

## **Cherokee FOCUS Collaborative Meeting Wednesday February 26, 2014**

### **Collaborative Updates:**

- **Cherokee FOCUS** –Poverty Simulation has been pushed to April due to legislature meeting.
- **Volunteer Cherokee** – Please make your profile. 24 organizations created profiles.
- **Cherokee Youth Challenge** – Due to weather days, pushed to Fall 2014.
- **Cherokee Youth Works** – Scheduled annual Fall camping trip.
- **Drug Free Cherokee** – Road race with senior project student, but has been pushed back due to snow and school winter break.

### **Speaker – Scott Aaronsen, Cherokee FOCUS**

- Kids Count Data
  - New data was released in 2013
  - Can find data for grants at: [kidscount.org](http://kidscount.org)
- Tech Soup
  - Can get technology products for next to nothing
  - Range of tech products based on needs
  - Only pay small admin fee
  - Some product donors have restrictions that say you can only request one or two donations per year
  - [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)

### **Collaborative Partner Updates:**

- **Amerigroup (Maria)** – One of the providers for Peachcare and Medicaid.
- **Atlanta Community Food Bank (Jolene)** – Help out local food banks. Money given from Cherokee County comes back to Cherokee County. If you are doing food outreach, consider being a food bank partner. Hunger Outreach group in Cherokee County (partnering with Cherokee FOCUS) talking about issues in Cherokee County – one issue is connecting better to each other, mobile food pantries.
- **Canton Rotary Club (Hugh)** – doing community service projects.
- **CASA (Michelle)** – Partner with DFCS to help kids have a stable partner while they go through difficult circumstances.
- **Cherokee County DUI Drug Court Program (Angela)** – 24 month program for multiple offenders of DUI.
- **Cherokee County DFCS (Sylvia)** – We are hiring! Cherokee County is in dire need of case managers. Working with Holly Springs School to do a backpack food ministry.
- **Cherokee County Foster and Adoptive Association (Connie)** – Provide support and continuing education for foster families. Always looking for volunteers and foster parents.
- **Cherokee County Health Department (Erin)** – provide health services for families, dental van for children, HIV/AIDS truck, WIC, etc.
- **Cherokee County Housing Authority (Sherri)** – Would love to team up with Girl Scouts to offer troops.
- **Cherokee Navigator Team (Lisa)** – Work with families with children with disabilities, were asked to find and develop resources in the county. Right now they are working on a job immersion program.

- **Cherokee Youth Works (Taylor)** – Many factories in Cherokee County are employing our kids, send out success stories.
- **Council on Alcohol and Drugs (Jeanine & Ester)** – Prevention for children 9-12 is main focus in Cherokee County, excited about the Prom and graduation campaign.
- **Elms Street Arts (Gay)** – Treasure Island coming up. Will be doing summer camp program and hoping to give out scholarships.
- **Envision Health Studio (Laura)** – Get fit, give back helps promote non-profits. Laura visits places to talk about fitness and nutrition.
- **Eternal Growth Group (EK)** – Working with housing company to see what housing they can establish in Cherokee, work with homeless individuals, want to ultimately build a community for people to live together.
- **E-QYP (Bill)** – E-QYP app has been published. Book launch is in April. Book helps volunteers learn about ages and stages of development as well as how to apply that knowledge when working with children and youth.
- **Georgia Mountain Hospice (Janna)** – [mardigrasonthemountains.org](http://mardigrasonthemountains.org)
- **GA HOPE (Mennie)**
- **Girl Scouts (Kirby & Dori)** – Work to build girls with courage confidence and character. There are 500 volunteers for 1200 girls, currently working on a science event for girls.
- **Habitat for Humanity (Sabrina)** – Build houses for families who qualify, seeking land in Cherokee to build homes for families. Doing an owner-occupied application for repair program focused towards seniors, veterans, and disabled applications. Women Build is a theme build funded by women building in Park Creek off of 140 in June or July. Start fundraising team registration in March.
- **Healing Hands Youth Ranch (Kim)** – teach social skills, build self esteem, etc. Fundraiser coming up on May 3 (Raise for the Roses), selling tickets on the website [hhyr.org](http://hhyr.org)
- **Hope Quest (Phil)** – Addiction recovery ministries. Continuing to expand continuing care transition program.
- **Loving Arms Cancer Outreach (Shamika)** – Servicing patients in Cherokee, looking to open a small office in Cherokee, assist cancer patients with paying utility bills, gas, rent, etc.
- **Joseph's Storehouse #2 (Marietta Church of God extension)** – They partner with Atlanta Community Food Bank, serve a lot of elderly people, serve in a mobile home park, Fountain Lake Mobile Home Community off of Arnold Mill Road.
- **MUST Ministries (Kendall)** – Step Up Your Game is coming up on March 21, 70% of people who attend workshop will find employment. Received funding for utilities assistance. Action Church opening up as a warming station during the winter season. Hope Atlanta offers housing for homeless veterans.
- **Next Step Ministries (Lori)** – Building job skills program. Looking for jobs to do. Contact Lori or Cheryl Allison. Fun run coming up – run, walk, and roll. Golf tournament coming up on April 28. Work a lot with volunteers and are interested in receiving community service workers.
- **Papa's Pantry (Sandy)** – Got the whole building for the Masters Training Center, will be doing classes for parent on obesity and getting kids moving.
- **Peach Project (Amanda)** – Integrating domestic violence into medical.
- **Senior Services (Barbara)** – Would like to connect with Shamika to connect with cancer services for seniors.
- **Serenade Heights (Renee)** – New non-profit, fundraiser coming up (Benefit Bike Ride on April 12).
- **Solicitor General (Jessica)** – Involved in Drug Free Cherokee.
- **United Way (David)** – Brought United Way truck.

- **Volunteer Aging Council (Janna & Donnie)** – Fundraising organization that helps seniors in Cherokee County in ways that the county might not be able to afford... If know of someone that needs help (wheelchair, food, space heater, etc.).

### **NEXT MEETING – MARCH**

If you would like contact information for any of the above listed collaborative partners, contact:

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