

United Way

United Way
of Central Carolinas



Center

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Clyde Higgs, vice president for business development for NCRC, said the company's decision to move to the campus will create momentum by increasing business diversity, and it will bolster campus developers' push to make the campus a one-stop shop for their partners' business needs.

John Cox, president and CEO of the Cabarrus County Economic Development Corp., which helped make the initial contact with DataChambers to bring it to NCRC, agreed.

"It will serve as a recruitment tool," he said. "It's a big multiplier."

The campus focuses on health, nutrition and agriculture, Higgs said, and the storage facility will hold bioinformatics information and other data from the campus.

Data generated from campus research is copious, and "having a resource like this on campus that we can tap is critical to that," Higgs said.

Additionally, the center will be positioned to store data for companies in Charlotte and surrounding areas, which will solidify the strength of the campus, he said.

The building will be rated to withstand hurricane-force winds, feature state-of-the-art systems for power, security, HVAC, network connectivity and incorporate the latest LEED standards developed by the US Green Building Council for energy efficient operation, according to information provided by NCRC.

The new data center will provide services such as hosted and cloud-based infrastructure solutions, around the clock network management and a variety of data backup and business continuity solutions.

Agencies get \$1.2M in funding

BY JESSICA GROOVER PACEK
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"This is such a day of celebration for us because it just reflects the generosity of our donors."

Barbi Jones,
Cabarrus community director for United Way

Twenty-four local partner agencies will receive about \$1.2 million in funding allocations from United Way on July 1, the nonprofit group announced Thursday.

"This is such a day of celebration for us because it just reflects the generosity of our donors," said Barbi Jones, Cabarrus community director for United Way.

The funding comes from the \$21.2 million fundraising campaign conducted by United Way of Central Carolinas, which serves Anson County, Cabarrus County, Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, Mooresville/Lake Norman and Union County. Regionally, 84 partner agencies are receiving \$16.5 million this year, which is about the same amount as this past year.

In Cabarrus County, that amounts to about \$1.2 million for the 24 agencies' 30 programs, which serve about 30,000 people.

The funding allocation is about \$1,000 less for the upcoming year than this past year. Part of that was due to less funding for Hospice & Palliative Care of Cabarrus County, which receives designations only, Jones said. Instead of going through the funding process, where agencies apply for assistance and the volunteer Community Investment Councils decide on how to distribute funding

among agencies, the funding Hospice receives is from United Way donors who designate their money only to Hospice.

Regionally, there are 26 of the 84 partner agencies that will receive a funding increase this upcoming year, and 18 will have reduced funding.

In Cabarrus County, there are nine agencies that will receive the same amount of funding, eight that will have a decrease, not including Hospice, and six that will receive more.

This year, agencies in Cabarrus County asked for more than \$130,000 in additional funding, compared to last year, Jones said.

The Community Investment Councils, which are made up of volunteers, had to make those tough decisions, Jones said. She said they looked for programs that would help those with the greatest need.

Among the local agencies that will receive the biggest increases in funding this year were Cabarrus Meals on Wheels and Hope Haven.

Meals on Wheels received \$70,000 for the 2012-13 year and will receive \$77,000 for the 2013-14 year.

"We're excited," said Meals on

Wheels Executive Director Kimberly Strong. "It will be a great help to us, especially with the sequestration cuts we're receiving. That was a great surprise."

She said the funding will go toward operations and providing meals for seniors. The group hopes to use it in expanding and reaching areas that it has not been able to reach, Strong said.

Hope Haven, Inc. is a group based in Charlotte that will expand for the first time out of Mecklenburg County, said President and CEO Alice Harrison. Last month, the group acquired Serenity House, which has served men who are recovering alcoholics and substance abusers. It will now be Serenity House, a Division of Hope Haven.

Hope Haven will receive an increase of \$62,981 for the upcoming year. The funds will go toward renovations to Serenity House, which was built in 1934, and bringing Hope Haven to Cabarrus County, Harrison said.

The agency expects to complete renovations in early August, Harrison said, and it will then serve up to 13 men who are recovering alcoholics or substance abusers in Cabarrus County. Many are homeless, and

after going through a primary treatment program, they can receive up to two years of housing through Hope Haven, while also working with substance abuse counselors and working on life skills, employment skills and, if necessary, parenting skills.

"(We) help them become responsible, independent, tax-paying citizens," Harrison said. "Our goal is for people to be independent and live on their own."

While some agencies are receiving more in funding for the upcoming year, others are receiving less. The biggest drop in local funding was Safe Alliance, which was formerly United Family Services. This past year, the local group received \$159,658, and this upcoming year, it will receive \$141,891.

Habitat for Humanity of Cabarrus County received \$35,000 this past year and will receive \$30,000 for the upcoming year.

"It came down to making tough choices," Jones said. "They do great, great work."

Habitat Executive Director Dave Zablonty said the he understood the allocation decisions were difficult ones to make.

He added that, because the funding was close to this past year's allocation, and the funds are not for a specific program, it will not have a significant impact on the group.

"We're very appreciative of any funding we get," Zablonty said.

Census

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The Cabarrus County population grew from 178,516 to 184,498 people from July 1 2010 to July 1, 2012, according to the data released Thursday.

The U.S. Census Bureau announced with the release that Asians were the nation's fastest-growing race or ethnic group in 2012. Their population rose by 530,000, or 2.9 percent, in the preceding year, to 18.9 million, according to Census Bureau an-

nual population estimates. More than 60 percent of this growth in the Asian population came from international migration.

Locally, the Asian population increased 21.3 percent from 3,701 Asian residents of Cabarrus County in 2010 to 4,493 in 2012.

The second-fastest growing segment was Hispanic residents. That population grew by 6.6 percent from 16,860 in 2010 to 17,976 in 2012.

The African-American population in Cabarrus County grew by 6.2 percent from 28,134 in 2010 to

29,872 in 2012.

Meanwhile the white population in Cabarrus grew 2.1 percent from 142,397 to 145,416.

All of the race numbers reported in this story reflect only individuals who identify only with one race.

Mecklenburg County was one of only six counties out of 3,143 nationwide that changed from majority white to majority minority population in 2011, according to the data released Thursday.

The nation's total minority population increased by 1.9 percent and was 116

million, or 37 percent, of the total population in July 2012. The minority population includes people in any category other than non-Hispanic white alone. More than 11 percent (353) of the nation's 3,143 counties were majority-minority as of July 1, 2012. Six of these counties became majority-minority populations since July 1, 2011: Mecklenburg County; Cherokee, Okla.; Texas, Okla.; Bell, Texas; Hockley, Texas; and Terrell, Texas.

The population of children younger than 5 is close to becoming major-

ity-minority nationally, standing at 49.9 percent minority in 2012.

"The proportion of young children that is minority has been increasing since the 2010 Census and if this proportional growth

continues, we expect that the crossover to majority-minority for this group will occur within the next couple of years," Mesenbourg said.

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