

# Human Relations Happening

## Changing Lives



The following is a testimonial from a GCHRC client.

“My name is Alesha Miller and I am a 32 year old single mom with two young children.

When I first met with the staff at Greenville County Human Relations, I was in a desperate situation not knowing how I was going to provide a home for my family. I had recently separated from my husband and was not getting any financial support from him, and had only a part time job bringing home \$32 a week. My credit was in a very bad standing since most of the bills were in my name upon my separation, and I could not afford to pay them.

I had been living in my grandmother’s home for a few years, as her caretaker while she was fighting her battle with Alzheimer’s. I continued to live in the home after her passing a few

months before, but the will stated that the home had to be sold once the probate process was over.

My grandfather had built the home, and over the years it had become the place I wanted to live and the place I wanted to build a life for me and my kids. The thought of someone else, a stranger, buying the home and living in it just sickened me. They could not look at the small details of his labor and truly appreciate it. They could not point to the cabinets, the floors, or the ceilings and walls and tell their children the story of their great grandfather coming back from the war to build his dream home for his family, with his own hands. This was not just a house. It was a home. This home, with Sunday’s on the front porch making ice cream, family dinners, watching my Nanny in the kitchen happily singing as she cooked for her family, and the home where I held her hand as she went to be with the Lord.

This was the home where my family history had begun, and where our future would be made. I was willing to do whatever it took to be able to afford this home, but I was broken and discouraged. I

knew that there was no way I could afford a home with bad credit and a \$32 a week part time job. So while meeting with the staff at Human Relations, we discussed the steps I needed to take to make my dream of home ownership a reality. They told me about the IDA program with what was then called the Greenville Housing Fund. It was a first time home buyer program for low income and/or single parents like me. And after just one meeting with them, I felt I could conquer all of the hurdles that stood in my way. All of the staff was so encouraging and positive. A plan was laid out and they gave me a good start on how to execute it.

I will not say that it was easy, or that it happened fast, but here it is... its happening. My credit has been rebuilt, I am working full time and going to school, and I am just a few short weeks away from getting my first mortgage. My dream home is finally going to be my home thanks to the help of the staff from Greenville County Human Relations and Community Works.”

## SC HELP: Real Help for Real People

The GCHRC is a SC HELP approved processing agency.

The GCHRC has four full-time and two part-time staff members that are dedicated to working tirelessly to help responsible borrowers who are facing the possibility of

foreclosure due to financial hardship beyond their control.

Assistance is real, comparatively quick, and can be substantial. Support and information is available.

Please call our offices at 864-467-7095 for more information.

Or apply directly at [SCHELP.gov](http://SCHELP.gov)



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### Special points of interest:

- Housing Counseling and Assistance
- Fair Housing Complaints and Investigation
- Education/Workshops/Certifications
- Counselors provide assistance in multiple languages

## Greenville County Human Relations Commission

301 University Ridge  
Suite 1600  
Greenville, SC 29607

Phone: 864-467-7095  
Fax: 864-467-5965  
Email: HRC@greenvillecounty.com

### Sharon Smathers:

Executive Director  
**Angelia Reeder:**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Chris Payne:** Program  
Coordinator  
**Gina Wong:** Case  
Manager/Counselor  
**Giovanni Ordóñez:**  
Fair Housing Initiatives  
Coordinator  
**Janice Jennings:**  
Program Coordinator /  
SC Help

**Sara Carter:** Financial  
Literacy (Bi-lingual) Coor-  
dinator

**Michelle Huaman:**  
Bi-Lingual Housing Coun-  
selor

**Deborah Ciuffo:** Sustaina-  
ble Asset/IDA Counselor

**David Human:** Housing  
Counselor

**Genna Smith:** Grants  
Coordinator



Staff at Children's Museum (Elizabeth McSherry-Museum Director of Programming, Sharon Smathers, Sara Carter, Chris Payne)

### Featured Activities this Month



107 Days of Non Violence kickoff celebration at the Kroc center. (Michelle Huaman and Janice Jennings)



Staff at Children's Museum (Chris Payne and Sara Carter)

### We're on the Web!

[www.greenvillecounty.org/humanrelations/](http://www.greenvillecounty.org/humanrelations/)

### Or Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenvilleCountyHumanRelations>



## Financial Literacy Workshop Class Schedule



Savings and Budget

### Credit Smart English

#### Greenville Library Locations

Saturday 9AM-1PM  
September 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
October 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Fountain Inn Location

September 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Greenville County Square Conf. Room "B"

6:00PM-8:00PM  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

### Credit Smart Spanish

Classed are Saturday at various Greenville Library locations and Weeknights at the Greenville County Square, Conference Room B (Flag Pole)

### All About Finance

Location: The Goodwill Job Connection at

the Simpsonville Store  
915 South St.  
Simpsonville SC 29681

(Not for those applying for, or in, the IDA program) Classes are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 1:00pm -3:30pm

### Home Buyer Education

Location: Greenville Tech Buck Mickel Center  
216 South Pleasantburg Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29607  
Room 135  
Classes are held the 3rd Saturday of each month. 9:00am – 4:00pm

### Visit our website at:

[www.greenvillecounty.org/humanrelations/](http://www.greenvillecounty.org/humanrelations/)  
for the most current list of activities!

To sign up call 864-467-7095