

Dear Friends,

The past year has brought challenges and successes. The rising cost of living and stagnant wages have impacted most of us throughout North Carolina, especially the population that Community Link serves. Agency-wide, the vast majority of the people and families we serve (86%) are experiencing generational poverty and homelessness.

Our mission is to enable individuals and families to obtain and sustain safe, decent and affordable housing. We assist everyone across the housing spectrum – from people dealing with housing insecurity to those interested in becoming a first-time homeowner, with support every step of the way.

Tierra Brant fits into the latter category. This past year, Brant and her husband recognized that their family of five was outgrowing their rental home: “As the girls got bigger,” she said, “we realized that this is not going to work.” She decided to turn to Community Link for financial education and counseling.

The Brants took our financial empowerment classes and received one-on-one counseling to work toward their goals of homeownership. We helped them connect to a down-payment assistance program. “The affordability piece was big,” Brant recalled. **“We can breathe now. This is what we worked for – we did it.”** In June of 2023, the Brant family closed on their four-bedroom home.



Tierra Brant & family

Your contributions make our work possible. Gifts from donors like you help families like the Brants become first-time homeowners. Your generosity aids people in our community in paying their rent and utility bills – and helps them avert eviction. Your volunteerism supports families in multilayered ways, creating a lasting impression.

Thank you for supporting Community Link. I am proud to report the impact that Community Link made on our community in the last year.



Gratefully,

Tameka Gunn, President and CEO

Services Provided in Fiscal Year 2023 *(July 2022 to June 2023)*



Helped secure housing for 1,194 adults and children



Prevented foreclosure for 136 families



Financially educated and counseled 306 individuals



Guided 15 customers to become **First-Time Homeowners**



Prepared 1,625 **tax returns**



Aided 209 people in transit under distress **reach safe housing**

Homeless to Housing

Ms. Crystal, a single woman in her 40s, came to Community Link through a referral in February of 2023. Her experience with homelessness began much sooner – she was living in “Tent City” until 2021 when our community partner was able to secure housing for Ms. Crystal and her boyfriend. Unfortunately, her boyfriend was abusing her emotionally, verbally, and physically while living together in their apartment.

We worked to get her safe but temporary housing that was separate from her abuser. Ms. Crystal felt discouraged: “I never had stable housing and never really had guidance on how to help myself.” Community Link caseworkers connected her to mental and physical health services, SNAP benefits, and more, while providing supportive services as well. We helped secure safe, decent and affordable housing for Ms. Crystal in February 2023.

By the Numbers



Aided **209 people** in transit under distress reach safe housing through our Travelers Aid program



Helped secure housing for **1,194 adults and children** through our Homeless to Housing program

“Without Community Link, homeownership wouldn’t have been possible.”

– Nyamekya Johnson



By the Numbers



Prevented foreclosure for **136 families** across 16 counties in North Carolina



Guided **15 customers** to become First-Time Homeowners via our Asset Building program



Educated and counseled **306 individuals** financially through our Asset Building program



Prepared **1,625 tax returns** through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program

Asset Building

Nyamekya and Quonnetta Johnson reached out to Community Link to inquire about homeownership and how to make their dream a reality. Our Asset Building team helped the couple through the entire home-buying process. “They received personalized counseling with a certified HUD counselor around what the home-buying process looks like and how to become mortgage-ready,” said President and CEO Tameka Gunn.

Personalized one-on-one counseling and access to a down-payment assistance program were two critical elements in creating affordable housing for the family. We also relied on TrueHomes, our building partner, to build a home for veterans like the Johnsons. Their property includes an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) that sits behind the main house as a smaller residential home for Quonnetta’s mother.

We were able to help 15 Asset Building customers like the Johnsons become first-time homeowners through financial education and one-on-one counseling.



A Word of Thanks

Thank you for the support from our board of directors and our Corporate Champions.

Board of Directors *(July 2022 to June 2023)*

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IT'S ALL ABOUT U

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