

MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN CHARLOTTE  
ONE NONPROFIT  
AT A TIME



May 2, 2013

## A HUGE THANKS To Everyone Who Supported the Dodgeball Tournament



We want to thank all of you who helped us kick off Year Two of Community Matters with our Second Annual Dodgeball Tournament. Our industry in Charlotte really came together around this event and we have so many people to thank -- from players, volunteers and sponsors to companies and individuals who donated to the cause. We've raised almost \$58,000, well above our goal of \$50,000.

We also want to thank the companies that supported this effort, both in contributing to the event and allowing employees to participate in a variety of ways. Some companies had as many as five teams and countless volunteers who helped us make the tournament a success. It was great to catch up with industry associates and have some fun on the courts. We hope you also got a chance to see the great coverage on the local news -- once again highlighting the charitable efforts of the Charlotte-area insurance industry.

We had more than 500 people attend this event, surpassing the attendance of our first year. Running a dodgeball tournament is not our regular job, and while we hope you enjoyed the event, please know that we are always looking for ways to improve next year. This year we were overwhelmed with so many wild card teams and not enough time to run the necessary playoffs, so we had to choose our wild card teams out of a hat. We would have liked to have done it through regular play but that was just not an option. We hope to change that approach next year so all brackets are based on court performance.

Finally, a big thanks to all of our volunteers who helped us pull this off. From referees and "food vendors" to van drivers and photographers, we had more than 100 people who graciously volunteered to help. Thanks to you all.

## Check Out Our Tournament Photos



A big thanks to Rob Phillips of AmWINS for being our official photographer. Please click on the link below to find pictures of you and your teammates.

<https://picasaweb.google.com/amwingsgroup/SecondAnnualCommunityMattersDodgeballTournament?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCNOO3OXX68PocQ&feat=directlink#>

There are some great fun and action photos of the players and volunteers. Please be sure to share with your fellow co-workers.

## Upcoming 5K Event in Support of SafeAlliance

Community Matters is once again recruiting as many folks as possible to take part in the May 25th Run for Peace to benefit Safe Alliance. It's a terrific way to spend a Saturday morning -- joining other Community Matters colleagues at Charlotte's McAlpine Creek Greenway for a run (or walk!) across the greenway's open flats and challenging hills. The starting times for the women's and men's events will be staggered, but you may run together if you wish.

Teams comprise 10 participants so we need at least that many for a strong Community Matters showing! Cost is \$20 per person if we get our team set up by May 12. To participate, email [kedar.bryan@arrowpointcap.com](mailto:kedar.bryan@arrowpointcap.com). All funds go to Safe Alliance. Hope to see you there!

## Sign Up for Community Matters 100 Days of Meals

Community Matters member companies are taking part this summer in "100 Days of Meals," a program through which our organization will provide dinner for Safe Alliance's domestic violence shelter every night from June 1-September 8. We need your company, department, team, family or other group to sign up for one evening as Community Matters is committed to serving the evening meal each night through the summer. You can:

- purchase the groceries and prepare the meal in the shelter kitchen
- purchase an already-cooked dinner from a restaurant or caterer
- provide funds to sponsor a meal

To see what days are free, check "100 Days of Meals" on the left nav our website at <http://www.communitymatterscharlotte.org/100daysofmeals.html>. (Just click over to June 1.)

We've already had a couple of sign-ups. To volunteer for a meal or for further details, email [info@communitymatterscharlotte.org](mailto:info@communitymatterscharlotte.org).

## AIG Reception Adds To Dodgeball Tourney Totals

The numbers are in from AIG's pre-Dodgeball Tournament reception. The company raised an additional \$1,650 for the tournament at its get-together and also provided a great venue for us to have some fun and fellowship the night before the big tournament! This brings AIG's commitment this year to \$7,110, which doesn't include their \$1,000 sponsorship of the tournament. Thanks to AIG for its support of Community Matters!

## Two Weeks Until the Launch of the Community Matters Summer Campaign

Last year we had a lot of fun watching different companies sponsoring a wide array of fundraising

activities for Community Matters. From “**A Buck Matters**” to “**Flip Flop Fridays**” and everything in between, companies raised a ton of money for Community Matters and Safe Alliance. These efforts contributed significantly to our ability to hand a \$200,000 check to Safe Alliance in November. This year we are trying for \$250,000 so we need your help -- the fundraising campaign begins **May 15**. Please be sure to share your stories and pictures. They were great! And if you want some ideas for this year, check our website under Outreach -- Safe Alliance at <http://www.communitymatterscharlotte.org/outreachsafealliance.html>.

### **Community Matters Teen Program to be Launched Soon**

We've started to put together the Community Matters Teen Program, allowing teenage family members of member company employees to become part of our program. We are looking for liaisons from any company that wants to be a part of this program, which will include involvement in volunteer efforts and mentoring. If teens satisfy minimum requirements, they will be allowed to add Community Matters as volunteer involvement on their college applications. More details to follow, but if you are interested in being a company liaison, please contact [tom.lott@amwins.com](mailto:tom.lott@amwins.com).