

# HELP FOR THE JOURNEY

Spring/Summer 2022

The Newsletter for North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

## All in God's Time – The NCBAM Care Village

By Charity Johnson



**When I began my position as NCBAM Care Village coordinator** in February 2020, I was excited to see how God would use me in

His ministry—not knowing that a month later our country would be hit with a pandemic **that is still affecting us all today.** Isaiah 41:10 came to mind when I questioned how “I” would start a ministry providing geriatric management services in the midst of shut-downs and quarantines. But, God, He tells us in Isaiah 41:10 that **“He” will strengthen us, help us, and uphold us with His righteous right hand.** So, I had to just give the Care Village to Him. It wasn't me who would carry out this task, anyway. **He had already prepared the path to lead us to where we are today.**

The pandemic slowed down the construction of the Care Village building because contractors were on hold and then a year later they were all booked. Even though I would have loved for all the projects at the Care Village to have gone smoothly, **I quickly learned that God was in control,** working out every need, providing volunteers, and the **amazing NCBAM team that came together to provide this ministry in Kinston.**

The “shut down” made me **stop and smell the roses along the journey God had planned** for me. We, as Americans, are so busy; our lives are non-stop and every minute is planned. But God had a way of slowing down



*Two ambassadors from the Kinston Chamber of Commerce hold the ribbon being cut by Dr. Sandy Gregory (NCBAM Director), Keith Henry (COO Baptist Children's Homes of NC), and Charity Johnson (Care Village Coordinator). To Gregory's right are Lenoir County Commissioner Board Chair, Linda Rouse Sutton and Kinston's Mayor, the Honorable Don Hardy.*

my plans. He made **me focus completely on Him to carry out** what He had planned over the next two years of remodeling, ministering, planning, and unfolding his vision for aging adults in our eastern North Carolina community.

**God's timing allowed me to make connections with our Village members** that I would have been too busy for if I had been focused on remodeling. God's “first things, first” meant **relationships with people first. He gave me the opportunity to provide Village members** with hand-written notes, phone calls, emails, and food deliveries through porch drop-offs. We **stayed connected and encouraged each other** through the pandemic and the unknown of our daily lives.

**It was beautiful to see NCBAM's long-held vision become a reality on March 1, 2022** when the community came together to cut the ribbon and celebrate the official opening of the Care Village. I love eastern North Carolina and **look forward to working with church and community volunteers to make the lives of seniors better as they age in place** in their own homes and have the beautiful spaces created at Kennedy Home to meet together and be encouraged. **The Care Village is a tool that will be used to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ.**

*Charity N. Johnson serves as Care Village coordinator for NCBAM. Contact Charity at [cnjohnson@bchfamily.org](mailto:cnjohnson@bchfamily.org).*

Scan to watch the Care Village ribbon-cutting video



## State Leadership Conference to Address Identity Theft



After two years of virtual events, **the AAIM State Leadership Conference will again be held in-person** – and also live-streamed on NCBAM’s YouTube channel and Facebook page. Attendees at Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh will **enjoy visiting with select vendors, morning treats from Chick-fil-A, and a delicious lunch catered** by Raleigh’s popular “The Forks.”

The State Leadership Conference **offers a chance for senior adult professional and lay leaders to learn helpful information to share** with their groups. Senior adults are also welcome to attend. The event offers education, inspiration, and fellowship for all!

**This year’s conference will focus on the rise of identity theft**, fraud, and scams against older adults. Seniors are so often **targeted that identity theft** has been classified a form of elder abuse in some states.

**John Brown, outreach and policy coordinator** with NC’s Dept. of Justice, will share “How to Protect Yourself in the Digital Age.” Scammers and con artists are always looking to take advantage of consumers. Reports of hacking, corporate data breaches, and cybercrime are on the rise. This session will include **how to identify and address vulnerabilities in your personal data and online habits**, add protections to keep your data safe, identify prevalent scams and frauds, respond if you think you’ve been scammed, and keep yourself and your information safe.

**Amy Burns, administrative assistant for NCBAM**, will share a personal story of her family’s experience with identity theft. Attendees will **learn the warning signs of identity theft**, review tips for protecting senior friends and loved ones, and examine the

steps necessary for recovery when identity theft has occurred.

**NCBAM regional directors Angie Gregg and Charity Johnson** will cover how to implement and maintain a plan to prevent a home invasion or burglary. Attendees will learn who is most vulnerable to home invasions, **how to avoid being targeted**, and what to do in the event of a home invasion.

**Michael Barrett, associational mission strategist** for the Piedmont Baptist Association, will address **“Security in Christ.”** While we may have to work to protect our identity in the world, **our identity in Christ is secure**, our inheritance is guarded, and we are protected in Him.

The conference will also feature **soloist Jenny Wayne** who serves in leadership with **Bible Study Fellowship** and is the **senior adult director at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church**. Wayne has performed with the North Carolina Opera Company and as a soloist for Narroway Productions. **She shares her love of music and her Lord**

by performing for senior living communities and churches.

Scan to reserve your space!



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

### PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY

and recovering when it is stolen

**May 3, 2022**

Bay Leaf Baptist Church, Raleigh  
\$10 includes lunch

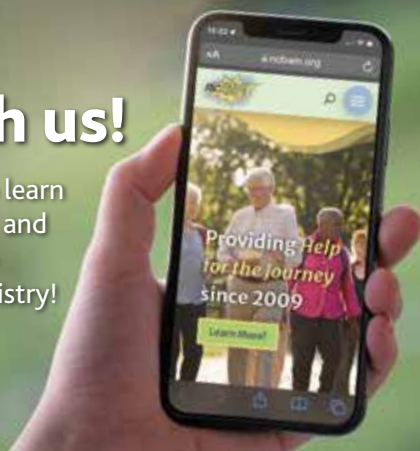
**Register at [ncbam.org/events](https://ncbam.org/events)**



# It's easy to connect with us!

Check out our new website to learn about our outreaches to well- and frail-aging adults. We want to support your senior adult ministry!

[ncbam.org](http://ncbam.org)



Check out our **events page**.



Connect with a **regional director** in your area.



View **resources** from our library of programs and services.



View our **Wise Up** classes. Schedule a **free workshop** for your church!



**Rampin' Up!** will be held **April 30 and May 7** in conjunction with **NC Operation Inasmuch**.

Call us at **877.506.2226** to build a ramp for an aging adult in your community.

## AAIM FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS



# Save the Date

Mark your calendar to explore **The Nuts and Bolts of Senior Adult Ministry!**

**Western Gathering**  
**September 30**  
 First BC Swannanoa  
 503 Park St.,  
 Swannanoa

**Eastern Gathering**  
**October 4**  
 Macedonia BC  
 5063 Macedonia  
 Church Rd., Fayetteville

**Central Gathering**  
**October 6**  
 Southside BC  
 1001 Greenhaven Dr.,  
 Greensboro



30 Daily Devotions for Overcoming Loneliness

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry



Purchase, download, or listen to the **ONE HOPE** devotional at [onehopeNCBAM.org](http://onehopeNCBAM.org)!

# Camp BAM to Serve Kinston Area from BCH's Kennedy Home

By Samantha Allred



Last June, NCBAM launched Camp BAM and successfully completed 19 projects and served 45 aging adults surrounding the Mills Home area with the support of volunteers.

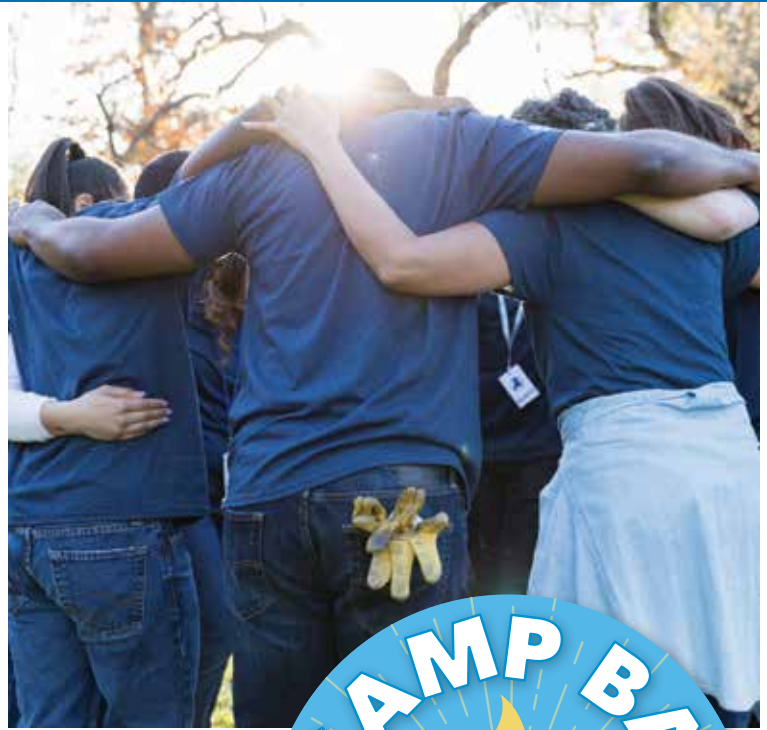
This June, volunteers will hit the road

and work to break Camp BAM records at the Kennedy Home campus. Registration filled just a few weeks after opening in early 2022, but we will accept registrations for Day Campers until May 1. This intergenerational mission week will provide an opportunity to challenge volunteers to serve others and love like Jesus. Together, we will go into the community and complete wheelchair ramps, install grab bars, complete yard work, and install smoke alarms for aging adults.

We will be the light of the world as we carry the love of Christ with us. Volunteers and the aging adults they serve won't be the same! Performing an act of service in the name of Jesus has a way of changing hearts and that's just what we are setting out to do this June! Camp BAM hopes to be a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. We know God is at work to bless the lives of everyone involved.

You can be part of Camp BAM by joining us in prayer. Pray for the volunteers giving their time and hearts. Pray for the aging adults waiting to be served. Pray for the leaders making plans to direct. Please also consider sponsoring a meal the week of June 23-27. To keep costs low, NCBAM relies on donations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Invite NCBAM to plan a Camp BAM weekend at your church! NCBAM regional directors can help locate seniors in your community needing minor safety repair projects.



We can offer insight on planning a church weekend to serve locally and make a difference at home.

To learn more or get involved, contact me at [sallred@bchfamily.org](mailto:sallred@bchfamily.org). To learn more about NCBAM at Kennedy Home contact Care Village coordinator/southeastern regional director Charity Johnson at [cnjohnson@bchfamily.org](mailto:cnjohnson@bchfamily.org).

Samantha Allred serves as camp director and north central regional director for NCBAM.

Register your group to be Day Campers at Camp BAM.



“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.” – Matthew 5:14

# Field of MAKERS

Mark your calendar for **September 23-24, 2022** for this juried artisan event featuring NC's finest craftsmen, food vendors, live music, and the Country Train – **all for the direct benefit of seniors served by North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM)**. Once again, our friends at Denton FarmPark will provide the venue for us!

There are many ways you can participate and support seniors in need. **Apply to be a vendor and sell your goods** at the event, **promote your agency** by becoming an event sponsor, or purchase your tickets and plan to attend!

The event will kick off with **special hours just for senior adults: 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Friday, September 23. A special van or bus rate for senior groups will be available** at this time. General public admission will be 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on September 23, and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 24.

Visit [ncbam.org](http://ncbam.org) to learn more details about Field of MAKERS.



## “IN THEIR OWN WORDS”

*Good news! We just installed four smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide alarm for a lady. Come to find out, she actually had a slow carbon monoxide leak. They found it when the detector was installed! Thank you NCBAM for this Partnership!*

– Jennifer Boatright, Goldsboro Fire Department



*The Engine 4 crew, B shift, goes above and beyond for the citizens of Goldsboro (l-r) Jonathan Greene, Bryan Stewart, and Robert Poll.*



*A lady came in the thrift store where I work, looking for a wheelchair for her father. The store didn't have one, but I was able to provide her with one because of NCBAM's partnership with my church's durable medical equipment ministry. When I gave her the wheelchair, she broke down in tears and couldn't believe she*

*could get it for free. I was able to share the Gospel with her and give her a salvation card provided by NCBAM. It had a great impact on her; it's all worth it for the glory of the Lord.*

– Tim Morris, Manager, InJoy Thrift Store; Assistant Pastor, Pineview Baptist Church



Scan here to plan your excursion.



Help us meet more needs by sponsoring Field of MAKERS!



**North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry**  
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 Thomasville, NC 27361

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 The mission of North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry is to help aging adults maintain their independence. Dr. Sandy Gregory, director; Carol Layton, editor; Amy Burns, proofreader; Melanie Beeson, circulation manager; Betsy Huffine, art director. **Free subscriptions** are available by calling **877.506.2226**. NCBAM is a ministry of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina – Michael C. Blackwell, president/ceo and NCBAM founder.



## Letter from the DIRECTOR

*"They will glorify God because of... the generosity of your contribution (koinonia) for them." – 2 Corinthians 9:13*

### NCBAM Care Village Offers "Koinonia"

When senior adults are asked, **"what is most important to you as you age?,"** the most frequent answer is **"independence."** Seniors want to remain at home as long as possible. The mission of NCBAM encompasses that goal. **Our programs and services increase safety and provide access to services** so that aging in place is possible. Remaining in one's own home yields cost savings and improves quality of life and physical health.

Recently, North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Kennedy Home in Kinston for the NCBAM Care Village. **This new outreach enables seniors in the area to age in place safely at home** and therefore delay or forgo moving to assisted living or nursing home facilities. Care Village **members participate in assessments and receive individualized plans of care.** Needs are met through community and church resources.

The village concept of **helping one another and sharing resources** is not new. Early Christian churches banded together to support each other. The New Testament uses the **Greek word "koinonia", meaning fellowship,** and living in community.

**The NCBAM Care Village fosters Christian love.** Staff and volunteers encourage members and provide support for their needs. We focus on following



Jesus and growing in faith.

**The core values of the NCBAM Care Village foster independence, wellness, engagement, care, support, and Christian spirituality.** We come alongside churches, not only in Kinston but all across the state, to provide outreaches like the Care Village to better serve aging adults and to glorify God.

Dr. Sandy Gregory has served as director of NCBAM since its inception in 2009.

Contact Sandy at [scgregory@bchfamily.org](mailto:scgregory@bchfamily.org).