

CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Darlington Quarterly Newsletter



What's New

Welcome to the first newsletter installment of 2024! Community Connections Darlington is off to a great start in 2024!

Our newly formed board of directors also elected its officers:

- Mark Face, Chairperson
- Chanel Muldrow, Vice Chairperson
- Lindsey Byrd, Treasurer
- Debra Wallace, Secretary

Now that we have our by-laws, board of directors, and officers in place, it seems like a natural time for Community Connections Darlington to establish itself as its own, independent non-profit organization. Darlington First Church of God will always hold a special place in our hearts and in our history by nurturing the small seeds of a soup kitchen into our Crazy Hope Community Center, and we will be forever grateful for what they have helped us do and become. But, now it is time for us to continue growing, and we believe the best way to do that is to establish ourselves as our own 501C3 nonprofit entity. At the time of this publication, we have begun that process, have had our Articles of Incorporation approved by the state, and we have been issued our own EIN by the IRS. We have a few more documents to file and to submit before we are officially on our own, but we hope for everything to be official in the near future.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

What's New

Crazy Hope Community Center Update

Soup Kitchen Spotlight

Fundraisers

Connecting with the Community

Team Member Spotlight

Financial Report

Crazy Hope Community Center - Update



Have you ever walked through a season of life when it did not appear much was happening only to find out God was doing a mighty work behind the scenes? Sometimes life is like that, and sometimes that is what happens with the Crazy Hope Community Center. You may drive by the center and, by its outward appearance, it may seem like not much is going on. But rest assured, a lot is happening behind the scenes!

Since our last newsletter, we have held two clean-up days at Crazy Hope, and volunteers have given up their time on Saturday to remove walls, unsightly nails, and other debris from the inside of the building. We have also moved into what we hope is the last planning phase with our engineer and architect as they work together for our final design documents so that we will have the most up-to-date architectural drawings and design specifications we need to hire contractors as we move forward with our renovations.

Although we are waiting for our final drawings, we have been given approval by our engineer to begin replacing the facilities' exterior doors. This will be a much needed improvement to our facility as it will make the building more secure and certainly improve its visual appeal. It is with great anticipation that we expect this work to begin any day because the Executive Board has already received quotes for this work and selected a contractor. At the time of this publication, the materials have been ordered, work has started (as seen in our new cover photo), and the door framing and installation should begin any day. Be sure to keep an eye out for our new doors!

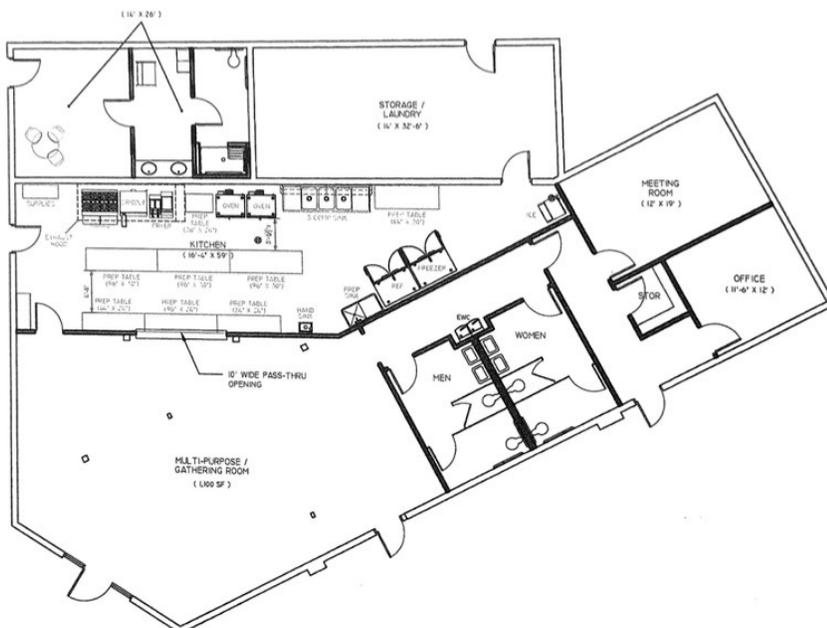
As we move into Spring and better weather, it is our prayer that we will continue making progress with Phase 2 renovations.

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



New Mailing Address!

We have a new mailing address. Please send correspondence, donations, or general information to the address below.

P.O. Box 1344
Darlington, SC 29540

Soup Kitchen Spotlight

The start of the new year brings with it the start of our more consistent and concentrated data collection efforts. Here is what we have done in January - February of 2024:

- served over 1,134 meals
- helped over 329 people
- had over 86 brothers and sisters in Christ volunteer
- provided clothing, canned goods, vitamins, Narcan, resource cards, and devotionals

Pictured below are just a few of the groups who have served in the soup kitchen in the past twelve months.



Central Baptist Church



Alpha Pi Chi



Daikin Applied



Round O' Missionary Baptist Church

Upcoming CHICKEN BOG Fundraiser!

Are you hungry for a delicious meal and yummy deserts? If so, we have just the thing to quench your appetite! CHICKEN BOG!

We have partnered with Oliver Segars for our **Second Annual Spring Chick Bog Fundraiser** from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Tickets are \$9 for a meal of chicken bog, green beans, and pickles; we will deliver locally for orders of 10+, and we will again have baked goods for sale.

Of course volunteers are needed, so we are once again asking faithful friends and team members of Community Connections Darlington to give of their time and talents to make this event possible. We need people to pre-sell tickets, secure delivery orders to local businesses, prepare delicious baked goods, and to help the day of the event to prepare and deliver plates.

If you are interested in helping, would like to purchase tickets, or would like to arrange delivery please contact us before April 28th.



Connecting with the Community

Sometimes we need to know what resources are available to those in our community so that we can share the love of Jesus. To that end, Community Connections Darlington has been inviting various entities to its monthly meetings in order to learn more about available resources and better assist those we serve. To date, we have met with and learned from the agencies listed below.

- Salvation Army
- Created to Serve
- Growing Home South Eastern
- Darlington Community Foundation



