

***Southeastern Community Action Partnership***  
**2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**



**OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE AND EMPOWER  
THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.**





# Southeastern Community Action Partnership

## Board of Directors

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Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. studies the underlying issues involved in improving education, economic opportunities, living environments and the general welfare of the community to make recommendations for programs, projects, or activities and create solutions for individuals who reside in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, and Scotland Counties.

Arthur A. Bullock  
Board Chairperson  
Bladen

Keith Graham  
Board Member  
Bladen

Victor Singletary  
Board Member  
Bladen

William Ballard  
Vice Chairperson  
Brunswick

Valorie Hatten  
Board Member  
Brunswick

Carl L. Parker  
Board Member  
Brunswick

Barbara Featherson  
Board Member  
Columbus

Carolyn Crocker  
Board Secretary  
Columbus

Melinda H. Lane  
Board Member  
Columbus

Shirley Hart  
Board Member  
Hoke

Larry McLean  
Board Member  
Hoke

Loretta Schmitzer  
Board Member  
Pender

Darlene Adams  
Board Member  
Pender

Patricia S. Walker  
Board Member  
Pender

Sanford Locklear  
Board Member  
Robeson

Sandy Mallory  
Board Member  
Robeson

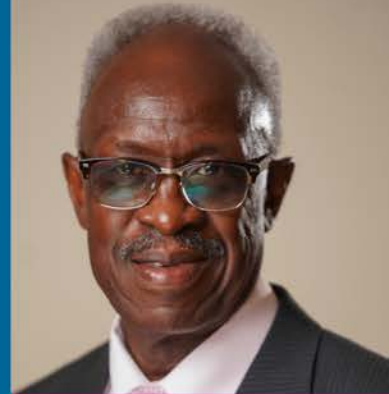
Melissa Oxendine  
Board Member  
Robeson

John Alford  
Board Treasurer  
Scotland

Kyra Adams  
Board Member  
Scotland

Tony Spaulding  
Board Member  
Scotland

## Executive Committee



Arthur A. Bullock,  
Board Chairperson



William Ballard,  
Vice Chairperson



Carolyn Crocker,  
Board Secretary



John Alford,  
Board Treasury

## Letter from the Board Chairperson

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As the 14th Chairman of the Board of Directors for Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. (SCAP), I am grateful to be the principal board officer to provide an annual report of this illustrious organization of committed individuals.

The board's primary responsibility is to safeguard the feasibility of the organization with comprehensive policies and distinguished financial reports. We do that by having the far-reaching information essential to make reliable business decisions.

SCAP, Inc., a 501(C)3 nonprofit agency dedicated to doing all things necessary to aid in improving the education, economic opportunities, living environment, and general welfare of children and families. We serve seven counties: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, and Scotland with distinction.

Many did not contemplate that the past 12 to 15 months our seven counties' public activities and undertakings would be disrupted and transformed in several ways we could never have imagined. **The social and economic disturbances experienced in 2020 as well as the impacts of COVID-19 on social gatherings, distancing, public health boundaries, and lastly; how we manage common germs that may cause illnesses by continuous hand washing are incredible.**

Under the direction of Dr. Ericka J. Whitaker, CEO, the management and staff are performing an outstanding job with children and families. The youth are responding positively, due to the patience and love the staff provides in our service areas. The team has superb abilities to meet the children at their proficiency level and work up from there. The children are so fortunate to have the instructors involved in their lives.

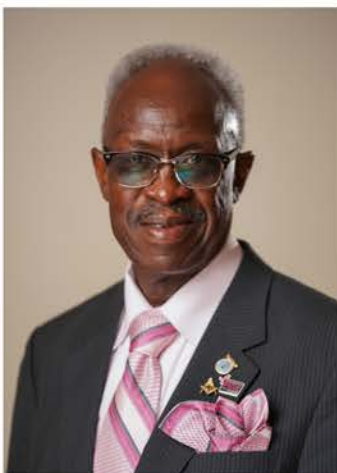
Noteworthy developments in the past year, SCAP, Inc. initiatives, summaries of the financial dealings, and a yearly snapshot of the financial conditions are included.

As we all look forward to the challenges of the New Year, on behalf of the board of directors, staff, partners, students, families, and volunteers, I offer a "BIG" thank you to everyone for their affirmative energies in assisting us to move in a constructive manner throughout 2021.

Remember, "Service to humanity is the best work of life."

Respectfully,

**Arthur A. Bullock**  
**Board Chairperson**





## Letter from the CEO

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The past year has taught us all what it means to be resilient. When challenged with a global pandemic that upended the way we do business and serve our communities, Southeastern Community Action Partnership continued to persevere and weathered the challenges presented to our agency. I am continuously amazed by our team and their ability to pivot and engage our children, citizens, and overall families to meet the needs in our communities.

The agency shifted to a virtual environment to serve our communities, and through technology, we all learned innovative ways to engage participants in our programs. SCAP had continued success and growth, despite not having a face-to-face connection.

This year, the Head Start and Early Head Start division transformed their classrooms into virtual learning centers and continued to create new ways to teach our kids. Our teachers led arts and crafts activities, held virtual field trips, and even showed our children how to farm and cook. Despite the pandemic, our children grew in literacy, which is a huge accomplishment in a virtual learning environment.

Our Housing Choice Voucher Section 8 program continues to serve Scotland County for over 30 years. Through our programs such as the HCV Home Ownership Program, we are giving our voucher recipients the option to purchase a home. We've had such great success and during the 2019-20 fiscal year, the Section 8 staff served an average of 410 families per month.

The Community Services Block Grant program continues to move individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency. The team continues to do transformative work in the communities we serve by helping individuals gain employment or better employment, helping participants complete educational goals, and helping families obtain standard housing. The CSBG program supported our communities during COVID-19 by providing stabilization services such as emergency relief funds, food cards, utility payments and more.

When I reflect on our successes over the past year, I am often reminded of this quote by Maya Angelou, "I can be changed by what happens to me, but refuse to be reduced by it." The events of the past year will forever change our agency. Collectively, we learned how to bend but not break, and as we look to the future, I'm grateful to continue to lead this agency.

The mission continues.....

**Dr. Ericka Jones Whitaker**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



# OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS



CAP  
LAW



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES







# HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

# HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

As a response to the global pandemic, Southeastern Community Action Partnerships Head Start and Early Head Start programs changed the way they provided education to their young students.

Although classroom learning shifted to a virtual model, teachers, assistant teachers, and parents rallied together to provide an exceptional educational experience for children.



Our teachers creatively provided daily check-ins and lessons live to our students. Additionally, our teachers provided arts and crafts and continued to provide a full week's curriculum with activities and more. Some teachers even ventured to grocery stores, farms, and more to provide "field trip" experiences for students. **"Parent involvement was so instrumental to the success of our virtual programs and we could not have had a successful year without the support of our parents. Although it was challenging due to COVID-19, our students and families were able to roll with us to continue what matters most to our children,"** says Tonie Brite, Head Start Director.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership's Head Start and Early Head Start programs all have a 4 or 5-Star Rating from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education. Our staff is highly qualified to deliver age and developmentally appropriate educational opportunities to our enrollees in a warm and inclusive atmosphere.

Each teacher has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or a related field, and our assistant teachers hold Associate degrees in ECE or a related field. Parents are recognized as their child's first and best teacher and are encouraged to be active participants in their education through volunteering at the center.

Our Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote school readiness for toddlers and children from low-income families by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of education, health, nutrition, social and wellness services to enrolled children and families.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Southeastern Community Action Partnership serves 1107 children in 15 Head Start facilities, five of which are agency-owned.



# Early Head Start and Head Start School Readiness

## Social-emotional

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2019 – 2020 (Spring)  
Social-Emotional: 23.1%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2019 – 2020 (Spring)  
Social-Emotional: 90%

## Social-emotional

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Winter)  
Social-Emotional: 26.6%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2020– 2021 (Winter)  
Social-Emotional: 54.1%

## Physical

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2019-2020 (Spring)  
Physical: 35.4%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2019-2020 (Spring)  
Physical: 70%

## Physical

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY 2020-2021 (Winter)  
Physical: 34.5%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2020-2021 (Winter)  
Physical: 51%

## Language

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2019 – 2020 (Spring)  
Language: 29%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2019 – 2020 (Spring)  
Language: 66.7%

## Language

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2020-2021 (Winter)  
Language: 33.4%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2020-2021 (Winter)  
Language: 56.3%

## Cognitive

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY– 2019 – 2020 (Spring)  
Cognitive: 33.9%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2019-2020 (Spring)  
Cognitive: 33.3%

## Cognitive

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2020-2021 (Winter)  
Cognitive: 30.8%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2020-2021 (Winter)  
Cognitive: 54%

## Literacy

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2019-2020 (Spring)  
Approaches to Learning: 21.5%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY – 2019-2020 (Spring)  
Approaches to Learning: 50%

## Literacy

### Four-Year-Olds

Domain: PY-2020-2021 (Winter)  
Approaches to Learning: 34.4%

### Three-Year-Olds

Domain: PY–2020 – 2021 (Winter)  
Approaches to Learning: 68.7%

### Mental Health

- Mental Health professionals observed all 51 classrooms.
- 24 children were referred by the program for mental health services.
- 16 of the 24 received mental health services and 17 of the 24 received a mental health assessment.

### Health

- 353 children entered the program with no health insurance.
  - However, 277 children of these 353 at the end of the enrollment year had health insurance.
- 1,188 cumulative enrollees had health insurance at the end of the program year.
- 908 children, at enrollment, had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care.
  - However, at the end of the program year, 1,169 children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care.
- 16 enrollees were determined to be underweight.
- 1,136 enrollees were determined to have a healthy weight.
  - 52 were determined to be overweight, and 60 were determined to be obese.

### Disabilities

- 117 children were determined to have a diagnosed disability and 117 children received services related to the disability.
- The diagnosed disabilities were speech and language impairments (103 children), autism (5 children), and non-categorical/developmental delay (9 children).

### Staff

- 100% of all Head Start teachers and teacher assistants met or exceeded the degree/credential requirements for their position, as mandated by Southeastern Community Action Partnership's Board of Directors and federal regulations governing staff education.
- Zero Family Service Workers received credentials.







# HOUSING



# HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (HCV) SECTION 8

Southeastern Community and Family Services, Inc. (SCFS) has been providing affordable housing assistance options as a Public Housing Agency (PHA), to Scotland County for over 30 years. The mission of SCFS, Inc. HCV-Section 8 Program is "to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination".



**The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV)** is the culmination of public housing legislation and programs that began in the 1930s and changed over time to better serve families and participants. The Housing & Community Development Act of 1974 created the **Section 8 Program** which enabled federal housing rental assistance payments to be paid directly to the owners of private housing units, as subsidy assistance to lower-income families.

Funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), SCAP, Inc. offers two (2) additional types of housing programs to eligible individuals and families. Those programs are the Project-Based Housing Voucher Program and HCV Home Ownership Program.

**Project-Based Housing Voucher Program** is provided in partnership with Wilhoit Properties, owners of Greenfield Apartments in Laurinburg, NC. The 48 unit housing complex receives rental assistance payments (project-based vouchers), for income-eligible residents. In addition to the rental assistance, resident families are offered supportive services to help them become economically self-sufficient. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS), in partnership with Laurinburg Housing Authority (FSS administrators), is offered to Greenfield residents in which their employment and educational needs are analyzed to develop goals or an Individual Training & Service Plan (ITSP). As an incentive, participating residents are able to accrue money that is set aside in an escrow account, which they can receive upon successful completion of the program.

**HCV Home Ownership Program** allows current voucher recipients the option to purchase a home; transferring the subsidy from rental assistance to a mortgage payment. SCAP, Inc. partners with local agencies that provide housing counseling services to educated program participants on the home buying process.

Through the HCV Section 8 Program, SCFS, Inc. provides up to 437 housing vouchers to the Scotland County area annually. **During FY: 2019-2020 the Section 8 staff served an average of 410 families per month.**



### Section 8 Spotlight

Ms. Shaquitta McLean has successfully completed the goals established for the program and has earned an escrow disbursement of **\$11,674.00**. Ms. McLean has aspirations to open her own business and is planning to use her escrow money to get things started.

***“Whenever I moved into Greenfield Apartments back in March 2015, I was receiving government assistance and child support due to me just having my second child in January. I had been out of work for about six to twelve weeks,” said McLean. “I started working at KFC. My pay rate was \$7.25 per hour at 30 hours per week. Times were hard and bills were getting behind, so I applied for a production position with Two Hawk. I was hired and worked both jobs for three months.”***

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program encourages each participant to set employment goals that will allow them to increase their earning potential, with the incentive of establishing an escrow account. Once the participant has completed the program, they are eligible for the money they have earned. Higher education and home ownership are other goals that are encouraged.

***“In May 2019 I graduated from Fayetteville Technical Community College with honors with my Early Childhood Administration Degree and Early Childcare Professional Certification. I plan to use my escrow to open my own daycare. I have been attending small business classes to assist with creating a business plan and increasing my credit score. I have been walking by faith and not by sight. I trust God to make a way for my vision,” said McLean.***

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a program offered to the residents of Greenfield Apartments in Scotland County. Residents of Greenfield Apartments receive housing assistance through SCFS, Inc. HCV Section 8 Assistance Program.



Shaquitta McLean, FSS Graduate





**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)**



# COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. (SCAP, Inc.) believes that when a family moves above poverty, they are empowered and become strong, capable members of society, by not only detaching from public assistance but also contributing to the economy.

Funded through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Family Empowerment Self-Sufficiency (FESS)



project works with families to determine their individual and family strengths, needs, and visions for the future.

Participants in this program have achieved one or more of the following:

- ☑ **Moved from poverty to self-sufficiency**
- ☑ **Achieved gainful employment and medical benefits from their employer**
- ☑ **Completion of educational or job training**
- ☑ **Purchased a home**

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) ended the second year of its three-year cycle by serving 241 customers in all seven counties and moved 25 families out of poverty in 2019-20.

Also in the 2019-20 year CSBG accomplished the following:

- ☑ **Assisted 72 participants with gaining employment; 24 of those customers obtained benefits from their employment.**
- ☑ **24 participants gained better employment.**
- ☑ **15 participants completed education goals.**
- ☑ **34 families obtained standard housing.**

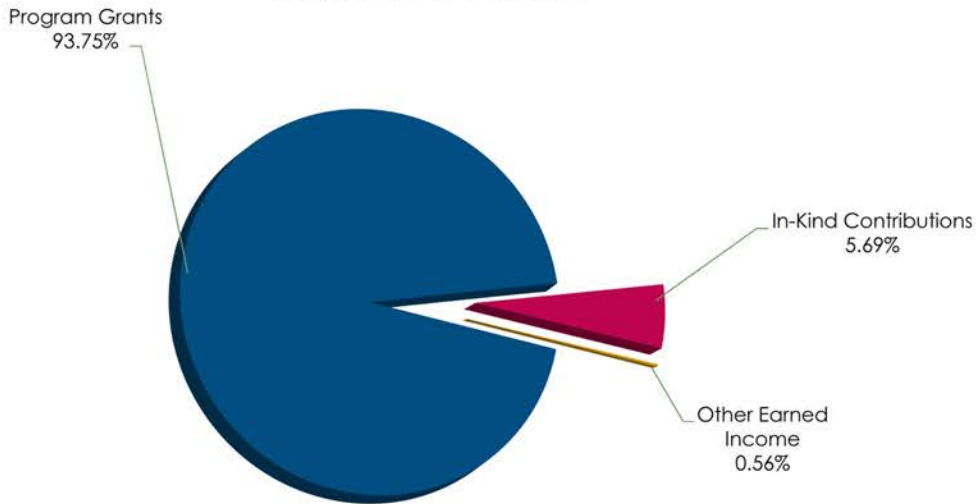
In addition to the accomplishments above, the average change in annual income was \$9,861.48 with an hourly average rate of \$18.36.

During COVID-19, our CSBG team was able to provide additional stabilization services to the customers that had been adversely affected by providing rental and utility payments. We provided 68 families with COVID kits and food cards to families during. CSBG received a grant for Hurricane Florence in September 2019 and provided 1000 disaster readiness kits to low-income individuals in our seven counties.

# Financials

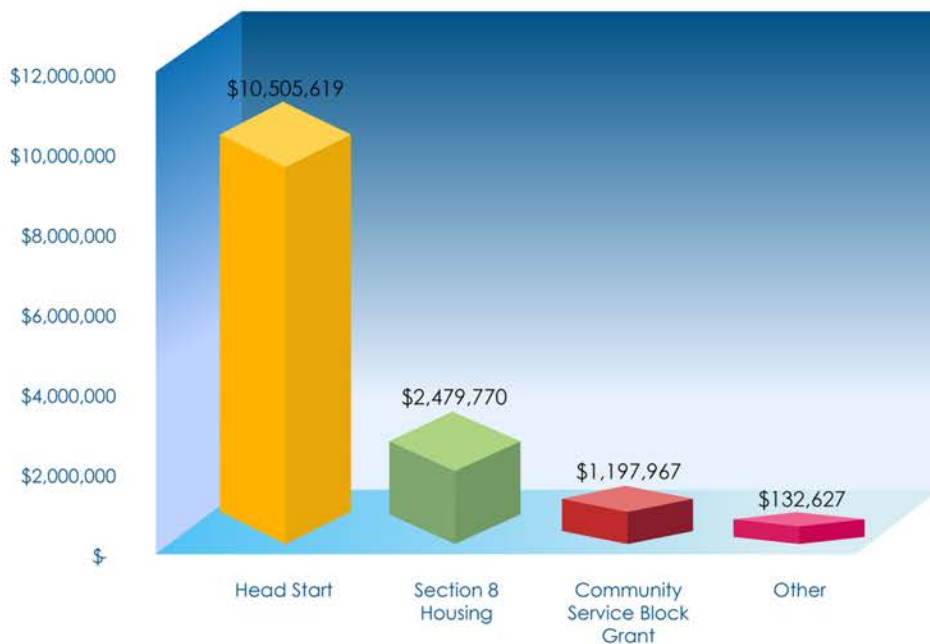
SCAP's management practices ensure that operating funds raised in the current year are effectively put to use to support programs to further the mission. The following figures represent sources and uses of operating funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020 (Audited). SCAP publishes detailed financial information in the form of its annual report, audited financial statements, and IRS 990 tax returns.

## Sources of funds



Program Grants	\$13,921,044
In-Kind Contributions	\$775,684
Other Earned Income	\$29,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,726,555</b>

## Use of Funds





# Our Community Leaders

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Southeastern Community Action Partnership would like to thank our dedicated community leaders for their ongoing support of our agency.

## **Bladen County Commissioners**

Charles Ray Peterson, Chair  
Mark Gillespe, V. Chair  
Ray Britt  
Arthur A. Bullock  
G. Michael Cogdell  
Dr. Danny Ellis  
Rodney Hester  
Cameron McGill  
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

## **Brunswick County Commissioners**

Randy Thompson, Chair  
Mike Forte, V. Chair  
J. Martin Cooke  
Pat Sykes  
Frank Williams

## **Columbus County Commissioners**

Ricky Bullard, Chair  
Jerome McMillian, V. Chair  
Chris Smith  
Brent Watts  
Giles E. Byrd  
Charles T. McDowell  
Lavern Coleman

## **Hoke County Commissioners**

Harry Southerland, Chair  
Allen Thomas, Jr., V. Chair  
James Leach  
Tony Hunt  
Lonnie Baldwin

## **Pender County Commissioners**

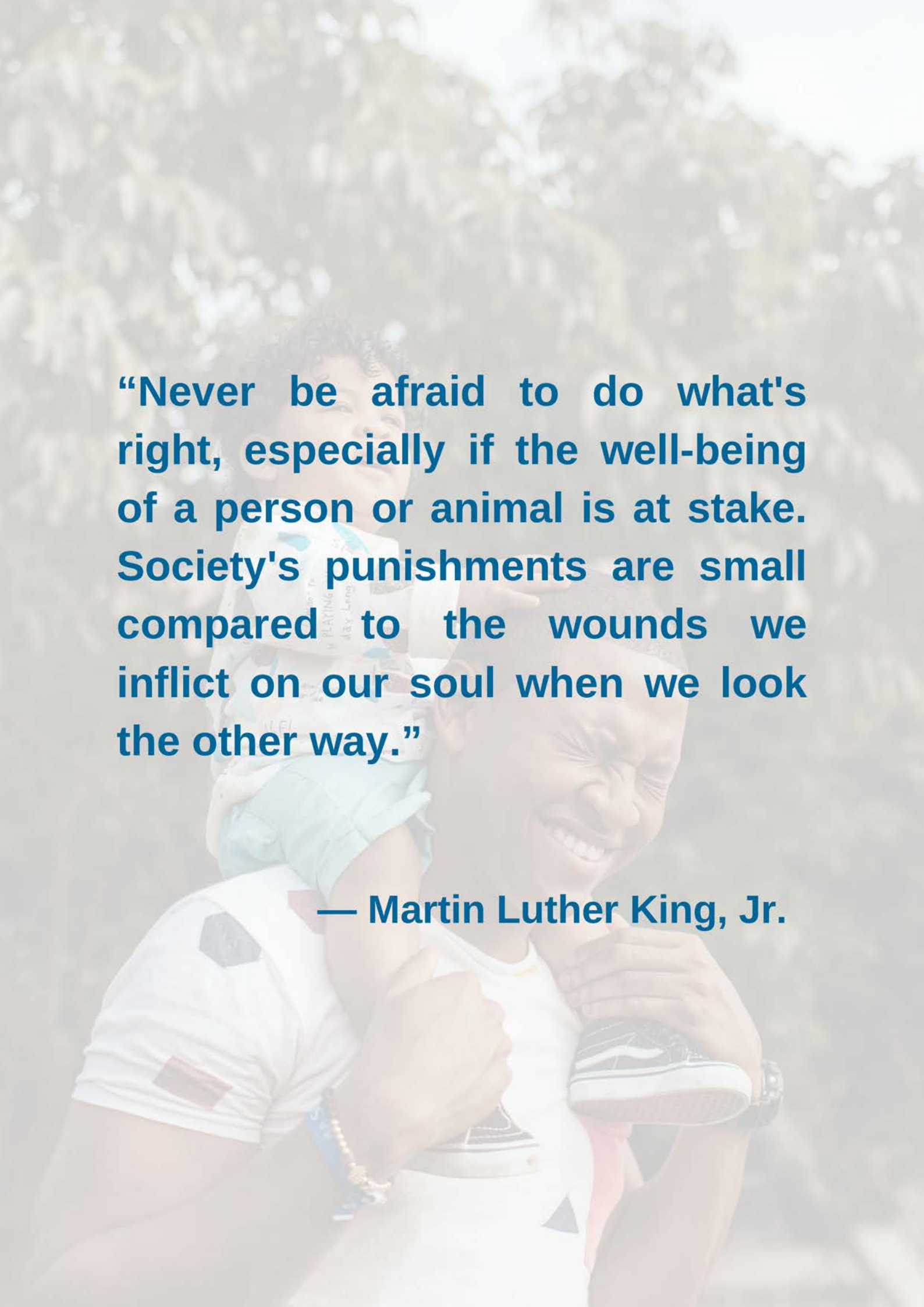
George Brown, Chair  
Fred McCoy, V. Chair  
Jackie Newton  
David Piepmeyer  
David Williams

## **Robeson County Commissioners**

Faline Dial, Chair  
Pauline Campbell, V. Chair  
Lance Herndon  
Wixie Stephens  
Judy Sampson  
John Cummings  
Tom Taylor  
David Edge

## **Scotland County Commissioners**

Whit Gibson, Chair  
Betty Gholston, V. Chair  
Carol McCall  
John T. Alford  
Darrel Gibson  
Tim Ivey  
Clarence McPhatter, II

A photograph of a man carrying a young child on his shoulders. The man is smiling broadly and looking down at the child. The child is wearing a light blue shirt and dark sneakers. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, blue font.

**“Never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.”**

**— Martin Luther King, Jr.**





Thank you for your continued support.