



## SVP Charlotte eNEWS



April 2009

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Partners For Success  
hires a Resource  
Coordinator

New SVPC Partners

SVPC Educational Event

Conversation with Molly  
Griffin

### Event Calendar

"The Culture of Poverty"  
May 13, 7:00 pm  
4100 Silver Bell Drive  
[rsvp@svpcharlotte.org](mailto:rsvp@svpcharlotte.org)

Quarterly Partner Meeting  
May 21, 2009  
12:00 noon  
Place TBD  
[rsvp@svpcharlotte.org](mailto:rsvp@svpcharlotte.org)

Board Meeting  
April 29, 2009  
12:00 noon

Welcome to our first SVPC Newsletter! The eNEWS will be sent quarterly and strive to keep you up to date on SVPC events, Investees and Partners. Please let me know if you have questions, want to get involved or have relevant events or information you would like to share with SVPC Partners. Thank you for your ongoing energy, time and commitment to SVPC and our community. You are making a difference!

-Susan Daniel  
Executive Director

### Meet Sherry Waters



Through an SVPC grant to [Communities in Schools](#) (CIS), Sherry Waters has been hired as the first Resource Coordinator for Partners For Success (the partnership between CIS and SVPC). In her new role, Sherry will primarily be responsible for recruiting and connecting local businesses, faith communities, civic groups and other organizations to help promote success at high poverty/low academic performing public schools. Sherry will also help promote student success by identifying needs and mobilizing resources at these CIS school sites.

[Community Summit on Education](#)

April 21, 2009  
7:30-9:30 am  
Crowne Plaza

Save The Date!

[2009 SVPC Annual Conference](#)

October 22-24, 2009  
Dallas, Texas

Sherry has worked in the nonprofit arena for 15 years. She is passionate about community stewardship and civic responsibility. Her career began in programming and later expanded to marketing/public relations and development. Most recently, she served as the Associate Executive Director of Resource Development at the University City YMCA. She is involved with community and civic volunteerism having served on several community boards and advisory councils. She is also the publisher of *The Koinoiah* magazine, highlighting individuals, businesses and other groups who are exemplifying good community stewardship.

Originally from Asheville, Sherry has lived in Charlotte since 1992 after graduating from UNC-CH with a BA in Communications. She is "happily divorced" and has three children - M'Kyla (12), Sean (9) and Ilona (4). We look forward to working closely with Sherry and welcome her to CIS!

Sherry will join us at our May 21st Partner meeting to give an update on the Partners For Success program.

"We feel so fortunate to have this wonderful opportunity to hire Sherry and work with SVPC. Your organization is a true blessing to all the citizens of Charlotte. Thank you!"

- Bill Anderson  
Executive Director  
Communities In Schools

## New Partners



We are delighted to welcome **Mark Sumwalt and Ann Groninger** as our newest Partners! Mark and Ann are both lawyers and were married in October 2007. Mark grew up in Rock Hill, and graduated from Davidson College and South Carolina Law School. He has his own firm where he works with his nephew handling workers compensation claims. Mark has been active with the YMCA as well as the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (NCAJ). Ann is a graduate of Michigan State University and Tulane Law School. She is a partner with Patterson Harkavy LLP and recently opened the firm's Charlotte office, concentrating on serious personal injury cases with a special interest in bicycle related cases statewide and representing individuals involved in employment or contractual disputes. Ann is a member of NCAJ Board of Governors and is active in the Charlotte Area Bicycle Association. Both Ann and Mark enjoy gardening, sports and most any outdoor activity. They are joining SVPC because of their desire to make a difference in their community. We look forward to working with them, and also to welcoming the newest member of their family due in May!

## Educational Evening for SVPC Partners and Friends

Join SVPC Partners and friends on Wednesday evening, May 13, for a program examining the culture of poverty in our society and community. Recent research has provided a deeper understanding of how people in poverty face challenges that are virtually unknown to the rest of us.

Paul Hanneman and Wanda Anderson will describe how the survival-based mentality of poverty impacts learning, work habits and decision making. Several of our Partners have heard Paul and Wanda speak, and found them to be very engaging and thought-provoking.

The program will be followed by a Q&A session, as well as a brief overview of Social Venture Partners. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends who may be interested in meeting other SVPC Partners, learning about our organization and becoming more informed in our understanding of the paradigm of the poverty culture.

**Rev. Dr. Paul A. Hanneman** serves as Program Director of the Urban Ministry Center. He works directly with people who are homeless and also coordinates the Servant Leadership School, which provides educational resources designed to help people deepen their own spiritual lives, explore the dynamics of poverty and homelessness, and respond to the call to minister to the “least of these”. He is certified as a trainer in Class Matters, a course on the significance of social class in communication and community organizing.

**Wanda Anderson** is a senior social worker with Robinson Rehabilitation Services, LLC. Wanda grew up in generational poverty and brings deep personal experience to her presentations. She has worked with hundreds of people in poverty since 1993 and has been a certified trainer in Class Matters for the past four years.

## Conversation with Molly Griffin



In late March, SVPC Partners enjoyed a spirited and informative session with Molly Griffin, Chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board. Sponsored by our Public Education Focus Group, Molly shared her knowledge and ideas about the needs and opportunities in our public school system. She provided an overview of the changes occurring as a result of budget cuts, answered Partner questions, and sparked ideas

about future opportunities for collaboration between CMS and SVPC. We are appreciative of Molly's time and insight and her commitment to CMS and our community.

For more information or questions, email [sdaniel@svpcharlotte.org](mailto:sdaniel@svpcharlotte.org) or call 704.442.7060

Social Venture Partners Charlotte  
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