CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Darlington Quarterly Newsletter





YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR



NOTE: This is our reschedule event, and we hope you can attend!

JUNE 2025 5:30 PM Report to the Commi Community Thank You

Join us as we share accomplishments and plans for the future.

Refreshments will be provided by the Board of Directors and friends.

Trinity Methodist Church of Darlington 128 Pearl Street Darlington, SC 29532

RSVP by May 31st

connect@communityconnectionsdarlington.org

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Report to the Community

Crazy Hope Community Center Update

Board of Directors Meetings

NEW: Missions Account

Soup Kitchen Spotlight

\$50K Matching Donation Update

Connecting with the Community

Team Member Spotlight

Financial Report

Contact Us

Crazy Hope Community Center - Update

At Community Connections Darlington, our mission has always been to serve our community with love and compassion, ensuring that no one feels forgotten or left behind. Since our founding in 2016, we've grown from serving meals in a soup kitchen to expanding our outreach, offering support, and connecting with individuals in meaningful ways. However, despite our dedication and hard work, we have faced significant challenges when it comes to making progress on our renovation projects. We've struggled with contractors, for various reasons, and it has been frustrating to see delays stretch on longer than we ever anticipated. There have been moments when we've felt discouraged, wondering why things aren't moving forward as quickly as we had hoped. But in these times of uncertainty, we've been reminded of an essential truth: God's timing is always perfect.

Psalm 27:14 tells us, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" Waiting isn't easy, but we know that God sees the full picture. Even when we can't understand the delays, He is preparing the way for what's to come. Habakkuk 2:3 reassures us that "the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay." As we continue our work, we choose to lean into this season of waiting with faith and obedience. We trust that God is aligning the right people and the right opportunities so that, when the time is right, everything will come together in ways we never could have imagined. Psalm 37:7 encourages us to "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him." That is exactly what we are striving to do.

Through all the setbacks, we remain committed to our mission. We know that in God's perfect timing, every struggle will turn into a testimony of His faithfulness. Until then, we will keep moving forward, one step at a time, trusting that He is guiding our every move. We ask for your patience and welcome your prayers as we walk in faith and trust in the Lord.

Monthly Board Meetings Come Join Us!

Community Connections Board of Directors meets regularly each month, and meetings are open to our liaisons, ministry teams, and community supporters.

1st Sunday of Each Month at 4:00 PM
Dedicated Community Bank
202 Cashua Street -- Darlington, SC 29532

If interested, please enter through the side door nearest First Palmetto.



Introducing Our Missions Account

Community Connections Darlington is pleased to announce the creation of a dedicated Missions Account! This new account is separate from our main fund and is specifically designed to help individuals and other nonprofit organizations in need. It is important to note that the money in this account is entirely separate from donations given for the renovations of the Crazy Hope Community Center and for the ongoing operations of our Soup Kitchen. Funds designated for those purposes remain committed to their respective projects, ensuring that every dollar is used as intended.

By establishing this Missions Account, we aim to extend our support beyond our own initiatives. Whether it's helping a family in crisis or partnering with another organization to make a difference, this fund allows us to be more responsive and compassionate in our outreach. We are grateful for the generosity of our community and look forward to seeing the impact this new effort will have.

If you feel led to contribute specifically to the Missions Account, please make that notation on your donation or reach out to us for more details.

Together, we can continue to be a source of hope and support for those in need!

Soup Kitchen Spotlight

Thanks to our faithful teams of volunteers, the Saturday Soup Kitchen is helping many in our community. Here is what we have done in 2025:

- served over 2,300 meals
- helped over 600 people
- had over 180 brothers and sisters in Christ volunteer

In addition to individual voluteers on any given Saturday we have 23 teams who support the Saturday Soup Kitchen with their time, talents, and financial resorces.

If you know of other organizations who might like to help with the Saturday Soup Kitchen, we ask that you share this newsletter with them. This is what is needed for a group to volunteer.

- Assemble a team of volunteers to prepare and/or purchase food for the Saturday meal.
- Gather a team of volunteers willing to serve the meal on Saturday morning.
 - Note: There is no specific requirement for the size of a group. However, groups need to have enough people to serve on Saturday. Small groups may want to consider joining with other small groups to make a larger team.
- Assign a team liason who will serve as the point of contact.
- Contact Lindsey Byrd at 843-307-2603 to schedule your Saturday on the rotation.
- Join us with your team and serve the meal on your assigned Saturday with smiling faces and hearts for Jesus!



\$50K Match Update

Since our \$50K match campaign began in June, we have raised over \$49,000 and collected \$40,000 of the \$50,000 offered by a generous donor in our community. It won't be long now until we maximize this generous donation! We thank all who have helped these fundraising efforts, and we thank our donor for their generosity and support!

Connecting with the Community

Community Connections along with a Kingdom Fishermen joined together with other community nonprofits such as Hope Center, Rubicon, and the Salvation Army to be a light in Darlington community commonly known as the Mill Hill. This event, referred to as a Kingdom Celebration, brought volunteers together to share the light of Jesus Christ and provide a meal, fellowship, hygiene items, resources, and prayer.

A similar event is planned for the East McIver community in the next quarter. Contact Mark Face at 843-495-3433 if you are interested in being fishers of men and joining this ministry.



Team Member Highlight - Darlington Presbyterian Church



Darlington Presbyterian Church was founded in 1827 and is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. They are located at 311 Pearl Street, with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11:00 a.m. They also have a mid-week service on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a meal and worship and concluding at 7:00 p.m. They welcome you to join them for worship during any of their services!

With a long history of serving the community, Darlington Presbyterian Church was instrumental in the establishment of The Lord Cares Food Pantry and the Free Medical Clinic. Members of the church also began the Kid's Clothes Closet to provide clothes and school supplies to families in need. Darlington Presbyterian

Church also serves the needs of our community by completing home repairs and building wheelchair ramps for those in need, packing food boxes, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The church has also had members who have served as missionaries to bring the light of the Gospel to the Congo, Korea, Kenya, Mozambique, Mexico, and throughout the world, and they have supported Wycliffe Bible Translators for many years. They are also supportive of other churches in the area and join with them in uniting in worship as a community.

Darlington Presbyterian Church partnered with Community Connections several years ago and rejoices in serving on Saturday mornings to provide breakfast to those in need.

Financial Report: January 1 - March 31, 2025

Primary Account

<u>Previous Balance: \$80,285.92</u>

Income: \$21,198.30

• Donations: \$11,198.30

• Matching Funds: \$10,000

<u>Expenditures: \$4,402.86</u>

• Utilities: \$350.85

• Supplies: \$1078.61

• Web & Computer: \$113.40

• Legal Fees: \$2,860.00 Ending Balance: \$97,081.36

Investment CD:

Balance \$26,302.36

• Interest: \$273.71

Missions Account:

Balance: \$1,832.46

• Donations \$1,832.46

• Expenditures \$00.00



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.

Contact Us:



Mark Face, Chair: 843-495-3433 Chanel Muldrow, Vice Chair: 843-617-6726 Lindsey Byrd, Treasurer: 843-307-2603 Debra Wallace, Secretary: 843-992-0777



P.O. Box 1344, Darlington, SC 29532



connect @community connections darling ton. org

