

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN CHARLOTTE
ONE CAUSE
AT A TIME



Fourth Annual Dodgeball Tournament Scheduled for April 17

Registration Begins March 2

Start putting your dodgeball teams together. Registration for the 4th Annual Dodgeball Tournament begins Monday, March 2, with the event scheduled for Friday, April 17. As in previous years, participation will be limited to the first 42 teams that sign up.

The tournament will once again be held at the Sports Connection on Granite Street in Charlotte from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Specific details will be announced over the next few weeks.

One new rule this year -- in the event of a tie in the initial round of play, the team that raised the most money in fund-raising will go to the next round. That means you should start putting together your fund-raising strategies now!

So mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information soon!

Leaders & Coordinators Meeting Scheduled for February 23

The meeting, tentatively scheduled for Monday afternoon, February 23, will update leaders and coordinators about our 2015 plans and outline ways companies can participate in the coming year. We encourage every CM member company to send a representative.

Steering Committee member Michelle Bissinger, who serves as leader and coordinator liaison, will send out an email in the next few days to our current list of leaders and coordinators to ensure that our database is still accurate.

Further details about time and place of the meeting will be communicated in the next few days.

Nearly 500 Coats Contributed to Crisis Assistance Ministry Coat Drive

Way to go Community Matters! Thanks to your efforts, Community Matters donated nearly 500 coats to WSOC-TV's 2014-15 Steve's Coats for Kids Campaign to benefit our charity partner, Crisis Assistance Ministry. That's 5% of their 10,000-coat goal! The coats are for children ages infant through high school who might otherwise be cold this winter. And the Community Matters drive went beyond coats, with many companies also donating bags of other clothing items.

On the day that most of the coats were delivered, Wells Fargo staff also served breakfast to Crisis Assistance Ministry clients through that agency's Muffin Ministry.

Community Matters was featured in a WSOC-TV spot about the coats. [Click here to check it out.](#)



Helping to sort coats on the last day of the Community Matters Coat Drive were, from left, Dan Pliszka, City of Charlotte; Linda Pettigrew, Arrowpoint Capital; Mike Murray and Paula Bulman, Wells Fargo; Susan Partlow and Angela Blythe, Arrowpoint Capital; Michelle Bissinger, Zenith Insurance Company; Angela Matherly, Snyder's-Lance (who was interviewed by WSOC weatherman and Coat Drive sponsor Steve Udelson); and Angela Hester, Dereama Robinson and Pam Correa, Wells Fargo.



Marsh and Mercer delivered their coats -- along with countless scarves, hats and gloves -- earlier in the week. Marsh's Jim Wagner was also interviewed by Steve Udelson. Seen here with Steve are, from left, Susan Starks, Steve, Barbara Stapp and Cathy Fitzgerald, all of Marsh.

Charlotte Family Housing Open Houses - Learn More About our Nonprofit Partner

Charlotte Family Housing offers informational open houses each month to allow people to learn more about its program! The open houses are held at various times and locations to let as many people learn about the programs as possible.

Thursday January 29 – Plaza Place (2410 The Plaza) – 7:00 pm – Snack and info

Sunday February 8 - Plaza Place (2410 The Plaza) – 3:00pm – Snack and info

Wednesday February 11 – Elizabeth House – 12 noon – Lunch and learn

Here's how to sign up three easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to the invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/tLujLi>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Hope to see you there.

Community Matters and Charlotte Family Housing Launch “Adopt a Room” Program

With our goal of making a meaningful difference in our community, Community Matters and Charlotte Family Housing have launched a new program called “Adopt a Room.” A team from AmWINS, including a member of the CM Teen program, painted and prepared a room at the Hawthorne Shelter for a new family moving in. The team painted the room, provided new bedding and added personal effects such as pictures, a coffee maker, etc. The team will also get an opportunity to move the family into their new home when they are ready to move out of the shelter. In addition to shelter rooms, there are opportunities to paint the kitchen, living room and volunteer room. If you are interested in adopting a room, please contact Tammy Medlock at 704-774-7866 or tmedlock@charlottefamilyhousing.org.



Part of the team participating in the AmWINS Adopt-a-Room Project were, from left Andrea Neill, Kenana Lockhart, Allison Day, Anthony Lott and Tom Lott.

Recent Volunteer Activities: MetLife, Liberty Mutual, Travelers



MetLife's Brantlee Green recently organized a "getting-started" drive for Charlotte Family Housing. Staff on the 9th floor of the Gragg Building at MetLife donated sheets, towels, dishes, pots and pans, toiletries and other items that a family needs to get started in their own home. Pictured with some of the donations collected are, from left, Reese Yow, Hadley Griffin, Heather Witkowski and Kama Garrick.



In December, the folks at Liberty Mutual took on a holiday project at Charlotte Family Housing. A team donated about \$1,000 worth of cleaning supplies to the agency...and then went to the shelter and assembled 30 welcome buckets for the families in transition. What a great way to demonstrate the holiday spirit!



As part of Travelers' Annual Employee Giving Campaign, the Travelers Community Matters Committee this year coordinated a drive to collect items for the Charlotte Family Housing welcome baskets, given to families when they arrive at one of the shelters. Various household and bedding items were collected over the campaign's five weeks. Pictured here, from left, are Travelers' Ryne Herring and Geoff Amidon; Charlotte Family Housing's Paul McDaniel, who picked up the donations; and Travelers' Teresa Angelon. Thanks to everyone at Travelers who contributed to the campaign.