

GLEAMNS News & Views

January 2010

MEET OEO DIRECTOR



Dr Patton and Ms. Cooper attend the Head Start Awareness Day at Finley Park in Columbia, SC

Ms. Louise Cooper has been appointed the Director of the State Office of Economic Opportunity. She holds a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Psychology and a secondary teaching certificate from the University of Louisville. She has secondary teaching certificates in Kentucky and Georgia and certification in Adult Education from the state of Georgia. She is also certified in Conflict Mediation.

Ms. Cooper participated in developing a community ministry to assist individuals who have emergency needs for food and utility assistance. She volunteers for the Georgetown County Guardian Ad Litem Program and began to advocate for abused and neglected children in family court. She has worked as a Recruiter/Trainer for the program.

Ms. Cooper was appointed State Director of the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Program in August 2004 and remains in that position today.

As Director of the State Office of Economic Opportunity she states it offers her a chance to help those who desperately need assistance. She states that she is excited to be joining the efforts of the Community Action Agency network at a time when we have been blessed with resources to truly help a maximum number of citizens. She is looking forward to working with dedicated staff on the state level as well as staff at the Community Action Agencies. Our goal is to work together to strengthen South Carolina.

Ms. Cooper is married to Ronald Cooper, Sr., and they have two children.

WIA Toy Drive

This year the WIA staff decided to forego the giving of gifts to each other, in order to give to those who were less fortunate. At the December meeting, staff members brought new unwrapped toys to be donated to charity. On December 18th, representatives from the Salvation Army of Greenwood loaded a pickup truck with toys that were to be given for Christmas. The driver stated that the donations came just in time, as “they were about to have to go out and buy more toys”. Pictured with some of the donated items are Candice Foggie, Youth Case Manager Abbeville; Jennifer Houston, Adult/Dislocated Case Manager, McCormick; and Zeb Young, Business Service Representative, Abbeville and McCormick.



BOARD MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Betty R. Boles is a native of Newberry, SC and moved to Greenwood, SC to further her education and pursue a career in Business Management. She has been employed with Boles Bus Lines, Inc. as the Transportation Coordinator for the past five years.

She attended Newberry High School, Piedmont Technical College and Milliken University and received her Associates Degree in Business Administration and Marketing, also a Diploma in Office Automation and Computer Programming. Her work background consists of Department Manager, Customer Service, Accounting Clerk and Administrative Assistant.

She currently serves on Greenwood City Council for Ward Three and was also appointed past Mayor Pro Tem; Vice President of the Young Women's Auxiliary at Morris Chapel Baptist Church and a member and Secretary of the Morris Chapel Inspirational Choir.

Boles has served as a board member at Upper Savannah Council of Governments, Greenwood Hospitality Tax Review Board, Board of Visitors for Piedmont Technical College, Woodfields Elementary School Improvement Council and Title I Committee.

She resides in Greenwood, SC with her husband Glynn S. Boles and daughter, Stacie Nicole.

"IF I CAN HELP SOMEONE ALONG THE WAY, THEN MY WORK IS NOT IN VAIN."

Andrew Pride Jr. was born in Crenshaw, Mississippi. He is the oldest of five children and was raised in Memphis, Tennessee and later moved to Chicago. He graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

After receiving a full academic scholarship, he moved to Los Angeles, to attend graduate school at UCLA and received a Master's Degree in Business Management and Industrial Psychology.

His career spans for over 30 years, with extensive experience in business consulting and real estate development.

After researching several places for retirement, he and his wife relocated to South Carolina in 2005, where they quickly became an intricate part of their community. Andrew is an active member of Aiken Men of Action (AMOA) and has volunteered for several community and civic organizations. He also works part time managing his rental properties.

Andrew is an avid golfer and is proud to have considerably improved his golfing skills since his move to South Carolina.

Andrew is married to Angela Pride and he has two grown children.

Andrew is a 'half full glass' kind of person; for him, optimism is not a word, but a way of life.

GLEAMNS WINS STATE AWARDS

GLEAMNS won the following state awards at the Annual Mid-Fall South Carolina Community Action Partnership Conference recently held in Greenville, South Carolina:



Accepting the Partnership Awards won by GLEAMNS and Greenwood County are:
Dr. J.D. Patton III, Gonza Bryant, Ms. Brailsford, Victor Carpenter and Claude Thomas.



Ms. Brailsford presents Inger Hendley, CSBG Assistant Case Worker, the Grassroots Award



Ms. Brailsford presents Mr. Stephens, CSBG Director, the Development Award.

GLEAMNS Participates in Second Annual Statewide Retreat

The State Partnership Office sponsored the second Annual Board Retreat which was held at the Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina on November 19-21, 2009. Members of GLEAMNS' Board attending the retreat were:

Chairman Claude Thomas, Abbeville County
Donald Robinson and Betty Boles, Greenwood County
Mary DeShields, Laurens County
Andrew Pride and Willie Bright, Edgefield County
Charles Jennings, McCormick County
Rev. Faris Abney, Saluda County
John Caldwell and Zebbie Goudlock, Newberry County
Policy Council Chairperson, Rev. Annette Edwards

GLEAMNS' staff attending the training were: Sandra Taylor, Ada Garcia, Elaine Kennedy, Dr. J.D. Patton, III and Ron Davis.

GLEAMNS Board held its regular board meeting and Strategic Planning Session on Thursday. Friday and Saturday mornings were dedicated to the Statewide Training.

2010 Census



GLEAMNS Census Count Committee pictured above, left to right: Charles Jennings, Betty Boles, Horace Brownlee, Christine Adams and Ada Garcia. Absent from the picture are Donald Robinson and Thelma Woody.

Greenwood County CENSUS Kick-off

Monday, January 25, 2010

3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

GLEAMNS Campus (Mays House Site)

N. Hospital Street

Greenwood, South Carolina

United States
Census
2010



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Employment Opportunities with the 2010 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun testing for local temporary jobs in Greenwood and surrounding counties. Apply today for Spring and Summer 2010 positions as Census Takers, Crew Leaders, Crew Leader Assistants and other positions. Starting pay is \$11.25 per hour and 55 cents per mile as well as flexible work hours and paid training. The practice test is on line at www.2010censusjobs.gov Call (864) 932-4320 or 1-866-861-2010 to schedule your test for employment.

Test dates and location on GLEAMNS Campus are:

Brewer Community Complex – Conference Room - 10:00 A.M.; January 5, 12, 20 and 26

Brewer Recreation Center – 2:30 P.M.; January 2 and 16

The CSBG Program Welcomes New Employees

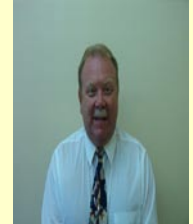
Zsaquez Flucker



Ms. Flucker resides in Greenwood, SC. She is a graduate of Mercer University with a degree in Engineering (specialty in Mechanical Engineering.)

Her favorite quote is "God expects progress not perfection."

Charles Minick



Mr. Minick resides in Newberry County. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Business/History Degree. He enjoys golfing, working in the yard and USC sports.

His favorite quote is "I can do all things through Christ."

Teniqua S. Nance



Ms. Nance resides in Aiken, SC. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a major in Sociology/Human Social Services. She enjoys traveling and Sorority events. Her favorite quote is one by Carl Bard, "Though no one can go back and make a brand new beginning, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

Beaneatha R. Williams



Ms. Williams resides in Laurens County. She received a Bachelors of Social Work degree from Benedict College. She enjoys singing, dancing, helping others and working at a local mission house.

Her favorite quote is "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me."

Tiffany M. Stewart



Ms. Stewart resides in Greenwood County. She is a graduate of Lander University with a degree in Sociology. Her hobbies are playing the drums and guitar.

Her favorite quote is "Treat others like you want to be treated."

Jessica F. Henry



Ms. Henry resides in Greenwood, SC. She is a graduate of USC Aiken with a degree in Business Administration with a focus in Finance.

Her favorite quote is: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

Kimiko Sanders



Ms. Sanders resides in Abbeville County. She is a graduate of Piedmont Technical College with a degree in Accounting. She enjoys reading, dancing and shopping.

He favorite quote is "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others." (by Marianne Williamson).

Head Start Success Story

Ms. Stimman was a young mother trying to finish school and work a part-time job. She stated making ends meet was just one of her worries. Her three year old daughter needed a good learning environment that she could trust. Ms. Stimman stated she found that place at Sanders Head Start Center in Laurens County. Mrs. Ann Holiday was the caseworker for Ms. Stimman and her family.

Ms. Stimman stated Ms. Holiday calmed her fears, boosted her self confidence, and encouraged her to continue her education. As a result, Ms. Stimman graduated from Piedmont Technical College and then transferred to Lander University where she graduated in May 2005, with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Her daughter, Rose, is now 8 years old and one of the smartest students in her class. She enjoys school and helps her sister with her letters and numbers.

Ms. Stimman is now a teacher at the Sanders Head Start Center. She states it is a privilege for her to be teaching the four and five year olds at Sanders. She feels as though she is part of a mission to bring a higher quality of learning to children of parents that have dreams too, dreams of making a better life for their family.

Meet Head Start's Newest Center Coordinators

Kizzy Alston is the new Center Coordinator at Platt Springs Head Start Center. She is a native of Newberry, South Carolina. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Ms. Alston enjoys traveling, going to the movies, concerts, nice restaurants, plays, and spending time with family and friends.

Her mottos are: "Children first", "It takes a village", and "Treat others the way you would like to be treated." She states she is excited to be a part of GLEAMNS and looks forward to the challenge. In her new position as the Center Coordinator at Platt Springs Center, she expects to provide excellence in education for children and families.

Bessie Ann Collins is a wife, mother of three, grandmother of six, a faithful Christian, former Head Start Teacher, Case Worker and now the Center Coordinator at the Sanders Head Start Center. Mrs. Collins has been a dedicated employee of GLEAMNS for 21 years in which she has gained a vast array of experience and wealth of training. She currently has an Associates Degree in Early Care and Education, and a BS Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Counseling.

Her hobbies include singing, creative designs, and floral arrangements. Her motto is "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." *Philippians 4:6*

Mrs. Collins states Head Start has afforded her the opportunity to make plans that will help her obtain her goals. She has held the title "Teacher of the Year", and currently represents the agency as "Staff Person of the Year". She states she will continue to be an advocate for Head Start staff, families, and children with a positive vision for our children as they grow cognitively, emotionally, physically, and mentally.

Protect Yourself and Your Family During Cold and Flu Season



As many of us are aware, the H1N1 Flu (sometimes referred to as “Swine Flu”) is on the rise nationwide. Currently in the news, H1N1 is an influenza virus, particularly infecting young people. The media is full of new facts and myths about the flu, but we must remember the regular cold and flu is still at large.

The seasonal flu is a common illness that occurs every year, usually in the winter. Much like H1N1, the seasonal flu and common cold are contagious viruses that spread from person to person through in respiratory droplets when people with the virus cough or sneeze. You may get the virus from touching items such as a telephone, door handle, money, a pen, or other commonly used surfaces a sick person has touched. People usually then become infected by touching an item with the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

With that in mind the single most important action you can take to stop spreading infection and disease is to wash your hands properly for at least 20 seconds using soap and warm water. Other everyday precautions include:

- Staying active and healthy
- Plenty of rest and nourishment
- Try to avoid contact with those who are ill and avoid crowds as much as possible
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose
- Cover your cough or sneeze in the bend of your arm
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others

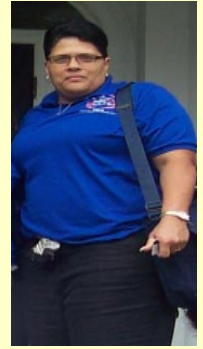
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Head Start employees in their recent education endeavors.

- ❖ Mrs. Bessie Collins - Center Coordinator at the Sanders Head Start Center - Master of Art Degree in Counseling from Webster University.
- ❖ Ms. Tracy Baldwin – Case Worker at the Abbeville and McCormick Head Start Centers - Master of Art Degree in Counseling from Webster University.
- ❖ Ms. Makeyla Thompson – Case Worker at the Saluda Head Start Center - Master of Art Degree in Mental Health Counseling from Webster University.
- ❖ Ms. Sylvia Thomas – Case Worker at the Platt Springs Head Start Center - Master of Art Degree in Organization Leadership from Grand Canyon University.
- ❖ Ms. Tammy Coleman – Case Worker at the Blythewood Head Start Center - Master of Art Degree in Organization Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Policy Council Bids Farewell to Chairperson

Leslie Ferguson bids farewell to the GLEAMNS Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council after three years of dedicated services. Ms. Ferguson was commended for her leadership, guidance, and devoted services. Ms. Ferguson stated it has been an honor being a voice for Head Start children and representing what is best for the children. She stated it had been an amazing journey as a member of the Policy Council. Ms. Ferguson also served as the Board Liaison and the Community Representative for Richland County.



Policy Council Welcomes New Chairperson

Ms. Annette Edwards was recently elected Chairperson of the GLEAMNS Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council. Ms. Edwards is the pastor of Inner-City Faith Ministry in Greenwood County. She served as the Vice Chairperson of the Policy Council in 2008-09. Ms. Edwards states it is a privilege and honor to advocate for the body of GLEAMNS Head Start and its mission. As Policy Council Chairperson, she will govern by the By-Laws in accordance to the best interest of the children.

HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

COMMUNITY AWARENESS PARTICIPATION

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. participated in the Upper Savannah Council of Government Job Fair held September 23, 2009, Greenwood Mall, Greenwood, South Carolina.

Our goal is to showcase the agency and its programs to customers in counties served by GLEAMNS. We let them know *'Who We Are'* and *'What We Do'*. We talked to more than 125 individuals and we received over 100 employment applications.

If you would like to learn more about our programs, please contact Human Resources at 864-223-8434.

MyMoney.gov

Do you want to learn how to save and manage your money better?

MyMoney.gov can help. MyMoney.gov is the U.S. Government's website dedicated to teaching the basics about financial education. Whether you are planning to buy a home, balancing your checkbook, or investing, the resources on MyMoney.gov can help you do it better. Throughout the site, you will find important information from numerous federal agencies.

There are clickable links on how to borrow smart, budgeting and taxes, credit, financial planning, home ownership, paying for education, privacy fraud and scams, responding to life events, retirement planning, saving and investing, as well as tools and resources.

Log on at: www.MyMoney.gov

Magic Johnson Center



Mrs. Ella Hill Sanders received the volunteer of the year award at the 2009 South Carolina Community Actions Partnership fall conference in Greenville, South Carolina. The award was presented for outstanding

services as a tutor for the afternoon homework club located at the Magic Johnson Center at GLEAMNS Human Resource Commission (old Brewer Middle School). Mrs. Sanders has tutored children in elementary and middle school since the program began.

Tutorial services and homework assistance are provided weekly, Monday through Thursday, from 3:00 PM until 5:30 PM.

Also providing homework assistance are Mrs. Earlean Boles and Mrs. Paulette Randall. For additional information please contact the center at (864) 223-8434 ext 1902.

GLEAMNS Accepting Applications for Weatherization Assistance

GLEAMNS has received supplemental funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to reduce energy costs for low-income families by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. Assistance is provided in Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda Counties.

Weatherization Specialists weatherize homes using the "whole house" concept and tackle the house as a single energy-consuming system, rather than a loose collection of unrelated systems to determine the best combination of measures for reducing total energy consumption. These measures include performing on-site home energy audits on single-family or mobile home owners and renters using state of the art diagnostic equipment to identify outside drafts. Weatherization specialists inspect and test combustion appliances, air seal ducts, holes and cracks insulate attic, sidewall, floor, and hot water heater; install base-load appliances for electricity reduction and other minor repairs.

Individuals are eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program if their total monthly household income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. For a one-person household, the maximum income allowable is \$1,805. For each additional family member add \$623. In addition, if your home was weatherized after September 30, 1994, you are not eligible to receive this service.

Weatherization allows low-income families to save money by making their homes more energy efficient, which results in average savings of 32% for heating bills.

If you are interested in getting your home weatherized, please contact Stacy Beard or Dianne Walde at (864) 223-8434 or apply online at www.gleamnshrc.org.

Weatherization Welcomes "New Staff"



Stacy Beard, Office Assistant

Stacy resides in McCormick County and received an Associate Degree in General Business/Accounting from Piedmont Technical College. She enjoys spending time with family and traveling.

Her favorite quote is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



Damian Proctor, Field Specialist

Damian currently lives in McCormick. He graduated from Piedmont Technical College in May 2009 with an Associate Degree in Building Construction Technology.

Damian states he enjoys the work that he is doing and loves spending time with his children every day.



Joseph "Joey" Hazel, Field Specialist

Joey resides in Greenwood County with his wife Donna. Some of his outdoor activities include fishing, hunting, and golfing.

He loves working with kids and volunteers at John de la Howe School in McCormick. Joey is currently enrolled in the Human Services Program at Piedmont Technical College.

Favorite Quote "Take One, Make One".



Benjamin "Benji" Baker, Field Specialist

Benji currently lives in Hodges and graduated from Greenwood High School in 2007. He received an Associate Degree from Piedmont Technical College in Building Construction Technology in May 2009. He started working at GLEAMNS in August 2009 for the Weatherization Program.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, and boating and camping with his family and friends.



Dianne Walde, Office Assistant

Dianne is a native of Greenwood, but was raised, educated and married in the Augusta, Georgia area. She and her husband, Mike and daughters relocated to Greenwood County in 1995.

She holds two diplomas from Augusta Technical College: Medical Office Assistant and Secretarial Science. She is currently enrolled in Piedmont Technical College in the Business Program.

Dianne loves to bake, read and collects small ceramic vintage shoes.

Favorite Quote: "Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle".

WIA 2009 SUMMER YOUTH WORKS UPDATE

	Work Experience Participants	Credit Recovery & Part-time Work Experience	Total Work Experience Participants
Greenwood	125	19	144
Laurens	102	31	133
Edgefield	46	0	46
Abbeville	77	0	77
McCormick	47	18	65
Newberry	55	0	55
Saluda	46	0	46
Totals	498	68	566

	In-School Participants	Out of School Participants	Total
Greenwood	71	73	144
Laurens	80	53	133
Edgefield	28	18	46
Abbeville	41	36	77
McCormick	39	26	65
Newberry	27	28	55
Saluda	23	23	46
Totals	309 (55%)	257 (45%)	566

	# Worksites	Private Worksites	Public Worksites	Non-Profit Worksites
Greenwood	66	32	20	14
Laurens	59	33	17	9
Edgefield	24	11	11	2
Abbeville	28	11	13	4
McCormick	26	12	10	4
Newberry	36	21	5	10
Saluda	15	7	5	3
Total	254	127	81	46
		50%	32%	18%

The table above shows participation levels for our WIA Youth Works Summer Employment Program.

Our staff worked tirelessly to help motivate and encourage each employer and their employees to achieve success during their time together. We have gotten great response from those who took advantage of the opportunity to stimulate their business by employing youth workers.

WIA SUCCESS STORY

Terrone Mayers registered as a participant in the Workforce Investment Act Program (WIA) in September, 2008. He joined WIA in hopes of going to school through a WIA scholarship. Terrone wanted to attain a CDL license from Xtra Mile Driver Training Inc., and work for Pepsi Bottling Group.

Terrone attended educational and employability workshops that would help him with CDL training as well as job searches. The WIA program also assisted him with transportation/childcare expenses while he was completing his training with Xtra Mile. Through hard work, dedication, and assistance from WIA, Terrone received his CDL on January 9, 2009. About three months later, on April 30, 2009, Terrone obtained employment with Pepsi Bottling Group as a truck driver.

JOB FAIR

Recently, the WIA staff joined the Upper Savannah Workforce System at the Greenwood Mall to host the semi-annual Job Fair, from 10 am until 3 pm.

There were more than 40 employers represented. All seven counties covered by the GLEAMNS area had employers represented.

The Job Fair is held at the Greenwood Mall in April and September, and is always well attended. This is an ideal time for job seekers to promote themselves to prospective employers and one of the best networking opportunities available.



Pictured above are; Torsha Franklin, Santasha Allen, Ursula Kemp, Ferrald Kelley and Katie Craven

SENIOR SPORTS CLASSIC

The WIA staff joined with seniors throughout Greenwood County, at the YMCA and Greenwood Mall to help with the Senior Sports Classic. Senior citizens competed in track and field events, swimming competition, horseshoes, three on three basketball games and bingo.

Staff members also served as cheerleaders, cheering the competitors on to victory AND members who helped out at the mall were especially delighted with the participation of people in the Wii competition.

This event emphasizes the fact that you are as young as you feel. Several of the competitors were age 80 and above, and they showed us that we have a lot to look forward to in our golden years.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

This past October marked the 25th anniversary of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which spreads awareness and provides education about the disease. The American Cancer Society estimates that 40,610 women and men will lose their lives to breast cancer in 2009. The WIA staff showed their support by wearing the “Fight like a Girl” tee shirts. These shirts were designed to raise funds for research, treatment and advocacy for the fight against a disease that seemingly affects every family in some way.

SETA FALL CONFERENCE

The SETA Fall Conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky at Louisville Marriot Downtown. SETA gives individuals an opportunity to network with many professional from various area of the United States. There were several good topics to choose from to assist our growing population of traditional and nontraditional customers. Such as “Bounce Back” workshops, which offer strategies and techniques that prepare our customers to regain a positive attitude, self motivation and self-esteem as they prepare reenter the workforce. “Placing More Job Seekers,” stressed the importance of offering skilled and qualified job seekers that meet an employer’s need.

The speakers talked about Effective Case Notes and Resumes, Networking, Communication, Why Change, and Learning Soft Skills.

Attending from GLEAMNS WIA were: Horace Brownlee, Director; Mary Montgomery, Area Coordinator/Laurens, Newberry and Saluda Counties and Margaret Glasgow, Business Services Representative/Newberry County.