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**Please visit our web site at:**

<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

### Contact Us At:

[CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com](mailto:CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com)

## Connecting Advocates

*Uniting community members to transform our neighborhoods is at the heart of what we do.*

### Community Leadership - Your Work Makes a Big Difference!

Being a community advocate is hard work and often you do not get the thanks and appreciation that you deserve.

What you are doing matters! It is making a big difference in your community. But, when you feel discouraged or when you are looking for new perspectives, Cultivating Community Connections can help by connecting you to other local leaders who are eager to listen, support, and share.

**Watch this space for an upcoming event we are planning. This event will be designed for community advocates to meet and interact. Let's open a discussion about ways to better meet the needs of our community without adding more work to hard-working community leaders.**

### Community Leaders Planning Meeting

Are you interested in helping plan a Community Leadership Meeting?  
Email us at:

[cultivatingcommunityconnections.net](http://cultivatingcommunityconnections.net).

## What Do You Think?

Cultivating Community Connections would like to know about the people in your community that are making a difference. Tell us who they are and what they are doing. Email us at:

[CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com](mailto:CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com)

## Web Site- Check it Out!

- Web Site:

[www.CCC-](http://www.CCC-)

[CultivatingCommunityConnections.net](http://CultivatingCommunityConnections.net)

- Submit articles for our web site or newsletter to:

[CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com](mailto:CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com)

## Our Leadership Team

Carol Jenkins- founder

Jeff Jenkins- co-founder

Anita Brown- recording secretary

Joseph Jones- vice president

Carol Relitz- web administrator

Thank you for supporting CCC's efforts to strengthen communities.

## Little Changes = Big Impact

Four suggestions for community leaders:

1. **Give yourself and your team a well-deserved pat on the back.** Those that do community work are often very hard on themselves. Realizing this, we can all use some encouragement. Thank the people who are working with you and give yourself credit.

2. **Bring unconscious strengths to a conscious level.** By being aware of what you and your group does that works, and why it works, you increase the likelihood that positive actions will continue. This is particularly important in difficult times. When stressful situations occur, in an emotional moment, we are more likely to put into practice a response pattern we have consciously recognized as productive and avoid gut-level, counter-productive reactions.

3. **Plan to ask the right questions.** Organizations often hold tightly to the way things have always been done. Some traditions are worth keeping, some need updating, and some can be discontinued. Plan, in advance, the questions to ask at a meeting. By planning in advance, you can think about how attendees are likely to respond and, if the likely responses aren't meeting your intended goal, you can revise the question so the response is more useful. For example: which question gets a better response: Is what we are doing working? or What community needs are we not meeting and how can we find out? Both are good discussion questions. Planning your line of questioning in advance will lead to a more focused, solution-oriented discussion.

4. **Make the implied, explicit.** Great ideas are meant to be shared. Community groups are doing a lot to help people around them. But, if too many people are not hearing the message, be clear in communicating to others how to help spread the message. For example, many communities have discussion boards. If an important message needs to get out to the entire community, don't just hope others share the information. State with a statement such as, "Please share this information with seniors who do not have internet access."

## Assessing Community Needs

The last year has made all of us aware of how difficult life is for many in our community. Most community organizations have reached out to help by providing resources and/or assistance. So, a big “Thank You!” for all that communities are doing to help!

Questions to ponder: While we are planning the right questions to ask, let’s start with a few that might help groups maximize their outreach without also over-burdening volunteers. Here are some of the questions we would like answers to:

- Are there people who need assistance that aren’t getting connected to available resources? (For example, seniors without internet access?) If so, how can we get information to them?
- How do we, as an organization, better assess what the people we serve need? What needs are not being met? What un-tapped resources do we have available to us to help the people we serve? (For example- are there retirees who might be willing and able to provide a service? How might they do so safely?)
- Are we duplicating the efforts of other organizations in a manner that make our efforts unnecessary? (For example, having a food drive if a local food pantry is already meeting that need.) If so, is there another action we can take that would be more useful? How can we find out?

Most community advocates are very experienced and highly effective. Part of continuing to be effective includes not only recognizing what we are doing right, but looking for more information that helps us learn and grow. In the spirit of continuing to grow, we found some very useful resource: 1) University of Kansas.: Assessing Community Needs and Resources, and 2) MIT: Local Problem-Solving.

1) University of Kansas:

<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/assessing-community-needs-and-resources>

Find the section that best helps your organization meet the needs of the groups you serve.

2) MIT:

Multi-Issue Web Resources: Social Development, Poverty, Local Problem-Solving

[http://web.mit.edu/cpsproject/program\\_tools/multi-issue.html](http://web.mit.edu/cpsproject/program_tools/multi-issue.html)

Some wonderful resources for community building are at the bottom of the web page.



## People helping People help People

from Phil Ott, CCC Board Member

Every other Friday since Labor Day, the Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist has sponsored a food hub. The program is run by Pastor Sifa Potauaine, and supported by Tom Dernoga's office. They have partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank, and Costal Produce, to provide free food to anyone who stops by. Volunteers are needed to help from 10:00 am to 2:00pm, and any and all help is welcome.

There are stations set up in their large parking lot. Each one has a tent, and a number. Cars pull up to a station, there are 8 stations, 4 on each side. They have their trunks open, and the volunteers at each station load up the cars with groceries. Any car in line is served. They then make a u turn and exit the parking lot, while other cars in line pull in from behind. It is well orchestrated.

Groceries include a 25 lb. Box of canned goods, 5-10 lbs. of potatoes, and all types of fresh produce, whatever is delivered. Additionally there are prepared meals that are given 4 to a family.

My wife, and I have volunteered almost 10 different times. There are also volunteers from their congregation, (including teenagers), Crossing Guards from PG County have helped, and Police have assisted with traffic control. There are anywhere from 700 to 1000 cars that are served (or until the food runs out). Volunteers are requested to bring, and wear masks. Vinyl gloves are provided. Everything is outdoors, and there is no direct contact with the drivers as the cars pull up.

There are still a LOT of people out there that are really hurting financially, and are having trouble simply putting food on the table. Pastor Sifa serves tirelessly, and has set up an awesome program. At times the line to get in has been a mile long, or more. This is one small way that we try to give back, and help those in our community. It's a lot of work, but many hands help lighten the load. More details can be found in the Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist website <http://www.beltsvillesda.org/bacc>



Sifa Potauaine, Ammendale Rd. Pastor



Phil Ott delivers CCC donation to LARS