Holiday Helpers Program Provides Support to CFCC Families in Need

CFCC’s “Holiday Helpers” program allows students who need financial assistance during the holidays to be matched with donors who help purchase their family’s holiday gifts. Last year, the program helped over thirty students. This year, the program was expanded with the assistance of generous volunteers in the community including CFCC Foundation Board Chair Betsy Leonard, Madeline “Tuggie” Trask, Wendy Pierce and Marietta Gwathmey. These generous volunteers contacted various community groups and publicized the program through personal networks of friends.

Due to their efforts, over $7,000 was raised, benefitting approximately 70 students and their families. Employees of local businesses, such as Intracoastal Realty and Atlantic Packaging, joined in the effort by helping students who were in financial need as determined through the Financial Aid office. Patsy Aiken Designs, a children's clothing company in Raleigh, NC, donated toys and children's outfits for 25 children of CFCC students. Depending on the number of people in their families, students received gift cards for groceries and presents or were taken on a shopping spree at Wal-Mart. Other students received scholarship support.

The students were extremely touched by the generosity of the CFCC community. Many of them shared with the Foundation staff that because of the economy, job layoffs or personal health crises, they were planning not to buy any Christmas presents for their children. Others who participated in the shopping sprees spent only a portion of the allocation on presents, choosing to purchase household necessities first. Some wept with joy when they picked up their gift card envelopes in the Foundation office.

The CFCC Foundation is extremely grateful to the local residents and businesses who so generously donated their time and money to assist with the Holiday Helpers program. A luncheon was hosted in February at CFCC’s culinary student dining room to honor participants in the program.

Alumni Spotlight

William Gray attended CFCC from 2004 to 2007, where he earned associate degrees in accounting, general education and arts. He began his studies through a release program while incarcerated at the New Hanover Correctional Center, where he served eight years after he was involved in a drunk driving accident. He has since become an outspoken proponent of alcohol awareness.

William believes people must not let mistakes define them as individuals, and said he always strove to “rise above” his circumstances by concentrating on his education and future. Carol Cullum, CFCC Vice President of Student Development, describes him as “focused, driven, and a true inspiration to others.” William, who attributes his success to God, is dedicated to motivating others.

...continued inside
A new year, a new look and a new name! “Opportunities” was chosen to reflect the endless opportunities you provide CFCC students with your generous support. We welcome your feedback on this publication. Please email dmckoy@cfcc.edu or call 910.362.7029 with your suggestions.

On February 25, 2009, Jeff James (front row, center) and Chris Bunch (front row, right), Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Wilmington Health Associates, presented a check for $4,500 to President McKeithan. This generous support will fund health education scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year to students in the nursing, radiography and medical sonography programs.

On Thursday, February 12th, Bob McCall (front row, center), Progress Energy’s Eastern Region Vice President, presented a check for $15,000 to the college on behalf of the company. This generous grant for the 2009-2010 school year will provide scholarships for students enrolled in three CFCC programs: electronics engineering technology, electrical/electronics technology, and industrial systems technology. Pictured are McCall and CFCC President Eric McKeithan (front row, right of center) displaying a check representing Progress Energy’s support along with CFCC students and faculty representing the three programs.

On February 25, 2009, Lillian Newton, President of the James Walker Alumnae Nurses Association, presented $10,000 to the CFCC Foundation to establish the James Walker Nurses Alumnae Endowed Scholarship Fund. This endowed scholarship will help deserving nursing students reach their educational goals for years to come through the income gained from the fund over time.

The James Walker Nurses Alumnae Association was established in 1966 by the Board of Managers at James Walker Memorial Hospital and the School of Nursing to provide scholarships to students in nursing programs throughout the Wilmington community. For more than a decade they have focused their efforts on helping students with financial hardships to succeed.

“It’s important to train nurses in a professional manner and in the quality of care.” said Newton. “And with the changing of times, the need for nurses is going to be greater.”

Gifts such as the Nurses Alumnae Scholarship enable students to focus on their studies by relieving financial worries. Students in CFCC’s health science programs consistently pass certificate and board exams with scores that exceed the state and national average.

ABOUT OUR NEW NAME
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continues to give testimonials in churches and warn young adults about the consequences of drinking and driving.

While attending Cape Fear Community College, William said he never felt like “just another student ID number,” explaining that individuals such as “teachers up to administrators, were all really good people.” He built long-lasting relationships with faculty and staff at the college, including President Eric McKeithan, who William considers to be a mentor. McKeithan described William as an outstanding student making up for lost time. “I’m extremely proud of him,” he said, “William is a classic case of someone who deserves a second chance.”

William now attends Campbell University on a full, presidential scholarship. He is majoring in accounting, with a minor in financial planning. Upon earning his undergraduate degree, he intends to become a certified public accountant. He also plans to attend graduate school at Campbell, where he will study trust and investment management.

Although New Hanover Correctional Center is in the process of re-evaluating the study release program, Cape Fear Community College continues to work with local correctional facilities to offer educational opportunities for inmates. Several on-site classes are offered by CFCC instructors at both the New Hanover and Pender Correctional Centers.

On Friday, February 20, over 100 alumni and their guests attended Cape Fear’s first-ever Alumni Homecoming event at the Schwartz Center. The CFCC Alumni Association hosted a reception before the men’s basketball game against Brunswick Community College. The night’s theme was “Re-Connect with Cape Fear Community College: Come Grow with Us!”

If you know CFCC alumni, please encourage them to visit www.cfcc.edu/alumni to re-connect to Cape Fear!

YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES Hope AND Opportunity FOR OUR STUDENTS.

Give the Gift of Education.

Gifts to the CFCC Foundation are used to support our students and further the work of the college. Over 200 scholarships are awarded each semester to deserving students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to improve their lives. A gift of $1,000 will provide most CFCC students with tuition, fees and books for one semester.

To help meet the needs of the fastest-growing community college in North Carolina,

☐ I enclose $________________________

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☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX Contact 362-7207 for credit card gifts.

☐ I would like to make this gift in honor/memory (circle one) of: ___________________________

☐ Please notify ___________________________ of this gift.

☐ Please send information about planned giving opportunities.

Please make your check payable to Cape Fear Community College Foundation, Inc., 411 North Front Street, Wilmington, NC 28401. Gifts to the CFCC Foundation are tax deductible.

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For more information, please call the Foundation at 362-7207 or visit www.cfcc.edu/foundation.

Alumni Spotlight, continued from page 1
Empowering students. 
Providing hope in our community.

CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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CFCC SCHWARTZ CENTER

FEATURING DR. R. SCOTT RALLS 
PRESIDENT, NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

411 North Front Street 
Wilmington, NC 28401-3933

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