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Q. How do I become a member of Brookland FCU?

A. To become a member of the credit union, fill out a membership form and return it along with a copy of a government issued picture ID (Drivers' License, State ID Card or Military ID) and a copy of your Social Security Card. You must open a share (savings) account with a minimum of \$35 initial deposit. To remain a member, you must maintain a \$25 balance in your account and demonstrate regular activity. You will have access to all of our services once you open your share (savings) account.

Q. How long do I have to be a member before I can apply for a loan?

A. You may apply for a loan as soon as you become a member. There are no membership time requirements for loan qualifying.

Q. How do I add/remove a joint member to/from my account?

A. To add a member you will need to complete a new signature card, which you and the joint member sign where indicated. To remove a joint member, all joint members of the account need to agree to the removal, or the account can be closed and remaining joint members may open a new account.

Q. How do I change my payroll deduction?

A. Payroll deduction is an agreement between you and your employer. Payroll deduction change forms are available from your employer and should be filed with them. When changing deductions, remember to indicated the total amount you want deducted from your check and forwarded to the credit union.

Direct Deposit Questions

Q. Why should I use Direct Deposit?

• Safe - Your paycheck is protected against loss or theft.

- Worry-free Now you can be assured that your check is deposited, even when you're away from home.
- Saves time You no longer have to make special trips to the credit union or stand in long lines on payday.

• Convenient – No more waiting for the mailman. Your deposits will be made for you automatically, allowing you to set your own timetable for getting cash.

Q. How do I apply for Direct Deposit?

A. Our Member Service Representatives have all the necessary forms. If you wish, they will be happy to fill them in for you. All you have to do is tell them how you want your money distributed and sign your name. Brookland FCU will take care of everything else. You can also access the <u>form online</u>.

Q. How will I be able to keep track of my money?

A. Your check stub from your paycheck is your permanent record. Or with <u>The Prophet</u>, our 24 hour telephone response system you can check your balance at any time.

Q. Is there a charge for this service?

A. This service is free to all participating Brookland FCU members.

Features























The Brookland Baptist Church is located at 1066 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia, SC 29169 and 1203 Summit Parkway, Columbia, SC 29229.

The mission of the Brookland Baptist Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through **Evangelism**, **Education** and **Economic Empowerment**.

The Brookland Star is published monthly by the Brookland Baptist Church. Submit all articles, announcements, celebrations and photographs to

TheStar@brookland.cc by January 19, 2024

The February edition of *The Brookland Star* will be published online **February 5, 2024**



ONE CHURCH, TWO LOCATIONS

Pastoral Staff

Dr. Charles B. Jackson Sr., Senior Pastor Reverend Charles B. Jackson Jr., Co-Pastor Dr. Chris Leevy Johnson, BNE Campus Pastor Dr. Darrell King, Pastor of Online Engagement Rev. Betty Brown, Lead Associate Minister







Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!



As we move forward to the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we have been on together as a church family and to share some thoughts and encouragement for 2024.

First and foremost, I want to express my deep gratitude for each and every one of you. Your commitment, dedication, and love for God and God's people have been a source of inspiration and blessing to me and to our entire Brookland Family. Together, we have experienced joys, triumphs, and growth, as well as challenges and moments of uncertainty, especially during COVID-19 post-pandemic. Through it all, we have remained steadfast in our faith and united in our mission to "*proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, through evangelism, education and economic empowerment.*"

As we reflect back on 2023, we can see God's faithfulness and provision in every step of the way. We have witnessed lives transformed, relationships restored, and hearts set on fire for God. Brookland has continued to be a beacon of hope and a place of refuge for those seeking God's love and grace. Let us celebrate these victories and give thanks for all that God has done among us.

In the 27th Psalm 4th verse, David writes, "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple." This verse serves as a guiding light for us as we enter 2024. Our desire should be to seek God's presence, to dwell in His house and to gaze upon His beauty.

In 2024, let us commit ourselves to seeking God with all our hearts. Let us prioritize our relationship with God, making time for **PRAYER**, **WORSHIP** and **STUDYING God's Word**. May Brookland be a place where God's presence is felt, and His love is experienced by all who enter our doors, whether physically or via a virtual platform (Brookland Beyond).

As we seek God's presence, let us also be intentional about dwelling in His house. This goes beyond the physical walls of our church building. It means creating a community of love, acceptance, and unity within our church family. It means reaching out to those in need, both within our congregation and in our community, and extending the love and grace of Jesus to them.

Finally, let us fix our eyes on the beauty of the Lord. Let us not focus on outward appearances and temporary pleasures but let us be captivated by the beauty of God's character and God's work in our lives. As Gardner C. Taylor once said, "May our worship be genuine, our service be selfless and our love be unconditional, reflecting the beauty of our Savior."

I am excited to see what God has in store for us in 2024. Let us move forward with confidence, knowing that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. May God bless you abundantly in the year ahead, and may God's love and grace overflow in your lives.

Blessings,

Charles B. Jaekson, Ør. Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr.



FEBRUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 8, 2024

1066 SUNSET BLVD., WEST COLUMBIA, SC **REVEREND DR.** CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR., **PASTOR**





THE ANNUAL

ROKLAND BROTHERHOOD

SC CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Guest Speaker POLITICAL STRATEGIST

Our Lives Begin To End The Day We Become Silent About Things That







CONVERSATIONS ACROSS GENERATIONS!

Mothers, daughters, grandmothers, aunts and nieces are all invited

SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

JANUARY 27, 2024

9AM TO 12PM DOORS OPEN AT 8:30AM



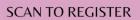
BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER 1066 SUNSET BLVD, WEST COLUMBIA SC 29169

Deadline to Register: January 22

*Light Breakfast & Lunch Provided *Door Prizes



For more information please contact Deanna Mobley (deannarmobley@yahoo.com) or Mikayla Smith (mikaylasmith2010@yahoo.com)





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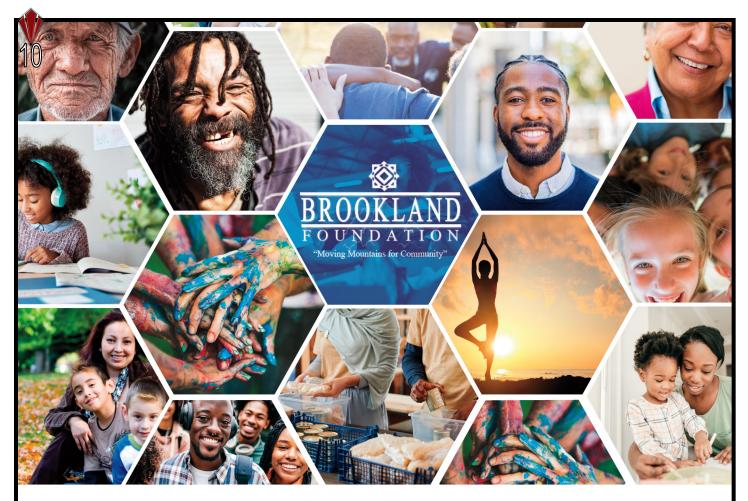
Cuest Speaker JUSTICE HILL

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Brookland Baptist Church 1066 Sunset Blvd West Columbia, SC 29169

VIBEATBROOKLAND@GMAIL.COM







EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Provides emergency financial assistance to families facing disconnection of utilities, eviction, or homelessness.



HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM

Distributes care packages and essential items to the unsheltered homeless population.



HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM

Encourages the pursuit of optimal health and works to close the gap in health disparities.



Provides supplemental instruction and homework assistance to K-12 students.



HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

Informs and educates the community about the HIV virus, while encouraging risk education and prevention.



Supplies food to low-tomoderate income individuals and families throughout the Midlands of South Carolina.

803.744.7914 www.BrooklandFoundation.org



HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

ENCOURAGING THE PURSUIT OF OPTIMAL HEALTH AND WORKING TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES.

Volunteer

Partner

www.BrooklandFoundation.org

Donate

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12 2024 HOLIDAYS	BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
Monday, January 1, 2024	New Year's Day
Monday, January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 19, 2024	Presidents Day
Friday, March 29, 2024	Good Friday
Monday, May 27, 2024	Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 19, 2024	Juneteenth
Thursday, July 04, 2024	Independence Day
Monday, September 2, 2024	Labor Day
Monday, October 14, 2024	Columbus Day
Monday, November 11, 2024	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 28, 2024	Thanksgiving
Friday, November 29, 2024	Day after Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 25, 2024	Christmas

Annual Church Calendar of Events

January 13 th	Brotherhood Annual MLK Breakfast	
February 5 th -8 th	Young Pastor's Conference	
February 9 th -11 th	Annual Couples Retreat	
February 25 th	Black History Observance	
March 2 nd	Mother – Son Event	
March 9 th	Health Fair	
March 26 th -28 th	Holy Week Observance	
May 19 th	Women's Day	
June 23 rd	Men's Day	
August 11 th	Youth & Teens Day	
August 27 th -29 th	Revival	
September 15 th	College Day	
October 16 th	Color Pink Breast Cancer Gala	
November 8 th -9 th	Intercessory Prayer Conference	
December 7 th	Sonrise Chorale Shopping Extravaganza	
December 13 th	Christmas Drama	
December 31 st	Watch Night Service	



Eunice Graham Sherry James Lorraine G. Johnson LaToya Willingham Gloria Singleton-Evans Krista Greene Derrick W. Livingston Reginald Epps Angela Williams Gregory Ray Kenneth Grimes Demond Coleman Sumita Stewart Doris Shahid

> Aretha Barnes Willie Patterson Shalai McConnell Dorothy Brewer Tanita Gilbert Tiffany Scott Britney White Jeanna Holmes Selena Anthony

Tara Taylor Dorothy Wilson Shanell Valentine Willie Morgan Nickolus Stewart Janet Eldridge Santtana McDaniel Erick Hopkins Thomas Gilliam Stephen Holmes Karen McNeal Dwan Samuel Beverly Jivers Viola Napper Breanna White Jazzlyn Mack Kaelyn Singleton Shirley Gates Edwanna Portee TaiLynn Miles Tony Brown

William Hankerson Christian Keith Susan Hall Adriane Clark Carlton Green Lester Myers Crystal White Jacquetta D. Chatman Lizzie Borum

Marilyn Dawkins Michele Starling Felder Cecilia Brooks Kimyonn Hughey Lewis Broome Jermaine Ransom Samantha McNeal Crystal Banks Jacqueline King George Flemming Reginald Reed Essence Smith Antonio Campbell Fred Johnson Javian Bellamy Dominique Williams

Sabrina Gaulman Lynetta Carson Lenora Jones-Green Julius Daniels Lance Evans Vincent Parker Charlene Brown

Favour Didia Jimmy Turner Micaela Jackson Irene Morning Tiffany Triutt Alyssa Robillard Ashley Manning Franquelletta Wallace Tarsha Hutto Samuel Minor Marianne Daverman Jamila Davis Raven Smith Iris Jackson Bryan Keith Miles Charles Brunson Sandra Anderson Nicole Sanders Marcia Stephens Latonia T. Davis Ricky (Eric) Taylor Gwen Daniels Jason Allen

Ramadam Mercer Major Joe Terrance Wingfield Jacquelyn Douglas Nicholas Johnson Sophia Armstrong LaSondra Kennedy

Shakena Pollock Jada Brown Eryn Wright Tiffany Truitt-Brown Elouise Quillin Alexis Ishmal Doris Davis Willie C. Gilbert Marlena Smalls Allean Harris Larry Hefline Kotina (Tarsha) Hutto



Birthdays



Bernard Edwards Jerome Thomas **Robin Bennett** Melvin Hart Cassandra Tolliver Pamela Caldwell William Bethea Leon Davis **Tolliver** Wise Vonetta Hubbard Catherine Smith **Regina B Priester** Felix Childs Donald Turner Joe A. Glover Francine Simpson Kasia Keith Melissa Garrick Cortez Lagroone Bryson Cannon Brenda Hackett Rashida Singleton Leon Morgan **Tommy Simons** Dantigo Green Linda Story Wil Singleton Marissa Campbell Nashia Jones Julius Mickle Alicia Williams Samantha Profit Alfreida Belgrave Nadine Lewis **Dorothy Morant** Donna Bonds Deatrix Zeigler Harry Robinson Mary Darby Shakquan Darby Jaleesa Dupree Alia Wright Nicholas Ealey **Jacqueline Daniels** Sabrina Shuler Kayron Nesmith Diamond Henry Ryan Lee Ronald Mack Marlon Ealey Sydney Hannibal **Tekeina Fields** Bernice Breeland Bryant Matthews Kirt Dulev Jarvis Wright Shasstiny Brewer Myleah Hodges Nicole Bennett Alonzo Oliver Marcus Chisolm Shirley Bobo Dantuane Wright Tina Holmes Jacqueline Stephenson Betty Taylor Brooke Boyd Karen Cantey Pamela Davis David Foulks Inga Everson Tamara Jacobs Mildred McGee Liz Simons **Buster Williams** Laurie Gilreath **Charles Poindexter** Wendy W. Fitts Chandler McLeod Jerone Wilder Valeta Geddis Hope Williams Ayana Reid Jackie G. Carlton Keith Ray Lerone Wilder Lauryn Wilson Shirley Cantey TrayonaSumpter Melvin Malone Jordan Gamble Ericka Tucker W. Priester Glenn Evans Matte Lewis William Jackson Willis Langley Terri Logan Brandon Muller Peaches Gilford Chad Wilson Will Curtain Dylan Brooks Yolanda D. Williams Harper Carrie Wilder Marilyn Torres James Boone **Richshique** Prophet Maya Fields Marquita Coleman Sytasha Simpson Tamara King **Roderick Smith** Tammye Hogan Shawna Barefield Amelia Samuel James Hallmon Michael Manning Kristin McConnell Michael Haynes Jessica Goodley Justin Hopkins E Wiggins Joyce Hart Brandon Brunson Jacqueline Jones-Brown Courtney Martin Elijah Frasier Patrick Butler **Taurus** Lewis Denise Ward Cynthia Ashford Jonathan Huskey Lisa Perry Handy Miles Peggy Vincent Levias Peterson Felicia March Jacqueline Burns Christine Thompson

Wayne Baskerville **Reginald Betts** Edward Griffin Charlie Bess Clinton Seawright Erica Rice Herbert King Sumitra McGee-Stewart **Regina Stearns** Sharon Cooper Davenna Williams Janice Hollis Keisha Aiken Cassandra Bellott George A. Devlin Pedro Robles Michelle Wright Angela Hartwell **Derek** Fitts Jessica Malone Regina Lawton Gwynisha Pringle S. Allison Baker Orlando Nelson Dollie Skinner **Richmond Taylor** Sean Mosley Kalenna Ginyard LaQuinta Lewis Kenneth Lewis Nadia Egipciaco Rodrick Shiver **Delores** Crosby Joshua Wilder **Deloris** Fuqua Ja'Shuan Brailey **Dennis** Copeland Jeanette Evans Lenore Samuel

14

Anna Langley

Enore Samuel Elvin S. Lewis Malendrix Carrington Erin Elam Charles Watson Alisha Charleman Etta Linen



Birthdays

Debra Jacobs Cheryl Hill Andrea Blake Amanda Blair Yolanda Pee Mark Weeks Eugene Johnson Cynthia Little Malcolm Shade Angela P. Galloway William Bethea	James Heyward Vernese Ellis Janaya Burgess Christine Wallace Santago Daniels Eric Bussey Fred Hawkins Lauren Primus	Happys Birthday
Imari JonesChristopher MimsAkeem FreemanJerome KearneyMarlon BennettSidney WiseLayton CofieldImari JonesCharles NelsonImari JonesShawn BellImari JonesLois GoodwinImari JonesLisa JonesImari JonesAngela ScottJessica HamptonDerrick GallionKelvin YoungDaniel HuttoRevonda WhitleyMalissa McNairyJanni PriesterBobby LomaxDanni PriesterMartha AlstonSpainLonnie WalkerSpainEric WhiteTwanda Mickle	Renee Smith Ronita Adams Myra Washington Nayo Harvin Deke Adams Debra Tucker Steven Cannon Tiffany Glover Bradley Slaughter Sylvia Watkins Rebecca Gates Gerd Devlin Timara Council Toreia Morgan Patrick Brown Christopher Feaster Erica Norris	Your Deacon and the Pastoral Staff are concerned and care about every member in our Church "Family." When there is a sickness, surgery or death in your family, Please contact your Deacon and the Pastoral Office (Angela Taylor) at (803)744-7908
Joseph Mack Kendrick Cowans Bertha Brown Carmelita Wise Antoinette Pryor Elizabeth Felder Noah Johnson Denise Simon	Dianne Aiken Harriet Little Cedric Thompson Sherrel L. Mars Derrick Brown Cynthia Vaughn Zhane James Mikayla Genwright	All birthdays listed on the previous pages are generated through the church membership database. If you find any errors
Cardell Jones Kathy Williams Roy Alston Crystal Singleton Jonathan Stroman Shirley Williams Odell Hydrick Peggy Jackson Cassandra Alston Reginald Wiggins Tacauma Lettsome Walter Brownlee Joyce McGraw Jerome Nesbitt Michelle Williams	Miriama Andrews Jennifer O'Neal Karen Kinard Delores Washington Asia Pringle Justin Anderson Sylvira Grady Daniel Yancey Ebony Crenshaw Franceina Hopkins Albert Harris Talmadge Bookert Alexis Georges Justice Jesse Smith Faye Robinson	in the listings or if you have recently moved or changed your phone number, please contact the Church Office at the West Campus at (803) 796-7525 or the Northeast Campus at (803) 753-0610.





Djwana Reeves Deedra Roberts LaDarryl Page Earthly Haskell Ramona Williams Carr Francia Montague Tiffany Ray Geraldine Grissette LaRhonda McCray Samuel Stewart

Shiann Greene Thymond McGlockton Jaylaah Washington Rose Holmes Marvinia Adams Lauryn Coleman Jordan Green Pedro Rodriguez Darlene Earle Bria Simpson Darlene Ziegler

Tasha Talavera Alisha Simmons Jennifer Perkins Michael DeWitt Lauren Walton Emery L. Benn Kenneth Makins Gwendolyn Dwyer Jeanette Gilchrist James Daniels Tormora Carson Margaret Stewart

Helen Heath Diane Anderson Walter Napper Kadetrix Marcus Michelle Bennon Tamiko Robinson Orlando Haggins Waletha Short Mia Conelly Jessica James Davita Williams

Paula Jordan Evangelist Robinson Irvin A. Walker J. Brown Laura Funchess Corey Johnson Delicia Gillard-Ealey Terry Millender Taylor Cunningham John Butler Terence Palmer Thaddeus Davenport Theron Wallace Nathaniel Jackson Ronyetta Johnson

Michael Clark Brenda Middleton Barrick Belton Georgia Gandy Richard Cunningham Elliott Powe Latanya Wright Aleesa Able Bianca McCoy Chrisheena Williams

Keira Session Alexis Graham Elizabeth Nuhu Alachia Gilmore Sharron Pappillion-Digglees Christia Haynes Jenese Jackson Sharmella Deberry John Weston Lynn Council

Rosie Washington Marian Cross Sabrina Jackson James Brown Latonia Barrett Thomas Barr Travis Thomas Tacara Jett Dale Collier Kenny Simmons

Cassandra S. Vaughn Ebony Washington Robert Hubbard Terrie James Kenyatta Jeffcoat Janie Graham Kendrick Brown Walter Thompson Rianna Carroway Floyd Burgis Christopher Miller

Jessica Faulk **Rose Jones** Jerome Jones Rose Smith Ahryona Johnson Daishia Robinson Melvin McDonald Helena Bridges Candace Cannon Chezdent Thompson Dominic Croswell Sam Bartley Jacolby Nelson **Doris Jones** Dorothy Perry Tracey Alexander Jackie Perry Elainea Myers Cynthia Smith Mosetta Sullivan Elmora Payne Therese Alford Cyril V. Belton Joe Solomons

Aubrianna Pressley Latoya Cook Khalil Eggleston Shanitra Mason Cameron Weston Tarcia Flemming Barbara Coe Santerria Davis

Terry Fell Douglas Harley Christopher Lewis Roberta H. Okoli Charles Greene Delores Wright Delesia Crumblin Leatrice Nelson Justin Geiger Leona Moten Richmond Taylor Daysia Grady

> Devin Simmons Anise Calloway Anthony Jenkins Patricia Hall Jerome Gamble Reggie Geiger Wendy Adams Richard Krider Niasia Zeigler Kendra Alexander George Garner

Dylan Reilly

Edwin Williams Carrie Colley Angela Sims Alicia Osborne Pamela Davis Ashante' Smith Brittany Lazarus Shayla Gortman Caliah Sims Rachel Jackson Ishamel Byrd Robbie Saunders

Latoshia Lancaster Richardine Myers Maxine Nesbit Anthony Fanning Vernetta Anderson Patricia Greene Bobby Davis John Alford

Andrena Wilson Tyler Gasque Shaniya Hughes Trina Stevens Tricia Douglas Booker Wright Joy McGraw



Dara Brown BLEC Staff Member

BROOKLAND-LAKEVIEW AND WEST COLUMBIA-CAYCE FOOD POLICY COALITION PRESENTS AT APHA 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (BLEC) and the West Columbia-Cayce Food Policy Coalition received national exposure at the recently held American Public Health Association (APHA) 2023 Annual Meeting and Expo in Atlanta, Ga. The topic for this section was "Ethics & Community: Environment and Food Systems Challenges."

BLEC's presentation focused on the "importance of ethics in building community food policy strategies," according to Dara Brown, who led the BLEC contingent that included Michael Brown, Gregory Sprouse and Dr. Cindye Richburg Cotton. Dara Brown, Michael Brown, Dr. Cotton are BLEC staffers and with Sprouse members of the West Columbia-Cayce Food Policy Coalition (WeCo-Cayce FPC).

"BLEC is proud and pleased that its abstract was selected among other organizations, including higher education institutions, for presentation at this prestigious meeting," said Richburg Cotton, BLEC executive director. "It speaks volumes about our own commitment to food ethics and policy."

Speaking from the abstract at the meeting, Dara Brown said, "Local food policy coalitions can be an effective means for better understanding and addressing local food access, health, and equity issues. While community participation represents a core ethical value of local food policy initiatives, many coalitions struggle with creating meaningful opportunities for ongoing community dialogue and engagement.

"Coordinating food policy coalition work around existing community-based organizations (CBO), however, can help with building deeper community relationships based on inclusivity, mutual respect, reciprocity, and shared decision making for all phases of policy development and implementation."

She further explained that the West Columbia – Cayce Food Policy Coalition is a multi–sectoral coalition of existing CBO's and community partners who collectively identify and address local food access and equity issues. Using the Institute of Medicine's Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) model, the coalition engages residents most impacted by food insecurity and inequities through community food gatherings designed to analyze critical issues over food and conversation while building relationships. Through community gatherings, the coalition prioritizes issues, assesses resources, and develops Policy, Systems and Environmental Change strategies (PSEs).

"Strategies are presented to local government and community leaders for planning, accountability, and resource allocation purposes. As PSEs are implemented, the coalition monitors processes and outcomes to gauge health, justice, and equity in the community. Though target demographics will vary depending upon the mission of a food policy coalition, working within ethical and systematic frameworks is a pinnacle best practice. Being "boots on the ground" to engage and listen to the community allows for building public trust and transparency."



"Also, building upon existing assets allows the coalition to develop PSEs from a place of sufficiency instead of scarcity. This approach can address the existing structural and institutional food system inequities by not moving around resources but by building upon existing community strengths. With ethics at the forefront, food policy coalitions built around existing CBOs are well-situated to play a key role in community food systems change."

APHA champions the health of all people and all communities. It aims to strengthen the public health profession and speaks out for public health issues and policies backed by science. It claims to be the only organization that combines a 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public's health.

Michael Brown said, "We work closely with farmers who participate in our farmer's market to ensure their produce and products are safe for consumers. We know full well the importance of food ethics and safety."



BROKLAND-LAKEVIEW EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Empowerment is the key.



For our Emergency Financial Assistance Program, "Moving Mountains for Community" means providing a month's hotel stay, food, and case management to a working single mother while collaborating with our partners to help her family achieve permanent housing and self-sustainability.

www.BrooklandFoundation.org





DISTRIBUTION OF FRESH PRODUCE BOXES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN NEED

PARTNERSHIP WITH HARVEST HOPE FOOD BANK AND BLEC 20 LBS BOX OF FRESH PRODUCE



DATE

January 2024 Friday, January 12, 2024 Friday, January 26, 2024

Distributions on the 2nd and 4th Friday



TIME

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

LOCATION

Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (Back of Bogan Hall, near the Athletic Field) 1218 Batchelor Street West Columbia, S.C. 29169

ADDITIONAL SERVICES • SENIOR SUPPLEMENTAL BOXES • DIABETIC BOXES

In addition to the Fresh Produce Boxes already listed)

BROKLAND-LAKEVIEW EMPOWERMENT CENTER Empowerment is the key.



For more information, please contact **Rev. Mardell Whyte** at **(803) 744-7943** or via email at **mwhyte@brookland.cc** or **crichburgcotton@brookland.cc**



Addressing Food Deserts by Building Successful Approaches and Equitable Access to Nutritious Foods

By Michael Brown, Project Coordinator Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (BLEC)

Access to healthy foods is crucial for individuals to make informed decisions about their diet and overall well-being. Unfortunately, many communities in the United States face limited access to healthy foods, resulting in what is known as food insecurity. This issue is particularly prevalent in food deserts, which the USDA defines as geographical areas where the population lives at least one mile away from a grocery store in urban areas or at least ten miles in rural settings. Additionally, these same communities may also have an abundance of unhealthy options, such as fast-food restaurants or convenience stores, typically referred to as food swamps.

Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (BLEC) is a nonprofit organization that serves over 22,000 individuals per year in various programs to include youth afterschool and summer camp programs, health and workforce development training, senior services, food box programs and more. From our experiences in the food environment, we experienced some successful approaches to addressing food deserts in Lexington and Richland counties. This includes building equitable access to healthy foods through the implementation of farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community gardens.

Meeting Community Needs

Farmers markets, community gardens, and roadside stands are growing in their role as essential sources of healthy foods in food deserts. Many individuals prefer to purchase locally grown organic fruits and vegetables. More nonprofit organizations like the BLEC are filling the gap by implementing food promotion programs in food deserts. Over the past two years, the BLEC has implemented a farmers' market in the Northeast area of Columbia, roadside stands in West Columbia and Swansea, and community gardens in Northeast Columbia, West Columbia, Cayce, and Gaston.

Farmers' Markets and Roadside Produce Stands

Farmers markets have become important tools for reducing food insecurity over the past 15 years. Most studies that measure food access focus on two factors: households' proximity to food sources and access to transportation. Food sources can include supermarkets, discount stores, convenience stores, farmers markets and fast-food restaurants.

Farmers markets and roadside stands do not exist simply as an end in and of themselves, but rather they serve as an effective way to increase a farmer's revenue, support sustainable agriculture practitioners, increase fresh food access and ultimately, they serve to bring communities together. A farmers' market is a public and recurring assembly of farmers selling the food that they produced directly to consumers. The BLEC Farmer's Market operates weekly from April through November and provides access to fresh seasonal produce as well as access to baked goods, artisans, food trucks and other vendors.

Roadside produce stands are places where local farmers can sell their produce directly to consumers, often in low food access communities with high visibility.

Community Gardens

Community gardens contributes to a sense of community, connection to the environment, and an opportunity for satisfying labor and community involvement while providing access to fresh produce and plants. Community gardens are often used to provide fresh produce in "food deserts and food swamps."

Increasing Access to Healthy Foods

The primary benefit of partnering with local farmers is to provide community residents with greater access to locally grown produce. By implementing community gardens, farmers' markets, and roadside produce stands, we eliminate the barrier of distance, providing convenience, and increasing healthy choices. Compare that to most supermarkets where 7 to 14 days can lapse between the time produce is picked and when it becomes available to consumers in grocery stores. Additionally, on average, distributors travel more than 1,200 miles to stock grocery store shelves. Comparatively, locally grown produce sold at the farmers' market is made available at the peak of freshness and nutrient content.

Challenges as Opportunities for Growth

Throughout our first year, we encountered various challenges that we view as valuable opportunities for growth. Some challenges include ready access to space for roadside produce stands, balancing the needs of the community residents and local farmers, promotion of farmers' markets, and identifying volunteers to assist in maintaining the community gardens. By overcoming these challenges, we gained valuable insights to prepare for future endeavors to increase access to affordable fresh produce to residents in food deserts. For example, we boost farmers' market attendance by increasing and enlarging roadside signs near the site.

Addressing food deserts is a crucial step towards promoting healthier communities. By successfully establishing and running weekly produce stands and farmers' markets, we serve to meet the needs of food desert communities. Moving forward, we will leverage the lessons learned to further improve our approach and continue making a positive impact in the lives of those affected by food insecurity in our community.



BROKLAND-LAKEVIEW EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Empowerment is the key.

ROKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH THE EUREH MARKETPLACE THE

DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR., Senior Pastor

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2024 12 NOON Until 5:00 PM

WHAT IS THE CHURCH MARKETPLACE:

The Church Marketplace is a vendor show just for churches, large or small. It is the place where vendors will be set up to show them how they can help their church become more visible in the community, and the state. The Church Marketplace will have vendors that offer merchandise to help build their church brand, it will offer assistance with upgrade building needs, banking needs, and much more.

> MISSION IN TO ALL

REGISTRANTS

YOUR BADGE IS <u>YOUR ENTRY</u>

CONTACT: REV. CHARLES CURETON 803-744-7957 or ccureton@brookland.cc

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BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH - MAIN CAMPUS: 1066 Sunset Blvd • West Columbia, SC 29169

ENDOR

15