



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ECCO Launches Satellite Program in Huger Grand Opening of Baldwin Carson Community Outreach Center

Charleston, S.C. (September 24, 2015): East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) announces the launch of its satellite program for the underserved residents of the Cainhoy Peninsula. On Saturday, September 26th at 10 a.m., ECCO and the community will host a grand opening event to commemorate the new Baldwin Carson Community Outreach Center. The public is invited to attend the recently renovated facility.

Grand Opening Event

The Baldwin Carson Community Outreach Center
Saturday, September 26th, 2015
10 a.m.: Remarks and ribbon cutting
1161 Baldwin Corner Rd, Huger, 29450

Historically, the rural population surrounding Huger has remained isolated from any support agencies, with Moncks Corner and Mount Pleasant both 20-miles away. Almost 20% of ECCO's clients live in the Cainhoy/Wando/Huger area and feedback from surveys and forums indicated a greater need for medical and dental care, home repair, education classes, and job assistance. A committee comprising community members and leaders started planning in early 2014 for a new program that would provide easily accessible resources for those in need. Rev. Stephen Love, a Huger resident and member of ECCO's Board of Directors, has played a vital role throughout the planning process and connecting ECCO to community advocates. Love said, "This project has been a great opportunity to serve our community and offer opportunities for the community to help serve themselves."

ECCO raised more than \$350,000 for three years of operating support and funds to renovate a 3,600 square foot building, formerly home to a Head Start program. In order to meet the needs and interests of the community, the facility was outfitted with two medical examination rooms, a commercial instructional cooking kitchen, a community room, and a classroom equipped with 12 computers. Partnering sponsors include The Daniel Island Community Fund, Christ Our King Catholic Church, Benefitfocus, Nucor Steel, Google, BP, and the Wando-Huger Community Fund of Coastal Community Foundation of SC.

The Baldwin Carson Community Outreach Center hosts ECCO's medical, dental and health education programs along with its education, empowerment, and computer classes, and is equipped for not only ECCO services, but also provides an area for Operation Home, the facility coordinator, and enough space for future partners. Huger residents now have access to prescription assistance, health information, screenings with medical referrals by a nurse practitioner from MUSC's College of Nursing, and oral screenings, along with computer classes, use of the Internet and job resource center, and budgeting classes. ECCO employs community member Dianne Moore-Hazlett as the BCCOC coordinator to assist with outreach and daily operations of the center.

East Cooper Community Outreach

The mission of East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) is to provide safety net services to our low-income neighbors, while empowering them to create better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. This year ECCO celebrates a special anniversary after 25 years of serving those in need. Founded in 1989 as an emergency relief effort after the devastation from Hurricane Hugo, ECCO strives to eliminate poverty in the East Cooper region, and focuses on three main program areas: Basic Needs, Health Services, and Empowerment and Education. More than 4,500 households annually receive assistance for food, clothing, household goods, and financial aid, along with access to dental and medical care, treatment for chronic diseases, prescription assistance, health education, counseling, financial literacy classes, savings programs, job readiness training, and a range of specialized employment services.

For more information, visit www.ECCOcharleston.org.

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