



# 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*

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### SCACED's Legislative Luncheon 2023

SCHAC started off the month of February by attending the South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development's (SCACED) 2023 Legislative Luncheon where SCHAC CRD consultant, Danielle Lindley, learned about their 2023 Policy Priorities.

During the luncheon, SCACED honored the *South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus* (SCLBC) with the 2022 Legislator of the Year award for their key role in appropriating \$2 million for the Community Economic Development Fund in 2022 as well as their years of consistent support.

SCACED is a coalition of individuals and organizations who support the development of healthy and economically sustainable communities throughout South Carolina. Their members work collaboratively to build wealth and create economic opportunity for all SC residents, and many of their efforts are focused on minority communities and other groups who have been left out of the economic mainstream.

Learn about SCACED's 2023 Policy Priorities [here](#).



SCACED's Legislative Luncheon 2023

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## 55th Memorial Commemoration of the Orangeburg Massacre

On Wednesday, February 8th, 2023, SCHAC Consultant Danielle Lindley attended the 55th Memorial Commemoration of the Orangeburg Massacre held at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, SC.

On February 8th, 1968, chaos erupted on the campus of South Carolina State University after a group of black student activists protested the segregated All-Star Bowling Alley.

Highway patrolmen fired into a crowd on campus killing 3 students. These students were Samuel Hammond, Delano Middleton, and Henry Smith. 28 others were wounded by police after peacefully protesting on campus. This incident was labeled as one of the most violent episodes in South Carolina's civil rights history.

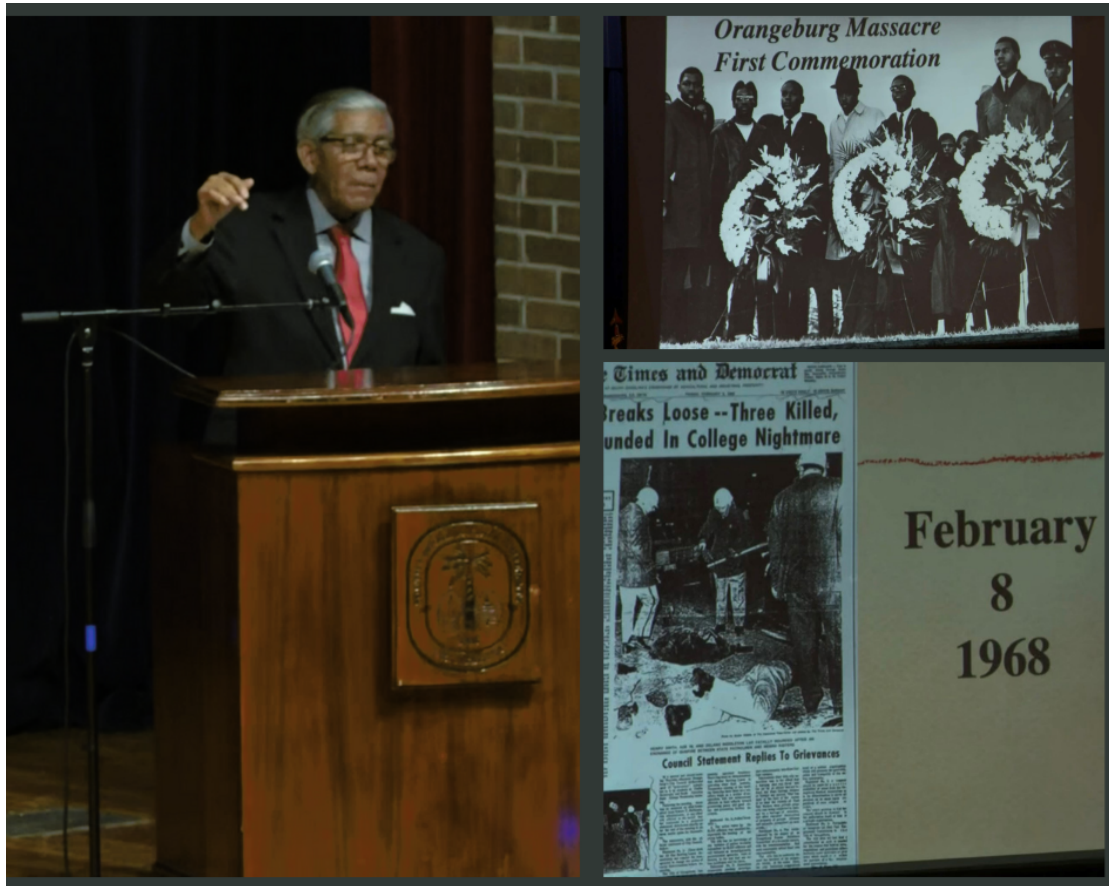
Cecil Williams, activist, photographer, and owner of SC's first civil rights museum, was the keynote speaker for the commemoration.

In honor of the students whose lives were lost in the tragedy, South Carolina State University awards an annual Social Justice Award. This year, the late Bobby Eady, a survivor of the Orangeburg Massacre, was an honored recipient with his surviving family accepting the award on his behalf. Ellen Zischoltz, the president of the Center for Creative Partnerships, and Bobby Doctor, a civil rights activist, were also awarded the 2023 Social Justice Award.

The commemoration ended with a torch-lighting ceremony in front of the statues remembering those lives lost.

to learn more about the Cecil Williams Civil Rights Museum,  
visit: <https://www.cecilwilliams.com/>

to learn more about the All-Star Bowling Alley and the Center for Creative Partnerships,  
visit: <https://www.centerforcreativepartnerships.org/>



Pictured left is Cecil Williams, photographer, historian, and keynote speaker for the 55th Memorial Commemoration

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## LEXPO 2023

On Thursday, Feb 16, 2023, SCHAC's Housing Division participated as a vendor in the Lexington Chamber of Commerce's LEXPO. Lexpo provides an opportunity for more than 90 businesses to network, promote their business, and showcase their products and services to both current shareholders and the general public.

This year, the Lexington Chamber added a networking hour, wherein exhibitors were able to network with one another an hour before the event opens to the public.

There were over 500 attendees at this year's LEXPO and SCHAC enjoyed the opportunity to speak about the resources available through our agency!

to learn more about the Lexington Chamber of Commerce: <https://lexingtonsc.org/the-chamber>



SCHAC's Housing Division at the 2023 LEXPO

## 3rd Annual Empowerment for Peace Walk

This year's third annual Empowerment for Peace Walk was held on Sunday, Feb. 26, and had a theme centered around "Restore the Village: the Tipping Point." SCHAC was honored to participate in this event! The walk began at Palmetto Terrace with a community sign-making event, followed by an opening ceremony at 2 p.m. The walk concluded at Bayberry Mews neighborhood for a community block party and resource fair.

This Awareness event highlighted local youth leadership. The North Columbia Youth Empowerment Initiative (NCYEI) provided tools and resources and encouraged community support in promoting peace over violence.

Local leaders, law enforcement, and community organizations walked side-by-side, working to create peace and put an end to gun violence. Columbia Police Department, City of Columbia, Richland County Sheriff's Department, State Agencies, Walmart, and numerous community organizations, including faith-based institutions, neighborhood associations, youth groups, schools, and more were involved in the walk and the Block Party.

Established in collaboration with the Columbia Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office, and Serve & Connect in 2018, the North Columbia Youth Empowerment Initiative (NCYEI) works to foster police and community partnerships that empower the lives of neighborhood children and youth in the 29203 regions.

To learn more about the NYCEI, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/NCYEI/>

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



Resource Block Party after the Empowerment Walk at Bayberry Mews

## Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

A grant opportunity administered through the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI) is designed to support eligible local rural law enforcement entities (i.e. county sheriff, municipal police, rural district attorney's/prosecutor's office and federally recognized tribal law enforcement) to address specific rural crime problems. This opportunity is also intended to help support new and existing partnerships between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. Grant awards will likely be an average of \$50,000 - \$150,000 with a term of twenty-four (24) months.

A LISC grant application may be appropriate if:

- The applicant hopes to develop deeper community outreach and engagement opportunities to support improved relationships and encourage community leadership in strategy development and implementation.
- The applicant is seeking to build or further develop partnerships with community-based partners to support problem-solving around persistent crime challenges.
- The applicant is considering a place-based approach to its crime reduction strategies that may include collaborations with community or economic development partners to explore revitalization opportunities to complement law enforcement interventions.
- The applicant is looking to support a diverse cross-sector partnership team to help manage the project's set of comprehensive implementation activities, which could include, but is not limited to *Community Violence Intervention (CVI)* approaches to crime reduction, *reentry programming* for returning citizens or *Alternatives to Incarceration*

The simple application and related materials can be found at the below link. John Connelly, with LISC Safety & Justice, would be happy to answer any questions from potential applicants ([jconnelly@lisc.org](mailto:jconnelly@lisc.org); 414.930.1744). The initial deadline to apply is **March 31st, 2023**.

Application Link: <https://lisc.tfaforms.net/705>

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Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history.

The actual celebration of *Women's History Month* grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history, and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978.

A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts, and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

What are you doing to celebrate Women's History Month? We would love to share your reflections and events honoring the contributions of women in your community!

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The 2023 theme of the International Day focuses on the urgency of combatting racism and racial discrimination, 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Seventy-five years ago, for the first time, the international community agreed on a set of common values and acknowledged that rights are inherent to every single human being and not granted by the State. These rights are enshrined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), a blueprint for international human rights norms.

The UDHR states that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, such as race and color, among others. However, racism and racial discrimination continue to affect people all over the world.

The commemoration of the [75th anniversary](#) of the adoption of the UDHR should give States an impetus to take prompt and robust steps, in law and practice, to advance equality and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, has [invited](#) all States, as part of the Human Rights 75 initiative, to combat racial discrimination by committing to take specific and urgent actions.

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day>

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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://midlandsmediation.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>




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## 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

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## 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

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**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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**Our mailing address is:**

info@schac.sc.gov

South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, 1026 Sumter Street, Suite 101, Columbia, SC 29201

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