



Great Fun at Great Heights

Triangle Training Center – In June CCT! took a group of 15 youth and five staff members to Triangle Training Center in Pittsboro to participate in team-building and leadership games.

By working together in a series of group challenges, the students learned about their diverse strengths and the importance of building trust and communication.

continued on back page



CCT! Staff and students support each other during a ropes course.

VOLUNTEER WITH CCT! - Enhance your skills, develop your career

- **Board Committee Member** Help board of directors with initiatives in communications & fund development. Learn skills in administration.
- **Volunteer Coordinator** Help match up & manage volunteers. Gain management & human resources experience (7-month commitment).
- **Social Media Manager** Help update the website, Facebook page & blog. Gain valuable expertise in modern marketing.
- **Office Assistant** Organize data in our new database. Learn about organization in administration.
- **Event Co-Coordinators** Help organize pre-Posada event in December, Lobster Sale in May, and Tapas event in March. Gain expertise in events planning & fundraising (Pre-posada event planning starts immediately; Lobster Sale and Tapas event planning start in December).
- **E-Newsletter Coordinator** aid in creating monthly electronic newsletter. Enhance your communications skills.
- **Historian-Reporter** help collect our many success stories from mentors, mentees, families and volunteers. Develop writing and communications skills.

Contact Kim Caraganis at kim@chathamcountytogether.org

From the Executive Director & the Board Chair

As Chatham County Together! moves forward into the new fiscal year and its 22nd year, we will begin implementing our new strategic plan to better serve the children of our county. The plan was in process this past year and during that time we were fortunate to have guidance from two very helpful experts from the Executive Service Corps of the Greater Triangle, Henry Gest and Julian Wachs. Sadly, Henry passed away in July. We will always remember him for his insight, wisdom and concrete contributions to CCT!.

The plan targets four critical areas: program capacity, communications/visibility, fundraising, and board development. We plan to enhance our communications and outreach, strengthen our board of directors, expand and diversify our funding and increase the agency's program capacity to serve children. We hope that by enhancing the services we provide to our mentees, improving our internal and external communications, expanding our funding and further strengthening our board of directors, we can better serve the community we share. A link to the full plan will soon be available on our website.

But we need your help! Consider becoming a volunteer, making a donation, or joining a board committee to be a part of the great work we can accomplish together – keeping kids in school, giving them positive role models, and developing skills for successes in life.

We know that we live in a community full of rich and diverse talents and people full of generosity willing to share their gifts and to help their neighbors. We hope you'll join us, because we all know that mentoring makes a difference in Chatham County.

– Kim Caraganis, Executive Director & Virginia Chambers, Board Chair

Through our many programs, CCT! served 336 youth and 180 parents in the last year!

– see program updates, page 2

Welcome New Board Members!

JoAnne Robb, Pastor Miles Siler, Judith Wurster

PROGRAM UPDATES

Juvenile Community Service and Restitution A major focus for the Juvenile Community Service and Restitution Program is to give juveniles who have committed a crime in Chatham County a way to compensate their community and/or pay restitution to the victim. The numerous CCT! community connections provide us with creative ways to match juveniles with work service supervisors and work sites that will widen a youth's education/social horizons and could increase their options for entry into the adult working world. A great example of one of these opportunities is the Margie Ellison Community Gardens in Pittsboro, next to the fairgrounds. Presently, Margie Ellison's long time dream of having a varied number of community members working together and youth being educated about growing their own food is being carried out by our court referred youth working at the garden site.

Hablando Claro This project, which began in 2005, is based on a model developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which showed that the chances of teens engaging in risky behaviors could be decreased by educating adults with information through home health parties on topics of human sexuality, HIV, pregnancy prevention, birth control, and the tools to increase communication with their adolescents.

Guided Growth Guided Growth youth who are not matched with a volunteer and are on the waiting list are offered a variety of small and large group activities that teach important social, artistic and recreational skills. Activities include field trips, art workshops and summer camp placement.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners Youth ages 4-17 who have a parental figure in prison are eligible for this initiative. Originally funded by a federal grant with continuing funding from Chatham County government and Triangle Community Foundation Community Grantmaking, CCT! monitored up to 35 mentor-mentee matches. This program ends in September.

United Way Mentoring Mentored youth are matched one-on-one with volunteers who spend time with them, being a friend, building new skills, and having fun! Youth ages 6-17 are eligible.

Family Advocacy Youth who have become involved with the Office of Juvenile Justice and their parents receive support from a staff member as they learn about valuable communication skills, accountability and services to help them have success at a school, at home, and in the community. Present and former court-involved youth meet once or twice a week as a group for community service activities, recreation and education.



Students prepare a meal using farm to table techniques

STUDENTS GO GREEN

Central Carolina Community College –

What's black and white and green all over? Our country's environmental problems and the innovative technologies that will help solve them!

In June, CCCC introduced this idea to fifteen youth and seven mentors through a Sustainable Technologies workshop. Throughout the week, they learned about new opportunities available in green industries.

The sessions focused on topics from the importance of locally grown sustainable food, jobs in the culinary profession to the components of a sustainable farm to weatherization and renewable energy. The program included both classroom and hands-on learning experiences like cooking foods picked from a garden, building a wall and taking apart a photovoltaic cell. They also took a trip to the Piedmont Biofuels factory.

Students who completed the workshop received a certificate of completion.

"By exposure to this workshop, it is hoped that students will consider CCCC's Sustainable Technologies program," said Tracy Lynn, former CCT! program coordinator and drop-out prevention specialist. "Students who complete the Sustainable Technologies program are better positioned to work in building, restaurant work, farm work or construction."

This opportunity was a collaboration among CCT!, CCCC, the WIA, and the Triangle South Workforce Development Board. The Workforce Board determined that employability skills programs should be offered in five top development sectors including sustainable energy and agriculture.

*"A community is like a ship.
Everyone ought to be prepared to
take the helm." – Henrik Ibsen*

STAFF TRANSITIONS

Our APPLES communications summer intern, **Julie Crimmins**, has worked on the agency's social media, website updates, newsletter and other communication efforts. **Be sure to check out our Facebook page, Twitter feed, e-news updates and our new wordpress blog at chathamcountytogether.wordpress.com.**

We are also happy to announce that several staff members will be taking on new roles at CCT! **Tracy Lynn** will be a contracted outreach coordinator with the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program in its last months of federal funding. **Gwen Overturf** is serving as the coordinator for our new Community Service and Restitution program, and **Mano Gallegos** is now Coordinator for the Hablando Claro program.

WELCOME NEW MATCHES!



Alice Tapp and Jay



Brenda Farrish and Brittany



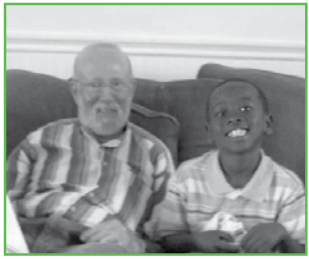
Charles Eliason and Rashan



Maggie Skiles and Dorashea



Erica Nesbit and Cordell



Herb Allred and Magale



Machai St. Rain and Chacole



Lauren Gebhard and Josh



Johnita Ellerby and Kameron

Visit our website
or Facebook
page to see more
match photos!



Marti Greene and Seirra



Jailee Hollars and Vernon

Mentoring Works

"Coming from a single-mother family, CCT! influenced my life a lot as a kid, from going places I may have never gone, to meeting great influential people who are still in my life today encouraging me. Also, allowing me to have the privilege of being the first person in my family to receive a scholarship to further my education." – Maurice Eubanks

In Memory of
Henry Gest
Otellier McKenzie
Christopher Maurice Yarborough

- OTHER MATCHES**
- Shana Overdorf & Jessica
 - Barbara Burton & Shalyn
 - Monica Hadley & Gloria
 - Grayum Wells & Odalis
 - Liz Tedesco & Jeffery
 - Brett Denuo & Raekwon
 - Sherry Landau & Phoenicia
 - Elizabeth Fridley & Jade
 - Venus Stafford & Jane'a
 - Nelinda Benitez & Nely
 - Lala Gibbs & Amaya
 - Milburn Gibbs & Ivan
 - Leigh Lander & Ashanti
 - Connie Allred & Michelle

A Letter from One of our Mentees

Mrs. Judy – Let Me Start by saying thank you. She is so kind, generous, and she always encourages me; she always brings joy into my heart. We do a lot of things together, because we are always together.

Without her I wouldn't know what I would be doing for my education. I would not have gone to college and try to continue my education. She has done lots of things that I have been dreaming of doing, and only God knows how much I appreciate her.

YES, I want to contribute to Chatham County Together! and help meet the goal of \$90,000 for the fiscal year!

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Chatham County Together! is a private nonprofit organization. Your contribution _____ Amount is tax deductible. You may also make a donation on our website.

I would like my donation to support:

- Mentoring
- Community service activities
- Parent education/teen pregnancy prevention
- No preference

My donation is in honor/memory of _____

Include address for us to send acknowledgement

Please send me a volunteer application.

Contributions since last newsletter - THANK YOU!

Aaron and Mary Honeycutt
 Anne Granath
 Anonymous
 Anonymous Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
 Archie Purcell and Dorothy Casey
 Armin and Jeanne Hagen
 Arthur and Emily Halpern
 Arthur Carlsen Charitable Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
 Audrey Webster
 Bennett and Jan Waugh
 Betsey Elliott
 Bette-Burr Fenley
 Bill Doyle
 Bob McConaughy and Patty Blanton
 C. Tandy Jones
 Carl Fox
 Cathy Holt Yoga
 Chad and Christina Virgil
 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Delta Foundation, Inc.
 Chapel in the Pines
 Charles Anderson and Nancy Easterling
 Chatham County Community Development Corp., Inc.
 Cherie Westmoreland
 Clark Poe Construction, Inc.
 Curtisteen McCrimmon
 Dale and Bonnie Olbrich
 Daryl Farrington Walker
 Dave and Frances Haman
 Dave Smith & Susan Strozier
 David and Jan Misenheimer
 Deepa Sanyal
 Diane Keasler
 Don and Peggy Bolejack
 Don Davidson
 Douglas and Deborah Sanks
 Ebenezer United Methodist Church
 Ed and Nina Comiskey
 Edward and Betty Patz
 Elizabeth Anderson
 Emanuel and Irma Stein
 Farrel and Welshie Potts
 Gail Crider
 Gary Phillips and Ilana Dubester
 George and Dori Matthews
 Ginna Earl
 Glenna Eshleman
 Gloria Robinson
 Harry and Judith Wurster
 Henry and Lucy Hinson
 Hugh and Elinor Knapp
 James and Ann Guthrie
 James Smith & Susan Keleman
 Jaye McDermott
 Jeffrey and Diane Pettus
 Jerry and Kathryn Fowler
 Jim and Sharon Kirkman
 Joanne Caye
 Joe Hackney
 Joey Howell
 John and Jane McKenney
 John and Janice Hunt
 Joseph and Edith Scannell
 Julian Sereno and Debra Groves
 Kathleen Putnam
 Kathy Hotelling
 Kay Judge
 Kenny and Kellie Sigmon
 Larry and Avis Autry
 Lauren Stevens and Kathy Hearsey
 Lee Parker
 Margaret Anne Watt
 Mark Baylen and Charlotte Leidy
 Mary Rossi Lindsey
 Mary Wittenborn
 Max and Ann Drake
 Megan Bolejack
 Mr. and Mrs. L.T. Kreisman
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Proffitt
 Mrs. Billy Holt
 Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church Women's Society
 Myles Friedman and Virginia Chambers
 Nancy Harris
 Nancy Tanguay
 Ned Kelly
 Optimist Club of Chapel Hill
 Page Vernon
 Pastor Sue Flippin
 Patty Poe
 Paul Alford
 Paul Gabrielson and Mary Love May
 Peter J. and Prudence F. Meehan
 Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
 Progress Energy
 Rebecca Faith Becker
 Richard and Ingrid Parish
 Richard and Lynn Hayes
 Rick and Shannon Bueker
 Rick Goode
 Rita Baldwin
 Rita Spina
 Robert and Janice Britson
 Robert and Nancy Oram
 Robert and Sandra Simmons
 Ronald and Leigh Lander
 Roy and Mary Lindholm
 Rubell Thompson
 Rubella Thompson
 Sally Boyd
 Sally Earnest
 Sally Miller
 Sharen Faye
 Siler City Presbyterian Church
 Stanley Pomeranz and Cassandra Beach
 Staples and Tamsie Hughes
 Stephen Townsend
 Steve and Betsy Wing
 T. Beaton
 T. Michael Budd
 Ted Koenig
 The Rolander Family Foundation
 Thomas Harbin and Mimi Saffer
 Thomas Marriott and Alice Yeaman
 Tom and Laura Vanderbeck
 Town of Goldston
 Tracy Lynn
 Verne Dregalla and Susan Ripley
 Vikram and Susan Rao
 Whitney Wiggins
 Women of Farrington

Thank you for making the following fundraisers a success!

Lobster Sale - Total Revenues: \$4,636

Bob Serpas	Sandy and Bob Gabor
Stephanie Cook	Fabian Sparrow
Piggly Wiggly - Pittsboro	Cindy Ware
Chatham Mills	Liz Barber
Lynn Ogden	Curtisteen McCrimmon
Pittsboro Discount Drug	Richard Parish
Siler City Pharmacy	Mario Burgess
Sherry Ratz	Steve Johnson
Pittsboro Fire Department	Jim Kirkman
Pittsboro Sporting Goods	Bruce Murray
Rita Marley-McKenzie	Betsy Flanagan
Patty Poe	Cynthia Bowen
Nicole Byrne	Supplemental funding provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Vaughn Upshaw	

Tapas of the Mediterranean Total Revenues: \$10,000

Tapas Sponsors	Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church UMW
Elizabeth Anderson, Coldwell Banker-HPW	Oakmont Nursery
Edward Jones	Cure Nursery
Carolina Custom Homes of Burlington	Whole Foods - Cary
Robert Spransy Accounting	Nancy Tanguay
Clark Poe Construction	Carolina Brewery
First Bank	Hannah Barnum, Anole Nook Farm
Mediterranean Deli	
Wade & Elizabeth Barber	Tapas Helpers
Palladium Networks	Diane Cole
Forrester & Associates	Maureen Hughes
	Nancy Tanguay
Auction Contributors	Jean Haywood
Vespertine	Gail Crider
Shannon Bueker, NotNow Kato	Cathy Holt
Peter Ross	Cindy Edwards
Henry Gest	Betsey Elliott
Stone Crow Pottery	Garry and Laine Lipson
Hewitt Pottery	Avis and Larry Autry
Shakori Hills	Cara O'Connell
Aria Skin Spa	Zach Fisher
Doug Dotson	Jim Kirkman
Hart Furniture	Mona Perkins
Whole Foods - Chapel Hill	Maggie Skiles
Forrest Greenslade	Susan Helmer
Libba Adams, River Road Pottery	Betsy Flanagan
New Horizons	Janice and Robert Britson
Crook's Corner	Jean Chapman
Glasshalfull	Lucia Peck
Billy Mason, Mystic Merchant	Mac Hill
Bella Donna	Angelina Koulizakis-Battiste
Roger Dinger	
Harry Wurster	Tapas Food Donations
Joyce Baird	Angelina's Kitchen
Sarah Kuhn, Hotel Hadley Studios	Jessee's Coffee & Bar
Raleigh Street Gallery	Bella Donna
Paperbacks Plus	Carolina Brewery
C.J. Hart, Hart Studios	Glasshalfull
N.C. Arts Incubator	Mariakakis Fine Food & Wine
Hickory Mountain Weavery	Mediterranean Deli
Ricky Lindley	Crook's Corner
Eddie White	Chatham Marketplace
Against His Will Studio	White Rabbit Farm Bakery
Stained Glass by Sam	The Food Fairy
Daryl Walker	Jim and Sharon Kirkman
	Audrey Schwankl



CCT! bowls at Sportsman's Lanes in Siler City

Optimist Club of Chapel Hill Sponsors Bowling Outing

Sportsman's Lanes - On May 7, local members of Chatham County Together!, including both adult mentors and young mentees, were treated to a two-hour session of bowling at Siler City's Sportsman's Lanes, which was recently reopened to the public by owner Bob Welch.

The Optimist Club of Chapel Hill sponsored the event, and paid for the pizza lunch and drinks, cost of bowling shoes and the use of the lanes and building. Sportman's Lanes provided discounts.

The event was for the volunteers, children who are mentees of CCT!, as well as children on the waiting list to receive mentors. Staff of CCT! helped children keep score and contributed greatly to the event's success.

Shirille Lee, Mentoring Children of Prisoners program director, conducted a service training session for volunteers while the youngsters bowled and enjoyed the activities at the lanes. Roy Barnes, CCT!'s United Way Program Manager, coordinated the activities.

CCT! Youth Group Transforms Unused Room into Art Studio

Maria Soto and Mano Gallegos are the coordinators of a youth group from CCT! which aims to provide youth with cultural opportunities. The group generally attracts about eight to 16 young people.

The group is called the Casa de la Cultura in Spanish, or the House of Culture in English. The young people meet every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m.

"All are welcome," Gallegos emphasized.

The group meets upstairs in a vacant room over the Chatham Camera Club, on North Chatham Avenue, in the N.C. Arts Incubator, convenient to the nearby CCT! offices.

The formerly unused Casa de la Cultura is helping to refurbish and improve the upstairs room to use for art activities.

"Parents are working with us to paint, fix up, and convert it into a conducive place to create art," Gallegos said. "The interest is to motivate and inspire different ideas within our teenagers."

Presently, the youth of Casa de la Cultura are working with paper-maché, clay projects and other artistic expressions to exhibit at the monthly Third Friday Art Walk in downtown Siler City. The Arts Incubator allows use of its space.

"We also have a dance class for this group where they learn how to perform dances such as salsa, meringue and bachata," Gallegos said.

Casa de la Cultura goes on field trips. They have traveled to Jordan Lake, the Triangle Training Center in Pittsboro and Charlotte, Soto said.

Come by CCT! to see what wondrous activities are alive and thriving among our creative youth!

More Thank You's



Laine and Avis Duo at Tapas of the Mediterranean

Thank you to Forrest and Carol-Ann Greenslade for hosting their Beer Garden Party to fundraise for CCT! programs!



THANK YOU to three of our wonderful board members! Outgoing board members Curtisteen McCrimmon, Rita Marley-McKenzie & Patty Poe (not pictured) served a combined total of 17 years. All three have also served as mentors in CCT! programs.

Welcome! *Caspian Serden Caraganis - May 9, 2011* • *Maia Grace Fisher - June 6, 2011*



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cct@chathamcountytogether.org
www.chathamcountytogether.org



Chatham County Together! is a private nonprofit agency that encourages young people ages 6 to 17 to remain in school, stay out of court and make better choices through advocacy, counseling and mentoring. When possible, CCT! provides a caring adult volunteer for each child. We carefully monitor school attendance and performance and provide tutoring, counseling and advocacy to improve specific skills.

CCT! Staff

Kim Caraganis
Roy Barnes
Shirille Lee
Pam Johnson
Maria Soto
Gwen Overturf
Hugo Gallegos
Justin Lana
Travis Patterson
Elea Ocampo

2011-12 Board of Directors

Virginia Chambers, Chair
Vaughn Upshaw, Vice Chair
Fabian Sparrow, Treasurer, Sec.
Zach Fisher
Ann Stewart
Elizabeth Barber
Nicole Byrne
JoAnne Robb
Pastor Miles Siler
Judith Wurster

**MANY THANKS to
Triangle Community
Foundation's Send a Kid to
Camp Program, Community
Grantmaking Program, and
Triangle Gives Back initiative**

*Newsletter Layout - Susan
Strozler, Bantam Designs and
Julie Crimmins*

continued from front page

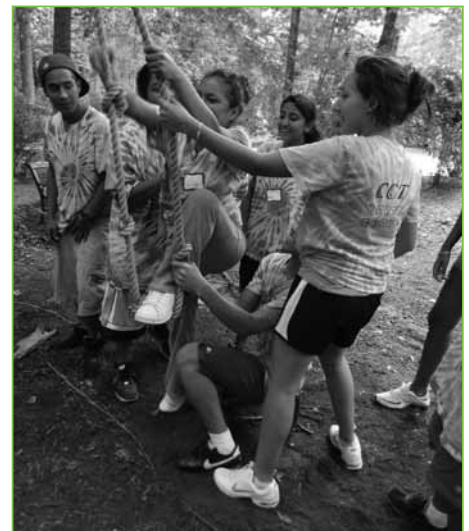
Overall, the kids viewed the opportunity as a great privilege and learned about themselves, each other, and ways to work well with others. They practiced their balance, overcame their fears, worked on planning ahead, and appreciated the diverse set of skills and strengths each person had to offer.

Among other activities, the students talked about their heroes and goals for the future. Heroes ranged from family members to professional athletes to King Solomon, while goals for the future ranged from graduating from high school to becoming a doctor or a professional baseball player.

Afterwards the students enjoyed a group dinner at the home of Elena Gonzalez where they reflected upon their experiences.

Jose said that he enjoyed the great team building skills and that the fact that he was with his friends made him want to work harder to get the task accomplished.

Eva said she loved the communication that happened throughout the two days. She said that the ropes course leaders and facilitators were great and showed the group a good time.



BUILD A BACKPACK

CCT! is proud to announce participation in a statewide partnership with Walmart Communities in Schools, and IBM to collect school supplies for CCT! students in Chatham County.

Bins will be available in Siler City and Cary Walmart stores until August 21 to collect donated school supply items.
Contact kim@chathamcountytogether.org

ATTENTION STATE EMPLOYEES

This fall, United Way will kick off its annual State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC). CCT! is a United Way of Chatham County agency and encourages participation in the current annual campaign. When you receive your donation paperwork, we would be honored to receive your gift. To designate that CCT! receive your contribution, you must mark the code **1410-005** on your form. THANK YOU!