers you know.*
Carlton Calton, Owner



**EARLE
INSURANCE**
HOME • AUTO • LIFE • HEALTH
(828) 698-9454
1913 Asheville Highway
www.earleinsurance.com

Henderson Oil Company, Inc.

Automatic Keep Fill
Budget Accounts
Cash Discounts
Monitor Heaters
Dealer Accounts

693-3487 Hvl
884-4441 Brevard

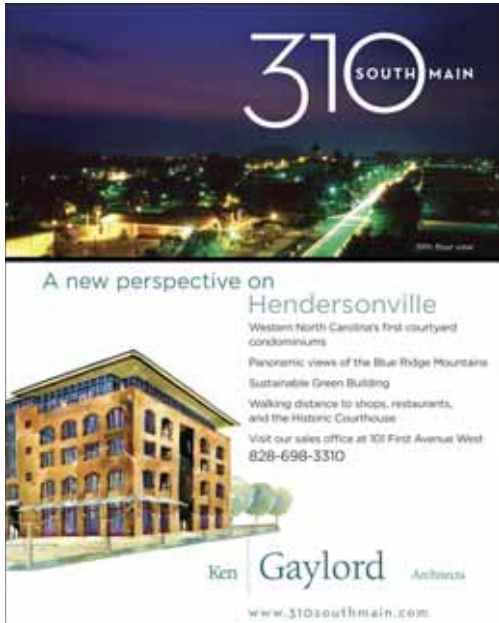


Henderson Oil Company
Est. 1929

FUEL OIL • KEROSENE • GASOLINE
DIESEL • LUBRICANTS
745 Ash St., Hendersonville, NC 28792

*'Things don't just happen. Good people
make them happen.'*

**Thank You For Sponsoring our 40th Anniversary Event
September 29, 2006**



310 SOUTH MAIN

A new perspective on
Hendersonville
Western North Carolina's first courtyard
condominiums
Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains
Sustainable Green Building
Walking distance to shops, restaurants,
and the Historic Courthouse
Visit our sales office at 101 First Avenue West
828-698-3310

Ken Gaylord Architects
www.310southmain.com



SUNTRUST
MORTGAGE

Serving WNC with outstanding service, products and rates!

Paul Adams, Loan Officer 828/694-2128
Paula Boop, Loan Officer 828/694-2119
Carol Duermit, Loan Officer 828/694-2129

Beacon Commons Building
475 S. Church Street #500
Hendersonville, NC 28792



WACHOVIA

"Our dedication to customer service shows
in our approach, which is to respect, value
and listen to our customers."

**Debbie Wilkinson, Hendersonville/Brevard
Market President**

**Hendersonville
Times-News**



**Great Music
For
The Good Life**

WTZQ
AM 1600
timeless classics

Garden Program A Success

By KATHY LIVESAY

Joe Tallie of Henderson County was stretched out on a blanket in the cool of a shade tree Thursday. The morning chill was gone and several hours would pass before the heat of the day began to lift. Then, most likely, he'd return to his garden — and what a garden it is.

Both Tallie and his wife, Edna, are disabled. They don't have much money.

But with a garden program administered through Western Carolina Community Action — and a lot of hard work — the couple have corn, okra, peas, pole beans, tomatoes, squash, cabbage, collards, lettuce, carrots, potatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon and other vegetables for the picking right outside their front door.

Tallie said his doctor told him because of his bad back and high blood pressure he shouldn't be working in the large garden. But, he said, by evening in the cool of the day, and late evening, it isn't so bad.

In the garden which surrounds their small wooden house, row upon row of vegetables are laid out, and the presence of anything resembling a weed can't be found. Tallie does it all by hand.

"You enjoy helping people who try to help themselves," said Janice Shelton, who administers the WCCA program.

Tallie said of the program, "It's a good thing if people will use it. I like working in the garden. Every time I'm able, I'm out there working."

The Tallies are in their second year as a part of the program. Last year they harvested and preserved \$30 worth of food, Miss Shelton said.

They are among 50 participants in Henderson County in the gardening program, which is funded by TVA, through Western Economic Development Organization in Asheville, to WCCA. There are also 50 participants in Transylvania County.

Funds from TVA supply participants with plants and seeds. This year WCCA also supplied canning jars, lids, and fertilizers for the garden. In addition, for those not that familiar with gardening, a toll-free telephone number, extension Tele-Tip, can be called for information. The number, 1-800-663-7361, is supplied by the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Last year participants in the program, with about \$1,000 worth of seeds, produced about \$15,000 worth of food, according to Miss Shelton. The year before was even better, she said, with the same amount of seeds producing \$24,000 worth of food.

The goal of the program is to save low-income families money on their food bills, and improve the nutritional value of their meals.

Once qualified by income eligibility standards participants in the program are visited by "outreach personnel," according to Miss Shelton. Garden sites, not necessarily at their homes, are visited, and follow-up visits are made during the summer and at harvest time. Participants must re-qualify each year, and only a certain number can participate, she said.

One enterprising participant last year grew enough extra vegetables to sell at the tailgate market, and earn enough money to buy a freezer. So this year she will be freezing garden products.



JOE TALLIE, a participant in WCCA's garden program, carefully hoes a row of corn, part of a huge garden that surrounds his home. Times-News photo by Steve Clark.



A CITATION FOR SERVICE is presented by Mrs. Ruth Robertson (right) to Mrs. Cora Young for services to the Community Action program in the Brooklyn section. In the past four months, Mrs. Young has given 166 hours of voluntary work to the program.—Times-News photo.

A Few Pages From The Past



AND FINGERS, Inc. is composed of officers and board of participants of the program. Shown here are, left to right: Mrs. Ruby Heath, secretary of the

board; Mrs. Lillia Ann Ricketts, chairman of the board; and Mrs. Jeanette Ledbetter, president of the Association.

I would like additional information on:
____ Section 8 Rental Assistance
____ Public Transportation
____ Senior Services
____ Head Start & Early Head Start
____ Self Sufficiency
____ Weatherization

I would like to:
____ be added to the mailing list
____ be taken off the mailing list
____ be a volunteer
____ make a donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

You are welcome to call Gwen Hill at 693-1711 ext. 111 with requests for information or you may mail any request forms to: Public Outreach, WCCA, P O Box 685, Hendersonville, NC 28793. We welcome your input regarding our newsletter.

Thank You For Joining In Our 40th Anniversary Celebration!



Our mission is to assist low-income and disadvantaged people in the communities we serve to reach their full potential through quality services and advocacy that demonstrate compassion, respect, and the belief that all people are worthy.

We believe that all people deserve access to opportunities that can increase their ability to contribute to the community.

We also value a community whose members embrace diversity, work collaboratively to identify challenges and implement innovative solutions, and generate and efficiently use the resources needed to ensure that all people have equal access to a high quality life.

Our Vision is to become a leader in building sustainable alliances that develop and support activities and services designed to increase community capacity and human capacity to solve the problems that make and keep people poor.

Western Carolina Community Action, Inc. is recognized as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina and by the Internal Revenue Service. To learn more about Western Carolina Community Action, Inc. (WCCA), visit our website www.wcca.net