CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Darlington Quarterly Newsletter





Letter to Our Supporters

Welcome to the first installment of *Connections*, a quarterly newsletter provided by Community Connections Darlington.

Community Connects Darlington first began when various members of and organizations in Darlington connected in an effort to meet a need. That connection has grown over the years to include too many individuals and groups to name, and, through our combined christian service, we are showing the love of Jesus in very tangible ways.

Whether it is a hot meal on Saturday morning, a warming shelter in the bitter cold of December, or monthly youth gatherings, we are connecting to others and touching lives in the name of Jesus

As we go about this kingdom work, it is important that you know how valuable you are to this ministry, so we want to say thank you. We also want you to stay informed about what is going on within this ministry, how we are connecting within the community, and our plans for the future. It is our hope that through this intentional communication, our partnerships will become stronger, we will continue to grow, and that we will be united in Christ as we serve others.

God Bless.

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About the Crazy Hope Community Center

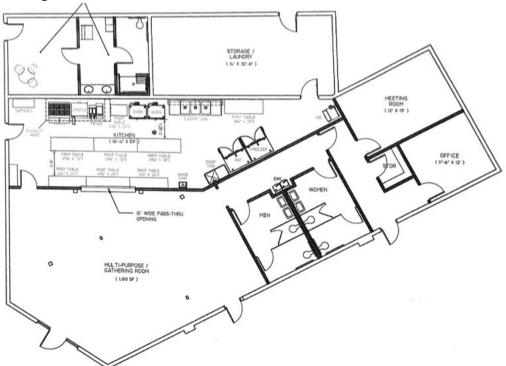
Seven years ago, Lindsey Byrd had a vision to reach out to those in the Darlington community who are less fortunate and fill what she saw as a very real and growing need in our community - hunger, and the soup kitchen was formed. Several individuals and organizations joined together to provide these meals from a city building located at 586 W. Broad Street. To date, we currently have 18 team members from local churches and community organizations rotating through the year to provide a hot meal each Saturday.



Over time, it has became apparent that the needs of those underserved in Darlington are many and that a permanent facility would better serve the community. Then in March of 2022 Charles Clark donated the building formerly known as Clark's Corner, located on the corner of Broad and Washington Streets, and thus Crazy Hope Community Center was born.

The building is in need of many repairs, so groups of volunteers have spent six different Saturdays doing demolition work in preparation for future renovations. To date, 25% of the roof has been renovated, and the building has been repainted. Future renovations will be completed in phases.

- Phase 1: Remaining Roof & Structural Supports
- Phase 2: Main Interior Space, Conference Room, Office, & Bathrooms
- Phase 3: Bathhouse and Storage
- Phase 4: Kitchen



The start of 2023 began a concentrated effort to secure funding for the completion of Phase 1. With donations and the First Annual Chicken Bog Fundraiser, Crazy Hope Community Center hopes to move forward and begin Phase 1 of renovations and begin fundraising efforts for Phase 2. Once Phase 2 is completed, the hope is that the soup kitchen can move its operations into the community center to greater meet the needs of our community.

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Soup Kitchen Spotlight

- We have six new organizations who have joined in the rotation.
- We now have 18 groups serving in the weekly rotation.
- Participating organizations will now serve three times a year or less.
- We have served approximately 2500 plates since January 1, 2023.
- Pictured below are just a few of the groups who have recently served.







St. John's Alumni Association



Rotary Club of Darlington



Darlington First Baptist Church



Chicken Bog! Chicken Bog! Chicken Bog!

Spring brought with it the first of what we hope to be many more fundraisers for the Crazy Hope Community Center. Partnering with Oliver Segars, Community Connections Darlington and friends came together to host its first chicken bog fundraiser and bake sale. Mr. Segars and his crew cooked up some tasty chicken bog, and friends donated tasty treats for the bake sale! With 1243 chicken bog plates sold, donations, and the bake sale, \$12,683 was raised!!! The success of our efforts means that we have reached our first goal and can now fund Phase 1 construction of the Crazy Hope Community Center.

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
- Darlington County Institute of Technology Graphic Design Class Logo Design Contest: February - March
- Community Youth Gathering, by Risen Assembly (3rd Saturdays)
 - o Carolina Pointe: March 18th & May 20th
 - Pine Village: February 18th & April 15th
- Fishers of Men, by First Baptist Church Darlington (2nd Saturdays)
 - Calvary Baptist Church in Darlington: March 11th
 - Pine Village: April 15th
- Spring Flower Festival at Pee Dee Farmer's Market: April 22nd
- Praise in the Park at Terrence Carraway Memorial Park: May 7th & June 4th
- Community Changers, hosted at Mechanicsville Baptist Church: June 11th 15th
- Women's Paint Night with April Hicks at Carolina Point: June 25th





Team Member Highlight

Today's highlight features Darlington First Church of God. Since the inception of the soup kitchen, First Church of God has been and continues to be instrumental in its support. At present, this church provides a base of operations for Community Connections Darlington and offers support in a variety of ways. Whether it is providing a meeting space or a space to operate a fundraiser, managing donations and correspondence through the time and talents of Debbie Anderson, or being in the original and ongoing soup kitchen rotation, Darlington First Church of God provides a vital contribution to our ministry.

Financial Report: May 1, 2022 - June 1, 2023

Income: \$111, 919.22 Expenses: \$30, 178.09 • Checks: \$139.73

Utilities: \$1176.65 + 161.92

Chicken Bog Fundraiser: \$6,215.00Soup Kitchen Supplies: \$210.16

Attorney Fees: \$34.17
Roofer: \$13, 263.00 *
T-Shirts: \$1,068.30
Painter: \$5,800.00
Brochures: \$841.61

Taxes: \$612.63Website: \$365.02Stationary: \$289.90Balance: \$81, 741.13

About Us

<u>Vision:</u> 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.

<u>Mission:</u> 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.

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^{*} This covered immediately needed roof repairs over the bath house and storage areas.