



# THE CRC

## NEWSLETTER

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

*...to prevent and eliminate unlawful discrimination thereby promoting harmony and the betterment of human affairs for all people,  
S.C. Code Ann. § 1-13-20*

## Serve and Connect: *Illuminight 2023*

On Friday, March 3rd, SCHAC attended Serve & Connect's annual mission celebration event, the Illuminight Gala, at Central Energy in Columbia. Illuminight Gala is the nonprofit's signature event set to celebrate the organization's mission.

The Illuminight Gala featured special guest and keynote speaker, David O. Brown, Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. There were two awards presented that evening, the Greg Alia Award and the Changemaker Award.

The Officer Gregory Alia Award recognizes an outstanding officer who demonstrates a commitment to serving his/her community with respect and compassion; one who goes above the call of duty to ensure that members of the community are protected, cared for, and feel valued; one who is committed to building trust and partnerships within the community they serve; and who works together with partners to make their community safer and stronger. The Officer Gregory Alia Award was presented to Sgt. Allen Brinson with the Columbia Police Department.

The Change Maker award recognizes a community leader who demonstrates a commitment to serving his/her community with respect and compassion; one who goes above and beyond to understand the needs of others; one who works diligently to build bridges with diverse groups, including law enforcement, to connect resources; and one who creates opportunities for understanding, trust, and building relationships. The Change Maker Award was presented to Christopher Emanuel, of the Second Baptist Teen After-School Center & Sky is the Limit Foundation in Aiken, SC.

To learn more about Serve and Connect, visit: <https://www.serveandconnect.org/>

To learn more about the Sky is the Limit Foundation, visit:  
<https://skyisthelimitfoundation.com/>



Officers and the CEO of Serve and Connect, Kassya Alia Ray, address the guests during the Illuminight Gala

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## 2nd Annual Fairfield County Veteran's Expo 2023

On Friday, March 10th, SCHAC was a vendor at the Fairfield County Department of Veteran's Affairs' second annual Veteran's Expo, at the Fairfield County Recreation Center in Winnsboro, SC. The Veterans' Expo is a way to connect veterans and their families in Fairfield County with vendors and supporters who provide services ranging from behavioral health to insurance. The 2023 Veteran's Expo provided veterans and their families with free health screenings with information from over 40 different resource providers.

SCHAC had a great time connecting with those who served and providing resources for fair housing, EEO, and public accommodations!



Vendors and veterans at the VA 2nd annual expo

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## ***Meltdown in Dixie: Moncks Corner***

On Monday, March 13th, SCHAC Consultant, Danielle Lindley, attended the next stop in the *Meltdown in Dixie* Screenings, Grace Reformed Episcopal Church in Moncks Corner, SC. The thought-provoking conversation after the film was moderated by Dr. Bill Hine and featured Pastor Tory Liferidge and Reverend Darien Jones as panelists. Panelists discussed society's capacity for freedom and to what extent people are willing to be uncomfortable in the fight for freedom. The discussion shifted to the power symbols hold and the weight Confederate symbols still carry in America. The audience took a critical look at what is needed for change, the role of the Charleston Emmanuel AME Church killings in the current discourse in South Carolina, and how the faith community and its leaders are addressing racial inequities in their congregations.

For more information about *Meltdown in Dixie*, visit: <https://www.meltdownindixie.com/>



Left to right: Reverend Darien Jones, Filmmaker Emily Harrold, Dr. Bill Hine, and Pastor Tory Liferidge

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## **From the Desk of the Deputy Commissioner, *Community & City Collaboration***

Community organizations and concerned citizens collaborating with local governments to build better communities is essential for healthy community relations. A great example of this type of collaboration is through former students at the Myrtle Beach Colored School working with the City of Myrtle Beach, the School District of Horry County, and private business to create in 2006: The Historic Myrtle Beach Colored School Museum and Education Center located at 900 Dunbar Street.

On March 14, Deputy Commissioner, Dan Koon, had the opportunity to meet with Ms. M. Cookie Canty Goings, Director of the City of Myrtle Beach's Office of Neighborhood Services. The Neighborhood Services Department enforces the city's commitment to building healthy and vibrant neighborhoods with the focus of enriching the community to facilitate neighborhood growth. Neighborhood services provides support, direction and encouragement for the city's residential communities to help maintain their character and identities. The creation of the museum with artifacts from the historical school along with displaying achievements and contributions that black people have made to society throughout the years is a great example of how the citizens of Myrtle Beach have worked together to enhance race relations. Neighborhood services also makes a concerted effort to keep the community in dialogue regarding issues impacting relations such as hosting "Beachside Chats". These meetings are designed to give community members of all races

and faiths a platform for conversation on peace, healing, and racial reconciliation. They also create social and cultural opportunities for citywide residents' engagement.

The Human Affairs Commission salutes the great and inspirational work that the Myrtle Beach community has undertaken to improve community relations, and the agency challenges all communities in SC to participate in similar activities to enhance race relations. For more information about the work of City of Myrtle Beach, Ms. Canty Goings may be reached at: [mgoings@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:mgoings@cityofmyrtlebeach.com). She and her staff will make themselves available to assist you and would be happy to schedule an informative tour for you or your organization to see this impressive collection of artifacts. Her staff can also make arrangements for you to visit: "Charlie's Place", a historic location near the museum that tells an important story of race relations in South Carolina and the history of popular music and dance such as the State Dance known as "The Shag".



Left to right: Deputy Commissioner Dan Koon and Ms. M. Cookie Canty Goings, Director of the City of Myrtle Beach's Office of Neighborhood Services

# END DISCRIMINATION

AGAINST SOUTH CAROLINIANS WITH DISABILITIES



This year, we commemorate the 55th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the landmark civil rights law signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on April 11, 1968, that made discrimination in housing transactions unlawful.

The Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq., prohibits discrimination by direct providers of housing, such as landlords and real estate companies as well as other entities, such as municipalities, banks or other lending institutions and homeowners' insurance companies whose discriminatory practices make housing unavailable to persons because of:

- race or color
- religion
- sex
- national origin
- familial status, or
- disability.

If you or someone you know is believed to have been a target of housing discrimination, please refer them to our website for more information: <https://schac.sc.gov/housing-discrimination>

Arab American Heritage Month is an annual observance that takes place in April to celebrate Arab American heritage and culture. It honors the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans to the wider American community. The Arab American Institute reported that about 15,000 Middle Eastern immigrants from Egypt,

Jordan, Palestine, and Iraq migrated to the U.S. yearly in the 1960s. The celebration of the holiday has previously been observed sporadically in various states and at different times of the year since the 1990s until 2017 when Arab America began a national initiative to coordinate all states under National Arab American Heritage Month.

National Arab American Heritage Month was recognized in April 2021 by President Joe Biden, with the U.S. Department of State, members of Congress, and 37 governors issuing proclamations supporting the month, according to Arab America.



Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam. It is celebrated as the month during which Muhammad received the initial revelations of the Quran, the holy book for Muslims. Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam. Each day during Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink from dawn to sunset.

Muslims break their daily fasts by sharing meals with family and friends, and the end of Ramadan is celebrated with a three-day festival known as Eid al-Fitr, one of Islam's major holidays. Ramadan always falls on the ninth month of the 12-month Islamic calendar. Ramadan 2023 began on the evening of March 23 and lasts 30 days, ending at sundown on Thursday, April 21!

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## Opportunity to be Trained Mediators

Below is the schedule for Midlands Mediation Center's Introduction to Mediation. Registration is \$1000 per session and \$495 for volunteers; MMC provides hardship **scholarships** for individuals who would like to learn mediation skills to support their local community. If you know someone who would like to participate, please let us know!

To learn more about the Midlands Mediation Center, visit: <https://midlandsmmediation.org/>

Spring 2023 Mediation Training – April 24 -27, 2023 - <https://2023itms.eventbrite.com>

Spring 2023S Mediation Training – April 15, 29, May 6, 13, 2023 -

<https://2023itmss.eventbrite.com>





## The TRUST Network

The TRUST Network was founded in October 2020 to prevent and mitigate violence, stimulated by underlying social issues in the US, in the pursuit of positive peace.

In order to prevent violence, reduce division, strengthen our democracy, and address legacies of injustice, the Network is:

1. growing a network of collaboration across sectors in the fields of peacebuilding, social justice, and democracy work;
2. establishing a first-of-its-kind citizen-run Early Warning Early Action infrastructure developed specifically for the United States;
3. connecting international and national-level expertise and advocacy to local initiatives that are convened by community mediation and justice centers on the ground, so that communities are supported in generating and self-determining solutions to their long-standing problems (in keeping with the intent of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 10).

*Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI)* is the organizational host. The *National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM)* and *Center for Peace, Democracy, and Development (CPDD)* are key process facilitators. These three founding co-conveners are joined by a rapidly expanding partnership of, currently, **30+ additional organizations and networks, 25 local convening centers** and several hundred individuals each of whom has training and/or experience in mediative, restorative or other nonviolent community-building practices.

To learn more about the TRUST Network, visit: <https://www.thetrustnetwork.net/>



N E T W O R K

## SCHAC Community Relations Staff

**Danielle Lindley, 803-737-2446, [dlindley@schac.sc.gov](mailto:dlindley@schac.sc.gov):** Beaufort, Aiken, Colleton, Kershaw, Calhoun, Richland, Lexington, Saluda, Newberry, Fairfield, Greenville, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick, Edgefield, Sumter, Allendale

**Robert Snipes, 803-737-7838, [rsnipes@schac.sc.gov](mailto:rsnipes@schac.sc.gov):** Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Berkeley, Orangeburg, Dorchester, Charleston, Lancaster, York, Chester, Cherokee, Union, Spartanburg, Laurens, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Horry, Florence, Darlington, Lee, Barnwell, Bamberg, Hampton, Jasper

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**Annual Event Calendar**  
for  
CRC's

**January**

MLK Day/Day of Service

**February**

African American History

**March**

Women's History/End Racism Day

**April**

Fair Housing

**May**

Law Enforcement/Community Relations/Pacific-Asian Month

**June**

Emanuel 9 Remembrance Day, Peace & Reconciliation/Disaster Preparedness

**July**

Employment Discrimination/Economic Opportunity

**August**

Youth Project/Back to School

**September**

Hispanic Heritage/Cultural Diversity

**October**

Disability Employment Awareness

**November**

American Indian Heritage/Veterans' Appreciation

**December**

Age & Poverty Issues

**Interested in hosting a community meeting in your area?  
Please contact the Community Relations Department at 803-737-7800**

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**Connect with us! Follow our social media pages for events and resources  
throughout the State!**



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