

# CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Darlington Quarterly Newsletter



## What's New

Community Connections Darlington is working diligently to serve the Darlington community in the best ways possible.

One of the ways we can do this is by providing an intentional structure to our organization. In order to do that, we have established a new organizational email and have created a draft of organizational bylaws which will govern our operations. As a part of this process, we have met with community leaders and a local attorney and are currently making revisions to our original document. Once our bylaws are finalized and approved, Community Connections Darlington plans to begin the process of electing its first ever Board of Directors and Executive Director.

While our structure and some of our roles may be changing, one thing remains the same - our commitment to transform lives with Jesus at the center and leave a lasting and giving legacy that positively impacts the community of Darlington as we provide a model of caring and service that others can follow as they do God's work. We will also continue to strive to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of others while walking with them to where Jesus wants them to be.

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

What's New

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# Crazy Hope Community Center - Update

Things are about to get busy at Crazy Hope!



Our architect and engineers have been hard at work approving the center's structure, and they have given approval and guidance for Phase 1 of renovations to begin. And since Community Connections Darlington has been blessed with community donations and fruitful fundraisers, this means we are about to RAISE THE ROOF at the Crazy Hope Community Center! The leadership team is currently talking to roofers and reviewing estimates to replace the community center's roof. Look for construction to take place in the very near future!

Once the roof is in place and cooler temperatures prevail, the last bit of interior demolition will take place to what was formerly the apartment area of the structure. In the mean time, we continue to raise and seek funding for the remainder of the needed renovations. It is our hope that once the main interior space and bathrooms have been completed we can move the Saturday Soup Kitchen to the community center. Although the kitchen will still not be completed at that time, we believe that we can better serve our community by having a place of our own to serve from and a place where we can spend time building relationships with those we serve.

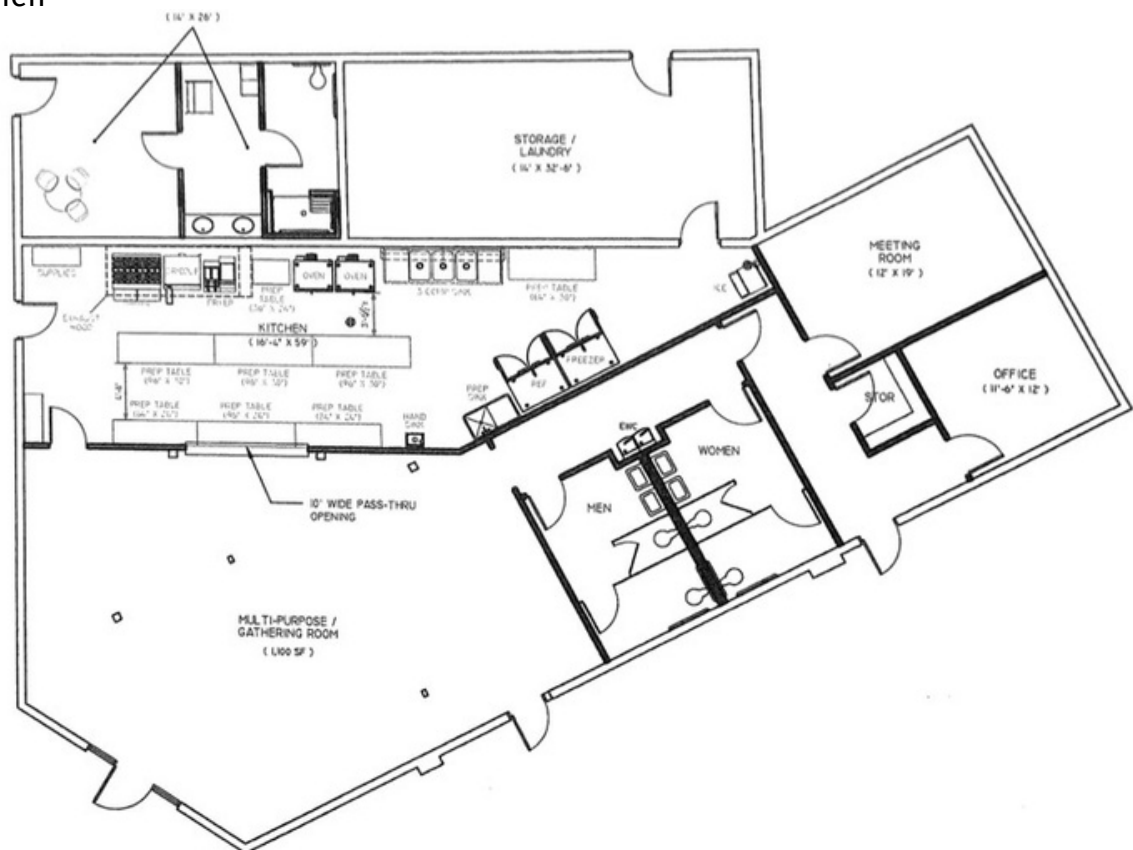
As a reminder, Crazy Hope renovations will take place in four separate phases.

Phase 1 : Remaining Roof & Structural Supports - *In Progress*

Phase 2 : Main Interior Space, Conference Room, Office, & Bathrooms

Phase 3 : Bathhouse and Storage

Phase 4 : Kitchen





## Soup Kitchen Spotlight

- We now have 21 different groups serving in the weekly rotation. 16 of these groups come from various churches, and five of these groups come from other organizations in our community.
- Since January 1st, we have had community friends join together twice to fill in the gap by providing and serving a meal when one of our partners was unable to serve.
- We have had hundreds of volunteers since January 1, 2023.
- Pictured below are just a few of the groups who have recently served.



Mechanicsville Baptist Church



Glorious Remnant Revival Church



Flat Creek Baptist Church &  
Omega Omega Omega Chapter of  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority



Free Will Bible Church

## Calendar Fundraiser

Community Connections Darlington held its first ever calendar fundraiser event. Members of the community selected a day to sponsor in July and then gave a donation equal to the amount of the date they selected; some donors elected to give a flat donation and were also entered into the drawing. Each sponsorship equaled an entry into a drawing for gift cards and a grand prize drawing of \$150 cash.

When it was all said and done, we raised \$3136 and held a Facebook live event on July 30th to draw names for prizes. Six gift cards were won, and the winner of the grand prize generously donated her \$150 back to Community Connections Darlington.

## 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
- Community Changers, hosted at Mechanicsville Baptist Church: June 11th - 15th
- Women's Ministry at Carolina Pointe with Risen Assembly
  - Paint Night with April Hicks, June 25th
  - Vision Boards with Lashawn Gregg, July 23rd
- Back to School Bash on the Square, July 22nd
- Praise in the Park at Terrence Carraway Memorial Park: August 6th & September 10th





## Team Member Highlight

August brought with it great loss when we lost our dear friend and brother in Christ, George Smith. Born October 4, 1954, George entered the gates of heaven August 6, 2023. Always ready with a smile and ready to roll up his sleeves and pitch in, George was a kingdom worker. 1 Corinthians 10:31 states that whatever we do we should “do it all for the glory of God,” and this command was evident in our brother George. Whether it was a simple task of getting someone a cup of coffee at one of our meetings or getting down and dirty in demolition work at the community center, George did it all for the Glory of God. Whether it was a Saturday morning at the soup kitchen, manning the warming shelter at all hours of the night and day last December, visiting local churches and organizations to spread the word about Community Connections Darlington and Crazy Hope Community Center, or dishing

chicken bog, George gave it his all. Whether he was working behind the scenes cooking for the soup kitchen, meeting with the community center’s architects and engineers, researching grant opportunities, working on our new bylaws, or offering wisdom during meetings, George was hard at work for the Lord. Being a humble man, George was never one to seek recognition for his work. Instead he preferred not to let his left hand know what his right hand was doing (Matthew 6:3) and quietly, simply, and eagerly work for the Lord knowing his labor was never in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

An integral member of Community Connections Darlington’s leadership team and vital to the inception and groundbreaking work of the Crazy Hope Community Center, George will be remembered as a caring and compassionate man, a loving father and role model, and a beloved brother in Christ. Rest in peace dear friend. You are deeply missed.

## Financial Report: June 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023

Previous Balance: \$81,741.13

Income: \$15,059.97

- Donations: \$11,923.97
- Calendar Fundraiser: \$3,136

Expenses: \$717.56

- Utilities: \$498.91
- Soup Kitchen Supplies: \$194.77
- Website/Email: \$23.88

Balance: \$96,083.154



## 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:

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