

From: SC COMMUNITY LOAN FUND <michelle@sccommunityloanfund.org>

To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

Date: 7/8/2015 5:21:50 PM

Subject: Tomorrow is Today

July 2015

Dear Friend,

The strength we have seen from our city over the last few weeks is nothing less than remarkable. We have endured an unthinkable tragedy and lost nine beloved members of our community. Community members that were loving parents, passionate young entrepreneurs, faithful community servants, and much more. Instead of allowing this tragedy divide us, we joined together to create a stronger Charleston.

Over the last few weeks, we have demanded action. We have made our voices heard. We have shown the world our strength. We have done great things, but now is not the time to rest or disregard the challenges that still lie ahead. There is still work to be done. What happens after the flag comes down? How do we attain meaningful change that breaks down the systemic barriers that are keeping certain groups of people down?

The tragedy that overtook our community is not simply the result of one man's instability but instead it is a reflection of inequality that pervades our society. It is a reflection of inequitable access to capital, the opportunity gap, education gap, wage gap, inadequate housing, economically segregated communities, urban disinvestment and rural poverty; it is the result of fear and racism.

One of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's greatest, but least well known, books was entitled, "*Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*" Today, that question is still in need

of an answer. In the conclusion to this book, Dr. King states, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. . . . This may well be mankind's last chance to choose between chaos or community."

I urge you all to seek long-lasting, fundamental change here in South Carolina, and throughout the country. I challenge you all to engage in hard discussions. I challenge you to think about the root causes of this tragedy and invest your time, and money, into addressing them. I challenge you to speak up and advocate for change. *Tomorrow is today*. Let's look back at this as the time we seized opportunity. Let's choose community.

In partnership,

*Michelle Mapp*

Executive Director, SCCLF

**ACT NOW.** Click [here](#) for a list of efforts that have surfaced to address some of these systemic issues and information on how to get involved.

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## News

### [Creating Hope and Opportunity in Timmonsville - Feeding Innovation Midlands](#)

Timmonsville is the poorest town in South Carolina, characterized but unsafe water and crime levels four times the state average. The town's economy is suffering and more than half of... [Read More...>](#)

### [5 Things we Learned at the 2015 Tri-County Housing Summit](#)

A diverse group of over 115 community leaders filled the Complex for Industrial and Economic Development at Trident Technical College to discuss our region's housing and economic development needs at our third annual... [Read More...>](#)

### [SC BlueCross Foundation Approves More Than \\$10 Million in Grants Statewide](#)

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation has approved more than \$10.7 million in its latest grant cycle to health-related organizations serving South Carolina's economically disadvantaged citizens... [Read More...>](#)

The Supreme Court just granted a huge victory to fair-housing advocates

The Supreme Court just issued a major ruling that saved a key tool used to prevent housing discrimination in America. In a 5-4 decision on Thursday, the court ruled that a law signed by... [Read More...>](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Housing Development 101

July 16 & 17 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Spartanburg, SC

Two-day course that will teach the basics of developing affordable housing for new construction or rehab of rental and homeownership projects. The workshop is free but registration is required. *CDC credits pending*. More information and registration available [here](#).

### SCCLF & Midlands Housing Trust Funding Round

August 18, 2015 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Columbia, SC

South Carolina Community Loan Fund will be hosting a joint funding round with midlands housing trust to discuss funding opportunities for community development projects. Contact Patrick King at [Patrick@sccommunityloanfund.org](mailto:Patrick@sccommunityloanfund.org) for more information.

### Food Access Summit

September 16, 2015 | 8:30 am - 3:30 pm | Columbia, SC

Summit highlighting efforts that improve access to healthy food for South Carolinians with limited financial resources. The summit will provide advocacy tools, training, action-oriented ideas and more.

[Register today!](#)

### Thought Leader Speaker Series

October 19, 2015 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | Charleston, SC

Join us on October 19th for a conversation with Nicholas Kristof, American journalist, author, op-ed columnist, and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. Tickets and more information [here](#).

Since 2004, we have provided 275 loans for \$22.8 million in financing that facilitated more than \$196 million in community development projects; we financed 1,143 housing units, 3 healthy food outlets, 4 community facilities, and 5 community businesses, creating or retaining 3,131 jobs and providing a safe, affordable place to call home for 2,858 individuals and families.

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