

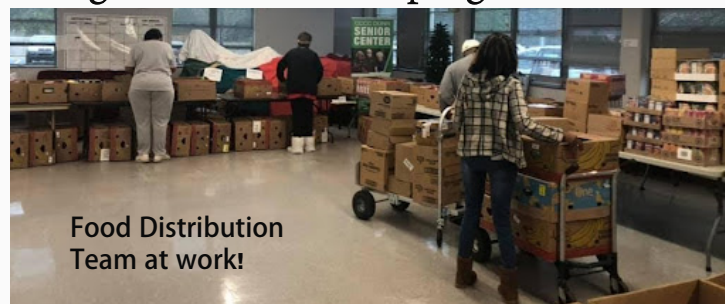
SANDHILLS SANKOFA NEWS



Official Newsletter of Sandhills Family Heritage Association

ORGANIZATION RECEIVED COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT

Sandhills Family Heritage Association received a COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant of \$15,000 from The Conservation Funds Resourceful Communities program (TCF/Resourceful Communities). This grant will provide funding for staff, food distribution, transportation, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and other expenses for COVID-related food relief. The Covid Emergency Relief Grant will allow SFHA to maintain its food distribution program in response to Covid-19 at its current pace and continue to expand to meet the need in our communities. Funds will enable SFHA to maintain efforts to assist Sandhills under-served communities in establishing food distribution programs.



Food Distribution
Team at work!

About The Conservation Fund/ Resourceful Communities:

Established in 1991, Resourceful Communities supports a network of grassroots organizations, faith-based groups and resource partners with an effective combination of capacity building, direct investment, and facilitated networking to connect stakeholders with otherwise hard-to-reach resources. Resourceful Communities' "triple bottom line" approach integrates environmental stewardship, social justice and community economic development. Resourceful Communities is part of The Conservation Fund (TCF), a national nonprofit established in 1985 to protect working lands and promote economic development. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, TCF has worked in all 50 states to protect over 8.5 million acres of land since 1985. <www.resourcefulcommunities.org> <www.conservationfund.org>



The Place that Inspired the Founding of SFHA

By Ammie McRae Jenkins, SFHA Founder/Executive Director



I am so grateful God planted me in a place where I could grow spiritually, physically and mentally through my connections to the land. I grew up in Overhills, NC in a small Black neighborhood called McRae Town that was developed by Willis McRae, my Great Grandfather. Willis McRae was a former slave, tar and turpentine worker, farmer, and first major Black landowner in Harnett County (658 acres in 1882.) Some of the best memories of my childhood are connected to this place that helped define who I am today.

After 23 years of absence from McRae Town, I returned to this place not knowing the impact it would have on my life. Standing on the property and viewing the landscape was my defining moment. I remembered the good things about the rural lifestyle: the freedom that came with land ownership; drinking fresh spring water; abundance of natural foods, plants, and herbs; self-reliant families; the people's entrepreneurial spirit; and family values that built good character and self-esteem.

In 1984, I learned through land research and interviews with community elders that rural African Americans were at risk of losing the land that made them self-reliant. I thought how tragic it would be if current and future generations never learned about their rich history of land ownership and the people who built their communities, schools, and churches, and left a spiritual legacy for future generations.

My memories of the old homeplace and the community elders' stories of strength, courage and sacrifice inspired the founding of Sandhills Family Heritage Association in 2001. The Association is a community-based nonprofit, 501(C)3 organization, whose mission is to preserve community assets and the natural and cultural heritage of rural African Americans throughout the Sandhills Region of North Carolina.

The trials, triumphs and contributions of African Americans in the Sandhills are critical parts of North Carolina and American history. Our stories are about land that sustains life, family values that inspire and give hope, and a cultural heritage that connects us all and defines who we are.

“Sankofa” is a West African word that teaches us to reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so we can understand the present as we look forward to the future.

Farmer's Market

Vendor Spotlight



Still Cookin'

By Janet Brower-Penn

Few if any would have predicted years ago that Western Harnett High School basketball player, Thomas Arnold, Jr would develop a passion for cooking, especially since he revealed no culinary interest as a youngster. His skills developed as a result of serving as a cook in the U.S. Army from 1993 to 1999 experiencing three deployments. His passion has grown over the years into somewhat of an art form that gives him the opportunity to experiment with foods and seasonings that tickle the palate.

Tommy or Tee, as he is affectionately called by family and friends, returned to the civilian world and continues to feed active-duty military personnel daily on Fort Bragg. Enough food is prepared on some days to satisfy the appetites of as many as 600 soldiers per meal.

As a licensed caterer, Tee is sought after to prepare meals for family, church, community and special events locally and across the state. His dishes are delicious and folks often come back for seconds, especially for his southern fried chicken and savory fried fish.

Sandhills Family Heritage Association is very grateful to Tee for his dedication and commitment to assist with the Rural Heritage Food Tasting/Celebration since it first began in October 2013. He has not only prepared finger lickin' foods, but has also helped to serve when his work schedule permitted. Thank you, Tee. Keep on cookin'. Contact Tees Catering for your next event at 910-635-4547.

I invite you to experience a little taste of this "goodness" at our next event on Saturday, September 25th when we serve up chicken, fish, a mess of greens, potato salad, slaw, pinto beans, assorted home-baked desserts and more. Reserve your ticket today by calling 919-888-0389 or 910-309-2198. Visit our Facebook page today and read about this and other activities. Proceeds from ticket donations will support SFHA programming. <https://www.facebook.com/ncsfha/>

SFHA Sponsorships

Kingdom Focused, Servant Heart
Monthly Food Pantry Distributions

4th Saturdays of Each Month
11am-2pm
Love Grove AME Zion Church
796 Love Grove Church Road
Sanford, NC 27332
919-499-5221

4th Sundays of Each Month
1pm-3pm
St. Luke AME Zion Church
93 S. Orange St
Coats, NC 27521
910-261-0905

2nd Thursdays Food Distribution 11am-12pm
4th Thursdays Diaper Distribution
11am-12pm
Johnsonville AME Zion Church
18719 NC-27 Cameron, NC 28326
919-499-6621



Sandhills Family Heritage Association

SANDHILLS FARMERS MARKET
in Spring Lake

Saturdays 9am - 1pm | June - September

Rural Heritage Food Celebration Tickets \$15



230 Chapel Hill Rd Spring Lake, NC 28390 EBT, Cash, Zelle & Debit Card accepted

Saturday, September 18th. Sandhills Farmers Market Fresh Produce, Fish Fry, Natural Products, and More!

Saturday, September 25th. Rural Heritage Food Celebration 11am-1pm 230 Chapel Hill Rd. Spring Lake, NC 28390 \$15 Tickets



Thank YOU!
From Sandhills Family Heritage Association

AUGUST 2021 IMPACT!
181 TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
64 FIRST TIME HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
599 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED

