



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Information:

Fire Department Awarded NC Clean Energy Technology Center Grant.....	2
“Housing Our Heroes” Campaign Status Report	2-3
Recap of “Talk About High Growth Entrepreneurship” Event.....	3

INFORMATION:

Fire Department Awarded NC Clean Energy Technology Center Grant

Staff Resource: Linda Lewis, Fire, 704-336-3772, lhlewis@charlottenc.gov

The Charlotte Fire Department has recently been awarded a North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center grant to cover the cost of auxiliary power units (APU) for five new trucks. These APUs significantly reduce the Fire Department's idling fuel usage, and are a cutting edge technology in emergency vehicles. Traditionally, these trucks use their main engine when idling at the scene of an emergency to power lights, auxiliary equipment, and the main fire pump. The main engine of a fire truck, when idling, burns between 3 to 3.5 gallons of diesel fuel every hour. An APU can offer the same functions as the main engine, except for powering the fire pump. A fire truck equipped with an APU can run the truck's emergency lights and equipment at 80% less fuel usage.

The NC Clean Energy Technology Center is part of NC State University and offers Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grants. The Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grants are funded by the N.C. Department of Transportation and focus on reducing transportation related emissions in 24 North Carolina counties that do not meet national air quality standards. The City of Charlotte's Solid Waste Services' department has been awarded a Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grant before for assistance in purchasing compressed natural gas trash trucks. This year, the Clean Energy Technology Center received proposals from more than twenty-five organizations and the Fire Department is thrilled to be one of the recipients.

The grant award of \$148,368 covers the addition of the APU's on the new trucks. The Fire Department is required to match 25% of the overall purchase of the APUs, which is \$49,457. This match will be funded through the current apparatus capital budget. The Fire Department will be requesting grant acceptance at the February 9 Council Business Meeting.

"Housing our Heroes" Campaign Status Report

Staff Resource: Mary Gaertner, NBS, 704-432-5495, mgaertner@charlottenc.gov

The Housing our Heroes initiative (housingourheroes.charmeck.org) began on July 6, 2014, and was officially announced on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014. Using the federally mandated annual Point in Time Count, the Housing our Heroes implementation team has set a goal to house 204 homeless veterans by the end of December 2015.

On December 18, 2014, the Housing our Heroes implementation team released a campaign status report which is attached for review.

The Housing our Heroes implementation team is comprised of representatives from the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and the federal Veterans Administration. Community partners working on the Housing our Heroes campaign include the Charlotte Housing Authority, Charlotte Bridge Home, Community Link, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Salvation Army, Urban

Ministry Center, Men's Shelter of Charlotte, Supportive Housing Communities, Asheville-Buncombe County Christian Ministry, Alston Wilkes Society, and Family Endeavors.

The Mayor and City Council members will receive campaign status reports on a monthly basis.



010715 Housing our
Heroes Campaign Sta

Recap of "Talk About High Growth Entrepreneurship" Event

Staff Resource: Jerriane Jackson, NBS, 704-432-1311, jbjackson@charlottenc.gov

On Thursday, December 4, 2014, Mayor Pro Tem Barnes, Chair of the Economic Development and Global Competitiveness Committee, facilitated a lively discussion about Charlotte's expanding high growth community. Sixty-five people attended the first event in the Talk About series, sponsored by the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Entrepreneurial Alliance. Attendees were entrepreneurs, small business owners, business support organizations, and City/County staff.

The discussion began with Dr. Susan Amat, founder of Venture Hive, in Miami, Florida, presenting on entrepreneurial ecosystems models, accelerator and incubator programs, and curriculum for college students and alumni.

Afterwards, Dan Roselli, co-founder of Packard Place, and Mayor Pro Tem Barnes facilitated a robust high growth entrepreneur panel. The panelists, Bob Youakim (Passport), Garth Moulton (CircleBack) and Paul Solitario (Charlotte Regional Fund for Entrepreneurship), shared their experiences in starting high growth firms, provided startup advice, and shared ideas on enhancing Charlotte's high growth entrepreneur community. The panel conversations included feedback and questions from the audience.

The next event in the Talk About series is tentatively scheduled for March 2015. For event updates, visit TalkAboutQC.com.



CHARLOTTE - MECKLENBURG
HOUSING OUR HEROES

December 18, 2014

TO: Mayor Dan Clodfelter, Charlotte City Council
Commissioner Trevor Fuller, Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners
Director Kaye Green, Salisbury Veterans Affairs Medical Center

FROM: Branden Lewis, Housing our Heroes Co-Chair
Tommy Rieman, Housing our Heroes Co-Chair
Mary Gaertner, City of Charlotte, Housing our Heroes Staff Liaison

RE: Campaign Status Report

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing our Heroes campaign began on July 6, 2014* and was officially announced on November 11, 2014. This local effort is part of the national Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness and Zero: 2016. The goal of the campaign is to house **204** Veterans by the end of 2015. We are pleased to begin monthly reporting with the following:

Number of Veterans Housed

*July 6 – December 18

112

Campaign Activities

- Conducted bi-weekly implementation team meetings.
- Participated in press conference announcing Housing our Heroes.
- Launched campaign website www.housingourheroes.charmeck.org.
- Participated in the recruitment of housing providers at a symposium held by the Charlotte Housing Authority.
- Learned of Department of Labor resources which provide assistance to Veterans for job placement and continuing education. These resources are available through SSVF provider Asheville Buncombe County Christian Ministry.
- Coordinated an agreement with Charlotte Bridge Home to be the administrator of a small fund which provides financial assistance to Veterans for rental application fees.
- Created guidelines for the financial assistance fund.
- Awarded 18 additional VASH vouchers, totaling 58 since 10/1/14. Priorities continue to be chronic homeless veterans in addition to veterans with dependent children, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, disabled and elderly and women.
- Received a briefing by members of the Fifth Third Bank - Community Development Office to learn about banking privileges for Veterans.
- Learned of Mecklenburg County Public Library resources available to Veterans including job and career help, online learning, computers and technology, and college and career readiness.

- Received a briefing from Alliance Credit Counseling to learn about free credit counseling available for Veterans.

Campaign Challenges

- Need more housing providers. Particularly housing providers who are willing to rent to Veterans with felony records.
- Need more emergency shelter beds for Veterans.
- Need more furniture and household goods for Veterans moving into housing.

Housing our Heroes Background

Data Collection

The implementation team uses the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as the main data source. The Veterans Administration (VA) is not on the local HMIS so we have created a spread sheet which combines both HMIS and VA data. In a closed session (due to confidentiality requirements) of our bi-weekly meetings we review the spread sheet for duplications and accuracy.

Implementation Team Partners

City of Charlotte
Mecklenburg County
W.G. (Bill) Hefner Veterans Administration Medical Center
Charlotte Housing Authority
Charlotte Bridge Home
Community Link (SSVF)
Alston Wilkes (SSVF)
Family Endeavors (SSVF)
Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (SSVF)
Urban Ministry Center
Salvation Army
Men's Shelter of Charlotte
Crisis Assistance Ministry
Supportive Housing Communities
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

2015 Point In Time Count

Charlotte-Mecklenburg will hold a three day Point In Time Count January 29-31, 2015. During these three days there will be a by-name registry created of homeless individuals in our City. We anticipate needing 200 volunteers and recruitment has already begun. Volunteers will include political and business leaders, homeless services agency providers, faith congregations, universities and community representatives as well as other organizations.