

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN CHARLOTTE
ONE CAUSE
AT A TIME



Community Matters Presents \$175K Check to Charity Partners

Celebration Dinner Raises \$80,295

The Community Matters Board of Directors presented Charlotte Family Housing and Crisis Assistance Ministry with a check for \$175,000 at our Third Annual Celebration Dinner on November 10, resulting in a standing ovation from everyone in attendance.

"What a great way to end the year," said Angela Matherly, co-chair of the steering committee. "To see our membership rally around these two incredible organizations and their fight to end homelessness has been awe-inspiring."

"We are so proud to partner with Community Matters," responded Charlotte Family Housing Executive Director Stephen Smith. "You have been such a great help over the past year with volunteers, in-kind donations, and financial support for both our organizations. Thank you for working with us to solve family homelessness in Charlotte."

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude for Community Matters," noted Carol Hardison, Crisis Assistance Ministry CEO. "So many families are benefiting from your phenomenal support. You are helping to end homelessness for thousands of men, women and children throughout our community."

The celebration dinner was a huge success, both as a fundraiser and as an opportunity to learn more about the impact Community Matters is having in Charlotte. Through their testimonials, special guests from our partner agencies thanked our organization and spoke about the need to get involved in homelessness prevention and recovery efforts.

Guests also had the chance to bid on some terrific prizes at the event, with a highlight being our Wine Pull. Forty-eight bottles of wine were sold for \$50 each, with the opportunity to win a magnum of 2009 Sassacaia, regarded by many critics as the "wine of our lifetime." Congratulations to AIG's Nikki Bogar, who took home this fabulous prize.

For photos of the event, see <http://dppics.phanfare.com/6730340>. Thanks to Dan Pliszka for serving as official photographer.

Thanks to all the companies and volunteers who participated in Community Matters this year. You are the reason we are making a difference in Charlotte one cause at a time!



Carol Hardison and Stephen Smith react enthusiastically to Angela Matherly's remarks and the presentation of this year's partnership check.



Arrowpoint Capital's John Tighe presents AIG's Nikki Bogar with the grand prize bottle from the evening's highly successful Wine Pull. All 48 bottles were purchased!

Save the Date: Fourth Annual Dodgeball Tournament Scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2015

Need we say more? The Charlotte insurance industry's premier sporting event will be back for its fourth year on April 17. So mark your calendars now! Tournament details, including information about registration, will be communicated in early 2015.

Welcome to Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

Guardian Life Insurance Company of America has just signed on as Community Matters' newest member -- our 69th! We were pleased that Guardian representatives were able to attend our celebration dinner and learn firsthand about our organization. If you know of a company or group that would be interested in joining us, contact Tom Lott at tom.lott@amwins.com or Angela Matherly at Amatherly@snyderslance.com.

Volunteer Activities: Zenith Insurance Company and Sompo Japan Nipponkoa America

Teams from both Zenith Insurance Company and Sompo Japan Nipponkoa America volunteered at the Crisis Assistance Free Store in October. Zenith Insurance Company sent two groups during the month, one with 14 members and the other with 16. They also donated clothes, household goods and larger items for the Furniture Bank. A 13-person team from Sompo Japan Nipponkoa America, one of our newest members, also sorted clothes and readied the merchandise for sale at the Free Store. All three groups felt they benefited as much from the experience as the Free Store customers.

If your company would like to volunteer with one of our partners, check out the volunteer calendar and list of possible activities on the Community matters website. [Click here](#) or go to www.communitymatterscharlotte.org and click "Volunteer" in the left nav.



The two Zenith Insurance Company teams who volunteered at the Crisis Assistance Ministry Free Store in October.



The Sompō Japan Nipponkoa America team at the Free Store.

Remember to Shop AmazonSmile for the Holidays - and Contribute to Community Matters in the Process

With the holidays fast approaching, we remind you about a new way to shop on Amazon -- with part of the proceeds going to Community Matters

AmazonSmile is a new website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as on Amazon. The difference is that when you shop on [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice. What easier way to support Community Matters and our fight to end homelessness! The exact address for Community Matters is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3641452>. Share it with your friends, families and colleagues -- every purchase you make on AmazonSmile can pay off for Community Matters, with no extra cost to you. It's a definite win/win situation.



Dressler's Contributions Just Keep On Growing

Contributions from Dressler's restaurants have grown to more than \$5,000 -- thanks to the Charlotte community's appetite for calamari. As you may remember, Jon and Kim Dressler agreed earlier this year to contribute \$1 to Community Matters for every calamari appetizer sold at their two restaurants. That total has now reached \$5,189 in proceeds for our nonprofit. And the potential for even more contributions has grown with the opening of Jon's new restaurant -- Dogwood Southern Table & Bar -- which serves Southern comfort food in the Southpark area. So check out the new restaurant (as well as the other Dressler's restaurants in Huntersville and the Metropolitan section of Charlotte) and be sure to order some calamari!