

## What is WCCA?

Our goal is to assist people of low incomes and disadvantaged residents of Henderson and Transylvania Counties by providing the necessary tools to achieve self empowerment.

### Our Services Include:

- Head Start & Early Head Start Services for children from 0-5 years of age.
- Transportation of the elderly and disabled to medical appointments and grocery shopping
- Public Transportation throughout Hendersonville and to the Asheville Airport
- Housing Choice Vouchers assisting families in poverty in rental assistance.
- Self-sufficiency Services supporting families and individuals to meet their goals by helping them better manage their opportunities and identifying resources.



## Friends of WCCA Corner

The Friends of WCCA have been very busy this past year. We hit the ground running last June, forming the first foundation board for WCCA. We held our first fundraiser in October, entered the Park Ridge Christmas Tree Contest in December, held an Open House at the new WCCA Program Center in the Village At King Creek in February, and on May 6th, with the help of our volunteers and sponsors, we hosted the Stomp Out Poverty Dance at Blue Star Camp's HeRo Pavilion. We thank all our participants, volunteers and sponsors for making this a very successful event. The money raised will be used to support the many programs of WCCA.

Whew!!! Now we are looking at our second year and planning exciting events and opportunities to spread the word about the great job done by the staff and volunteers of Western Carolina Community Action.



As the newly elected Chairperson, my vision for FOWCCA is to increase the foundation board membership and to help increase public awareness and support for this wonderful human services organization throughout our community. For over 40 years, WCCA's caring staff has continued to provide quality services designed to create self-sufficiency for those less fortunate. To find out how you can get involved in making a difference and joining this winning team, call Gwen Hill, WCCA Public Outreach Coordinator, at (828)693-1711 ext. 111.

*Bob Walker, Chairperson of Friends of WCCA*

*"I loved the dance and auction. It was great fun, great food, great evening and I'm glad I didn't miss it. And when is the next one?"*

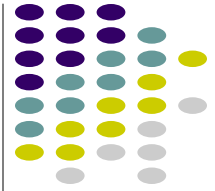
*Muriel Carle, Guest & Supporter*

*"I was impressed by the attention to detail and efforts put into this event. You could see that a lot of hard work was put into it."*

*Mary Jo Padgett, WCCA Board of Directors*

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### WCCA Helps First-time Homebuyer Realize Her Goals

When Alicia Federick graduated from North Carolina A & T, she set two goals for herself to accomplish before she reached age 25. The first was to purchase a car and the second was to purchase a home. She has achieved both at the tender age of 24!

Ms. Federick grew up in the Green Meadows Community. She is employed by the Beacon Child Development Center and desired to find a home to purchase that was close to work. When the house located on Martin Circle owned by WCCA became vacant, she observed the work being done to rehabilitate it. Alicia then contacted WCCA and asked if the home would be for sale or rent. When she found out that the home was to be sold to a first-time homebuyer, and that she qualified, she put the wheels in motion by making an offer to purchase the house. The Board of Directors accepted her offer, and the sale was completed on May 5th.

Alicia was asked if she has any message for hopeful homebuyers. Her response was :  
*"If you have a goal to buy a home, keep God first in every decision you make; second, start saving; and third, keep your credit in line and in good condition."*

This is great advice for anyone. With such wisdom and drive at age 24, it is highly likely that Alicia will achieve whatever goals she sets for herself.

*Sheryl Fortune, Housing Director*

### Savings Plus/IDA Program Helps Family's Dream Come True



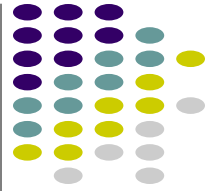
The Moraza family has seen one of their dreams come true—a restaurant of their own! The path to success started when Francisco's Family Partners heard about WCCA's new SavingsPlus/IDA asset-building program. Francisco was serious about his dreams for his family and was one of the first applicants to the program in 2001. As part of his personal goal plan, he finished the Mountain Micro-Enterprise business planning course with a business plan which led him to loan resources and consultant, Rosario Villarreal. Now this family of four is on their way to their next dream—paying the bills and giving back to their community. The Crazy Donkey Grill, Rt 64 and Chestnut Street in Brevard, is open 6 days a week from 11 AM to 9 PM.

*Pat Malinak, Henderson Co. Community Services, Director*

*"This is a wonderful program that isn't difficult but really works. You just have to stick with it and the results are great. I was able to pay off all my debt and also have money left to invest. This program has allowed me to have the knowledge and the funds to be buying my first home."*

*P. Smith, Graduate FSS Program*

To find out more about how the Self-Sufficiency Program can help change your life, call or visit us at one of our two locations: WCCA Program Svcs., 220 King Creek Blvd, Hendersonville (828)693-1711 or Community Services Bldg., 203 East Morgan St, Brevard (828) 884-3220



**FSS Participant Collects \$4,100 Escrow Check**



FSS participant Vanessa Flack (shown in picture with WCCA's Pat Malinak) received a \$4,100 escrow check earned for completing her personal goal plan. Vanessa transferred her goal plan from the FSS program at Isothermal Planning and Development Commission. With the WCCA FSS Coordinator, she expanded her goal plan to include homeownership.

As her life in Henderson County evolved, Vanessa began to make personal plans to move to Gastonia, near Charlotte, where she could find a better paying job and purchase a home. She worked with the FSS Coordinator to complete her IPDC goals and collected her escrow money. To achieve her WCCA goals, she completed our Smart Money workshops and the Homebuyer Education course at Housing Assistance Corporation. Vanessa plans to use her money to move and put the rest to a down payment on a home of her own.

*Pat Malinak, Henderson County Community Services Director*

**English Hills Apartments Soon Completed**

In 1997, WCCA began its campaign to

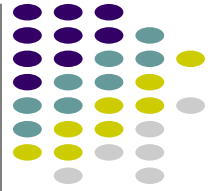


accommodate Transylvania County residents who are in need of affordable housing with the development of Excelsior Apartments. English Hills is a continuation of that mission. This complex will include one and two story apartments for families in duplex, triplex and quadplex configurations. Ground floor dwelling units and community facilities will be handicapped accessible. Amenities include an on-site management office and a community room. The units are scheduled for completion at the end of July. We expect full occupancy by the end of November. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program of WCCA will be available to the English Hills residents.

The apartments are located beside WCCA's Hillview Children's Services Building and only a few blocks from downtown Hendersonville. Inquiries may be directed to Wayne at Excelsior Apartments, 884-8881.

*Sheryl Fortune, Housing Director*

*Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is a rent subsidy program that enables people of very low income to obtain standard housing. WCCA currently assists approximately 400 families in Henderson and 200 families in Transylvania Counties.*



**Quilt Raffle Benefits WCCA's Silvermont and Quebec Nutrition Sites**



Arthur McCall of Pisgah Forest was the proud winner of a beautiful quilt raffled off from the Silvermont and Quebec Nutrition Sites operated by WCCA. The quilt was donated by Lottie Meibaum, long-time regular and former Site Manager at the Quebec Center. Lottie has won several medals at the Silver Arts competition in Brevard and the Mountain State Fair for her quilting. She recently moved to Texas to be near her family, but wanted to do something special for the centers as a going away present. Stephanie O'Shields, CSBG Case Manager, sold Mr. McCall the winning ticket (see

picture). The money raised will benefit both sites by providing flexible money for special activities.

*Barbara Greene, Transylvania Co. Community Services Director*

**WCCA Welcomes New Members to Board of Directors**

WCCA is very fortunate to have a dedicated tripartite Board of Directors representing local government, private organizations, and the communities we serve. We are very appreciative of our members past and present.



Front Row Left to Right: Linda Weldon, Mary Jo Padgett, Susan Grider, Stella Ferguson, Rachel Delk, Jackie Whitmire Back Row: Left to Right: Mary Baptist, Robert Danos, Jimmie Cantrell, Sara Heatherly, Fred Tinsley, Madeline Royes, Stuart English Not Shown: Bob Beabout, Mike Earle, Carson Griffin, Jim Lindsey, Rodney Locks, Molly Parkhill, and Lillie Ricketts

## STOMP OUT POVERTY DANCE & AUCTION SPONSORS

Held May 6, 2006

### EVENT SPONSORS

Blue Moon On Pinnacle Peak ♥ Blue Star Camps

Carolina First Bank

Gypsy Cab Company ♥ Times News

### AUCTION SPONSORS

Accurate Auto Glass

A Day In the Country

A Growing Concern

American Laser Centers

Arpeggio Salon

Autobell Car Wash

Baby Back Joe's Smokehouse

Blue Moon On Pinnacle Peak

Champion Hills Club

Champion Services Experts Heating & Air

Chicken Little

Clear Perspectives, Inc.

Cornerstone Fitness Solutions

Crooked Creek Golf Club

Cypress Cellar

Denise Medved, NIA Technique Trainer

Edible Arrangements

Etowah Bar-B-Que-Shak

Etowah Marketplace & Coffey Shop

Flat Rock Hair Design

Flat Rock Outfitters

Flat Rock Playhouse

Flight Wood Grill

Fountain of Youth Spa

Gypsy Cab Company

Hand In Hand Gallery

Heavenly Bodies In Home Training

J & D Produce

Kimberly Adams Glass Bead Jewelry

Norm's Minit Mart

Oliver's Southern Folk Art

Orchids Etowah Greenhouse

Peggy O'Connor Jewelry & Fiber Artist

Piggy's Ice Cream Parlor/Harry's Restaurant

Pro's Italian Dining

Quattlebaum Company, Inc.

Sara Massagee, CPS, CVA

Sherman's Sports & Army Store

Sky Valley

Southern Living At Home

Spearman Furniture

Sun Tech Installations

The Corner Market

The Goldsmith By Rudi

The Waverly Inn

The Wrinkled Egg

Timbercreek Woodworks, LLC

Toby's Mattress Outlet

Triangle Stops

Usher Carpet & Tile

Van's Chocolates

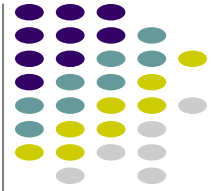
Ward's Auto Supply

Wickwire Art Gallery

And All Our Participants And Volunteers

For Making This Event Successful

THANK YOU!!!!!!



I would like additional information on:

- Section 8 Rental Assistance
- Public Transportation
- Senior Services
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Self Sufficiency
- Weatherization



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I would like to support WCCA efforts by making a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of

\_\_\_\_\_.

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated for: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me

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I would like to be added to the WCCA mailing list:

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

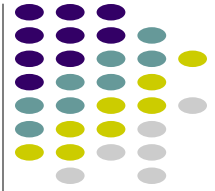
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be taken off the WCCA mailing list:

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.



**Director's Diatribe**



What is good for people trying to become self-sufficient is good for the whole community. I am paraphrasing a former CEO of General Motors, but I believe my first sentence is nonetheless true. People who are trying to reach economic self-sufficiency need clean, safe, and affordable housing. People moving towards self-sufficiency need employment with livable wages and opportunities for growth. People striving to become self-sufficient need safe, nurturing and affordable childcare. People working to become self-sufficient need reliable transportation. Most everyone else in any community will need these things at some point in their lives.

All of the services provided by WCCA not only lead to a better life for people trying to become self-sufficient, they also improve life for the whole community. Children from low-income families, who receive high quality childcare services, are much more likely to become productive, tax paying citizens than children from low-income families who don't receive these services. WCCA's Head Start, Early Head Start and More at Four classrooms provide the highest quality childcare services available in Henderson and Transylvania Counties.

In a sustainable future, energy efficient homes and transportation options will be important for all citizens. WCCA provides weatherization and public transportation services that benefit the whole community by conserving energy, and at the same time, help people living on low-incomes. The production of new energy efficient affordable housing also meets the needs of those trying to reach self-sufficiency and provides a more sustainable community for all of us.

Aging with dignity is not only important to people living on low-incomes. WCCA senior services allow people over sixty an opportunity to be independent and stay in their own homes longer. This is good for the whole community by saving the expenses associated with long-term institutional care.

Transforming communities can make life better for people working to become self-sufficient. Providing the tools that allow people to become self-sufficient can also transform communities. WCCA is proud to be in the business of doing both.

*David White, Executive Director*



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Hendersonville, NC 28793

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**Head Start/Early Head Start Provides Needed Services For Children & Families**

Head Start and Early Head Start provide eligible children and their families with a comprehensive program of education, parent involvement, social services, health and nutrition. In Henderson and Transylvania Counties, Head Start offers 211 center slots and 64 home-based slots for children ages 3-5, while Early Head Start offers 40 center slots and 20 home-based slots for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. More at Four preschool services are available to 86 four-year-olds in Henderson County and 12 in Transylvania County. Wrap-Around services that extend the center child care time for children of working parents are provided in 6 centers in the two counties. There is no charge for Head Start, Early Head Start or More at Four. Parents pay a monthly fee based on a sliding income scale for Wrap Around Services.

In the home-based program, a “traveling” teacher who works with the child and the parent, as well as other family members, makes weekly home visits. Home-Based children also visit centers for socialization experiences. Children enrolled in the home-based program are from families who live too far away from centers to make daily transportation feasible and/or prefer to keep their children at home during their early years.

*Excerpt from Economic Opportunity Report April 24, 2006:*

*Even before the outright cut in 2006 Head Start funding, Head Start programs already were losing ground in the face of modest budget increases that failed to cover health care insurance premiums, rent hikes and extremely expensive unfunded federal mandates, including new transportation rules and the controversial National Reporting System,” said the April 11 NHSA statement.*

*“Let there be no confusion about what is at stake here: local Head Start programs cannot hope to meet federal requirements—including mandatory levels of children that must be served-without the funds to do so,” said NHSA president and CEO Sarah Green . “Programs in recent years have truly been creative about doing more with less,” said Arnold Ramirez, Executive Director of the Arizona Head Start Association.*