



NETWORX
SECURING WELL-BEING TOGETHER
CATAWBA

A program of
Greater HICKORY
ccm
Cooperative Christian Ministry

NETWORX CATAWBA - CHAMPION APPLICATION & AGREEMENT (DUE TO GHCCM BY 7/15/15)

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 for NETworX CATAWBA, potential candidates must complete and return the CHAMPION application, schedule an interview with the program coordinator and sign a commitment agreement stating you will:

- ⇒ Complete NETworX orientation;
- ⇒ Complete Champion Training curriculum focused on the holistic definition of poverty, creating SMART goals, building relationships across dividing lines;
- ⇒ Commit to be part of the NETworX initiative for at least 18 months;
- ⇒ Attend weekly Community Meetings with other NETworX Champions and Allies at least 2X per month;
- ⇒ Identify ways to contribute to the NETworX initiative in reciprocity for the support received;
- ⇒ Meet monthly with your NETworX, which consists of 2-3 Allies; and
- ⇒ Set and make progress on goals you identify with the support of your NETworX Community and Allies.

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

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

Please return this application by July 15, 2015 to:

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry
 Attn: NETworX CATAWBA
 31 1st 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.

NETworX Catawba CHAMPION Role & Commitment Agreement

The Champion has three primary objectives:

- ⇒ Create life changes that lead to long-term self-sufficiency
- ⇒ Develop unique gifts and leadership skills to help lead the NETworX, contribute to the NETworX initiative, and give back to the community
- ⇒ Use personal experiences to back or support changes addressing poverty in the larger community

The Champion commitment:

- ⇒ Complete NETworX orientation
- ⇒ Complete Champion Training curriculum focused on the holistic definition of poverty, creating SMART goals, building relationships across dividing lines, and
- ⇒ Commit to be part of the NETworX initiative for at least 18 months
- ⇒ Attend Weekly Community meetings with other NETworX Champions and Allies at least 2-3 times per month
- ⇒ Identify ways to contribute to the NETworX initiative in reciprocity for the support received
- ⇒ Meet monthly with your NETworX, which consists of 2-3 Allies
- ⇒ Set and make progress on goals you identify with the support of your NETworX Community and Allies

Support the Champion receives:

- ⇒ Orientation and Champion Training
- ⇒ 2-3 caring Allies to join in the journey to success
- ⇒ Weekly community meetings in which meals and child care are provided
- ⇒ A living wage (stipend) for investing their time
- ⇒ Staff available to answer questions, provide mentoring, and assist with any problems that may arise

Be sensitive of differences across class lines:

- ⇒ Remember that Allies may not have any experience with poverty and may make mistakes
- ⇒ Remember that you may not have any experience with Allies and may make mistakes
- ⇒ Remember that the Allies in the NETworX are friends, not social workers. Don't expect them to "fix" the situation
- ⇒ When there are strong feelings about the NETworX initiative or Allies, be willing to look at how personal fears or rules may be activated and talk to someone about it.

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 Champion of Change.

Name (print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Interviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Program Coordinator Signature: _____ Date: _____

NETWORX CATAWBA - CHAMPION APPLICATION

NETWORX CATAWBA IS A PROGRAM OF GREATER HICKORY COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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

Primary Criteria
___ Live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see page 3)
___ At least 18 years old
___ Speak and Read English or Spanish (circle appropriate language)
___ 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)
Family Information
Child Name Age
How long have you lived in Catawba County?
How did you hear about NETworX?

What about being a part of NETworX CATAWBA is of interest to you?	
I am really good at:	
I am not so good at:	
What behaviors do you find most frustrating in people?	
What's one personal/family goal you want to work towards in the next 6-12 months?	
How many people would you say you currently have in your "support network"—family or friends you could count on when you are going through a rough time?	
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: <i>(Note: Background checks will be a requirement for participating in any activities where children may be present)</i>	
Agreement and Confidentiality Statement	
As a participant of NETworX Catawba, 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 in NETworX.	
Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	