

Faces of Hope

Mission: To improve the lives of low income families in Onslow, Duplin and New Hanover Counties, by empowering them to become economically and socially self-sufficient.

“IT TAKES BOTH RAIN AND SUNSHINE TO MAKE A RAINBOW”

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome

by Chiquitta Lesene, Editor

Welcome to this special edition of the “**Faces of Hope**” E-Newsletter! This is an ECHSA, Inc. publication as ECHSA, Inc. **embodies hope** for all it serves. I would like to extend a very special “thank you” to the newsletter staff! The next release is scheduled for January 2016.

Who we are

Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. (ECHSA, Inc.), a member of the North Carolina Community Action Association, is a private non-profit Community Action Agency that provides services to low-income families in Duplin, Onslow, New Hanover (CSBG only) and Pender (SSVF only) Counties. The programs administered by the agency include: Section 8 Housing, Community Services Block Grant-Family Self Sufficiency Program (CSBG-FSS), Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF). ECHSA, Inc. is also home to the ECHSA, Inc. Five Star Childcare Center.

What we do

ECHSA, Inc. provides comprehensive services with many tools designed to address the needs of the entire family unit. ECHSA, Inc. administers programs that provide participants with the highest possibility of becoming economically and socially self-sufficient. This enables members of the family to earn a better living through education and training, plan for their financial future, receive short-term assistance with housing and nutrition, and provide a safe and loving environment for their children when they are not in school. By doing so, parents can concentrate on bettering their situation.



ECHSA, Inc. is a proud member of the North Carolina Community Action Association.

Management & Administration

Community Services Block Grant/Family Self Sufficiency Program (CSBG/FSS)

ECHSA, Inc. Five Star Childcare Center

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

What’s Happening?

Employee’s Corner

We’re Social:

-  Eastern Carolina Human Services, Inc.
-  follow us @ECHSA_Inc
-  visit www.echsainc.com

Helping People. Changing Lives

Management & Administration

Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the following members:

- Marcia Wright, Chairperson
- Gilda Quickley, Vice-Chairperson
- William McCoy, Secretary
- Theresa James, Assistant Secretary
- Lorraine Jackson, Treasurer
- Bryant Shepard
- Richard Sheats
- Sharelius Holmes
- Lilly Hollingsworth
- Katrina Lowdermilk
- Yvette Monk
- Victor Foster
- Stephanie Taylor-Daley
- Minnie Shepard
- James Robinson
- Donna Burgess
- Rebecca Judge
- Ralph Hall
- Addie Hall
- Suzette Curry
- Michelle Winstead

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand." –Woodrow Wilson



From the Executive Director's Pen

by Daphany Hill, Executive Director

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I contribute to this special edition of ECHSA Inc.'s "Faces of Hope" E-Newsletter. It is my sincere desire to utilize all available means of communication to keep readers abreast of news and information as it pertains to providing services to the families we serve.

In addition, the community plays a vital role in the agency's mission to assist families in becoming economically and socially self sufficient. The strategic plan for the agency must be inclusive of the mission statement and ROMA Goals. It is mandatory that all of these components link together in order to best meet the needs of low income families. In the past, ECHSA, Inc. has always been very good with getting the communities it serves involved through needs assessments, customer surveys, and partnerships with other agencies to name a few. However, it is ECHSA, Inc.'s goal to not only meet this standard, but to far exceed expectations. It is for these reasons that I have specifically selected staff members that I feel are best suited for this task (*see below*).

I would also like to welcome all new and returning employees. It is my goal to provide you with the most efficient work environment possible so that you are able to help families help themselves. Thanking you in advance for the part you play in making this happen!

COMMUNITY NEEDS TASK FORCE MEMBERS

CSBG – Sherry Harris (CM-Onslow), James Smith (CM-Duplin), Michelle Allen (CM-New Hanover), Sharon Brown (CW-Onslow)

Daycare – Danielle Dixon (Lead Teacher)

Section 8 – Kim Gatewood (FSS Coordinator – Duplin & Onslow)

SSVF – Jerrick Vernon, (CM-Onslow), Gloria Fields (CM-Pender)

What is your opinion regarding the availability of services in your community? Click or copy & paste to participate in the Community Needs Assessment Survey: <http://kwiksurveys.com/s/itLiOmDu>

How satisfied have you been with services provided to you by ECHSA, Inc. Click or copy & paste to participate in the Participant Satisfaction Survey: <http://kwiksurveys.com/s/gVNJ62X3>

Community Services Block Grant

Family Self Sufficiency Program (CSBG-FSS) *by CSBG Reporters*

Chiquitta W. Lesene, Program Director

What we do

The Community Services Block Grant/Family Self Sufficiency Program provides comprehensive services to families living at or below poverty. The following areas of assistance are available:

- Employment Support/Job Placement *(NC Works Partnership)*
- Educational Training
- Standard Housing Placement
- Rent Deposit/Assistance
- Utility Deposit/Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- Medical Assistance
- Fuel Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Financial Management
- Personal Development

ACCOMPLISHMENT

The CSBG/FSS Program was implemented in New Hanover County in October 2014. Thanks to the loyal service, hard work, and dedication of Ms. Pam Colvin, Site Supervisor and staff, the program was and continues to be successful in meeting enrollment targets, deadlines, goals, and in providing comprehensive services to the low-income population in New Hanover County. Hats off to you, keep up the good work!

Requirements for Enrollment

Interested persons must be income eligible and be willing to set goals and follow through.

"TELLING OUR STORY"

Participant J

Participant J was living in a homeless shelter until their doors closed in May of 2015. From there he lived from "pillar to post", with no permanent place to call home. Through comprehensive services and financial assistance provided by the CSBG/FSS Program, Participant J was able to secure comfortable housing. He expressed his thankfulness for services provided to him through ECHSA, Inc.'s CSBG/FSS Program. As a result, he is even more motivated and is diligently working toward his goals to include his pursuit of higher education.

-CSBG New Hanover

Participant K

Participant K, single mother of two, has been in receipt of credit and income management services through the CSBG/FSS program. Her case manager recently referred her to the Habitat for Humanity Home Ownership Program. Her application has been accepted and she is a finalist to receive a new home!

-CSBG Duplin

SPOTLIGHT



Chiquitta W. Lesene

Congratulations to Mrs. Chiquitta W. Lesene, our new CSBG/FSS Program Director. Mrs. Lesene began in this new position on August 10, 2015 and has been a true asset to this organization. She brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, innovation, and drive to this agency on both a personal and professional level. Prior to joining ECHSA Inc., Mrs. Lesene was employed for over a decade with the Duplin County Board of Elections. She is a proud graduate of Fayetteville State University where she received a B.S. in Psychology with a concentration in Human Services. She holds an A.A.S. in Office Systems Technology from James Sprunt Community College, where she was recognized for her academic success as a participant in the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) program. She also holds an A.A.S. in General Education from Fayetteville Technical Community College. She is currently pursuing a M.S. in Industrial & Organizational Psychology at Grand Canyon University. She is the wife of Ray and the proud mother of eight, of which five are currently enrolled in college. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, attending church, singing, reading, sports, and encouraging others to aim high with her life story - *specifically the challenges she once faced as a single mother*. Mrs. Lesene and her husband co-founded Camp Unity, a summer program for at-risk youth which offered tutorial, recreational, and personal development assistance to at risk youth and their families. Camp Unity is noted to have decreased the crime rate in the Town of Warsaw for the summer months from 50 to 1 during its tenure. Mrs. Lesene is active in her community & is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star – Golden Jewel #71.

- Daphany Hill, Executive Director

ECHSA, Inc. Childcare Center

by Clorinda Malloy, Reporter – Interim Daycare Director



The ECHSA, Inc. Daycare Center is rated a **five star childcare facility** by the North Carolina Division of Child Development. The Center is the only non-profit center in Onslow County and has the best rates in town! All staff has post-secondary education/training in child development. The Center prides itself on providing USDA approved menus to ensure that children are being afforded the most nutritious meals possible to promote growth and learning.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

Kudos to the staff of ECHSA, Inc. Daycare Center for an **OUTSTANDING** score on your 2015-2016 NC Child Care Center Licensing monitoring visit!

Like us on



Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. Childcare Center

(910) 938-6096



Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

by Charshae' Phillips, Executive Assistant
Linda Graham, Program Director

there's no place like home

SPOTLIGHT



Charshae' Phillips

In recognition of Mrs. Charshae' Phillips, ECHSA Inc.'s Executive Assistant, for several years of loyal and dedicated service as Registration Chairperson for the Southeast Regional Housing Association Board, Inc. (SERSHA, Inc.). SERSHA, Inc. is comprised of persons who efficiently perform the day to day work necessary for program operations. SERSHA, Inc. is a grassroots non-profit organization formed in 1978 by administrators of the Section VIII Housing programs in North Carolina & eight other states.

– Daphany Hill, Executive Director

What we do



The Section 8 Program provides assistance for low-income families in the private rental market through the Housing Assistance Payments Program. Rental Voucher Holders select a unit from the private rental market. Rental assistance makes marketing rate housing more affordable. Program participants normally pay no more than 30% of monthly-adjusted income towards rent and utilities. The Housing Assistance Payment subsidizes the balance of the rent to the property owner. The unit must meet HUD Housing Quality standards and the rent must be approvable within HUD Fair Market Rents and market rate comparable.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

Congratulations to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for achieving a "HIGH PERFORMER" score on their annual SEMAP - Section Eight Management Assessment Program

Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)

The FSS Program is a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated program that links subsidies to services aimed at helping families become economically self-supporting. HUD's intentions are that FSS program graduates become motivated to save money towards the purchase of their own home, car, or to pursue higher education.

– Kim Gatewood, Section 8/FSS

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF)

by Gloria Fields, Reporter
Trudy Murray, Family Advocate Program Manager



ACCOMPLISHMENT

Hat's off to the SSVF staff for exceeding the number of veterans required to be served. Initially, the program was approved to provide comprehensive services to 150 veterans, however due to the overwhelming need of service for veterans; the program was **awarded** an additional 75 veterans!
Congratulations!!

What we do

Recruit veterans from Onslow, Duplin, and Pender Counties who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to receive services in the following areas:

- Housing Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Deposits
- Moving Costs
- Transportation Assistance
- Childcare Assistance
- Emergency Assistance

A special thank you to the following vendors for providing free food/services to our veterans on Veteran's Day 2015.....

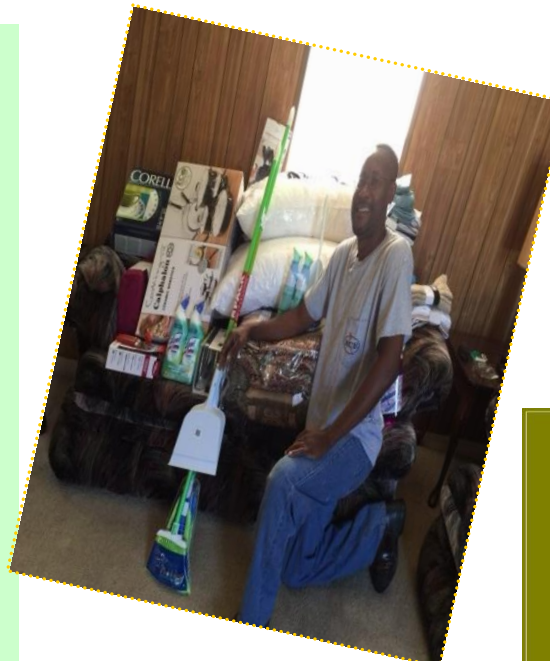
- Arby's
- Chili's Free Meal
- Chuck E. Cheese's
- Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
- Denny's
- Golden Corral
- Hooters
- IHOP
- Krispy Kreme
- Little Caesars
- Longhorn Steakhouse Free App
- Mission BBQ
- O'Charley's Free Meal 11/9
- Olive Garden Free Meal
- Outback Steakhouse
- Panera Bread
- Red Lobster Free App
- Red Robin Free Burger and Fries
- Ruby Tuesday
- Starbucks Free Coffee
- Texas Roadhouse Free Lunch
- TGI Fridays Free Lunch
- Twin Peaks
- FREE AUTO SERVICES**
- Buff Masters Carwash & Detail Center, Wilmington, N.C.
- Cruisers Car Wash & Detail Center, Wilmington, N.C.
- Ogden Car Wash, LLC.
- Meineke Free Oil Change

Thanks a lot...

It's been a while since I've been in school so excuse my grammar. I've been down on my luck, but since I have been in the program I have gotten the push start I needed to "keep hope alive". The things it has done for me....I am so thankful...I think it is wonderful that people are willing to help people when they are down. It has taught me a valuable lesson that I will never forget and when I get on my feet I will try to do the same for others.

Signed, Kelvin Cummings

SSVF Program Participant



**HELP OTHERS
ACHIEVE THEIR
DREAMS AND YOU
WILL ACHIEVE
YOURS.**

Les Brown
PICTUREQUOTES.COM



What's Happening?

By Raquel Jordan, Co-Editor & Sharon Brown, CSBG Reporter



FOOD ASSISTANCE

Bethel Word Ministries

1675 Halltown Road, Jacksonville, N.C. 910-938-3855. **When:** Every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ID Required. *Onslow County residents only.*

Richlands Community Outreach Ministry Thrift Store

8701 Richlands Highway, Richlands, N.C. (910) 324-6586. **When:** Every 1st Monday in each month @ 11:00 a.m. *Onslow County residents only.*

Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries - Kitchen of Blessings

FREE MEAL **When:** Every Saturday from 4:00 – 5:30 PM @ Campbell Center, 513 SE Railroad St, Wallace, N.C. *Duplin County residents only.*

Licking Pot Restaurant

573 Rhodestown Rd. Jacksonville, NC 910-546-5073. **When:** Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015. FREE Dinners – will deliver if needed.

USO Thanksgiving Feast

USO Jacksonville Center 9 Tallman Street, Jacksonville, NC (910) 455-3411 **When:** Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free to Active Duty, Dependents, & Retirees. Military ID required. Enjoy the football games on the big screen while feasting on homemade meals and desserts!

Breakfast with Gunny Claus

USO Jacksonville Center, 9 Tallman Street, Jacksonville, NC (910) 455-3411 **When:** December 12, 2015 **Registration opens:** November 15, 2015 This event is for families of military members who are deployed. Gunny Claus' mission is to bring Christmas joy to military children during the holidays. Registration is required. Families of the deployed will need to call 910-455-3411 in order to register. On December 1st we will open up registration on our website for all other active duty, reserve, National Guard and their families.

HEALTH CARE

Health Insurance Marketplace – Affordable Health Insurance

When: November 1 Open enrollment for all. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325)

Medicare Part D

When: Oct 15– Dec. 7 Open enrollment for all. Sign-up now for 2016.

EDUCATION

Weekend Power Pack Program

What: free back pack to children who are eligible for free and reduced meals at school. The back contains enough nutritious food to last until Monday. **When:** each Friday For more information, call 919-865-3037 or visit backpack@foodbankcenc.org. *New Hanover County residents only.*

EMPLOYMENT

Job Fair - NC Works Career Center

When: November 24, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Veterans (Active Duty & other eligible Persons)
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. - Open to **ALL** job seekers
Where: Disabled American Veterans – Chapter 16 300 Sherwood Road, Jacksonville, N.C. 28541
For directions or for more information, call: 910-347-2121

Work from Home Job Opportunities

A wide variety of positions available for employment with large businesses across North Carolina. Visit www.ratracerebellion.com for job listings and learn how to apply.

CLOTHES, FURNITURE, TOYS, ETC....

Harvest of Blessings Annual “Giveaway”

Sponsored by the Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. J.D. Churchwell, Pastor. **When:** Saturday, November 14, 2015. **Where:** Onslow Christmas Cheer Building, 1210 Hargett Street, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540. *All are welcome.*

Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries

When: Applications will be accepted from October 2, 2015-December 3, 2015. Must have proof of one or two of these items: Medicaid card, proof of immunization for children, or food stamp card. The children must be between 2-16 years of age. **Where:** Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries, 514 S. Norwood Street, Wallace, N.C. *Duplin County residents only.*

Onslow Community Outreach

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide for the basic human care needs of less fortunate citizens of Onslow County.

Spotlight

Main Number / Benevolence 910.455.5733
Soup Kitchen 910.347.3227
Homeless Shelter 910.347.3227
Caring Community Clinic 910.346.6149
Onslow Oktoberfest 910.455.5733
Christmas Cheer 910.347.4646

Call or visit www.onslowco.org for information

Onslow Community Outreach is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



ECHSA, Inc. supports Breast Cancer Awareness!

Employee's Corner

Fun stuff



.... and many more to all born in the months of July, August, September, October, November, & December !



Simple & Pretty Christmas Centerpieces

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Mason jars in 2 different sizes.
- Floating candles
- Ribbon
- Fresh Cranberries

DIRECTIONS:

- Wrap some pretty ribbon around the jars.
- Add some cranberries and a few sprigs of evergreens.
- Fill up the jar 2/3 full with water.
- Add a floating candle.

Creator JO-ANN @ APRETTYLIFE
by Rachel Gloetzel, M&A Reporter

Hard Work

Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Hope you're feeling pride and elation. Through your enthusiasm you have learned, Our appreciation you have earned. To work with, you're a true pleasure; Your growing skills are more than treasure. You'd never sit, argue, and complain, Thought of your colleagues, not just own gain. Example to others, a clear sign, At the job, you know how to shine. We just want to thank you again;

Doing all of the above will rank your performance at ten. I just wanted to let you know the things you do for the agency do not go unnoticed. You're a necessary piece to this puzzle. I appreciate your dedication and service, and I know others do too.

"7 Tips for Coping with Holiday Financial Stress"

- \$ Budget
- \$ Avoid stressful shopping situations
- \$ Don't keep your money woes to yourself
- \$ Remember what's really important
- \$ Be creative with your gift giving
- \$ Don't spend the holidays alone
- \$ Don't blow things out of proportion

Author: Geoff Williams

-by Rachel Gloetzel, M&A Reporter

Pecan Squares



Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2/3 cup butter
- 3 tablespoons whipping cream
- 3 1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans

Directions:

- Sift together 2 cups flour and 2/3 cup powdered sugar. Cut in 3/4 cup softened butter using a pastry blender or fork just until mixture resembles coarse meal. Pat mixture on bottom and 1 1/2 inches up sides of a lightly greased 13- x 9-inch baking dish.
- Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool.
- Bring brown sugar, honey, 2/3 cup butter, and whipping cream to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in pecans, and pour hot filling into prepared crust.
- Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden and bubbly. Cool completely before cutting into 2-inch squares.

by R. Jordan, Co-Editor

ECHSA, Inc. Word Search

S Y E P Z D O G L F M S D F P
L E P R U C B N G R E U L V A
R Z L P A S E J S C E E G S R
O E L F C C E A I L Z X H S T
S I W Y S L D V S N O B E C N
N E V O P U R L E T H W L A E
R I V O P E F W I O E O P N R
E T E I S M H F U H N R I I S
H P O E L A E S I Z C Y N L H
C C H A N G I N G C M C G O I
U L X O M N A M U H I O W R P
O O V Z G A D G S P B E O A T
V E Y T I N U M M O C X N C H
R S G W E V O R P M I N C C I
B X Y D Z M P A C T I O N O Y

Word List

ACTION, CAROLINA, CHANGING, CHILDCARE, COMMUNITY, CSBG, DUPLIN, EASTERN, EMPOWER, HELPING, HOUSING, HUMAN, IMPROVE, INC, LIVES, NEWHANOVER, ONSLOW, PARTNERSHIP, PEOPLE, SELFSUFFICIENCY, SERVICES, SSVF, VOUCHER

