



Community Action Month Spotlight

May 21, 2021 | Special Edition: Community Action Month | GLEAMNS Community Services Department

Announcement

May 2021 kicks off the 57th year since the Community Action Network was established to help families and individuals 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 vital resources from vendors and community partners.

This special edition includes a lookback at how the GLEAMNS Community Services Department carried out Community Action Day last year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, see what has already been accomplished this year in honor of Community Action Month 2021.

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13-year-old student shares artwork, inspired by theme for Community Action Day 2021

Greenwood Mayor Declares May 2021 as Community Action Month

May is National Community Action Month, dedicated to recognizing the impact of the national Community Action Network. GLEAMNS is one of 1,000-plus Community Action Agencies across the country, working to help income-eligible individual and families. This year, Mayor Brandon Smith of Greenwood proclaimed May 2021 as National Community Action Month in recognition of the hard work and dedication of GLEAMNS and all Community Action Agencies.

See the full Mayoral Proclamation on next page.



Greenwood Mayor Brandon Smith (left) pictured with Zsaquez Flucker, GLEAMNS Asst. 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)

Governor McMaster Signs Proclamation Declaring May 2021 as Community Action Month

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster has proclaimed the month of May as South Carolina Community Action Month across the state. 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.

See copy of the Proclamation from the Governor’s Office on page 6.



The City of
GREENWOOD
South Carolina

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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, from the courthouse to the White House; and

WHEREAS, Community Action has put a human face on poverty for 57 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 15 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, Workforce Development services, 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 2021 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
City of Greenwood

Lookback at 2020: Community Action Day Carries On, Despite the Pandemic

During the month of May, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the nation hold activities or events to promote awareness about Community Action Month. However, given the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, CAAs had to be creative in how to safely carry out festivities for Community Action Month.

On May 15, 2020, the GLEAMNS Community Services Department hosted a “Contact-less Day of Action” for Community Action Month. The event took place from 10am to 1pm at the Brewer Community Complex in Greenwood. Members of the community were served “drive-through” style—staff handed out resource bags and boxed lunches as people drove up in their vehicles. Staff also delivered lunch to local vendors and community partners. Despite the pandemic, the GLEAMNS Community Services Department was still able to promote awareness of Community Action in a safe way for staff and constituents alike.

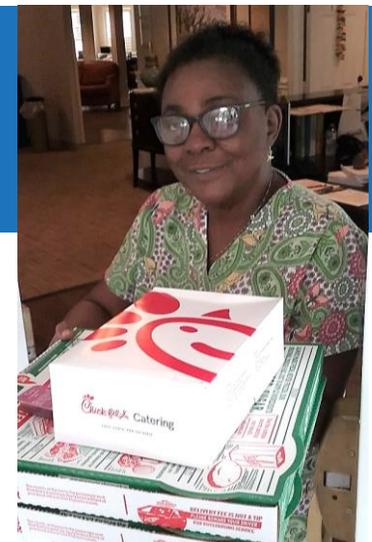
Please see page 7 for more photos from our 2020 Community Action Day event!



Cars lining up for start of Community Action Day.



GLEAMNS staff preparing to hand out food items to drivers.



Morningside of Greenwood staff receiving lunch delivery.



GLEAMNS staff organizing food items for handout.



GLEAMNS staff placing food item and resource bag in customer's trunk.



GLEAMNS Board Chair and Greenwood City Councilwoman Betty Boles passing through!

What does “embracing change” look like? A 13-year-old shares his perspective.

The theme of GLEAMNS Community Action Day for 2021 is “Embracing Change.” This year, Kamaury Watson, one of our GLEAMNS Youth Leadership students, was asked what comes to mind when he thinks about *embracing change*. He was encouraged to think back to the events that transpired over the past year, which included police brutality, racial injustice, the impact of COVID-19, and other events and issues. These two drawings (see left and below) reflect the perspective of this 13-year-old as it relates to embracing change.



Kamaury Watson, GLEAMNS Youth Leadership Student (pictured above) provided artwork for this year's Community Action Month spotlight.



ENROLL YOUR STUDENT IN GLEAMNS YOUTH LEADERSHIP NOW!
*Eligible Greenwood County students age 12-18 can enroll throughout the year pending available slots.
For more information, please contact Youth Leadership staff Barbara Sanders 864-993-4278
or Geneva Patterson at 864-980-0715. Check us out at www.gleamnshrc.org.*

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, created as a result of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, community action agencies promote self-sufficiency for citizens with limited income; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies offer a variety of services to our residents including employment, education, housing, income management, health, nutrition, energy, and general emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS, by offering innovative and cost-effective programs designed to meet the changing and specific needs of individuals and families, community action agencies in South Carolina have made positive and lasting differences in the lives of citizens in all 46 counties of our state; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies play an important role in providing individuals and families with limited income the necessary resources to help improve their lives and living conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize our community action agencies for their positive impact on the well-being and quality of life of the residents of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

“Lookback at 2020 Community Action Day” continued



Young attendee smiling for the camera!



GLEAMNS staff preparing food box items.



GLEAMNS staff organizing resource bags for handout.



GLEAMNS staff placing items in customer's trunk.



Customer thanking staff as she drives through!



GLEAMNS staff delivering lunch to City of Greenwood representative.



Smiles from City of Greenwood staff after lunch delivery!



GLEAMNS attendee receiving food box item.



GLEAMNS staff handing resource bag to customer.

Pre-Pandemic Moments: How “Community Action Day” looked before the pandemic

Just a reminder of how the GLEAMNS Community Services Department used to hold “Community Action Day” events - before the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has taught us to not take things for granted, so we look forward to seeing you next year for Community Action Day, however we can meet!

Please check out our agency website at www.gleamnshrc.org to view an upcoming special edition of the GLEAMNS Community Services newsletter, which will include highlights of 2020 and a look-back at the ‘year before the pandemic’ (2019). Moments from Community Action Day 2021 will be posted online at a later time. This newsletter will be posted online as well.



GLEAMNS staff assisting customer with bingo.



Customer getting glucose levels checked by representative of La Clinica Gratis.



Participants “walking it out” during the Community Action Day’s cakewalk.

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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)
- Magic Johnson Community Empowerment Center/Teen After-School Center (TASC)
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Workforce Development (WIOA)

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

