

# Direct Deposits

The Financial Training Center's e-Newsletter

## MONEY FAIR 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



On Saturday, April 29th, Increasing H.O.P.E hosted its annual Money Fair event at The Opportunity Center in North Charleston, SC. Attendees traveled from all over the tri-county to attend this fun, educational event.

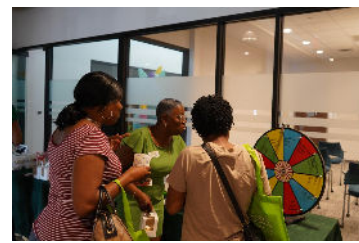
Over 100 ladies and gentlemen attended the event, participated in financial literacy education classes on business entrepreneurship, housing and credit, and talked with vendors from a variety of local industries. We want to thank all of our sponsors, supporters, vendors, and attendees for making another Money Fair a huge success.



Welcome to Money Fair 2023



One of our many vendors, Corey Thompson with Edward Jones



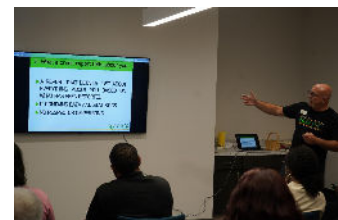
Time to win some prizes



Live music by DJ E



Business entrepreneurship class



Housing and credit class



Popcorn anyone?



Mo Money!



Smiling faces

## Summer budget tip #1

As we say goodbye to spring and look forward to those hot summer days, we typically start planning for trips, activities, and vacations. At the same time, gas prices seem to start going up, as well as the cost of airfare, hotel accommodations, and even restaurant menus.

To help keep your budget in check to enjoy those fun summer events, estimate what you think that you will spend over the summer, and then put money in savings every month so that you don't have to rely on credit or high interest loans and advances to pay for those activities.

For example, if you plan on spending \$600 on summer activities, budget to save \$50 a month all year so that when it's time to take that drive to the mountains or weekend getaway in Myrtle Beach, the money is already there waiting for you, and you can spend time enjoying your vacation and not figuring out how you are going to pay for it.

## 2023 VITA Tax Season Wrap Up



Our tax season is official over, and we thank all of the clients who trusted us to prepare their taxes. This year we prepared 276 returns, and impacted 386 individuals and families by helping them get over a half a million dollars in federal and state refunds, all at no cost to them. In turn that saved these individuals and families over \$100,000 in savings from not paying to have their taxes prepared.

We also want to thank all of our volunteers, including four returning tax preparers, one new tax preparer, and a host of intake specialists from our community partner and sponsor, United Bank. We could not have done this work without them!

*The VITA program is a service provided by Internal Revenue Service for low to moderate income is a 6 week cohort designed exclusively for nonprofit organizations and is hosted by The Business Success Center of Increasing H.O.P.E.*

## Welcome aboard to Tina Carter

### Tina Carter - AmeriCorps Program Director

I have over nineteen years of nonprofit experience. I specialize in working with volunteers and serving the community. Recruiting has been a major part of my professional background.

I was born and raised in Rock Hill SC. I graduated from Trident Technical College with an Associates degree in Hospitality and Tourism. God blessed me with my perfect pair, a handsome son 27 and a beautiful daughter 19. I have one grandchild that has stolen my heart.

My hobbies are spending time with my family and friends, house decorating,



and event planning. My personal motto: I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

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## Has Increasing H.O.P.E helped you or your family?

If you have benefited from one of our services, we would love to hear from you. We are collecting success stories that we can share on our website and via social media to inspire others. If you have an encouraging word to share, please take a moment to click the link and fill out the form.

**Submit your story**

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## Upcoming Events



### Lunch & Learn: Branding on a Budget

Thursday, May 18th from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fee: no cost

In this class, you will get tips and ideas on how to make the most of your marketing dollars to reach the most people for your business.

**Register here**



### Credit Clean Up

Thursday, May 18th from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Fee: \$15.66

If you've had a few diversions along the road to financial freedom and you're looking for information on how to clean up your credit, join us to find out what steps you should take to potential give your credit score a healthy boost.

**Register here**

### SWOT Analysis

Thursday, May 25th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Fee: No cost

Join us for a 1 hour webinar that will provide an introduction to how to create a Lean Canvas or nontraditional business plan. This webinar is perfect for entrepreneurs and business owners looking to understand how to create a successful business model.



Join us for a 1 hour webinar that will provide an introduction to how level up your business by taking a comprehensive look at its Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threat. This webinar is perfect for existing entrepreneurs who may want to scale or evaluate their business plan or model.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the experts and take your business to the next level.

**Register here**

[VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

## Support Increasing H.O.P.E



### Donate Now

Supporting us means a return on your investment (ROI) in the form of a community that is more financially stable and knows how to grow — meaning less poverty, better credit, and increased economic benefits through homeownership and employment.

[Donate Here](#)

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