



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*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Snapshots from Around the State

RH CRC MLK Interfaith Breakfast

On Monday, January 16th, Community Relations Consultant, Ayana Crawford attended the City of Rock Hill's Community Relations Council's 20th Annual MLK Interfaith Breakfast: "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?" This is one of the major events that the Rock Hill CRC hosts annually. There were hundreds of attendees throughout the city and county, including community leaders, elected officials, business owners, sororities, fraternities, etc., at this event. The keynote speaker was Clinton College President, Dr. Lester McCorn, who spoke about MLK's impact on his life, the legacy Dr. King wanted to leave, and where/how to move forward. Great job, Rock Hill CRC on such a successful event!

Anderson County Human Relations Council

The Anderson County Human Relations Council partnered with the Anderson County Ministerial Organization to celebrate the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event is held every January in support of the United Negro College Fund. The Human Relations Council welcomed attendees with smiles and a presentation table with information about the Human Relations Council. Prepackaged snacks and water were also freely available to those in attendance. One of our members played a major role in the planning and execution of the event!

Kershaw County MLK Unity Celebration

On Saturday, January 14th, 2023, the SCHAC Community Relations division attended the 2nd annual MLK Unity Celebration in Camden, SC. Hosted by the Camden-Kershaw Branch of the NAACP, the City of Camden, the Concerned Citizens of Kershaw County, and Unity in the Community, this celebration recognized the unifying work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the accomplishments of the youths in Kershaw County who embodied the message of unity, equity, and education.

REEM Greenville: MLK Town Hall

On Monday, January 18th, 2023, SCHAC Community Relations Consultant, Danielle Lindley, attended a special town hall meeting on Income Inequality and Economic Justice hosted by REEM GVL in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was an insightful and empowering discussion, led by Springfield Baptist Church's Reverend Vincent Royal, United Ministries' Reverend Liz Bebber, SC House Representative Wendell Jones, and Temple Israel's Rabbi Sam Rose, that grounded the enduring legacy of Dr. King and the role of their congregations in promoting equity and justice for all.

SCHAC's Day of Service

SCHAC employees volunteered at Harvest Hope Food Bank for MLK Day of Service on Thursday, January 12th! They assembled bags of food into boxes totaling 675 bags and 97 boxes! Harvest Hope Food Bank is South Carolina's largest food bank, providing over 50,000 meals a week for those suffering from hunger.



Top Left to right: Anderson County Human Relations Council, Kershaw County MLK Unity Celebration

Bottom Left to Right: REEM Greenville, RH HRC MLK Interfaith Breakfast, SCHAC's Day of Service

Greater Columbia CRC Racial Equity Index: A Community Dialogue

On Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, SCHAC Consultant Danielle Lindley attended the GCCRC's Community Dialogue on the City of Columbia, Lexington, and Richland Counties Racial Equity Report. This event was held at the Richland Library, Main Branch, and the discussion was facilitated by Mrs. Anika Thomas, Community Relations Manager for the Richland County Library.

The Honorable Gretchen Barron, who represents District 7, which includes Blythewood, Killian, and various sections of North Columbia, and Dr. Kathleen Brady, the researcher who generated the data for the report were on the panel.

The event began with a welcome from Dr. Larry Salley, from the GCCRC, and then Anika Thomas, Community Relations Manager for the Richland County Library, set the expectations for the evening. She began by asking several questions to the panel to set the foundation for the discussion: How the study came about? What IS data, what are the collection methods, who is included and how should we view the statistics we are discussing? The audience was invited to ask questions throughout the discussion and the panelists pointed out various findings from the report that stick with them the most.

Wednesday's session was a general overview of the study and there are future dialogues planned to take a deep dive into each section of the report.

For more information about the GCCRC, visit: <https://www.greatercolacrc.org/>

For the Racial Equity Index, visit:

<https://www.greatercolacrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/REI-summary-.pdf>



Left to Right: The Honorable Gretchen Barron and Dr. Kathleen Brady

Sumter Gallery of Art: All That We Still Carry - Where Do We Go From Here?

On Thursday, January 12th, SCHAC had the opportunity to attend a discussion centered around the exhibition “All That We Carry: The Epic Stitchers and Stories”, which was curated by Torreah “Cookie” Washington and on display at the Sumter Gallery of Art. This exhibition of traditional art spoke to the journey that Black women and men traverse in America.

The panel discussion, featuring Torreah “Cookie” Washington, Nikki Finney, Dr. J. Drew Lanham, Antwon Ford, and co-moderators, Dr. Reneé Anderson and Wendell Brown, looked at the intersection of Social Justice with aspects of Black life in America and how art and environmental conservation can propel the movement forward.



Left to right: Wendell Brown, Dr. Renee Anderson, Torreah "Cookie" Washington, Nikki Finney, Dr. J. Drew Lanham, and Antwon Ford

Racial Reconciliation: Let's Face It

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, Community Relations Consultant, Ayana Crawford, facilitated Rock Hill's *Race & Reconciliation's* "Let's Face It: speed dating-styled event" at North Central Medical Center.

This event featured three questions prepared by *Race & Reconciliation's* planning committee and was designed to allow participants time to respond and engage freely with one another. These questions included:

- Question #1: How has your view of racism and race changed over the years?
- Question #2: What does reconciliation mean to you? How can we work towards it?
- Question #3: What advice would you give upcoming generations?

Margaret Gillikin, Chair of Rock Hill's *Race & Reconciliation*, emphasized the need to have more conversations and activities such as "Let's Face It." The mission of *Race & Reconciliation* is to create relationships among diverse people in the community, raise awareness of prejudice and privilege, and work for reconciliation and a just society.

For more information on Race and Reconciliation, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/432512783856508>



Rock Hill community members engaging in *Race and Reconciliation's*, "Let's Face It" event

SC Centro Latino

The South Carolina Centro Latino or "El Centro," bridges cultures statewide through linguistic awareness and accessibility. The three pillars of their work seek to create institutional space for belonging, civility, wellness, and equity: Latinx Interdisciplinary Studies, the Public Humanities, and Translation and Community Interpreting. The SCCL also studies the Spartanburg Racial Equity Index findings on monumental challenges facing Hispanics and Latinos/as.

The mission of SC Centro Latino is to bring visibility to Latinx Interdisciplinary Studies, thought leadership on authentic community outreach and inclusion by strengthening Latinx recruitment, increasing mentoring, promoting civic leadership, engaging bilingual and Spanish-speaking community members in the public humanities, and expanding translation and community interpreting studies and certifications for students and bilingual professionals to further equip the Latinx workforce locally and globally.

To learn more about SC Centro Latino, "El Centro", please visit their Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaCentroLatino>

or website:

[https://www.uscupstate.edu/academics/el-centro?](https://www.uscupstate.edu/academics/el-centro?fbclid=IwAR1ODBSyXBmEswD2OZMhC276KcZtus4rdIMGh_C_yMNCBOx84K-vpFWBiTA)

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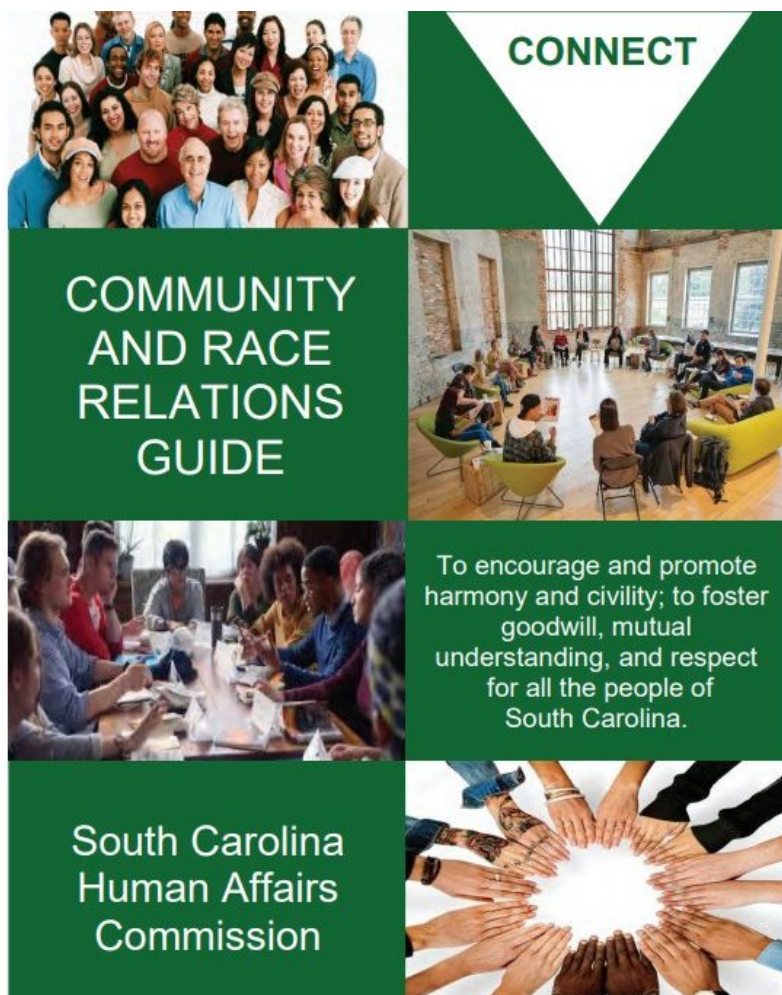


FBI: Multi-Cultural Engagement Council

One of SCHAC's important partners to prevent discrimination and promote good community relations is the FBI. Community Relations staff attended a Multi-Cultural Engagement Council event sponsored by the FBI Columbia Division on January 19, 2023. The Council was given a presentation on the best practices should one encounter an active shooter. Every group should have a plan regarding the unfortunate circumstance of encountering an active shooter event, and the Human Affairs Commission's Community Relations Division encourages all Community Relations Councils and other organizations affiliated with promoting Civil Rights to receive this important training.

If you would like to have a presentation regarding this matter given to your organization, free of charge, please contact the Columbia Division of the FBI, Dionia Jenkins-

Community Outreach Specialist - at 803 551-4327 or contact the SCHAC so that we may assist you with the arrangements.



We are HIRING:

Join the Community Relations Team!

The application deadline for the Community Relations Program Coordinator 1 position is extended until 11:59 p.m. on February 15th, 2023!

Some of the job duties of this position include but are not limited to the following:

-Under limited supervision, oversees a region, while assisting throughout the state's Community Relations and Outreach programs created to establish Community Relations Council (CRC) through the state.

-Create and recognize through Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) advisory agencies and conciliation councils (local, regional, or statewide) in accordance with Section 3 of Article I of the State Constitution and the South Carolinas Human Affairs Law (SCHAL).

-Provide booklet/online copies of 2020 Community and Race Relations Guide (as pictured), to ensure the proper establishment of CRCs and problems that can be

addressed by local citizens.

For more information on the position, please visit www.linktr.ee/schacomm and click "Full-Time Positions".



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

The Black History Month 2023 theme, "*Black Resistance*," explores how "African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings," since the nation's earliest days.

What are you doing to celebrate Black History Month? We would love to share the work that you're doing in your community!



Black History Month Bus Tours

Ride with us through a series of curated stops that will illuminate the rich heritage of Black culture in our City!

*Stops include: Williams-Ivory Cultural Center, Mount Prospect Baptist Church, Friendship Junior College, African American Business District Monument, Hermon Presbyterian Church, New Mt. Olivet AME Zion Church, Emmett Scott School, Clinton College, *Freedom Walkway, *Jail, No Bail Exhibit*

* Will exit bus for walkthrough

February 10th & 25th, 2023

Tours depart at Noon

Sponsored & Hosted by:

Register Here:



Limited to the first 26 riders registered for each day!





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

Do You Want **less hate, more peace, less violence in your world?**

You can become a Peace Maker!

**Join us online for an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)
Level 1 (Basic) Workshop to learn how**



Online workshop

**Mondays 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
from February 6 to April 3, 2023**

**Register at <https://tinyurl.com/AVPSC2023>
to get the Zoom link**

Who should attend?		
Students	Social Workers	Law Enforcement professionals
Teachers	Community Volunteers	Faith Community leaders and members
Counselors	Criminal Justice personnel	Anyone interested in less violence

Discover new ways to increase peace in your world.


Enjoy a **hands-on, fun, activity-based experience** (no note-taking!). You'll **connect deeply with others**, laugh, **share, and listen** while learning ways to **reduce conflict** in your **community**, your school, your family, at work, in prisons or in the world.

Treat yourself to this workshop purely for personal growth, or make it a first step toward becoming a facilitator.


Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) helps us explore **the power we all have to change hostility and destructiveness into cooperation, community, and justice.**

AVP is a multi-cultural organization of volunteers offering interactive workshops that teach skills of non-violent conflict resolution and empower people to lead nonviolent lives, through **Affirmation, Communication, Cooperation, Community, and Creative Conflict Resolution.**

The workshop will be held over 9 weeks, every Monday evening for a total of 18 required hours. This is an **online workshop**, on the Zoom platform. You can participate from your computer with video capability (best solution) or your smart phone. You will receive the link to connect after you register.



Suggested registration fee is \$10 for the whole 18-hour workshop; no one will be turned away due to financial considerations... All AVP workshop facilitators are volunteers.



Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/AVPSC2023>, scan the QR code,
or contact us: AVPSouthCarolina@gmail.com - (803) 470-4432
<https://www.facebook.com/AVPSC>

For more information on AVP: www.AVPUSA.org

SCHAC Community Relations Staff

Ayana Crawford, 803-737-0483, acrawford@schac.sc.gov: Lancaster, York, Chester, Cherokee, Union, Spartanburg, Laurens, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Horry, Florence, Darlington, Lee, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper

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

Robert Snipes, 803-737-7838, rsnipes@schac.sc.gov: Sumter, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Berkeley, Orangeburg, Dorchester, Charleston

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

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



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