THE EXPRESS • October 2, 2013 • Page 5 **Circles of Hope Allies Program Works Both Ways**

A retired industrial salesman, a certified nursing assistant, and a school system data manager meet for breakfast once a month. Their race, faith, age, and economic status are different, but they have one thing in common - they are part of a circle of hope. Circles USA, a program to end generational poverty, has a key ingredient to its

nationally-recognized success. Once participants graduate from an 11-week training course, they have the opportunity to become a Circle Leader and are paired with two or more Allies, volunteers from the community who offer their knowledge and expertise to help them continue their transition to the middle class.

Retiree Jim Jasmin said when Mary Zigbuo, a former Coach with Circles of Anson, asked him to be an Ally, he was struggling to get his mind around what it meant and what it was. "I realized there were people who had fallen into poverty and saw no way out," Jasmin said. He began attending Circle meetings each Thursday and said he quickly saw the camaraderie in the



"They are struggling group. mightily, and it is a release to be with someone sharing the same burden," he said. He accepted Zigbuo's invitation and became an Ally to Circle Leader Sebrena Kilgo.

Joan Waring heard about Circles through the Anson County School System, where she has worked for 20 years. She attended an organizational meeting at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, but was not interested at the time. Two years ago Robin Sanford, a member of Circle's Guiding Coalition, talked to Waring about the program again and Waring decided to become an Ally.

Like all Allies she took a training course. After completing it she was assigned to partner with a Circle Leader. Kilgo is her second assignment

Kilgo learned about Circles from a friend. She has been employed with Bayada Home Health Care over five years, and is raising three children, ages 17, 13 and 11. "I liked how they encouraged you to budget money," Kilgo said of the Circles program. "They help people find themselves mentally and spiritually, and build self-esteem." She decided to become a Circle Leader because she felt she could use the knowledge she leaned to help somebody else.

"She wants a good foundation for her family. She has some goals she is trying to reach and has stumbling blocks. I try to offer different options," Waring said, following the guideline that Allies not tell their Circle Leaders what to do, but help them figure it out themselves.

Jasmin said he and Kilgo have an open relationship, getting together at least once a month and keep in touch by text message. "I'm trying to learn to be a better listener. She's shown a great deal of patience with me and a willingness to try to make it work. She's good about talking about things that trouble her. In the year we've known each other we've broken down the barrier of being strangers and built trust," Jasmin said. "She's a joy to be with.

Waring said the focus of an Ally is that he or she should be someone whose goal is to be supportive of the Circle Leader, open to the Circle Leader's ideas and suggestions in regards to what is going on, and not be critical or judgmental. "It's give and take. Sharing is beneficial to each other," she said. "She has helped me in the sense that I see tenacity in her, not giving up. She has given me the hope that all things are possible.

Jasmin said he asked Kilgo to pray for him while on a trip to his native Vermont.

Kilgo said she prays for both Allies and encourages them by text. "I truly enjoy going to breakfast with my Allies. We encourage each other," she said. "She's ready to move forward with her life and for her children," Waring said.

To learn more about Circles and Allies, visit www.circlesofhopeanson.org or call Yulonda Lindsey at 704-994-2333 or Stephen Shytle at 704-694-3654. support will change the lives of Circle Leaders and their families and will address community development needs in Anson County.

Pictured above are Jim Jasmin and Sebrena Kilgo at a Circles meeting.

Survey Identifies Value of Hunting and Fishing to NC Economy

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is highlighting results from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau survey to show the importance of sportsmen to North Carolina's economy. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation measured public participation in hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other wildlife-dependent recreation, as well as how much money was spent pursuing these activities. North Carolina results are available at www.fws.gov/southeast/northcaroling/economicimpact-nc.html. North Carolina highlights:

\$3.3 billion total spent on wildlife-related recreation in North Carolina.

- \$1.5 billion spent in North Carolina from fishing-related activities.
- \$525 million spent in North Carolina on hunting-related activities.
- \$930 million spent in North Carolina on wildlife-watching activities.

The Wildlife Commission is hosting four family-oriented National Hunting and Fishing Day events and assisting three others across the state on Saturday. Through interactive activities and demonstrations, participants can connect with nature and learn outdoor skills while gaining a better understanding about the important roles of hunting and fishing in wildlife conservation.

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, conducted every five years, has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife in the United States. Federal, state and private organizations use the rigorously compiled and detailed information to manage wildlife and wildlife-related recreation programs, and forecast trends in participation and economic impacts.

Nationally, more than 90 million Americans participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2011, up 3 percent from five years earlier. The increase was primarily among those who fished and hunted. The data show that 33.1 million people fished, 13.7 million hunted, and 71.8 million



ANSON COUNTY TAX FORECLOSURES

The following properties have been listed with the Kania Law Firm of Asheville, NC to facilitate foreclosure for the Anson County Tax Collector.

Contact the Tax Collector

participated in a wildlife-watching activity. See the complete survey at wsfrprograms.fws.gov.

From the Sheriff's Desk

From Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I'm sure you'll see articles throughout this month dealing with this. It's a topic that sometimes is hush-hushed about but it is something we deal with almost daily. It crosses all socioeconomic backgrounds; all races and all ages. It can be both physical and mental abuse. Likely there are few families that at one time or another will be exposed directly or indirectly to a domestic violence situation one or more times in their lifetime.

According to FBI statistics, a woman is beaten every 9 seconds. 40% of women murdered are at the hands of a husband, boyfriend or former boyfriend. The recent tragedy in Morven brought this reality to the forefront.

Law enforcement see this almost on a daily bases. Families and victims call the police in desperation but then often do not want to follow through. It's not easy and not simple. It takes courage to get out. It takes courage to say "I deserve to be treated with respect and will not take this anymore.'

In Anson County we are very fortunate that we have a local "Domestic Violence Coalition" that is here for DV victims. They respond to both public calls for help and well as law enforcement calls when police and deputies are dispatched to DV scenes. They help victims to escape their prisons of abuse and humiliation. They assure victims that they are not alone and help is available and are with the victims throughout the court experience.

Domestic Violence victims must know and believe it's not their fault and they are not to blame. They do not have to take it. They deserve better.

If you are a victim of domestic violence and want help please call 704-690-0362. Remember, no one deserved to be hurt. No one deserves to be a victim. Sheriff Tommy Allen



at 704-994-3218 for more information.

Payment in full is required to forestall foreclosure.

• GAYNELLE R. & PHILLIP P. CAUDLE 511 MOORE ST. WADESBORO, NC 6474-17-11-8026 \$ 4990.50

• TERESA WRIGHT DYNE **1195 ROSS WRIGHT RD POLKTON, NC** 6426-00-90-1600 \$4885.62

• CRAIG L. & **MELANIE L. HARTUNG 506 LEE AVENUE** WADESBORO NC 6474-16-94-5624 \$14737.17

• RICHARD LINCOLN 342 EDDIE ST. WADESBORO NC 6474-18-30-8026 \$ 3154.45

• DEAN A. NICOLOPULOS LOT # 2 CROSSING COURT **@PEE DEE RIVER** 7437-00-40-2924 \$ 3189.82

• BETTY JEAN PAUL 1685/1743 PRISON **CAMP RD** POLKTON, NC 6444-00-75-8647 \$ 6921.36

• BECKY J H PHILLIPS 1360 US HWY 52 S WADESBORO NC 6483-10-36-3731 \$ 6125.39

• BECKY J H PHILLIPS US HWY 52 S WADESBORO NC 6483-10-36-3682 \$782.10

• W.C. WRIGHT **BILL CURLEE RD POLKTON, NC** 6426-00-81-3149 \$1548.88

• W.C. WRIGHT **1041 ROSS-WRIGHT RD POLKTON, NC** 6426-00-98-1790 \$ 3707.40

THESE PROPERTIES WILL BE APPROPIATELY SEARCHED AND THE OWNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY THE KANIA LAW FIRM BEFORE SALE ON THE ANSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE STEPS OCCURS.

PAYMENT IN FULL IS REQUIRED.