

Grants Available for Innovative Agricultural Projects

Supporting the agricultural industry, impacting rural communities and stimulating economic development are key objectives for the 2018 NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) grant cycle. Funds will be awarded in the fall of 2018 for innovative projects.

Applications are now online at www.tobaccotrustedfund.org for qualifying organizations, government agencies and non-profits. "NCTTFC priorities for this year are to help job creation in current or former tobacco-dependent regions and fund projects that have the potential to generate additional income for the farming sectors," said William H. "Bill" Teague, NCTTFC Chairman. "We will fund a wide variety of projects later this year that will support farmers across North Carolina." The Commission was established in 2000 by the N.C. General Assembly to help members of the tobacco community including farmers, tobacco workers and related businesses. Its original funding was established through tobacco industry annual payments as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement. Funding is now appropriated to the Commission which then reviews, selects and disperses the funds to grant projects.

The list of current Commission projects includes cost-share grant programs for individual farmers, training for qualified farm family members in community colleges and support of 30+ high school agricultural education programs.

More information can be found at the Commission's website, or by calling 919-733-2160. The deadline for applications is March 6, 2018.

Whitney Scarborough Recognized as Specialist in Social Security Disability



Whitney T. Scarborough of Poisson, Poisson & Bower law firm was recently recognized as a Specialist in Social Security Disability by the North Carolina State Bar. It certifies lawyers meeting certain criteria as specialists as a service to the public. This designation assists members of the public in choosing a lawyer by identifying lawyers who have

demonstrated special knowledge, skill and proficiency in certain areas of law.

Young South American Volunteer at BRLC Shares Her Experience

This article is by BRLC volunteer Kebiola Giddings from Guyana in South America: Though my time volunteering at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center was short it has been a wonderful, life changing, and very



fulfilling experience. I initially came here with the intention of just getting a few hours of volunteering in every week for college, but I received so much more. I was only thinking about what I was going to get out of it, but quickly realized how much volunteering, just giving a little of my time and showing compassion, could impact the lives of others. I got an immense feeling of satisfaction from knowing that I was playing a role in someone else's life, helping people who may not be able to help themselves.

Volunteering is a way of giving back to your community while developing important skills that will stick with you and can be utilized throughout your life. I got work experience doing data entry every week, a good workout whenever I helped with food distribution, and most significantly, I learned about the importance of teamwork. I learned that every little task is important, and no matter what your role is - from cleaning up after the day's work, to data entry, to food distribution, or simply making a donation - working together is what keeps this ship sailing smoothly.

While volunteering at BRLC I got to meet different kinds of people, and I made lots of new friends. I learned a lot from them, and I was able to teach them a lot about me as well. I would tell people about my beautiful country Guyana and about my culture. Though it may sound strange, I even met my neighbor of about three years for the very first time while at BRLC. The experience made me realize how closed off I was from the rest of the world, but thankfully that all changed when I started volunteering. In addition to allowing you to feel like you are a part of the community or something greater, volunteering at BRLC feels like you are a long lost family member being reunited with your family. I say this because every volunteer I met was so warm and welcoming and it took no time at all for me to adjust to the environment.

Lastly, volunteering at BRLC allowed me to challenge myself. I was able to achieve a personal goal of committing to showing up every week, and not just showing up, but giving my best efforts. All in all I had a wonderful few months at BRLC, and the experience is unforgettable.



MISSING DOG

I am missing a piece of my heart. His name is Hoss. He is a Chorkie...male...12 lbs. Black with some tan, long legs, big ears. He has never been out of his fence until Saturday, December 16. He got out and chased a cat down through the woods on Winfree Road in Wadesboro, and I have not seen him since.

Hoss was my bottle fed baby and is strictly an inside dog. We love him and need him to come home. If you have any info please call Teresa at 704-690-3567. My little baby needs to come home.

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