

# Philanthropy Journal

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OF NORTH CAROLINA

## Anticipation Nonprofits brace for welfare changes

State nonprofits are preparing for the ripple effects of new welfare legislation that caps the amount of money North Carolina may spend on food stamps and other programs for the needy.

By BARBARA SOLOW

North Carolina nonprofit leaders are viewing changes in the welfare system with a mixture of hope and concern.

While many organizations are bracing for an increase in needy clients as welfare programs become more restrictive, others are hoping that new laws will lead to improved delivery of social services.

With changes underway, government agencies are turning to non-

### THE NEXT REVOLUTION

profits as providers of job training for welfare recipients and services such as transportation and child care that are needed to help move people from welfare to work.

But nonprofit leaders say those increased responsibilities have not been accompanied by an increase in funding from non-governmental sources.

At a recent day-long conference

Look for REFORM, page 22

## The cost of history Grants for preservation draw fire

A state grants program for historical preservation was nixed in the budget bill passed by lawmakers this year, and advocates want it back - without political agendas attached.

By STEPHANIE GREER

Raleigh

The unmistakable scent of pork wafting from the state Department of Cultural Resources has some histori-

ans and preservationists complaining about a grants program that doesn't even exist any more.

The Grant Program for Nonprofit Historical Organizations and Local Government Entities, which had a



Betty McCain

### PRESERVATION

short life in the 1980s and was revived in the early 1990s, was eliminated from the 1996-97 budget.

Whether or not the program exists, critics say they still have a valid claim: They want the grants program back, but without the political overtones that so heavily shaped grant distribution.

Some state officials, however, defend the program's political orien-

tation as a necessary evil in order to have the money available at all.

The program initially was created in the 1980s, founded during the administration of Gov. Jim Martin and was revived in fiscal 1993-94 with an appropriation of \$1 million. That grew to \$2 million the next year and \$3 million in 1995-96.

Under the program, public and private organizations may apply to the state for historic preservation

Look for PRESERVATION, page 9

## After Fran Storm rising over Red Cross

Some North Carolina nonprofit leaders were not happy with the way the American Red Cross coordinated emergency services during Hurricane Fran. Red Cross officials say such complaints go with the territory of being the nation's leading disaster relief agency.

By BARBARA SOLOW

The images displayed across newspaper fronts and television screens in the wake of Hurricane Fran showed volunteers from local, state and national relief agencies working together to provide emergency services.

But some North Carolina nonprofit leaders say the role played by the American Red Cross during the state's costliest natural disaster was somewhat less than cooperative.



A Red Cross volunteer from Alabama loads supplies into a truck for distribution to Triangle-area victims of Hurricane Fran.

Among the complaints voiced by some food banks and crisis assistance agencies was a sense that Red Cross officials seemed more interest-

ed in attracting media attention than in providing services. And some emergency management officials have taken the Red Cross to task for

failing to provide help in a timely fashion.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Red Cross leaders say such criticisms are common after natural disasters - especially disasters on the scale of Hurricane Fran.

"There are stages of every disaster, no matter whether you're in North Carolina or California," says Wilson Charles "Pete" Montague, assistant manager of the Red Cross chapter in Raleigh and the official agency liaison to the state's Emergency Management Division.

"The first is the heroic phase, when there is hardly anybody that can do wrong. The second phase is the honeymoon phase, when you see organizations bonding together for a

Look for RED CROSS, page 5

## Raising the roof Housing advocates seek affordable options



The former Reidsville High School now serves as apartments for the elderly.

Some nonprofit organizations are working hard to bring housing deficiencies into the spotlight. Ignoring the issue is a mistake, they say - but state and federal funding, as well as public interest, seem to be waning.

By STEPHANIE GREER

The nonprofit community is being called upon to pick up the slack on an issue that sector leaders say stays in the background - affordable housing.

As government funding for low-income housing heads downhill, non-

### HOUSING

profits increasingly either are calling on private financiers to boost their resources or are forging partnerships with government agencies to help make service delivery more efficient.

Linda Shaw, executive director of the North Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition, says the government still needs to lead the way in terms of helping low-income people finance housing.

"Ideally, what we would like to see is a dedicated revenue source for the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund

that would yield \$50 million a year," she says. "It will also require continued commitment from the private sector and, frankly, I think the private sector is stepping up to the plate very nicely."

One of the biggest difficulties in getting government funding for housing is that politicians, the media and the general public don't find housing to be a "sexy" issue that deserves attention, Shaw says. Issues like drugs, guns, violence and crime capture public attention - and public dollars - more readily these days.

Housing should be at the top of everyone's priority list, says Jerry

Pifer, an economist for the Greensboro field office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Poor housing, lack of housing or unaffordable housing often can be tied back to drug use, crime, poverty, unemployment and a host of other social ills.

To address the problem of affordable housing, Shaw's organization is launching a 10-year campaign that aims to make \$12.8 billion available in public and private sector funding for state housing programs, financing for low-income home buyers, and sup-

Look for HOUSING, page 5

**INSIDE**

- Connections.....3
- Grants & Gifts .....16
- In November .....16
- Job Opportunities .....20
- Opinion .....10
- People.....17
- Professional Services...18

**NONPROFITS**

- Nonprofit postal rates change**
- Changes in postal rates for nonprofits and regulations covering mailings went into effect in October.

• Page 4

**FOUNDATIONS**

- Foundations team with Merrill Lynch**
- North Carolina community foundations have joined in an alliance with Merrill Lynch to boost charitable gifts.

• Page 6

**VOLUNTEERS**

- Program aims to boost healthcare**
- A North Carolinian is helping to create a national partnership program between health schools and communities.

• Page 8

**CORPORATE GIVING**

- Couple assists abused women**
- The owners of Goldston's Building Supply have helped create an organization to help battered women put their lives back together.

• Page 12

**FUND RAISING**

- Fundraising firm faces staff unrest**
- Raleigh consultant Capital Consortium is dealing with employee morale problems

• Page 14