



**NETWORX**  
SECURING WELL-BEING TOGETHER  
**CATAWBA**



## **NETWORX CATAWBA - ALLY APPLICATION & AGREEMENT (DUE TO GHCCM BY 7/31/15)**

*NETWORX CATAWBA IS A PROGRAM OF GREATER HICKORY COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY*

The goal of **NETworX CATAWBA** is to move economically distressed individuals and families in poverty toward self-sufficiency and economic stability. The **NETworX CATAWBA** initiative is a multi-dimensional model for reducing poverty based on national research suggesting that low-income families must have a support system of intentional relationships across economic and class lines to access resources in the community to move toward self-sufficiency. **NETworX CATAWBA** is also a model for systemic change that helps communities move toward ending poverty by working together to develop goals, practices, and policies that enable self-sufficiency.

Upon acceptance into **NETworX CATAWBA**, each participant goes through a 12-week program designed to help them begin their transition out of poverty. **NETworX CATAWBA** participants attend a weekly meeting that includes a meal, child care, tutoring and classes. After participants complete the classes, lifestyle changes and goals for getting out of poverty, participants become **NETworX CATAWBA** Champions of Change. Champions work with trained Allies, who are community volunteers who work hand-in-hand with them over the next 18-24 months to move out of poverty.

In **NETworX CATAWBA**, relationships are **intentionally** and **purposely** built across race and socioeconomic lines in order to offer a personal enhancement through sharing and building of social capital. The program addresses causes and effects of poverty, increases long-term financial independence for participants, and demonstrates partnerships and a commitment to capacity building. It addresses barriers to eliminating poverty through training and one-on-one guidance for participants. This strategy uses a strengths-based framework that fosters hope and self-determination. Participants create their own roadmap to independence and draw on a supportive community to achieve their own goals.

**NETworX CATAWBA is designed to target low income individuals and families at 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).** According to the most recent data (June 2014) provided by the Western Piedmont Council on Governments Data Services (using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the NC Center for Health Statistics and the Catawba County GIS Department), in 1999, 9.1% of all persons in Catawba County were living in poverty. This percentage rose to 12.5% during 2006-2010, and again increased to 15.1% from 2008-2012. There are an estimated 22,934 people living in poverty in Catawba County, the majority residing within the City of Hickory. Of this number, an estimated 8,233 are children 17 and under.

**To be considered as an Ally for NETworX CATAWBA, potential candidates must complete and return the ALLY application, schedule an interview with the program coordinator and sign a commitment agreement stating that you:**

- ⇒ Make a long-term commitment to be a NETworX Ally for at least 18 months
- ⇒ Attend NETworX training alongside Champions focused on the holistic definition of poverty, creating SMART goals, building relationships across dividing lines, and
- ⇒ After you are matched:
  - ⇒ Spend 4-8 hours per month with NETworX and Champion of Change;
  - ⇒ Attend weekly Community Meetings with Champions of Change at least 2X per month; and
  - ⇒ Phone, email, text support to Champions of Change and other Allies as needed throughout the month.

**NETworX CATAWBA** classes will be held every Monday night from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Hickory. Classes begin on Monday, September 14, 2015 and continue for 11 weeks. Upon completion of each class, a \$25 stipend (gift card) is given to each Champion as recognition of the importance of their time commitment to the program and to represent an hourly living wage.



**Cooperative Christian Ministry**

**Federal Poverty Guidelines - 2015**

| <b>Household Size</b>                         | <b>100%<br/>(of the poverty line)</b> | <b>150%</b> | <b>200%</b> | <b>250%</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>1</b>                                      | \$11,770                              | \$17,655    | \$23,540    | \$29,425    |
| <b>2</b>                                      | \$15,930                              | \$23,895    | \$31,860    | \$39,825    |
| <b>3</b>                                      | \$20,000                              | \$30,000    | \$40,000    | \$50,000    |
| <b>4</b>                                      | \$24,250                              | \$36,375    | \$48,500    | \$60,625    |
| <b>5</b>                                      | \$28,410                              | \$42,615    | \$56,820    | \$71,025    |
| <b>6</b>                                      | \$32,570                              | \$48,855    | \$65,140    | \$81,425    |
| <b>7</b>                                      | \$36,730                              | \$55,095    | \$73,460    | \$91,825    |
| <b>8</b>                                      | \$40,890                              | \$61,335    | \$81,780    | \$102,225   |
| <b>For each additional person over 8 add:</b> | \$4,160                               | \$4,160     | \$4,160     | \$4,160     |

**Please return this application to by July 31, 2015:**

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry  
 Attn: NETworX CATAWBA  
 31 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW  
 Hickory, NC 28602

For more information about NETworX Catawba, please contact Kecia Morris, NETworX Catawba Program Coordinator, at GHCCM at (828) 327-0979, ext. 236 or email [NETworXCatawba@ccmHickory.com](mailto:NETworXCatawba@ccmHickory.com).

## NETworX Catawba ALLY Role & Commitment Agreement

### ***The NETworX Ally has Three Primary Goals:***

- ⇒ Make an intentional friendship with a family or individual in financial poverty and join them in their quest to have enough relationships, resources and reason in their lives
- ⇒ Increase own awareness of holistic poverty, stereotypes, class rules, biases and be willing to face these
- ⇒ Use the experience of friendship with a family in financial poverty to advocate within the community for changes in system barriers that address issues surrounding poverty.

### ***The NETworX Ally commitment:***

- ⇒ We ask that you make a long-term commitment to be a NETworX Ally for at least 18 months
- ⇒ Attend NETworX training alongside Champions focused on the holistic definition of poverty, creating SMART goals, building relationships across dividing lines, and
- ⇒ After you are matched:
  - ⇒ 4-10 hours per month of time spent with NETworX and Champion of Change
  - ⇒ One monthly meeting with your NETworX Champion scheduled at a mutually convenient time
  - ⇒ One Weekly Community Meeting (whole group)
  - ⇒ Phone, email, text support to Champion of Change and other Allies as needed throughout the month

### ***Support received:***

- ⇒ Orientation to NETworX and Training
- ⇒ Ally Support Sessions
- ⇒ Collaboration with others in your NETworX – you are not alone
- ⇒ NETworX Staff to answer questions, provide mentoring and assist with conflict resolution

### ***How can Allies be sensitive of differences across class lines?***

- ⇒ If possible, come to NETworX meetings in casual clothes
- ⇒ Find ways to introduce yourself that emphasizes who you are, not what you do
- ⇒ Don't expect Champions of Change to approach the Weekly Meetings the way that you do in the business world
- ⇒ Read the book, "*Bridges Out of Poverty*" (available at Amazon.com)
- ⇒ Look for low-cost or no cost options for outings with your NETworX
- ⇒ When you have strong feelings about the Champion of Change family, be willing to look at how your own feelings or rules are being activated and talk to someone about it – another Ally, the Champion of Change or the NETworX staff

**Upon acceptance into the NETworX Catawba program and by signing below, I state that I have fully read, understand and am willing to adhere to all of the roles and commitments of a NETworX Ally.**

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NETWORX CATAWBA - ALLY APPLICATION

*NETWORX CATAWBA IS A PROGRAM OF GREATER HICKORY COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY*

| <b>Contact Information</b>                  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Name and Age                                |   |   |
| Address                                     |   |   |
| Cell Phone                                  |   |   |
| Home Phone                                  |   |   |
| Place of Employment                         |   |   |
| E-Mail Address                              |   |   |
| Preferred Method of Contact                 |   |   |
| <b>Availability</b>                         |   |   |
| ___ Weekday mornings<br>Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri | ___ Weekday afternoons<br>Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri | ___ Weekday evenings<br>Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri |

| <b>Primary Criteria</b>   |
|---|
| ___ Live at or above 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see page 3) OR Financially Stable if Retired |
| ___ At least 18 years old   |
| ___ Speak and Read English or Spanish   |
| ___ Able to attend Weekly Classes or meetings   |
| ___ Motivated (interested in learning and applying new ideas)   |
| ___ Willing to build intentional relationships across class and cultural lines                            |
| ___ Family supports and encourages involvement in NETworX program   |
| ___ If history of alcohol or other addiction has been in recovery for at least the past 6 months          |
| ___ Relatively stable home life (not currently homeless or dealing with domestic abuse)                   |

| <b>Family Information</b>                               |
|---|
| Child Name <span style="margin-left: 150px;">Age</span> |
|   |

| <b>Background Information</b>  |
|--|
| 1) Summarize skills, qualifications, and or training you have acquired from employment, education, life experience or through activities, including hobbies or sports. Passions and talents you would like to share with others. |
|  |

2) List community/social/faith-based groups and organizations you are involved with that referred you or that you may be able to share with a participant.

**How did you hear about NETworX CATABWA?**

**What about being an Ally is of interest to you?**

**What would you like a NETworX participant to know about you before being matched?**

**I am really good at:**

**I am not so good at:**

**What behaviors do you find most frustrating in people?**

**Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No      Currently have pending court cases? Yes No**  
**Any active warrants? Yes No If yes, please explain:**  
*(Note: Background checks will be a requirement for participating in any activities where children may be present)*

**Agreement and Confidentiality Statement**

As a participant of NETworX CATABWA, I understand that I must ensure the confidentiality and privacy of all those who participate. I further understand that the fact an individual is served by NETworX must be kept private and confidential, and at no time shall I disclose personal information that is shared.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Name (printed) |  |
| Signature      |  |
| Date           |  |