



CONNECTIONS

The official newsletter of the
CHOSEN Community Development Corporation
 Harford and Cecil Counties of Maryland



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS IS A TONIC FOR OUR SOULS. IT MOVES US TO THINK OF OTHERS RATHER THAN OF OURSELVES. IT DIRECTS OUR THOUGHTS TO GIVE.” UNKNOWN

AS WE APPROACH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE BIRTH OF A NEW YEAR, LET US REFLECT ON THE GOODNESS THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED FROM THE MANY WHO HAVE SUPPORTED CHOSEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN TIME, MONEY, AND SERVICE TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. THOSE WHO SACRIFICED SERVICE FOR THE CAUSE OF HELPING OTHERS SELFLESSLY. FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, WE SAY THANK YOU AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU. MAY THE HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND FAMILY. BLESSED IS THE SEASON WHICH ENGAGES THE WHOLE WORLD IN A CONSPIRACY OF LOVE.

COL (R) WARLINE BRYANT, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Holiday Salute to Our 2022 Partners and Major Sponsors



Mt. Zion Baptist Church
of Aberdeen

Harford County

Boys & Girls Clubs of
Harford and Cecil Counties

Constellation BGE

Bert Hash and Family

Harford County Health
Department

Shaun Dotson



Freedom Federal Credit Union

Maryland Food Bank

Susquehanna Workforce
Network

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Winters Run Golf Course

Howard McComas, IV

UMUC Healthy Harford

Chick Fil-A

FEATURE

NOVEMBER JOB FAIR

THE CHOSEN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
FOUNDED MAY 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

THE CHOSEN CDC WILL ENHANCE THE LIVES OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS, CHILDREN AND ADULTS, THROUGH DIRECT ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATIONAL TRAINING, EMPOWERMENT SERVICES, AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-SUSTAINING LIVES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW.

VISION STATEMENT

TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITHIN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME THROUGH EDUCATION, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FOUNDER, CHOSEN CDC

Stay In Touch

Website www.chosencdc.org

Facebook @ [chosencommunity520](https://www.facebook.com/chosencommunity520)

Email chosencdcinfo@chosencdc.org



Right: Lisa Snodgrass, Freedom Federal Credit Union, contributed to the planning of the job fair.



Recruiters had the opportunity to greet attendees.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Aberdeen opened its doors on November 29, for a community job fair sponsored by CHOSEN CDC and Freedom Federal Credit Union. Other business and agencies that joined in the fair included Susquehanna Workforce Network, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford and Cecil Counties, Harford County Public Schools, State of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, BGE, and the City of Baltimore. Job seekers were given the opportunity to meet with recruiters to discuss real job opportunities, along with participating in a resume review and to take a professional headshot courtesy of YRN Designs.



Above: Representatives of the Susquehanna Workforce Network. Left: YRN Designs at work taking headshots.



BGE Recruiter meets with a job fair attendee



CHOSEN CDC Greeter welcomed all guests who came out to the job fair.

HIGHLIGHTS

3rd Annual Christmas at Mt. Zion Lane

CHOSEN CDC and Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Aberdeen, hosted the 3rd Annual Christmas at Mt. Zion Lane on the evening of Dec 10, 2022, on the church's campus. Families came from near and far to celebrate the season by driving down the lane through the holiday lights and to receive refreshments, food, toys, winter clothing and accessories of hats, gloves and scarves. The Mt. Zion also presented the story of Christmas as visitors watched from their cars in this drive-through event. Visitors also received bottles of hand sanitizer donated to the event to keep everyone mindful and vigilant about fighting the multiple viruses while celebrating the holidays. The volunteers put up the outside decorations back in November and began setting up the food and other giveaways early on the day of the event. Lots of planning and effort by the many tireless volunteers resulted in making this year's Christmas Lane fun for all the visitors!



Happy Holidays! See You
Next Year!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT WORK

2nd Annual Operation Christmas!



CHOSEN representatives (Above & Right) drop off gifts and Chick Fil-A gifts to Bakerfield Elementary on Dec 13. Monica Graham (Top L), Community Specialist.



Doretha Green and LaQuine Duran (2&3 from left) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. are on hand to deliver gifts to Principal Tara Dedeaux and Gina McGhee, Title 1 Specialist (2&3 from right) of Bakerfield Elementary School.

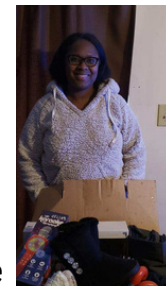


Happy parents receive Christmas gifts for the family from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.



The Judy Center at Halls Cross Road Elementary received gifts for their families on Dec 15. Above is Melanie Feathers, Family Services Coordinator.

CHOSEN CDC worked in partnership with multiple organizations in the community to share the joys of season through the 2nd Annual Operation Christmas! For the second year, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. partnered with CHOSEN CDC to provide families with new holiday gifts and clothing for children and for parents. Bags of gifts were delivered to the Bakerfield Elementary School and the Judy Center-Halls Cross Road Elementary. Chick Fil-A of Aberdeen provided family gift packs for meals along with treat bags. CHOSEN CDC also delivered gifts to families of Joppatowne High School for the first time. CHOSEN CDC established new connections for the program with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. who sponsored families in connection with the Susquehanna Workforce Network. Every single gift received from our partners was appreciated; and the joy felt in sharing the gifts with families immeasurable.



Shown left is CHOSEN staff member, John Cooper, dropping off gifts at the Judy Center. Also shown is Sarah Davis, CHOSEN Community Garden Team and Jennifer Seals, HCR Community Specialist

CHOSEN CDC representatives meeting a parent to share the joy of the season.





How Can I Save on Holiday Shopping?

If you're worried about making it through the holiday shopping season in the midst of record inflation, you're not alone. A recent survey shows that 59% of American shoppers are stressed about buying holiday gifts due to higher prices this year. With some careful planning, though, you can enjoy stress-free holiday shopping. Here are seven easy ways you can save.

1. Shop early - Experts are urging shoppers to hit the stores earlier than normal this year to take advantage of early-season sales. Lots of big-box stores are struggling with a supply surplus thanks to an inflation-triggered decline in demand. This will likely lead to sales events to make room for more current inventory. Shop these sales for big savings.
2. Set a budget - Before you start shopping, build a reasonable budget. Make your budget easier to stick to by allocating a specific amount for every gift, shopping with cash, and reviewing your budget often.
3. Shop with a list - Instead of blindly hitting the stores, make a list of every gift to buy for friends and family. You'll be far more likely to stay within budget when your purchases are pre-planned.
4. Leave some last-minute shopping for Green Monday - While it's best to do the bulk of your shopping early in the season, you can leave some last-minute gift-hunting for Green Monday on Dec. 12. This is when retailers make their final pre-holiday markdowns.
5. Think outside the box - If ever there was a holiday season to get creative with gifting, this is it. Retail inventories are full of products that were backed up during the post-pandemic supply-chain disaster. Think furniture, home decor and more. While these items may not be typical holiday gifts, there's no real reason you can't delight a loved one with a new office chair, exercise bike or coffee organizing station.
6. Give gift cards - Protect your gift list against inflation by giving some gift cards. You can find discounted cards on sites like GiftCardGranny and CardCash, or use cash-back apps to earn them at no cost. Gift cards are easy to shop for, easy to budget for and appreciated by the receiver.
7. Use apps to save - In 2022, there are so many apps that can help you spend less on your shopping, and even put money back into your pocket. Try coupon-scanning apps like Honey, cash-back apps like Ibotta and points apps like Drop to save this season.

Use the money-saving tips offered here to shop for the holidays without breaking your budget.

Questions? Want more information on Freedom? Contact your personal Freedom Federal Credit Union representative, Lisa Snodgrass at lsnodgrass@freedomfcu.org or call 410-612-2123!

About Freedom Federal Credit Union

Freedom Federal Credit Union is proud to be your financial partner. Freedom serves and is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, attends school, volunteers, or has family in Harford or Baltimore County, MD. As a credit union, we are committed to putting you first, not shareholders, and helping you achieve your financial goals.

Learn more at freedomfcu.org or call 410-612-2123 to see how we can help.

Community Info

GET CONNECTED

IN PERSON JOB FAIRS

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT JOB FAIR

March 4, 2023
9 AM - Noon
SWC Cecil County

March 23, 2023
2:30 PM - 5:30 PM
SWC Harford County

CECIL COUNTY

May 11, 2023
Noon - 4 PM
Singerly Fire Hall

HARFORD COUNTY

Sep 28, 2023
Noon - 4 PM
APGFCU Arena @ HCC

Registration is not complete without a confirmation email from SWN

VIRTUAL JOB FAIRS

Jan 17, 2023
10 am - Noon

Feb 21, 2023
Noon - 2 pm

April 18, 2023
10 am - Noon

REGISTER

SWNetwork.org/job-fair

Ask a Career Coach to review your résumé before attending. To make an appointment, call:

Harford County: 410.272.5400
Cecil County: 410.996.0550

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Events subject to change.



Visit SWNetwork.org for more information on jobs and training. Don't wonder about your future, make a plan in 2023 to build a career.



Susquehanna Workforce Network News & Updates

Susquehanna Workforce Network strives to...
swnetwork.org



**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,
College Scholarships for High School Seniors
www.akaxideltaomega.com (Programs tab)
Deadline April 15, 2023**



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



CHOSEN CDC Food Giveaway

CHOSEN CDC Food Giveaway



Mt. Zion Baptist Church
200 Old Post Road, Aberdeen, MD
Saturday, January 7, 2023
12:00pm while supplies last



Windsor Village Community Center
300 Friendship Rd., Elkton, MD.
Saturday, January 7, 2023
12:30pm until finished

We need you!

Start your 2023 off with a purpose. Volunteer to support CHOSEN CDC as we provide programs and services to the communities of Harford and Cecil Counties
chosencdcinfo@chosencdc.org



IT'S TIME FOR 2023!

SEE WHAT'S ON THE CHOSEN 2023 CALENDAR

**JANUARY
9 - LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY**

**UPCOMING
MONTH FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENTS**

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH