



SERVING THE SANDHILLS SINCE 2001

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

SANDHILLS SANKOFA NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Sandhills Family Heritage Association

PRESERVING A LEGACY OF GIVING



The Sandhills Family Heritage Association (SFHA) is a grass-roots, community-based, non-profit organization that practices and promotes culture based philanthropy through local giving practices, community revitalization and economic development. Culture based philanthropy focuses on reclaiming giving practices, something that communities of color created some time ago to overcome the challenges they faced when it came to solving their own problems. As a result, SFHA realized that giving is the highest calling when providing

services to these communities in Cumberland, Harnett, Lee and Moore counties. Today, members and volunteers of the Sandhills Family Heritage Association are doing great things to preserve the legacy of giving.

Culture Based Philanthropy

The SFHA coined the term culture based philanthropy, which demonstrates how African American ancestors gave by inspiring, connected and strengthened communities of color to leverage their collective resources bringing about change they wanted to see. They created cohesive, prosperous farming communities that could support their own businesses, schools and churches. These advantages allowed them to depend on neighbors for financial assistance and open air markets for their crops. The ideology was to create economic self-sufficiency, self-help and racial harmony.

The organization implemented these values of philanthropy using monetary donations, and time and talent as resources. SFHA focuses on serving and making a positive impact in low income communities by creating strong families and community sustainability. This will ultimately elevate and sustain a higher quality of life in the underserved communities SFHA strives to help.

Our organization believes that by embracing the many ways of giving only strengthens a shared commitment that leads to improving the common good of everyone involved. SFHA's mission to provide culture based philanthropy is deeply connected to long ago traditions of supporting neighbors and giving back to the community by lifting up others and providing assistance to those in need.



**SFHA
provides
community
engagement
activities for
Future
Young
Leaders**





SFHA PARTNERS WITH SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL TO OPEN BRONCO HARVEST FOOD PANTRY



Principal Godbolt, Dr. Toni Stewart and Pamela Marks, SFHA Food Distribution Coordinator cut the ribbon for opening of the school Food Pantry.

"I am so thankful for the Sandhills Family Heritage Association for their efforts in helping Spring Lake Middle School start the Bronco Harvest Food Pantry. This organization stepped in and partnered with our school because they understand the needs of our students and wanted to do something about it. It really takes a village to raise a child, and the Sandhills Family Heritage Association embodies all of those characteristics. This partnership is alive and well and the support of the SFHA is a huge part of keeping our Bronco Harvest Food Pantry operating with bountifulness. Dr. Toni Stewart was also a huge part of this

partnership, and we thank her for what she did to get this pantry up and running as well. We will continue to feed the hearts and minds of our SLMS students and community with the help of the Sandhills Family Heritage Association."

Principal Royvell Godbolt



SFHA is pleased to have partnered with Dr. Toni Stewart and Principal Godbolt for the opening of Bronco Harvest Food Pantry at Spring Lake Middle School! A special thanks to our Servant Heart Volunteers Pamela Marks, Schanae Wright, Debbie Atkins, and Rev. Larry Dobbins for representing SFHA at the event.

Photos courtesy of Pamela Marks



"Thanks to all of the partners that made it happen. Sandhills Family Heritage, Cumberland County, Cumberland County Schools, Fortuna, Second Harvest Food Bank, Spring Lake Booster Club, Omega Kappa Lambda, Concrete Rose, K9MC! You guys are the best!!! WE DID IT!!!!" **Dr. Toni Stewart**



NC STATE EMPLOYEE CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION MISSION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT

SECU Foundation
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE®

DATE November 8, 2023

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF Sandhills Family Heritage Association **\$ 40,000.00**

Forty Thousand and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ DOLLARS

MEMO Mission Development Grant

Robert S. Brenson

Sandhills Family Heritage Association Board of Directors is excited and grateful to have been selected to receive a 2023 Mission Development Program Grant for organizational capacity building! We are humbled by the Foundation's understanding of the significance of our work in Sandhills Communities and the desire to see the organization grow to have a greater presence.

We have met with Aspire consultants and started a conversation about SFHA's current needs and shared vision for the organization's future. Desire for a broader reach and greater engagement with multi-generational citizens in the local community and beyond is an important goal for SFHA Board and Staff.

Thank you again for recognizing the importance SFHA places on helping the community through **H.O.P.E** Programs (**H**eritage & History, **O**utreach & Education, **P**rotection of Resources & Assets, **E**ntrepreneurial opportunity) which have impacted lives in meaningful ways for more than twenty-two years.

SFHA Board will be participating in strategic planning and other training in the next couple of months. Some of you who have had a relationship with the organization may be contacted to complete a survey about the organization. We ask that you please participate and be very candid with your responses. We want to know what is effective and what may not be effective, so we can make changes that will help to better serve citizens of the Sandhills the next twenty years and beyond.



GIVING TUESDAY SPOTLIGHT

SANDHILLS FAMILY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

'We create partnerships to save and protect our natural resources, livelihoods, health, and cultural heritage'



Courtesy of SFHA

Posted Sunday, November 26, 2023 7:48 pm

Fifth in a series: During GivingTuesday, CityView Today is spotlighting a few of the 79 nonprofit agencies supported by the Cumberland Community Foundation's annual observance of the global day of generosity. Make your gift between November 20th and November 29th to have it amplified by a \$550,000 match.

TODAY: We speak with Ammie McRae Jenkins, executive director of Sandhills Family Heritage Association.

CITYVIEW: Why is your organization's work vital to the people you serve?

AMMIE JENKINS: SFHA provides programs and services to help minority and low-income families who need assistance to meet basic daily needs. We create partnerships to save and protect our natural resources, livelihoods, health and cultural heritage. Our work is important because it empowers young people, honors community elders, ancestors and heritage keepers, and serves as a community resource for social, environmental, economic, educational, and health and wellness benefits.

How does what you do benefit the community as a whole?

SFHA's work engages our youth in community education projects; honors community elders and heritage keepers; documents the history and heritage of rural Sandhills African Americans; supports small minority landowners and farmers; promotes healthy eating and active living; provides locally grown produce at our Sandhills Farmers & Heritage Market in Spring Lake; gives up to \$20 in free produce to SNAP/EBT customers; sponsors a food pantry and diaper bank; distributes food and supplies at various sites in Cumberland, Harnett and Lee Counties; delivers Senior Food Boxes to the sick and homebound; preserves historic community properties and cultural assets; provides income opportunities for entrepreneurs and handcrafters; participates in Spring Lake Community Development; and offers heritage group tours and school field trip tours to visitors and tourists from across the United States.



SSFHA Heritage Tours are designed to support local restaurants, hotels, churches and retail businesses.

Tell us about your operation, and what your annual budget allows you to do — and how you make decisions about what gets left out if there's a budget shortfall...

The SFHA budget supports programs of HOPE that depend on staff and volunteers to deliver food, water and personal care items to those whose lives are impacted by poverty, hunger and homelessness.

HOPE programs provide **H**istory and Heritage, **O**utreach Education, **P**reservation of Land, and **E**conomic Self-Sufficiency.

When there's a budget shortfall the SFHA board determines which services and projects to curtail and/or decrease. The services that are most likely to be affected are our free benefits to SNAP/EBT customers, community education workshops and staff that manages and coordinates all SFHA programs and services.

How does the financial boost you get from the Cumberland Community Foundation make a difference in the life of your organization?

Support from the Cumberland Community Foundation is critical to the operation of SFHA.

We have developed and maintained a working relationship with CCF for almost 10 years. The CCF Giving Tuesday Campaign has been a tremendous help in SFHA fundraising activities. The CCF Space Grant has helped SFHA maintain our office space, which is located in the CCF building on Green Street. CCF Community Impact Grants have helped our organization train the next generation leadership, build sustainable organization capacity, pay staff and operating expenses, and provide Programs of HOPE and services to underserved communities in Cumberland County.

What's your message to those who are considering supporting the Foundation?

SFHA highly recommends support of CCF because of its established reputation and integrity in the nonprofit community. Since 2014, SFHA has worked with CCF and is grateful for the Office Space Grants, Community Funds Grants and GivingTuesday support that helps maintain SFHA's capacity to make a difference in the community.

Why should they be a part of GivingTuesday and support the campaign?

For over 22 years SFHA has provided HOPE programs, projects, and services that engage all segments of our community to improve the quality of life of under-served Sandhills families. We partner with local churches and businesses, military veterans, state, county and government agencies, universities and community colleges, landowners and farmers, senior citizens, and youth development groups. SFHA is grassroots-led, family-focused, community-engaged and internationally connected.

About Ammie McRae Jenkins: Jenkins is the founder and Community Outreach Ambassador of Sandhills Family Heritage Association, a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to build self-sufficiency, protect family land, promote health and wellness, and preserve rural African American cultural heritage. Jenkins' book, "Preserving Our Family Heritage," is a documentation of her family history that dates back to 1768. Her goal is to help others preserve the stories of people, places and experiences that have impacted their lives. She is also the author of "Healing From the Land," a book that documents African American traditional uses of plants and herbs to maintain personal health and co-author of Manchester The African American Experience.



OCTOBER-FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

MY FAMILY STORY

By Edwina Clarkson

The story of my family began and could have ended in Fayetteville, NC had it not been for the remarkable legacy left by my great grandparents Edward and Sallie Evans. I was born in Washington, DC to the parents of Mr and Mrs John Clarkson. The military drew my family away from NC for many years until approximately 1980 when my parents returned to our roots here in Fayetteville.

It was mostly unknown to myself and my siblings, the rich history of our family to this city. After becoming an adult and moving back to Fayetteville in 2005, I had often asked my mother, what did our relatives do during the Civil War and Civil Rights Movement? I wasn't expecting the answer I got.



Ms. Millie Kyle Elliott

My great great grandmother Ms. Millie Kyle Elliott was enslaved. Sallie was her daughter. She told me of two people who were very much in love and determined to change the status of former slavery in their part of the south. They felt that the first thing they needed to do was educate young black children. Needless to say, an education for black people was not a popular concept at the time they began. They began with educating themselves.

My great grandfather Edward was educated at both Livingstone College and the Fayetteville Normal School. My great grandmother Sallie was sent to New York by her mother's owner to be educated. Sallie finished school in New York and was continuing her education when World War I broke out. By this time the Edward Evans family consisted of three sons Edward Jr, Hector and Roy. Sallie was studying at Columbia University when her eldest son Edward, a professor in Mathematics, died of influenza in 1918 and she withdrew from school.



Mr. Edward Evans

Edward and Sallie wanted more than ever to continue the dream they had of educating blacks in the South. In 1914, along with a number of prominent black leaders here, they began the historical Fayetteville Public Colored School. The school was built across the street from their home and they began teaching there with Edward later becoming principal.



OCTOBER-FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

The legacy of their drive to educate not only black children in the south but children in general continued with Edward and Sallie's granddaughters Edwina Evans and Alice Evans Clarkson becoming teachers themselves at Fayetteville State Teachers College and Armstrong High School in the early 1950's.

My uncle Mr. Joseph Cameron (from my mother's side of the family), taught a number of years at Lewis Chapel Elementary School while many years later, my own daughter Robin, followed the legacy of her great-great grandparents and is currently teaching middle school in Spring Lake, NC. It fills me with great pride having learned of this rich family history and the determination of my family to continue the legacy left them so many years ago.



Mrs. Sallie Evans

Photos courtesy of
Edwina Clarkson



Ms. Alice Evans Clarkson



Ms. Edwina Clarkson

Ms. Edwina Clarkson is a SFHA member and volunteer and serves on the Veterans History Project Committee.



SPRING LAKE CIVIC CENTER

Preserving Our Heritage

By L.D. Dockery



Where were you in the early or mid- sixties? Before your time? No matter.

I was a fortunate member of the Spout Springs Community.

Then, nearly a teenage boy, beginning to observe girls much closer, I saw things I hadn't noticed when I was in elementary school at Johnsonville.

Back in the day, transportation was limited and somewhat a luxury, that is, to be able to go anyplace at any time. Not everyone had his or her private vehicle. It

was perhaps one per family, if affordable, with the notion that travel beyond the community was for more important things than mere entertainment.

Going back to the young boy and his entertainment, it was mostly in his own backyard, and with whatever contraption invented to capture vicarious experiences to his delight.

There were playgrounds and parks in the big cities miles away, but he was left to make his own with whatever was available, such as a basketball goal from a tree with a gallon can attached. There were gallon cans from the surplus food store with pinto beans and tomatoes. Good eating for a young boy. We saved the cans to play with.

An old soft ball, found in the grass near the school playground, was taken home to be a basketball. Bouncing the ball was a mouth sound, "boope, boope, boope", as you approached the goal. A backboard was never a requirement. You had to be a sharpshooter, period.

Somewhere near the yard was a swing made of rope tied to a strong tree limb and an old tire left beside the road.

There were homemade toys. What of a Hoppy-Horse???, a tobacco stick, with a string attached to its end, pulled along between the legs ...gettie- up Silver, Lone Ranger away!!!



In essence, there was hardly anything to do, no place to go, and little way to get to where young people could mingle. The Spring Lake Civic Center became a haven and wishful place to go. I was a young teenager, beyond the years of playing with the boys, contending with the hard knocks, dirty sweat, and grimy clothes.

I wanted to experience the soft touch, the sweet perfume, and the clean sheer look of short shorts that paused the eyes.



SPRING LAKE CIVIC CENTER

The first of such experiences was my attending a "Spring Gala" at the Civic Center..., a teen night of supervised (chaperoned) entertainment with enforced beginning and ending hours. A "Social", as it was called, with fun filled dancing. Eyes and ears were looking on to be assured of our safety. In given the privilege to come, there was a sense to act and engage respectfully with one another. It is that with such a respected place, we were prone to act so.



Could such a place be re-enacted? Should such a place be allowed to dwindle to nothing or be preserved as historical if not to be totally reenacted?

As for a young teenager the "Social" was what made it stand out, but there were other events that served the community as well that we could mention.

Preserving our Community Center should be a must as to preserve our heritage, values, and a connecting monument for surrounding communities for years to come. The challenge is for us.

The challenge is to give and support SFHA towards this effort.

L. D. Dockery is the First Grand Secretary/Treasurer of the SONS OF FAITH UNITED INC. and a Member of SHFA Board of Directors.





Preserving the stories of US military veterans

Sandhills Family Heritage Association has been an Official Partner of the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center at the US Library of Congress since 2009. The Library of Congress's Veterans History Project is committed to honoring veterans and collecting and preserving their stories.

The Veterans History Project is moving forward with interviews. Please contact Myron Jones at mjones539@gmail.com or cell phone at 910-850-5418.

Myron Jones is a retiree who served 25-years in the US Air Force. For more than 19 years, Myron was employed with the Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau as Director of Sales. He has worked closely with Sandhills Family Heritage Association promoting African American heritage tours in the Sandhills.



Myron is an SFHA board member and resource person for SFHA's Veterans History Project and Deerfield Cemetery Project.

Myron holds a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Management. His home church is Spring Lake Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Spring Lake where he is an usher.

Picture by Myron Jones



SFHA IS A SANDHILLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCE

Planting Seeds of HOPE

History and Heritage

Outreach and Education

Preservation of Land

Economic Self-Sufficiency

**You are invited to join SFHA to improve quality of
life in the under-served Sandhills Community.**

Schedule tours for your group

Sponsor fundraising events

Support our local farmers market

Give donations to support our work

Volunteer to give back to community

Rent space for your special event

Become a member of SFHA

Share your knowledge, wisdom and experience

Sell hand-made home-grown products at our farmers
market

Contact Information

SFHA

P. O. Box 754

Spring Lake, NC 28390

910-309-2198 or 919-888-0389

Email: sandhillsfamily@yahoo.com

Sandhillsfamilyheritage.org

Fall Festival at Carvers Creek

November 4th | 10 AM - 3 PM

Food, Games, Canoe Tours, Photo Spots, Hay Rides, Fishing, and more!

We will be joined by:



U.S. ARMY AIRBORNE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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Beekeepers Assoc



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NC STATE
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FORESTRY



Smith Lake Recreation Area,

Miranda DiFabrizio's

Face & Body Painting,

Pony & Friends,

Cumberland County

Animal Services,

and More!



SUSTAINABLE SANDHILLS

Admission is free

Event will be held at our Long Valley Farm Access
located at: 2505 Long Valley Road, Spring Lake, NC



SFHA AT CARVERS CREEK FALL FESTIVAL



Board members Janet Brower and Myron Jones pose with Park Ranger from Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve in Southern Pines.



We Shall Return

Carvers Creek State Park Fall Festival 2023 drew a crowd of over 2,000 on Saturday, November 4th. It was the perfect event to talk with attendees about Sandhills Family Heritage Association. The bold colors of the SFHA vendor station attracted adults, teens and children, curious to know what we were all about and where our organization is located.

Special interest was expressed for Historic Tours of the area. Young families new to the Sandhills are eager to learn more about the rich history here and it gives them something to do on weekends.

Interest in SFHA publications that were sold led to conversations about the contents of the little books, *Soul on Rice* and *Plantation Row*. History about the daily struggles of the enslaved to survive keep you spellbound. Turn a few pages further and recipes spring up to surprise the reader. Recipes for cracklin' cornbread, pinto bean cake and hoecakes are just a few. *Manchester-The Documentary* introduces visitors to local history told by those who lived it. They heard from SFHA Board members Myron Jones and Janet Brower about how SFHA is preserving this rich history through special projects such as the renovation of the Spring Lake Civic Center, Veterans History Project and through H.O.P.E programs. They were invited to learn more about SFHA by visiting the website at sandhillsfamilyheritage.org and following the organization on Facebook.

This is an annual event that is FREE! Don't miss it next fall!



Thank you!

Grantors & Sponsors for supporting SFHA Programs of H.O.P.E.!

**NC State Employee Credit Union Foundation
Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County
Duke Energy Foundation
The Hillsdale Fund
NC General Assembly
Marion Stedman Covington Foundation
Historic Fayetteville Foundation Fund
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The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities
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NC Healing Communities Fund
NC Community Foundation
North Carolina Humanities
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation
Mott Philanthropic
Carolyn Riddle Armstrong Foundation
PNC Bank
Fidelity Charitable Trust**

Thank You! Community Elders, Local Farmers & Vendors, SFHA Project Partners, Servant Heart Volunteers, Sustaining Donors, SFHA Members & Sankofa Youth!

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

LOVE GROVE AME ZION CHURCH FOOD PANTRY



325 FAMILIES
SERVED

INDIVIDUALS
SERVED

613



Get Involved
**IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

Become a member of SFHA
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