

Teaching Lives for 40 Years



Annual Report 2005-2006



STEP Inc. serves area for 40 years

Franklin County citizens should take pride in an organization that has been providing services to citizens – and its success is due partly to citizens, businesses and local governments that have given support to the organization.

The organization is Support to Eliminate Poverty (STEP Inc.), which is observing its 40th anniversary this year.

STEP Inc., which is at 200 Dent St. in Rocky Mount, was chartered as the official anti-poverty agency in 1974 under the name Franklin County Community Action Agency. Some of the earliest programs provided were day care, adult education and a clothing bank.



...grow...we're growing to serve...
Current programs offered by STEP include: food bank, job training, Start, housing and weatherization, alternative education programs, income tax assistance, financial emergency assistance, Project Discovery, Discover Life, senior meals programs, workforce development and mentoring services.

We commend STEP for providing service to those in need for the past 40 years and we wish the organization continued success in its programs that are vital to so many.

Citizens who wish to help STEP with its mission of helping those in need may make donations of money.



Naptime Facilities at the Day Care Center

Day Care Center Open, Looking

BY LINDA STANLEY

Rocky Mount Day Care Center opened Monday morning with four small-size customers.

Mrs. Syrena Prunty, supervisor of the center, said she hopes at least 30 children will be enrolled in the day care program soon.

The center is operated by the Franklin County Community Action program. Mrs. Prunty said any child three years to school aged may take advantage of the program. "We do require that they be (toilet) trained," she added.

Weekly rates at the center are \$10 per child with additional charges for transportation.

time when a mother needs the service.

The center, on Diamond Avenue extension in the American Legion building, is open five days a week, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Small charges are given two meals, breakfast and lunch, a snack and juice during the day. Other activities on the day's schedule include play, story times, music and art instruction.

The spacious American Legion building is divided into areas appropriate for each activity. All the equipment is light and easily stored in the office for weekends when the American Legion uses the building.

from these centers, as well as suggestions for planning well-balanced meals.

Several improvements were made to the kitchen at the center, on the suggestion of sanitation and health officials. Mrs. Prunty said regular frequent inspections will be made of all the center's facilities, with particular emphasis on the cooking area.

"Open house was last week," the supervisor said, "but we still invite people to come in. If anybody ever sees anything not clean here, we want them to report it."

The building and facilities have been approved by members of the local health department, representatives of the Virginia Department of Public Welfare and state health officials.





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Touching lives for 40 years.

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Services Expanded For Poor

By MERTHA NELSON
Staff Writer

In an expansion of services to the elderly and the poor, Franklin County Community Action has opened an emergency food pantry, delivers hot meals, provides jobs for older persons and has adopted the local chapter of the Salvation Army.

Agency Director David Haney said the broadening of services is intended to meet the needs of low-income persons who are unable to provide for themselves.

The food pantry stocks canned and dry goods for the preparation of balanced meals and is open to those in emergency situations, such as families whose homes have been destroyed by fire or families that have recently expired all income sources and have an immediate need for food.

The first stocking of the pantry was financed with \$1,000 grant from the State Department of Social Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Another \$1,500 has been earmarked for the agency, according to Haney.

Community Action has expressed a total of \$10 worth of groceries per adult, with additional subsidies for children. Since the pantry's stocking, 20 persons have received food valued at \$200. All the families served so far have included children.

Anyone whose income falls within the national poverty guideline is eligible to receive food. For a single person, income may not exceed \$16 monthly. The unemployed and persons whose jobs are seasonal have been excluded, but the service is available only once. Repeat services will be allowed only in extreme cases, Haney said.

Recipients of Aid to Dependent Children and Supplemental Security Income are not eligible. Neither is anyone whose liquid assets exceed \$1,000.

A long-standing program for the delivery of hot meals to the homes of the aged, poor and handicapped now serves about 10 persons weekly. Meals are prepared at the home of the recipient and delivered to the home of the recipient. It also provides transportation to work for themselves. It also provides counseling and job training. Haney says outreach workers delivering hot meals also check on the well-being of the recipients and check on the status of the program. Hot Community (Continued on Page 3-A)



From our Board President



A name can tell you a lot about an organization. In 1990, the Board of Director's were faced with choosing a new name for what had been Franklin County Community Action. Whether the Board intended for it to be so or not, the name they chose sixteen years ago, STEP, is a truly fitting descriptor of our work.

As a community action agency seeking to eliminate poverty and create better lives for the less fortunate in our region, STEP has been the pathway for countless individuals and families in their journey to a brighter future. Through educational services to children, housing assistance, programs for the elderly, and numerous initiatives to help families escape the binds of poverty, STEP literally serves as the stepping stones out of a life of unfortunate circumstances and lays the foundation for a better tomorrow. The citizens of Franklin and Patrick counties have been blessed immeasurably in the past forty years by STEP, and we look forward to even more active service in the years to come.

The words of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, are a fitting descriptor for STEP's mission. In the 1700's, Wesley wrote the following:

**"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can."**

By helping individuals have hope for a brighter tomorrow, STEP will continue in our next forty years to serve others, at all times and in whatever ways necessary, to help them take the steps out of poverty. Thank you for assisting us in our mission, and we look forward to partnering with you to ensure the success of our mission in the years ahead.

Lee King
Dr. Lee King
STEP Board President

Seventy Attend First Credit Union Meeting

Approximately 70 persons attended the first organizational meeting of the Franklin County, Virginia Credit Union Monday at First Baptist Church. William Stark of Lynchburg, Virginia Credit Union League, presided at this meeting. Other speakers were Ray Vernon, field representative, and Mrs. Margaret Hofawager of Lynchburg, both members of the Virginia Administration Credit Union. Officers elected at the meeting are the Rev. Ennis Leake, president, who is pastor of church and community services at Ferrum College; A.A. Hicks, vice president, who is an agricultural extension agent; Josephine S. Robinson, secretary, who is executive director of Franklin County Community Action, and Mrs. Leticia Radford, treasurer, who is manager of the Craft Center at Ferrum. Other members of the board of directors are Arthur Owens of Ferrum College; Mrs. Arline Thomas, a Community Action staff member, and Charles Williams, director of West Virginia Central 4-H Educational Center. The committee will be

The first study concerning a county credit union was held in September of 1969 as a joint endeavor of the county Community Action group and Ferrum College. As a result of this effort, an application was made for a self-help, thrift organization. Approval has since been received, and the credit union recently received its charter. Interested persons should contact any of the members for information concerning membership in the credit union.



Presiding at this week's meeting, Stark outlined federal regulations for the credit union. His audience approved all recommended points.

From our Executive Director



It was 40 years ago that Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, President of Ferrum College, led a group of concerned individuals in starting the Franklin County Community Agency. Dr. Arthur embraced the idealism of the 60's and joined the "War on Poverty." We could not have survived for 40 years without the vision of our Board of Directors, the sacrifice of our employees, and the support of our community. I believe our founding members would be proud of what's been accomplished.

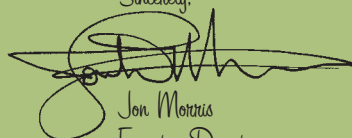
STEP, formally the Franklin County Community Action Agency, has a rich history. STEP has provided services to thousands of individuals over the years. We've installed new doors, wrapped chimneys, and installed insulation to help families save on energy costs through our Housing and Weatherization programs. We've helped low-income students be the first in their families to go to college through Project Discovery. Our Summer Work program and Adult Education programs helped people obtain employment and their GED's. We've helped thousands of children prepare for kindergarten through our Head Start Program. We even collaborated with Ferrum College to establish the very first Credit Union in Franklin County.

Over the past year, we have added new programs and expanded existing programs to better serve our community. STEP was recently awarded the Homeless Intervention Program, which will provide intervention services for individuals and families that are in danger of losing their homes due to circumstances beyond their control. Our mentoring program has grown tremendously and plans are underway to expand into Patrick County and Henry County. Our Alternative Special Education Program, now known as LIFES Academy, has doubled their capacity this year that will expand our services to include elementary age students.

As we reflect on our past and celebrate our 40 years, we are mindful that there are many families still living in poverty. There are many families that are one paycheck away from becoming homeless, children who are growing up without proper nutrition, and senior citizens who don't know whether to pay for food, heat, or medicine. There are bright teenagers who feel college is not attainable because their family cannot afford it.

So while we pause to celebrate 40 years of service, we realize there is so much work to do.

While we acknowledge our rich history, we are ready for what the future holds for STEP and we are humbled at the responsibility that we have been afforded. It is my fervent hope that STEP will continue to be a place of refuge for those in need, a model for those who serve, and a source of pride for the people of Franklin and Patrick Counties.

Sincerely,

Jon Morris
Executive Director



Nancy Wiseman, Community Action aide, helps Larry Becker of Boone Mill hold his "Easter Bunny," Becker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mose Becker,

100 Pre-Schoolers At Five Communi

One hundred pre-school age children in Franklin County are taking advantage of the Pre-School Program being made possible by Franklin County Community Action.

The five preschool programs are being held in the county's five Community Centers. The centers are in Rocky Mount, Sontag, Callaway, Ferrum and the Lovely Valley Center in the Wirgin area.

Children five years old are enrolled in the program which was started last October. The current program will conclude in June, although most of the students will be in the Head Start program this summer.

Mrs. John Robinson, Community Action director, said that the largest number of students are enrolled in the program at the Rocky Mount Community Center, located

on Franklin St. Approximately 25 five-year-olds are transported to and from center.

Pre-schoolers go to centers five days a week from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. During the two hours, stories, voice pictures, are read and "lessons" are given with other children," said center director said.

"Learning to get along with other children is one of the most important things a preschooler has to learn," she said. "I guess you could say that is similar to a kindergarten program," she added.

Mrs. Robinson noted that when these 100 children complete the current program and the summer Head Start program, they will be ready in many ways that are not in first grade classes.

Last week, members of

Agency Programs

Support to Eliminate Poverty (STEP), Inc. currently provides services through more than 20 highly effective and results-oriented programs to low-income children, families and individuals in Franklin County and Patrick County. Program descriptions and the number of clients served for 2005-2006 include:

HEAD START

A comprehensive program that is designed to foster the healthy development of three and four year old children from low-income families, while preparing the children to enter kindergarten. Head Start serves 80 children in Franklin County and 53 children in Patrick County.



HOUSING & WEATHERIZATION

Weatherization/Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Provides low-income residents with home inspections and evaluations; based on the inspection, homes may qualify for a variety of energy saving methods such as insulation, weather stripping, and repair/replacement of heating systems. **58 homes were weatherized.**

EMERGENCY HEATING & COOLING

Clients are referred by the Department of Social Services (DSS) for the inspection/installation/repair/replacement of heating and cooling systems and ductwork. **140 homes received emergency heating/cooling services.**

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

This program, through the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), provides rental assistance payments to eligible, low-income families to prevent homelessness. **185 families received rental assistance.**

INDOOR PLUMBING & REHABILITATION SERVICES

This program provides installation of plumbing, septic tanks and wells in structurally sound homes with non-existent bathrooms. Homes that are not structurally sound are razed and a new home is built in its place. **Construction began for 1 family to receive a new home with indoor plumbing.**

PATH/TBRA (TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE)

Provides rent vouchers to qualified clients that can be used for any apartment, house or mobile home in any state as long as it is HUD approved. **4 individuals received housing assistance.**

SOUTHEAST RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROJECT (SERCAP)

This program provides referrals to SERCAP for families in need of clean water and/or a sewer connection. **Assisted 10 families with applications to SERCAP.**



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

In conjunction with Ferrum College; STEP, Inc. provides free tax assistance to individuals and families who earn less than \$35,000 annually.

78 individuals received assistance; this resulted in tax preparation savings of \$11,700.00 for our customers, with state and federal refunds totaling \$ 82,221.00, including more than \$37,000 from the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program also utilized 20 volunteers totaling more than 250 volunteer hours.

SENIOR MEALS

STEP, Inc. in partnership with Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA) and Christ Community Church delivers home bound persons nutritious meals Monday through Friday. Congregate meals are served at the local Senior Center on alternating Mondays and Thursdays. **Delivered 13,003 homebound meals and provided 3,042 congregate meals.**

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The 2005-2006 Targeted Community Needs Assessment was conducted to provide Franklin County and local non-profit agencies with information to assist program development and improvement, and provide research and statistics for funding requests.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (IDA)

A savings program that began in January 2006, with the purpose of giving low-income individuals the opportunity to earn \$2 for every \$1 they deposit which can be used to purchase a new home, start a business or to acquire a post secondary education. **14 individuals are currently enrolled in the program.**

HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Certified by the Virginia Housing Development Authority, STEP provides education in the form of literature and instructive classes that educate low-income individuals who are planning to purchase their first home.

13 individuals have received their VHDA Homeownership Certificates since January 2006.

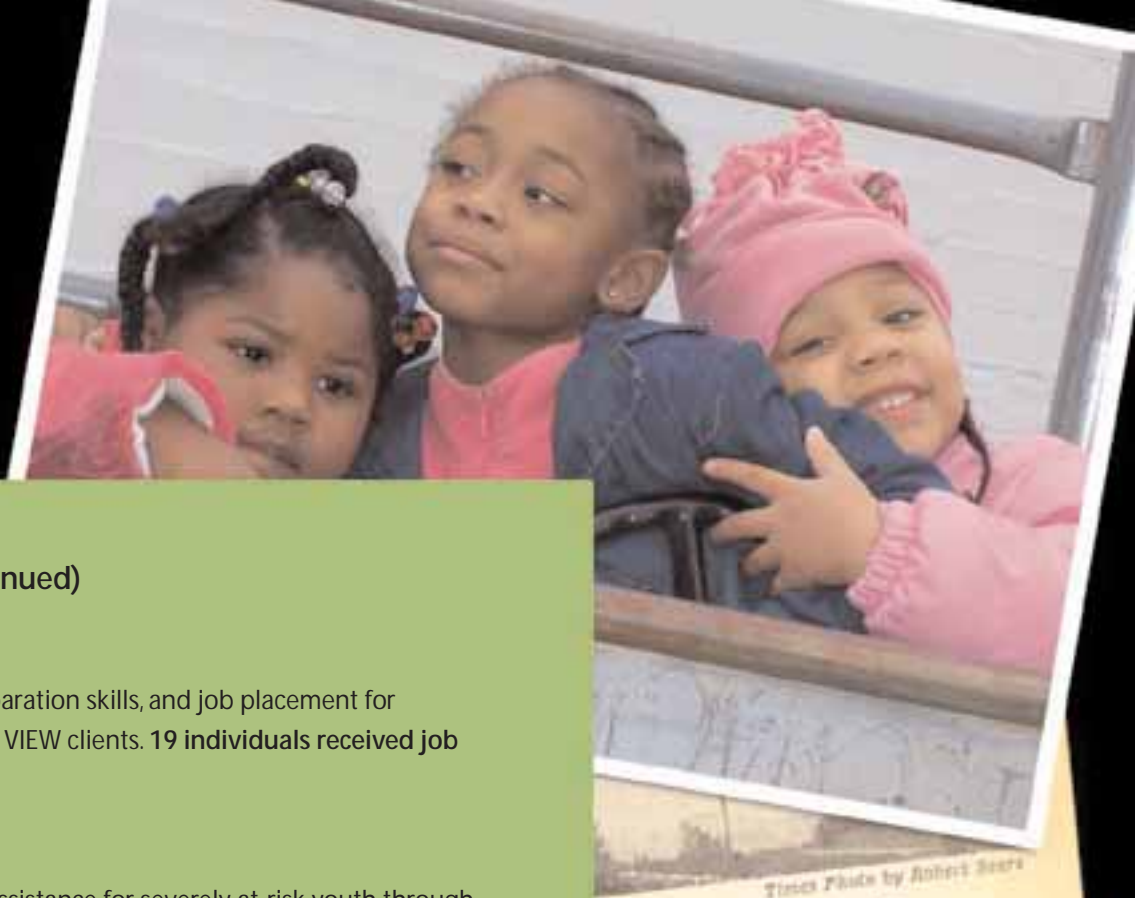
(continued)



Handicrafts Exhibited

A large crowd lined out Thursday at the Rocky Mount Primary School to see exhibits at the Rocky Mount Neighborhood Center in Rocky Mount, Va.

at the corporation meeting of the Franklin County Community Action Agency. (page 4)



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (continued)

WORKFORCE TRAINING

Provides soft-skills training, job preparation skills, and job placement for Department of Social Services (DSS) VIEW clients. **19 individuals received job training and placement.**

MENTORING

Mentoring provides guidance and assistance for severely at-risk youth through referrals by community partners. Activities include cultural, recreational and educational opportunities to foster appropriate behavior in our participants to prevent foster care placement or residential care. **21 at-risk youth have benefited from mentoring services. STEP Mentoring has resulted in approximately \$20,000 in savings to Franklin County.**

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY ACTION RE-ENTRY SYSTEM (VA CARES)

Provides assistance to pre and post release ex-offenders, including support groups, job services, obtaining forms of identification, housing, etc. In addition to Franklin County and Patrick County, STEP, Inc. also provides these services in Henry County and Martinsville. **117 ex-offenders have received supportive services.**

HOMELESS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (HIP)

HIP began accepting applications in July 2006 and provides time-limited financial assistance and housing counseling services to low-income individuals and families who are at-risk of losing their home. In addition to Franklin County and Patrick County, these services are also provided to the residents of Henry County, Pittsylvania County and the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Provides one-time emergency financial assistance to families or individuals for rent, mortgage, electric, heat, utilities, and emergency shelter. A grant through Christ Community Church provided heating assistance to low-income families. **30 families received Emergency Financial Assistance**

Times Photo by Robert Sears
Church Houses Organization
County Agency
youth Program

...two years, Federal
from the GEO has
\$10,000 each year.
additional \$34,000 has
from the federal gov-
ernment each of the past two
years for the Head Start pro-
gram, which FCCA adminis-
ters in Franklin County.
The purpose of the FCCA,
said the Rev. M. E. Goodpas-
ter, chairman of its board of
directors, is "to help low in-
come and needy families to
help themselves."
The FCCA operates two day-
care centers — one at Rocky
Mount — and the other at
Trueman — for four and five-
year-old children of working
mothers, or for children from
large families. The centers
operate five days a week.
Thirty children attend the
Rocky Mount center, and 18
the one at Trueman. Working
parents pay fees on a sliding
scale according to their abil-
ity.
The FCCA also operates two
Head Start programs — kin-
dergartens for 3-year-olds —
at the schools in Charlotte and
Trueman. Head Start will be
in operation half a day this
summer. Thirty-four children
take part in the two pro-
grams.
The FCCA craft center shop
in Ferrum was opened in May
1995. Lessons are given in
weaving and quilting, with 80
taking part in weaving in
1976-77, and 187 participating
in quilting.
A total of 343 persons
brought in 1,156 pieces of
handicraft last year, of which
1,000 were sold for a to-
tal of \$1,000.
loans from the Farmers Home
Administration (FHA) and
from other sources for hous-
ing and for water services.
A total of 16 FHA loans were
arranged with his assistance
last year, and he was respon-
sible for \$11,300 in housing
and water service loans last
year.
During the month of May,
Mr. Holland put through three
FHA loans for the digging of
three wells for residents of
Franklin County.
FCCA also provides emer-
gency food and medical care
for persons not otherwise able
to obtain them. Examples of
this are families whose houses
have burned, who would not
survive without food and
medicine for the monthly distribu-
tion of commodity foods in
Franklin County. A total of
1,001 received emergency food
last year from the FCCA.
Another 122 persons were
assisted in obtaining commod-
ity foods last year, and FCCA
paid for 2,131 school lunches
for children who could not
pay.
The FCCA arranged for 112
interviews with doctors, and
was responsible for 181 pres-
criptions for birth control
pills, and the prescription of
antiviral drugs for 102
women. Other birth control
methods were prescribed for
18 persons, and eight were
sterilized.
A credit union sponsored
by the FCCA and established
in 1976 now has 112 members
and \$1,000 worth of shares.



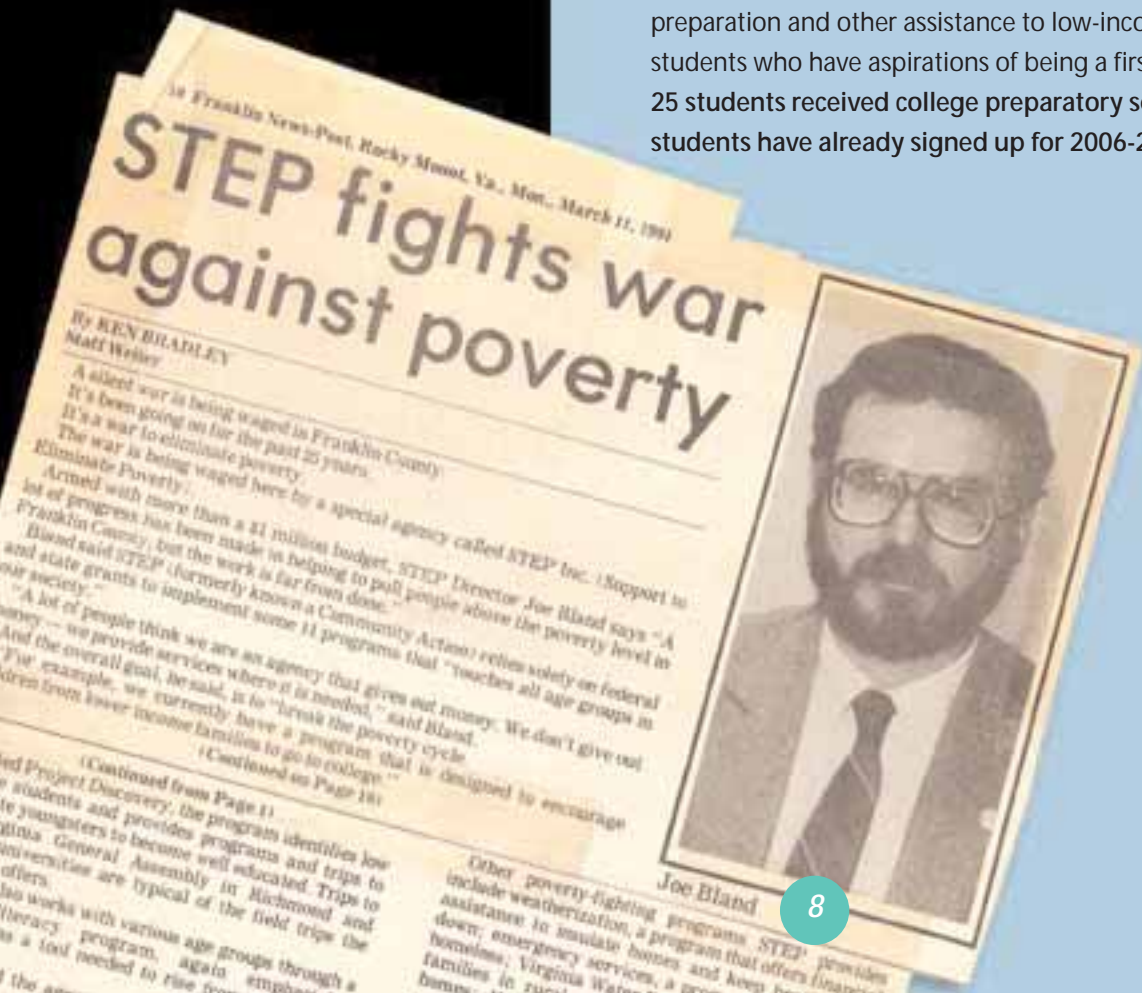
YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES

ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (ASEP)

ASEP provides classroom education for local special needs students. This program allows our students the opportunity to continue their education in Franklin County while helping them acquire the tools to transition back into their home school. In addition, ASEP saved Franklin County more than \$85,000 in tuition and fees for our students. 15 students were enrolled during the 2005-2006 program year, resulting in 9 students transitioning back to their schools for part-day instruction, and 2 student returned full-time.

PROJECT DISCOVERY

This program provides tutoring, educational sessions, college visits, SAT preparation and other assistance to low-income middle and high school students who have aspirations of being a first generation college student. 25 students received college preparatory services in 2005-2006 and 60 students have already signed up for 2006-2007 school year.



People Making a Difference



Mr. Barry Dudley, *Housing Director*, started working at STEP, Inc. (formerly FCCA) as a Housing Crew Worker in February 1984. Barry has worked hard for the past 22 years becoming Crew Leader in 1986, Estimator/Inspector in 1988 and Housing Coordinator & Rehabilitation Specialist in 1996 before becoming Director in 1997. Many low-income families in Franklin and Patrick County live in safer, more efficient homes thanks to the hard dedicated work of Barry and the Housing Crew. As Barry says,

"I know what it's like coming from a poor family myself. It has helped me understand the needs and hopes of our clients and to be dedicated to serving the elderly, handicapped and low-income families in Franklin and Patrick Counties."



Ms. "BB" Hancock, *Franklin County Head Start Manager*, began working at STEP, Inc. (formerly FCCA) as a CETA worker at the Rocky Mount Day Care Center in 1971. After the birth of her 2nd child, she returned to STEP in 1975 as a Day Care Aide for 3 year-olds. In 1984, she left Rocky Mount Day Care to become a Head Start teacher at the Continuing Education Center, which housed all of the Special Needs students and handicapped children in the county. BB was promoted to Education Advisor/Home Based Coordinator for STEP's Grantee Head Start Program in 1992, a position she held through 1998. In 1999, she became Franklin County Manager, a position she continues to hold today. BB possesses an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development, a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, a CDL license and Child Development Associate Credential. Asked about her time at STEP she says,

"Working here for the past 30 some odd years I have seen good times and bad. Through it all, you do the best you can, learn as much as you can and tell yourself you really make a difference in other people's lives."

...land (right) and Dr. Sam Campbell
... and two children in the STEP pro
... was hung in the STEP building's as

STEP building dedic

...NDIA STANLEY
... Writer

...building the late Joseph W. Bland
... and remodeled for Support to
...nate Poverty (STEP) Inc. was
...ated Tuesday in his memory.
...served as STEP's executive
...tor from 1989 until his death in
...1996.

...speakers at this week's open house
...dedication praised Bland's fire-
...ness and tenacity in securing
...ld Rocky Mount High School
...erty on Dent Street and turning it

...into STEP's headquarters
...masterminding STEP's pro-
...grams to help the needy.

...STEP is a Commun-
...Agency designed to plan
...nate programs to relieve
...the effects of poverty in
...Patrick counties.

...A plaque inside the build-
...nize Bland as "a man of
...persistence (who) was the driving
...force in the purchase and renovation
...of this building.

...Many programs were either initi-
...ated or enlarged during his years of

...member of Boones Mill Troop 128. His
...parents are Jeff and Trina Boudreau.
...Another part of his project are signs
...and a directory to be posted inside the
... (Continued on Page 10)

FCCA winterization program has benefitted 2,000 families

... (Continued from Page 1)

... people who can't do these things for
... themselves." ... said persons have to
... winterization ... set

...terization clients are referred to
... FCCA by the Franklin County and
... Patrick County Social Services
... Departments, but said many clients
... come into her office after seeing the
... winterization van in their neigh-
... borhoods.

... of our clients are walk-ins,"
... our van in their
... in to

... which is the beginning of
... program's contract year.
... "We thought we would only
... about three homes done
... we got, but the crew really
... and they got nine homes fin-
... she said. "We're shooting for
... homes in January."
... Hairston said the Rev.
... Holland is the winteriza-
... The win-
... Barr-

STEP Inc. seeks IDA program

STEP Inc., a community action agency in Rocky Mount, has applied to become an intermediary for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's (VDHCD) Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program.

The program will be available to qualified individuals living in Franklin and Patrick counties after January of 2006.

IDA is a program designed to help low income eligible individuals improve their ability and self-esteem by encouraging and helping them to save money. For each participant, a personal designator will match it with a dollar. The combined amount will be used to purchase a business or go to secondary education.



People Making a Difference

Ms. Jan Hart, Head Start Family Services Specialist for Franklin County, began working at STEP, Inc. in September 1977 (when it was Franklin County Community Action) as an Outreach Worker. Jan performed the first social work for the agency. During her 29 years at STEP Jan's skills and abilities as a Family Services Specialist have left a positive impact on the many children and families who have participated in our Head Start Program. During her time with STEP Jan states,

"It has been a great pleasure to work here all these years while providing a valuable service to our community and its citizens."



Ms. Barrie Magliocca, our Health/Disabilities Manager and a Registered Nurse, began working at STEP, Inc. in November 1985 (when it was Franklin County Community Action) as part-time Health Coordinator. In 1991, a year after FCCA changed its name to STEP, Inc. her position became full-time as we also began serving Patrick County. "Nurse Barrie", as she is affectionately called by her co-workers and clients alike, has provided a valuable service to STEP, Inc. and the many Head Start children and their parents. When asked to reflect on her time at STEP she said,

"It has been an education and a growing experience that I wouldn't change regardless of the 'bumps' in the road. I feel that I am very fortunate to be a member of this caring team serving children and their families."



Community Action. It celebrated its 10th anniversary with a supper at Ferrum.

Community Action Marks 10th Year

...ams as craft
...care centers and
...grams.
...y. Goodpasture
...orporated in May
...and initiated
...n Sept. 1, 1968.
...a brief history of
...the agency, he
...plaques to nine
...had served the
...ch of its 10 years.
...esented plaques
...ticks, an organizer
...cy and one of the
...members. John Lee
...who helped in-
...the agency. C. I.
...served on the in-
...board and other
...mie Metz, the first
...er, and Mrs.
...Mrs. Robinson, the first

...partment, the Rev.
...McKinley Hamilton, the
...original chairman of the
...coordination committee and a
...member of several other
...committees, Grady Ferguson,
...one of the first directors of the
...agency; and Mrs. Josephine
...Robinson, the first and only
...executive director of the
...agency.
...Mrs. Robinson, whom
...Goodpasture praised as a
..."dedicated leader" who had
..."demonstrated real ad-
...ministrative ability," received
...a standing ovation for her
...contributions to the group.
..."It's been a great 10 years,"
...she said. "I would have been a
...frustrated old woman if it
...hadn't been for the agency."
...Mrs. Robinson also
...presented a silver tray to
...for his leadership

People Making a Difference

Ms. Sharon Leavelle, a Franklin County Head Start teacher, began her career at STEP (formerly FCCA) in 1971 as a CETA Worker Summer Youth. Sharon was a cook for 3 years and became a Daycare Aide in 1974. She moved to STEP's Head Start Program in 1989 as a Teacher Assistant and then as a Head Start Teacher in 1992. In 1995, Sharon earned her Child Development Associate Credential and graduated from Virginia Western Community College in 1997 with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development. As Sharon says of her time at STEP,

"I've been employed at STEP for 31 plus years and it's really been a journey, a decision that I'm glad I made."

STEP is sure that there are many Head Start children and their parents in Franklin County that are glad she made that decision too.



STEP begins move to
manager reminds
director of restrictions



Touching Lives

Ocie Richards, 97 years old, has been receiving Home Delivered Meals from STEP since 2001. Ocie is very appreciative of STEP and of Dawn Lawrence, Senior Meals Driver. "They just have the best food," Ocie says. "I love the people. They are so sweet. I can't say nothing but good things about them."

Ocie is pictured with Dawn Lawrence, *Senior Meals Driver*



Kristina Fitzgerald, a junior at Franklin County High School, is enrolled in Project Discovery. Kristina has been preparing herself for college by attending group sessions, going on college visits, and being mentored by Tiffany Wade, Project Discovery Coordinator. "Ms. Tiffany has and continues to help me out a lot with my future. Not with just school but with my whole life in general," says Kristina. "Project Discovery has really helped me because I was worried about money and how I would pay for college. Now I know the harder I work in school, that in the end my future will fall in place."

Kristina is pictured with Tiffany Wade, *Project Discovery Coordinator*



Jack Gearhart was released from prison on June 30, 2006 and immediately enrolled in VA CARES. With nowhere to live, VA CARES was able to provide lodging, toiletries, clothing, help him obtain his ID, and give him a tip on a job. He's been working at ACDC Drywall of Martinsville and is working towards becoming self-sufficient. Jack says, "Bill (VA CARES Coordinator, Bill Maydian) goes out of his way to help us. I had no place to go but to VA CARES. It's been wonderful"

Jack is pictured with Bill Maydian, *VA CARES Coordinator*

40 Years of Touching Lives

1960s

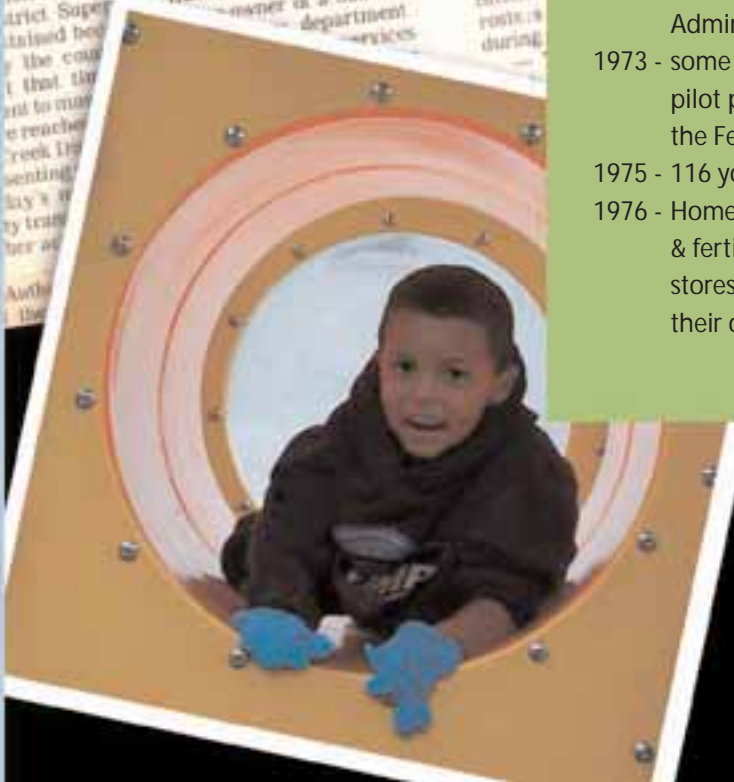
- 1966 - Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, Ferrum President, leads a group of Franklin County leaders to form a group to establish an antipoverty agency.
- 1966 - Franklin County Community Action Agency (FCCA) begins operation. Adult Education, Clothes Closet, & Job Corps are the first programs offered.
- 1966 - FCCA moved into their first office in the basement of Rocky Mount Primary School. An official from Office of Economic Opportunity in Richmond called the Adult Education Program operated by FCCA "the best of any location in the state of Virginia."
- 1967 - Assisted Franklin County School System with Head Start, providing transportation, health check ups, & physicals.
- 1967 - 5 Community Centers opened with sewing classes, etc. at American Legion in Callaway, Lovely Valley Baptist Church in Wirtz, Sontag-Snow Creek Community House, Rocky Mount, & Saint James Community House in Ferrum.
- 1969 - Began providing Housing & Weatherization services, Emergency Food & Medical Services.
- 1969 - Moved from Rocky Mount Elementary to Old First Baptist Church on Franklin St.
- 1969 - Rocky Mount Daycare opened in the American Legion Building on Diamond Avenue becoming the first licensed daycare in Franklin County.

1970s

- 1970 - FCCA receives funding to operate HS in Glade Hill & Truevine schools.
- 1970 - FCCA & Ferrum College partners establish Franklin County's first Credit Union.
- 1970 - Partnered with 4H to provide Neighborhood Youth Corps which provided jobs for 16, 17, & 18 year olds, paying the youth \$1.60 an hour.
- 1970 - CCA partnered with Legal Aid Society of the Roanoke Valley to provide legal services for low-income clients.
- 1972 - Housing Project started for low-income families with Farmers Home Administration Financing.
- 1973 - some 400 families in FC may get running water in their homes because of a pilot program that could have national ramifications. The program will be in the Ferrum/Callaway area and will serve 100 families at a cost of \$100,000.
- 1975 - 116 youth employed with FCCA through Federal Job Programs.
- 1976 - Home Garden Project utilizing federal funds, pays for \$15 worth of seed & fertilizer to qualified persons to be purchased at local farm supply stores to help needy FC residents put food on their tables fresh from their own gardens.

building

ed from Page 11
rganization up to two years to
money to repair the roof, but the
up that long.
Chairman Gus Furry said the
soon as paperwork is completed
ferred. He said roof repairs are
Supervisor Wayne Argell said
ain ownership of a cabin and one-
FCC. He said the cabin, which has
of about \$65,000, is being used for
asses.
voted in December to sell the
for \$200,000 — with a 20-year, in-
6 period. The price would have also
tion of a new roof at a cost not to
d said the organization's auditor
ce was too high. He said the auditor
ney could not pay more than \$170,000
b at firm thought Bland's offer was for
000 plus repayment of \$90,000 for the
lowever, after further discussion, the
STEP inteded the \$170,000 offer to
000 roof donation.
he couldn't favor reducing the asking
he couldn't favor reducing the asking
STEP requested.
the board if \$200,000 would be ac-
ing he needed to have a figure to present
rd of directors.
d he would agree to lower the price to
not \$200,000. However he said he would not
on to lower the price.
d waited in silence again before Boone
ervisor Homer Murray moved to sell the
STEP for \$270,000, including the \$90,000 roof
on earlier this year passed, 5-1, with Blue
Hubert Quinn abstaining.
— member of a building
department
services



Head Start Program Planned For Patrick

By Gail Harding

Head Start — that's what 30 Patrick County four-year-olds will be getting this fall.

On Monday, the County School Board apply for participation in a 20-year-old program that helps disadvantaged children prepare for kindergarten.

If the application is approved for federal funding, classrooms of 15 pre-schoolers will begin with the school year. The

Mrs. Gue said that her agency has surveyed the county and estimates that 75 children in the county are eligible for the program.

Governor C 2 students 1 'volunteeris

By LINDA STANLEY *The Franklin*
Staff Writer 11-28-97

Two ninth graders who organized the Volunteer Program at Support to Eliminate Poverty Inc. (STEP) in Rocky Mount visited Richmond Tuesday to accept awards presented by Gov. and Mrs. George Allen.

Tabitha Trotter, a Benjamin Franklin Middle School student, and Charlie Brogan, a student at William Fleming High School, began the program when they were 13 and contributed more than 530 community service hours in the summer. Each is now 14 years old.

Tabitha and Charlie were among seven teenagers receiving 1997 Virginia Youth Service Awards. The awards were presented by the Governor and First Lady in a ceremony at The Library of Virginia. Gov. Allen told Trotter and Brogan and the other recipients that their dedication to their communities is more important than any government can ever be.

"One of the commonwealth's oldest traditions is our enduring legacy of self-reliance and of helping our fellow citizens reach their fullest potential," the governor said. "Whether a business, media outlet, foundation, religious institution, youth or senior group or an



Tabitha Trotter



Charlie Brogan

1980s

- 1980 - FCCA received \$2,295 grant to install the chlorination system for low-income families.
- 1981 - FCCA lost funding, going from \$600,000 to \$130,500, forcing the agency to lay off employees, cut salaries 20%, & operate on a 4 day week.
- 1983 - Signed a contract with TAP becoming a delegate agency.
- 1984 - West Piedmont Planning District Commission supports application from TAP for funds to operate Head Start administered by FCCA for 60 children, 15% handicapped.
- 1984 - \$51,854 federal grant Head Start for 20 preschoolers, thus becoming a full-time program.
- 1984 - Began operation of the VA Winterization Program.
- 1986 - Head Start began providing services in Patrick County for 30 children.
- 1986 - Alternative Education Grant \$45,000 for 30 FCHS Students.
- 1988 - Latchkey program opened, becoming the first program in Franklin County to operate before and after school programs.

1990s

- 1990 - Changed name to Support to Eliminate Poverty (STEP), Inc. and was designated to be the Community Action Agency to serve Patrick County.
- 1991 - Project Discovery started serving students and was awarded program of the year in 1997.
- 1992 - STEP purchased Dent St. office.
- 1997 - Named the corporate office building the Joseph W. Bland Community Services Center, after former Executive Director who led the purchase of the Dent Street property.
- 1997 - Cars For Work provided low cost loans to help clients obtain transportation.
- 1998 - STEP becomes the designated Section 8 program for Franklin County.

2000s

- 2001 - STEP is awarded grant to provide Home Delivered Meals for senior citizens.
- 2003 - Began providing Patrick County Section 8 program.
- 2005 - STEP is awarded VA CARES program serving ex-offenders in Martinsville, Henry County, and Franklin County.
- 2005 - STEP launches a new component, Supportive Services offering mentoring programs, tax assistance, and homeownership programs.
- 2005 - Began a new relationship with Ferrum College resulting in new internship possibilities for students. Ferrum professors and students volunteered and helped to provide tax assistance services for low-income residents, serving 50 clients the first year.
- 2006 - DHCD awards STEP Homeless Intervention Program (HIP)

Executive Directors

Josephine Robinson	1966 - 1983
David Hansey	1983 - 1989
Joe Bland	1989 - 1996
Sam Campbell	1996 - 2000
Barry Smith	2000 - 2004
Jon Morris	2004 - Present

Board Presidents

Dr. C. Ralph Arthur	1966 - 1967
M.G. Goodpasture, Jr.	1967 - 1983
Prince Thornton, Sr.	1983 - 1984
Rev. McKinley J. Hamilton	1984 - 1985
M.G. Goodpasture, Jr.	1985 - 1986
John Tiggle	1986 - 1989
Susan Frazier Long	1989 - 1993
Jerryanne Bier	1993 - 1995
John Tiggle	1995 - 1997
Ray Albanowski	1997 - 2000
Roger Seale	2000 - 2004
William "Bill" Brammer	2004 - 2006
Herbert "Lee" King, Jr.	2006 - Present

40 Years of Touching Lives...



Community Action for Patrick County

FAMMY KNICK
Writer

After two weeks on the job as Franklin County Community Action Center's new executive director, Joseph Bland Monday received the go-ahead from the FCCA executive board to apply for a \$6,000 block grant for the agency.

Bland said the executive board approved his plans to apply for the grant, which will be used to develop an outreach program for Patrick County.

"This grant will help us develop a community organization in Patrick County that will work like a clearinghouse for all social service needs there," Bland said.

The executive board meeting Monday was the first FCCA meeting since Bland was hired as executive director of the agency earlier this month. Bland replaced interim director Edna Hawkins who served at the agency until a permanent director was hired.

Bland is a former Buchanan County computer consultant for municipalities and as a stock broker in Roanoke and served Buchanan County including working as a 10 years, executive director of the county's Health Department.

(Continued on Page 5-A)





STEP agrees to pay \$270

After nearly six months of negotiating, STEP Inc. Tuesday night agreed to accept the Franklin County Board of Supervisors' offer to sell the county's old Continuing Education



weatherization truck sits in front of the new Continuing Education Center building in Franklin County, Va.

whereby state income tax can be withheld by the state if the taxpayer is delinquent on state taxes.

— Authorize Franklin County to hire a Drug Abuse Resource Officer to be stationed full-time at Middle School.

The county's two DARU officers will make monthly visits to the middle schools. One officer is stationed at the elementary school and the other is a resource officer also in full-time.

Starting annual salary \$17,795 plus benefits for a full-time position.

— Authorize Virginia Department of Transportation Resident Engineer Douglas W. Virginia 605 improvements on the Six Year Plan so a portion of the project is completed.

— Authorize Purrow to purchase the ordinance at the point where the Purrow

Head expansion Elem

The Franklin County School Board is currently in the process of approving the Head Start program at the Woodlawn School, located at 475

The Woodlawn School is currently the county's only school program to offer Head Start. Superintendent Sandra B. said, "We are excited about the program and the support from STEP."

WARREN AND KOSS, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
19 North Broad Street
Salem, Virginia 24153

Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors
Support to Eliminate Poverty, Inc.
Rocky Mount, Virginia

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Support to Eliminate Poverty, Inc., as of June 30, 2005, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Support to Eliminate Poverty, Inc. as of June 30, 2005, and changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated September 30, 2005, on our consideration of the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting and our test of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements of Support to Eliminate Poverty, Inc. taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information, pages 17-21, is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U. S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

September 30, 2005

Warren and Koss, P.C.

SUPPORT TO ELIMINATE POVERTY, INC.

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2005

Assets	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$146,484	7,384	153,868
Investments	91,026	-	91,026
Prepaid expenses	499	-	499
Accounts receivable	248,244	-	248,244
Total current assets	486,253	7,384	493,637
Property, plant and equipment, at no cost (note 3)			
Land	60,000	-	60,000
Building and building improvements	237,375	-	237,375
Furniture, equipment and vehicles	551,372	-	551,372
	848,747	-	848,747
Less accumulated depreciation	411,165	-	411,165
Net property, plant and equipment	437,582	-	437,582
	\$ 923,835	7,384	931,219
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	74,091	-	74,091
Advances from grantors (note 2)	47,744	-	47,744
Accrued salaries and wages	32,933	-	32,933
Accrued liability for compensated absences	37,710	-	37,710
Payroll taxes and other current liabilities	1,116	-	1,116
Current installments of long-term debt (note 3)	13,500	-	13,500
Total current liabilities	207,094	-	207,094
Long-term debt, net of current installment (note 3)	81,000	-	81,000
Net assets:			
Unrestricted (note 6)	635,741	-	635,741
Temporarily restricted (note 7)	-	7,384	7,384
Total net assets	635,741	7,384	643,125
Commitments and contingent liabilities (note 5)			
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 923,835	7,384	931,219

See accompanying notes to financial statements.





SUPPORT TO ELIMINATE POVERTY, INC.
 Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

<u>Support and Revenue</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Grant revenue and local government support	\$ 2,005,276	-	2,005,276
Contributions	26,046	630	26,676
Program income	20,422	-	20,422
Interest and other investment income	1,943	-	1,943
Donated services, space, supplies and equipment	266,165	-	266,165
Total support and revenue	2,319,852	630	2,320,482
<u>Expenses</u>			
Program expenses	2,105,852	-	2,105,852
General and administrative expenses	87,176	-	87,176
Total expenses	2,193,028	-	2,193,028
Changes in net assets	126,824	630	127,454
<u>Net assets, beginning of year</u>	<u>508,917</u>	<u>6,754</u>	<u>515,671</u>
<u>Net assets, end of year</u>	<u>\$ 635,741</u>	<u>7,384</u>	<u>643,125</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Funding Sources for Fiscal Year 2005-2006



- Christ Community Church
- County of Franklin
- County of Patrick
- Food Lion Charitable Foundation
- Franklin County Department Of Social Services
- Franklin County Public Schools
- Office of Community Service, Virginia Department of Social Services
- Patrick County Department of Social Services
- Patrick County Public Schools
- Piedmont Community Services
- Project Discovery of Virginia, Inc.
- Southern Area Agency on Aging
- Southwest Virginia Regional Employment Commission
- Town of Rocky Mount
- U.S Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Adult And Child Care Food Program
- United Way of Franklin County
- VA CARES, Inc.
- Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
- Virginia Housing Development Authority



...a crew member for Franklin County
...tion's winterization program, puts in-
...the joints of a mobile home in the One Run
...ley, who has worked with FCCA six years.
...ably worked on about 100 homes in the
...county, replacing
...performing other
...terization progra
...income families
...Tammy Knick)

A winterization program benefitted 2,000 families

...Y KNICK
...er
...ths. If not thousands of
...County residents say
...each winter

1988 when FCCA was formed, helps
elderly, handicapped and low in-
come families winterize their homes
and learn energy-saving tips.
Sylvia Hairston, coordinator of the
winterization program, said ac-
cording to her estimates, there have
been at least 2,000 families
benefitted through the

The program includes adding
insulation, caulking, weather-
stripping, replacing old doors or
windows and covering hot water
heaters with "hot water jackets."
The FCCA winterization crew works
on both mobile and structure
homes.
"It's a great program," Hairston
said. "This program is such a help to
... (continued on Page 10)

SAFETY SEATS *The Enterprise* 4/5/97



Debbie Brogan, deputy director of STEP, Inc., demonstrates the use and installation of child safety seats last Friday at the county court. The seats were purchased with grant money from a campaign for child safety and were sold for \$10 each. "We want all kids are safe," Ms. Brogan said. The seats were distributed to Patrick residents during the event.

STEP adopts its first logo

STEP Inc. (Support to Eliminating Child Abuse) Community Action Agency created in Franklin and Patrick counties, has its first logo brand marketing firm was announced. A logo brand marketing firm was selected for the project, according to STEP Executive Director. STEP first formed a committee to select a marketing firm. The firm then submitted three options with the committee narrowed to three. Once down to the final three options, the committee selected the final logo.

The logo depicts two people, one standing and one sitting, representing the steps. This signifies the commitment to work with clients to form better solutions. STEP's tagline is "Empowering Families." STEP also is launching a new website. (Page 3)

Business Supporters for Fiscal Year 2005-2006

- 40 West Building Supply
- 40 West Food Supply
- All Seasons
- Angle Hardware
- Arrington Enterprises
- Basket Creations
- Bengle's
- Better Image Photography
- Blevins
- Blue Ridge Furniture
- Cintas
- Creative Learning
- El Ranchero
- Elegant Portraits
- FasTan
- Ferrum College
- Fisherman's Gallery
- Franklin Community Bank
- Franklin County Public Library
- Franklin Rod & Gun
- Franklin Vendors
- From the Heart
- Lemon's Jewelry
- Lowe's Foods
- Member One Credit Union
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Old Dominion Toy Shop
- Planters Bank
- Rocky Mount Lions Club
- Rocky Mount Lodge #201
- Schewel Furniture
- SunTrust Bank
- Tuttle's Exxon
- Virginia Furniture Market
- Wal-Mart
- Wanda's Jewelry
- Woods Brothers Racing

Credit Union Membership Over 100 Mark

Miss Cheryl Renee Shively, first child to join the Franklin County Credit Union, welcomed the 100th member, Miss Sheryl Annette Pugh last week.

Both of Ferrum, the parents are Mr. and Mrs. Garland Shively and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Pugh.

Membership of the new Credit Union includes several other children and teen-agers. Organized on January 26, the credit union now has 100 members and \$1,762.25 savings. It has also made loans to members and can make others at reasonable interest rates for provident and productive purposes.

About 30 members are now depositing regular monthly savings, to a total of more than \$150 per month. This is made possible by a payroll deduction arrangement with Ferrum College and Franklin County Community Action, Inc. Other employers are invited to

Residents of the county, and persons others employed full time in the county, are eligible to join.

Officers are located in the Crafts Center at Ferrum and the Community Action building in Rocky Mount.

Credit unions began in Germany more than a century ago, as an effort at self-help after a famine in a rural village. The first U.S. credit union was among low income French Canadian immigrants in a church parish in New Hampshire in 1909. Now in the United States, there are more than 21 million members with over \$13 billion in savings. Many Franklin County residents belong to credit unions where they work: the Highway Department; General Electric, Dupont, etc. This is the first credit union in Franklin County, open to any resident of the county.

Cost to join is 25 cents entrance fee, and at least 25 cents toward the first share. One is a full member when he owns one \$5 share. Further information may be obtained from either office or from the officers, who include the following: Ennis Coale, president; A.A. Hicks, vice-president; Josephine Robinson, secretary; and Hettie Radford, treasurer.

STEP, INC.

Board of Directors

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Herbert Lee King, President

Crystal Harris, Vice President

Robert Shorter, Secretary/Treasurer

William "Bill" Brammer

Betty Buckingham

Oden "Joey" Cornwell

Deborah Dillon

Ellen Elgin

Hazel Geohagan

Florella Johnson

Randy Matney

Joan Rogers

Roger Seale

Richard Shoemaker

Cynthia Treadway

Charles Wagner

Tammy Woods

Christine Ziglar



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Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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(540) 483-2506 (fax)

www.stepinc.com

Teaching Lives for 40 Years

