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Community Action Month Spotlight

May 2023 | Special Edition: Community Action Month | GLEAMNS Community Services Department

Announcement

May 2023 kicks off the 59th year since the Community Action Network was established to help families and communities in America's "War on Poverty." Every May, the GLEAMNS Community Services Department celebrates 'Community Action Day' to promote awareness of the Community Action Network as well as resources from vendors and community partners.

This annual special edition includes highlights from last year's Community Action Day. Also, check out what already has been accomplished in honor of Community Action Month.

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Community Action Day during the COVID-19
pandemic

Greenwood Mayor Declares May 2023 as Community Action Month

May is National Community Action Month, dedicated to recognizing the impact of the national Community Action Network. GLEAMNS HRC is one of 1,000-plus Community Action Agencies across the country, working to help eligible individual and families. This year, Mayor Brandon Smith of Greenwood has once again proclaimed May as National Community Action Month to help raise awareness of Community Action and to reaffirm support for the work of GLEAMNS HRC and other Community Action Agencies across the country.

See the full Mayoral Proclamation on next page.



Greenwood Mayor Brandon Smith (left) pictured with Zsaquez Flucker, GLEAMNS Assistant Community Services Director (right), during a Greenwood City Council Meeting.

“Community Action changes people lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.” (The Promise of Community Action)

Background on Community Action



On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, which created various programs, including Community Action Agencies, as part of his War on Poverty. He knew then, as we know now, that the war against poverty must be won in the field, in every private home, in every public office, from the courthouse to the White House. In 1965, SC Community Action Network was established to wage the war on poverty by promoting self-sufficiency for those of limited income, ensuring that all residents are able to live in dignity; by implementing innovative and cost-effective programs to improve the lives and living conditions of the impoverished; and by providing support and instruction for everyone in need of assistance.

The month of May is National Community Action Month. The SC Community Action and Head Start Network will celebrate the impact Community Action Agencies have in the lives of individuals, youth, and families in their local communities. The Community Action Agencies offer a variety of services to the citizens of South Carolina like: Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Assistance, Money Management, Healthcare, Housing, Job Training, and Youth Leadership Development Programs are examples of programs hosted by the Community Action Networks to promote self-sufficiency to families in need in South Carolina. – *From the SC Association of Community Action Partnerships (SCACAP)*

This year's Mayoral Proclamation for Community Action Month



PROCLAMATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Community Action emerged from the heart of President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1964 proclamation of America's "War on Poverty," where battles must be won on the field, in every private home, in every public office and from the courthouse to the White House; and

WHEREAS, Community Action has put a human face on poverty for 59 years by advocating for limited-income citizens without a voice, so that they may enter the middle class and reach for the American dream, replacing their despair with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Community Action serves 99% of America's counties in rural, suburban and urban communities, connecting millions of children and families to approaches that help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. is the Community Action Agency in Greenwood County working to help communities in 14 counties, including Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda by providing services and opportunities, such as energy assistance, emergency rental and mortgage assistance, Head Start, Weatherization and many others; and

WHEREAS, Community Action insists on community participation and involvement, ensuring that all sectors of the community have a voice and will be heard; and

WHEREAS, Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brandon Smith, Mayor of the City of Greenwood do hereby proclaim May 2023 as: **COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH** in recognition of the hard work and dedication of GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. and all Community Action Agencies.


Brandon Smith, Mayor

Lookback at Community Action Day 2022

Every year during the month of May, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the nation hold activities or events to promote awareness about the impact of Community Action. Last year, GLEAMNS held its annual Community Action Day on May 20, 2022. The event took place at Piedmont Technical College inside the James Medford Family Event Center. The event was hosted by the GLEAMNS Community Services Department, and various exhibitors and vendors were displayed throughout the venue. This was the first time in two years that the event was held indoors – due to the pandemic, Community Action Day was held as a “drive-through” event since 2020.

Highlights from last year’s event include an appearance by Greenwood City Councilman Matthew Miller and attendees participating in line-dancing. As part of the event’s program, Councilman Miller read the mayoral proclamation of Community Action Month to the attendees present. Throughout the day, attendees were able to network, enjoy a free meal, participate in games, and win door prizes. Prizes were donated by various vendors from the Upstate and Midlands areas. Around 300 attendees came through the event, and approximately 55 vendors and exhibitors were present. *(Photos continued through page 9)*



Attendees smiling for the camera.



GLEAMNS banner welcoming attendees.



Greenwood City Councilman Matthew Miller reading the mayoral proclamation.



Exhibitor speaking with attendee.



Attendees participating in line dancing.



GLEAMNS Board Members present.



GLEAMNS Board Members and attendees waiting for event to begin.



GLEAMNS CEO present for the event.

“Lookback at 2022 Community Action Day” continued



American Red Cross present as exhibitor.



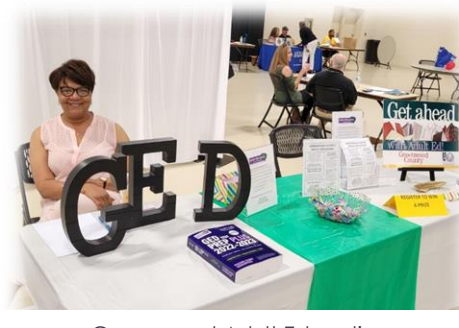
Cornerstone present as exhibitor.



Agape Care present as exhibitor.



Destiny of Greenwood present as exhibitor.



Greenwood Adult Education present as exhibitor.



Be Great Academy/Boys & Girls Club present as exhibitor.



CPW Greenwood present as exhibitor.



Greenwood County First Steps present as exhibitor.



Dominion Energy present as exhibitor.



Self Regional Healthcare present as exhibitor. Self Regional Health Express provided free health screenings to attendees.



“Lookback at 2022 Community Action Day” continued



Absolute Total Care/WellCare present as exhibitor.



SC Legal Services present as exhibitor.



GLEAMNS Headstart present as exhibitor.



GLEAMNS Community Services present as exhibitor.



GLEAMNS Weatherization present as exhibitor.



GLEAMNS Human Resources present as exhibitor.



Carolina Health Centers present as exhibitor.



Meg's House present as exhibitor.



Little River Electric Cooperative present as exhibitor.



Greenwood Police Department/Community Engagement Team present as exhibitor. (Shown with event staff)



SCACAP COVID V.O.I.C.E.S. present as exhibitor.



SC Human Affairs Commission present as exhibitor.

"Lookback at 2022 Community Action Day" continued



Foster Grandparents/AmeriCorps Seniors present as exhibitor.



SC Stay Plus present as exhibitor. During the event, SC Stay Plus assisted customers with rent and utilities.



SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) present as exhibitor.



UnitedHealthcare present as exhibitor.



Healthy Blue/Healthy Connections present as exhibitor.



Lifelong Learning Center present as exhibitor.



Resilience Family Healthcare & IV Lounge present as exhibitor.



Beyond Abuse present as exhibitor.



Greater Greenwood United Ministry present as exhibitor.



SC Commission for the Blind present as exhibitor.



Alston Wilkes Society present as exhibitor.



Upper Savannah Care Services present as exhibitor, speaking with attendee.

“Lookback at 2022 Community Action Day” continued



Piedmont Technical College present as exhibitor.



Countybank present as exhibitor.



SC Thrive present as exhibitor.



Anointed Hands Driving Academy present as exhibitor.



National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) present as exhibitor.



United Way of the Lakelands present as exhibitor, networking with attendee.



Your CBD Store present as exhibitor.



Vocational Rehabilitation present as exhibitor.



Meals on Wheels present as exhibitor, speaking with attendee.



Exhibitor speaking with attendees from South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).



SC Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) present. (Shown with event staff)



Platinum Designs by Tabitha present as exhibitor.

“Lookback at 2022 Community Action Day” continued



Event staff handing out refreshments.



Attendee Brother Bill, local radio personality, speaking with exhibitor.



Event staff welcoming attendees.



Attendee speaking with exhibitor.



City Councilman Miller (left) and event staff with mayoral proclamation.



Attendee and exhibitors in discussion.



Participants getting down on the dance floor. Prizes were given out to the dancers giving the most energy.



Venue before start of the event.

*...And a special thank you
to the vendors/partners
who donated door prizes!*

How “Community Action Day” looked during the pandemic

Just a reminder of how the GLEAMNS Community Services Department held “Community Action Day” during the global pandemic.

GLEAMNS Community Action Day 2020



(Left Photo) City of Greenwood staff receiving lunch delivery from GLEAMNS staff during day of Community Action Day. **(Middle Photo)** GLEAMNS event staff placing food items in vehicle in drive-through line. **(Right Photo)** GLEAMNS staff placing items in resource bags.

GLEAMNS Community Action Day 2021



(Left Photo) Greenwood police officers directing drivers to the event. **(Right Photo)** Cars lined up as GLEAMNS event staff speak with drivers about Community Action Day.



(Left Photo/Middle Photo) A few exhibitors, including Dominion Energy and SC Works/Upper Savannah, were stationed along the drive-through route. **(Right Photo)** GLEAMNS event staff handing food items to attendee driving through event.

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Please check out our entire agency online at www.gleamnshrc.org. There's more to GLEAMNS than meets the eye!

GLEAMNS HRC, INC.

The mission of GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission Incorporated, a community-based organization, is to work in partnership with our community to deliver quality services, assistance and opportunity to eligible customers with emphasis placed on education, employment, and self-sufficiency.

GLEAMNS offers a comprehensive set of programs designed to combat the causes and conditions of poverty throughout the local communities. Programs include but are not limited to:

- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program
- Early Head Start
- Head Start
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program

Through the bundled-services approach, families are better aligned with the appropriate services targeted to help them develop and maintain self-sufficiency.

