

MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN CHARLOTTE  
ONE CAUSE  
AT A TIME



November 20, 2015

## **Community Matters Presents \$200K Check to Charity Partners**

### **Celebration Dinner Raises More Than \$70,000**

**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!**

The Community Matters Board of Directors presented Charlotte Family Housing and Crisis Assistance Ministry with a check for \$200,000 at our Fourth Annual Celebration Dinner on November 9, resulting in a standing ovation from everyone in attendance.

"We are thrilled to present this check to you, our partner agencies -- especially since we've been able to increase our gift by \$25,000 from last year," said John Tighe, Community Matters Board member. "What you do for our community is immeasurable, and we are so appreciative to be able to play a part in your fight to end homelessness in Charlotte."

"Community Matters has been uniquely creative and powerful and has touched every aspect of the mission of our agency," responded Carol Hardison, Crisis Assistance Ministry CEO. "The partnership and Community Matters' commitment to homelessness prevention and recovery is, simply put, essential for our neighbors in need. Community Matters has been on the front lines of meeting a family's urgent needs for rent and utility assistance through your incredible fundraising and on the front lines of providing clothing, furniture, beds and appliances through your donation drives and volunteer time. Partnerships like this empower our community to look forward with hope and give struggling families a vision for a future of economic mobility. Your generosity is life-changing for thousands of families on the brink of homelessness in our community."

"All of you from Community Matters have walked with our clients -- who are mostly mothers with young children -- on their journey to self-sufficiency," noted Charlotte Family Housing Director Stephen Smith. "You have encouraged our client moms, you have put smiles on the faces of children who have been traumatized, you have done 'extreme makeovers' at our shelters, you have provided a meal to a mom working several jobs and trying to raise her children. The significant financial support that you have provided has enabled us to hire social workers that help our clients navigate the emotional barriers to self-sufficiency. And you have modeled the best of humanity, by helping to give a hand up to working families who have experienced homelessness. You've done these things with the best and purest of motives and for this we are truly inspired and wonderfully blessed. Thank you."

The celebration dinner at the Club at Longview was a huge success, both as a fundraiser and as an opportunity to learn more about the impact Community Matters is having in Charlotte. Steve and Carol touched on the work their agencies are doing and John Hairston, a Crisis Assistance Ministry guest,

described how that agency had helped him and his family through challenging financial times as he transitioned from the military to civilian life.

Guests also had the chance to bid on some wonderful prizes at the event, with a highlight being our Wine Pull. Fifty bottles of wine were sold for \$50 each, with the opportunity to win a magnum of Tenuta San Guido Guidalberto Super Tuscan from John Tighe's private collection. Congratulations to AmWINS' Charlie Grodecki, who took home this terrific prize.

Special thanks go to our dinner sponsors:

- Gold - AmWINS Group and Arrowpoint Capital
- Silver - AIG, Wells Fargo Insurance Services and Travelers

For photos of the event, see <http://dppics.phanfare.com/7071490>. Thanks to Dan Pliszka for serving as official photographer.



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

## **The Sun Comes Out - And Party with a Purpose is a Huge Hit**

### **Event Raises More Than \$10,000**

The threat of rain couldn't keep folks away from our second Party with a Purpose on October 29. And when the sun came out, when the Holdouts cranked up the music, when the beer started flowing and when the BBQ was served up, our "ultimate happy hour" at Mac's South End kicked into high gear -- bringing in more than \$10,000 for our work to end homelessness.

About 120 folks -- from both inside and outside the insurance industry -- came to the event, which had been rain-delayed from an earlier date. And no one was disappointed.

"Party with a Purpose was a rocking success," said Scott Mercer, who coordinated the event. "Attendees were treated to an awesome barbecue spread, unlimited craft beers and plenty of rock and roll performed by The Holdouts on Mac's outdoor stage and patio. Although rain threatened the event once again, the weather cleared quickly for a beautiful autumn evening of fun, food and music!

"The best news is we raised more than \$10,000 for Charlotte Family Housing and Crisis Assistance Ministry, all the while enjoying a great night out during the work week! Now that's partying with a purpose!"

Scott also gave a big shout-out to the event's sponsors - lead sponsor AIG and co-sponsor Interstate Restoration!

Although scheduled to end at 8 p.m., the Holdouts kept rocking for another hour, even attracting passersby who contributed to the Community Matters cause. So if you missed it this year, you don't want to do so again. Party with a Purpose will definitely be back.

Dan Pliszka's photos of the event are at <http://dppics.phanfare.com/7058883>.



Some of the crowd at this year's Party with a Purpose.

## Volunteer Needs for December

### Crisis Assistance Ministry

- **Relocation Assistance** (teams of 5-10 to load, transport and unload donated furniture for families moving out of homeless shelters and into stable housing): December 17 or 18 from 1-4 p.m.
- **Free Store Assistance** (up to 30 volunteers to sort and inspect donations, stock the Free Store and assist as needed): December 2 from 2:30-4:30 p.m., December 15 from 9-11 a.m., December 18 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Breakfast or Lunch Ministry** (2-15 volunteers to provide food and beverage for customers in line for services): December 2 for breakfast, December 7 for lunch, and December 17 for breakfast.
- **Donations:** Current most-needed items are coats and jackets, men's clothing, and new sample- or hotel-size toiletries.

### Charlotte Family Housing

All opportunities take place at Hawthorne Place, 300 Hawthorne Lane near Presbyterian Hospital Main

- **Meal for 19 people:** December 6 and 20, dropped off at any time during the day; December 8 and 10, dropped off at 6 p.m.
- **Childcare during Financial Literacy Classes:** December 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Overnight hosts** (with own room for sleeping): December 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 20.

If you are able to fulfill an opportunity, please contact the partner directly with a copy to

[karen.wilder@aig.com](mailto:karen.wilder@aig.com).

Crisis Assistance Ministry: [volunteer@crisisassistance.org](mailto:volunteer@crisisassistance.org)

Charlotte Family Housing: Tammy Medlock, [tmedlock@charlottefamilyhousing.org](mailto:tmedlock@charlottefamilyhousing.org)

## **Volunteer Activities: Zenith Insurance Company and Arrowpoint Capital**

Teams from both Zenith Insurance Company and Arrowpoint Capital volunteered at the Crisis Assistance Ministry Free Store in October and November.

Zenith Insurance Company was represented by two groups during the past few weeks, for a total of 16 employees donating more than 40 volunteer hours. Employees sorted and hung clothing and household goods. In addition, they dropped off donations of much needed items.

Arrowpoint Capital's HR and Corporate Communications team also sorted clothes and household items, then took a tour of the Free Store and Crisis Assistance Ministry facility. After volunteering, the team decided to sponsor a holiday drive at their company in December to collect those items that the agency needs most -- coats, men's clothing and shoes and sample- and hotel-size toiletries.

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](http://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 and November.



The Arrowpoint Capital 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 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://smile.amazon.com), 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.

