



Community Matters Announces Its 2014-2015 Charity Partners: Crisis Assistance Ministry and Charlotte Family Housing

Community Matters: Insurance Partners of Charlotte has selected Crisis Assistance Ministry and Charlotte Family Housing as its charity partners for 2014-2015.

Community Matters chose the two organizations because of their complementary focus on battling homelessness in the Charlotte region: Crisis Assistance Ministry for its work in preventing homelessness and Charlotte Family Housing for its efforts to empower homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

“Working with both organizations will allow Community Matters to address homelessness from both a prevention and recovery perspective,” said Tom Lott, a member of the Community Matters steering committee. “And prevention and recovery from loss is what the insurance industry is all about.”

Formed in 2011, Community Matters is now comprised of more than 60 firms in the insurance industry. In 2012, the organization donated 10,200 volunteer hours and \$200,000 to Safe Alliance, its first selected charity. Originally focusing on one charity at a time, Community Matters is expanding its approach to include two charities for 2014-2015 to allow it to have an even broader impact on fighting homelessness in Charlotte.

Crisis Assistance Ministry provides assistance to and advocacy for families in crisis while helping lead them to self-sufficiency. Specifically, Crisis Assistance Ministry provides basic needs, from emergency financial assistance for the prevention of eviction or utility disconnection to clothing and furniture assistance to ensure dignity. Counselors provide support services and referrals to give families the tools they need to move toward financial stability. Educating the larger community about the realities of poverty in Mecklenburg County is also an important role the agency undertakes. Visit them online at www.crisisassistance.org or www.facebook.com/crisisassistance to learn more about preventing homelessness and preserving dignity.

In responding to Crisis Assistance Ministry's selection by Community Matters, CEO Carol Hardison said, “This is an amazing partnership that will make an immediate impact in the lives of people in financial crisis. Community Matters is a one-of-a-kind operation that will touch every aspect of this mission with their support. From helping families facing eviction to giving children a bed to sleep on, they will touch the lives of thousands of people. Together, this unique alignment of three community entities will prevent catastrophes for our neighbors and stop homelessness in its tracks.”

Charlotte Family Housing (CFH) is a shelter-to-housing program for working, homeless families. CFH works to solve family homelessness by housing families, building partnerships, and empowering change, with 91% of the families who were rapidly rehoused last year successfully maintaining permanent housing without a rental subsidy. The mission of CFH is to empower homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services and advocacy. For more information, visit <http://www.charlottefamilyhousing.org>.

“Charlotte Family Housing is ecstatic to be selected as a community partner of Community Matters,” added Executive Director Stephen Smith. “The passion and energy they invest into nonprofit partnerships will allow us to empower so many homeless parents and children in our community to move beyond homelessness and sustain housing long-term.”

Community Matters will hold its Second Annual Celebration Dinner at the Club at Longview to recognize its two-year partnership with Safe Alliance, announce its fund-raising total for 2014 and welcome its new charity partners. For tickets or more information about the dinner, contact info@communitymatterscharlotte.org.