



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: August 26, 2019

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City of Burlington helps connect the resources to open a Beaumont Apartments Community Based Afterschool program

BURLINGTON, NC— A celebration will be held Friday September 27, 2019 from 1:00pm-2:00pm for a newly organized after-school program located in the Community Center building at Beaumont Apartments. This program will serve children in grades 2-8.

This program has been built out of strong community partnerships and grassroots efforts in the community.

In early July 2019 Burlington's Youth Solutions Coordinator, Dr. Vanessa Diggs, met with parents and children that lived in two of PK Management's property located in Burlington. During these meetings the attendees expressed a need for a safe place for their kids to go and complete their homework and assigned reading in their own community, Beaumont Apartment property. Diggs' work for the City of Burlington is based on using evidence based practices to help reduce risk factors for youth violence in Burlington.

Sandgria McCombs, PK Management Social Services Coordinator, and Diggs sought out community partnership to invest in the community-based program.

United Women of Alamance County purchased bookshelves, school supplies, and teaching and learning aids. The Women's Growth Institute of Ebenezer United Church of Christ also supplied student daily supplies. The Ebenezer United Church of Christ will be assisting in sponsoring a teacher for the program. The YMCA of Alamance County is providing snacks and hot meals for students with the YMCA's afterschool meal program.

“We took the request for Beaumont’s afterschool program to Women United, a group of women philanthropists with United Way. A member stepped up wanting to do make donation personally and anonymously. These are the connection points that build the strength of our community. The United Way’s mission is to mobilize the caring power of our community to advance the common good. Programs like this show how much common good there is in Alamance County.” Heidi Norwick, President of Alamance County United Way.

Ms. McCombs is working to establish a partnership with Eastlawn Elementary and Broadview Middle School teachers and staff to get feedback on how to best assist and encourage parents to be more active in their child’s education. School administration and staff will be invited to the center to participate in quarterly parent meetings.

“Research has documented the positive impacts associated with participation in afterschool programs, including academics and social and emotional outcomes, as well as the essential supports and services afterschool programs provide to students and their families.” Stated Dr. Diggs.

The role of Youth Solutions Coordinator was introduced to the City of Burlington in May of 2019. Part of this work will include connecting resources to produce sustainable outcomes for reduce risk factors for youth violence in Burlington.

The open-house will include PK Management staff, Beaumont Apartments parents, and contributing community partners. There will be a celebration held a to the newly renovated afterschool center. The center has new floors, fresh paint and new air conditioners. Community partners will have the opportunity to walk-thru and share in light refreshments. The program will official open to the community on the following Monday. The center will be opened Monday-Thursday and the hours will be 2:45 PM – 5:00 PM.

The City of Burlington has focused community based programs in the Beaumont Community over the recent years. Most recently the City was in the community during the summer month of 2018 and 2019 with a mobile recreation unit offering weekly programming to youth.

Please contact Dr. Vanessa Diggs, Youth Solutions Coordinator for the City of Burlington at 336-639-4811 or Sandgria McCombs, PK Management Social Services Coordinator at 216-401-1933.

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Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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