

# CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Darlington Quarterly Newsletter



## What's New

Welcome to the last installment of our *Connections* newsletter for 2023. This has been a busy year for Community Connections Darlington as we have been hard at work within our community trying to build relationships, garner funding, and create a stronger and more formally organized entity to better serve our community.

In this last quarter, we created, established, and approved organizational by-laws. We also appointed our first Board of Directors, listed below for your review.

- Lindsey Byrd
- Ellen Berry
- Mark Face
- Sarah Garland
- Suzie Goodwin
- Eddie Johnson
- Dannyelle Mills
- Channel Muldrow
- Debra Wallace

Moving forward, the Board of Directors will be appointing officers, establishing policies and procedures, working on grants, continuing our fundraising efforts, making community presentations, and overseeing the soup kitchen and the Crazy Hope renovations.

Please continue to pray for us and our efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus and share the love of Christ within our community.

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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# Crazy Hope Community Center - Update

Things have been busy at Crazy Hope!

We have raised the roof!

Phase 1 is now complete! As seen in our updated cover photo, Crazy Hope Community Center has a new roof. Roof reconstruction and construction was extensive but only took about two weeks to complete. The team at Campbell's Roofing did an outstanding job!

Team members and community volunteers will meet after the first of the year to finish the demolition of the center's back rooms and to clean up the space by removing unsightly and unneeded nails, insulation, and other debris. The inside space will then be ready for the structural, electrical, and mechanical engineers to make their final assessments and submit their findings to the architect. The architect will then make updates to and finalize our architectural drawings. We will then be able to use these drawings when consulting contractors to complete each of the remaining phases.

Now that Phase 1 renovations have been completed, team members and volunteers are making plans and trying to secure funds to begin Phase 2 renovations. It's a daunting task, but all things are possible when working for the Lord!

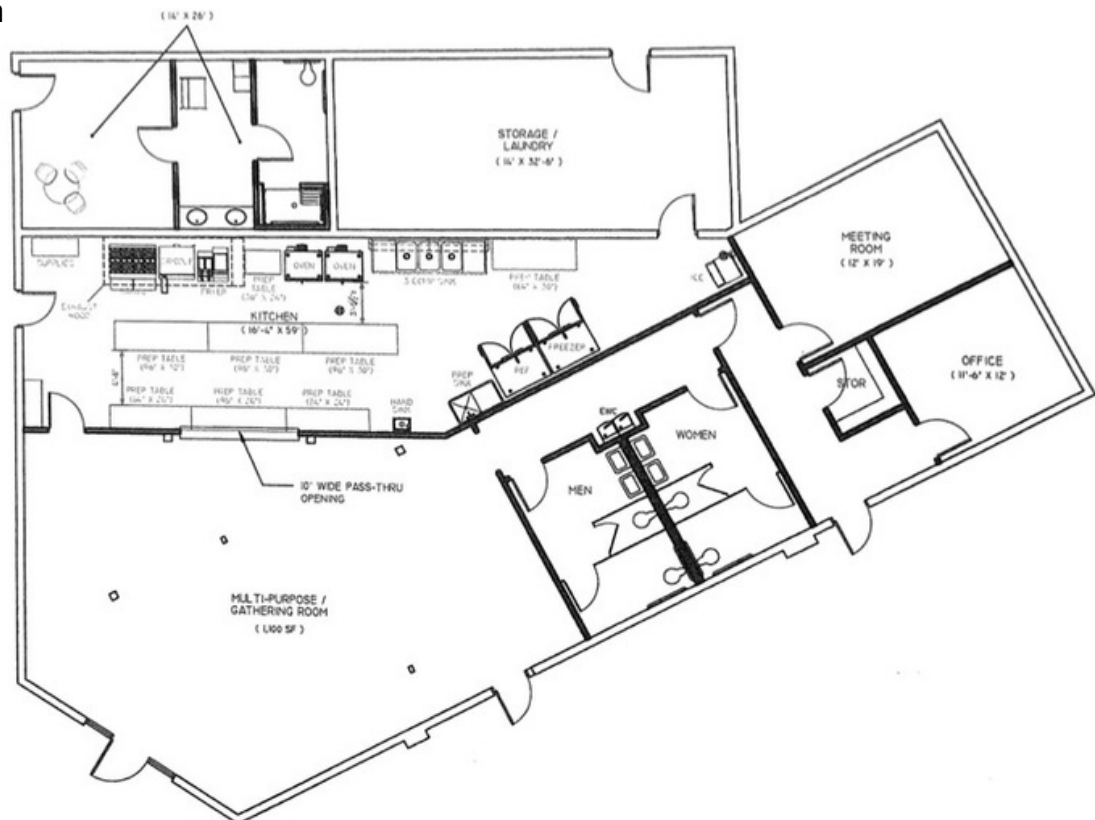
As a reminder, Crazy Hope renovations will take place in four separate phases.

Phase 1 : Remaining Roof & Structural Supports - **COMPLETED**

Phase 2 : Main Interior Space, Conference Room, Office, & Bathrooms - **IN PROGRESS**

Phase 3 : Bathhouse and Storage

Phase 4 : Kitchen



## Soup Kitchen Spotlight

The end of the year brings with it reflection and a chance to plan for the future, and we have done just that. While the Soup Kitchen in and of itself is not changing, you can expect to see a few minor changes in 2024.

- The Board of Directors will begin a weekly rotation at the Soup Kitchen so that at least one director is present each week to be visible, help as needed, and to continue building relationships.
- We will also begin collecting data each week, data we hope will be useful when applying for grants or other funding.

Pictured below are just a few of the groups who have recently served.



Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church



Risen Assembly



Darlington Presbyterian Church



Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

## BBQ Fundraiser

November 3rd brought with it what we hope to be our first annual BBQ plate fundraiser. Once again, Oliver Segars made use of his skills and provided a delicious meal of pulled pork BBQ, rice with red gravy, green beans, pickles, and bread.

And, once again, faithful friends and team members of Community Connections Darlington gave of their time and talents to make this event possible. Some volunteered to sell tickets, some delivered plates to local businesses or dished plates on the day of the event, and some worked hard in advance by preparing delicious baked goods for the bake sale where we had everything spiced pecans, sausage balls, cupcakes, breads, cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, and more - oh, my!

At the end of the event, we raised over \$4,555 plus donations. We send a HUGE THANK YOU to ALL who helped with the event and ALL who bought plates and/or gave donations!



## Out and About in the Community

Sharing the love of Jesus takes many forms. Community Connections Darlington is joining with others in the community to connect, build relationships, plant seeds of faith, and spread the love of Jesus in both word and deed.

- Weekly Saturday Soup Kitchen
- Sweet Potato Festival
- Socks for the Homeless @ the Soup Kitchen October 28th
- Created to Serve Thanksgiving Meal Delivery





## Team Member Highlight

Today's highlight features Risen Assembly Church. Risen Assembly is excited about Community Connections and the initiatives and resources brought to our local community because of it. This time last year a genuine connection happened between Community Connections board member, Mark Face, and the Senior Leader of Risen Assembly, Edwin Mills. Ever since that moment, Risen has been partnering to shine light together in Darlington. Risen Assembly by providing meals for the soup kitchen, hosting gatherings and outreach programs for youth and children in the Pine Village and Carolina Pointe communities, and participating in fundraising

efforts to launch the Crazy Hope Community Center. Risen sows monthly into the Community Connections giving account to help further the Crazy Hope Community Center efforts and encourages all ministries and individuals who can to consider sowing a seed monthly. It's easy enough to do. Visit the website to schedule a monthly withdrawal. No amount is too small, and it all counts when needed. Risen Assembly prays for the blessing of the Lord to over take every partner and soon to be partners of Community Connections Darlington. May all of God's children come together to impact the community and shine the light of the Lord in all that we put our hands to do. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Financial Report: September 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023

Previous Balance: \$96,083.14

Income: \$ 23,163.97

- Donations: \$18,608.97
- BBO Fundraiser: \$ 4,555.00

Expenses: \$ \$88,051.47

- Utilities: \$ 538.14
- Soup Kitchen Supplies: \$ 558.03
- Roof Renovations: \$82,000.00
- Fundraiser: \$ 4,455.00
- Other: \$500.00

Balance: \$ \$31,195.58



## About Us

Vision: Transforming lives with Jesus at the center. Leaving a lasting and giving legacy that positively impacts the community of Darlington and provides by leading a model of caring and service that others can follow as they do God's work.

Mission: Meeting others where they are, providing a lasting and Godly sanctuary and save haven for the community that we serve. We also aim to continually strive to minister to the spiritual and physical needs while walking with people to where Jesus wants them to be.

### Contact Us:

Please email us at [connect@communityconnectionsDarlington.org](mailto:connect@communityconnectionsDarlington.org) or by the telephone numbers below.

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