

## 2002 Annual Report Executive Summary

### Allendale County ALIVE Enterprise Community

Allendale County ALIVE, Inc., had an exciting, productive and expansive year. Our Board of Director's adopted the following mission statement, "ACA will foster self-sufficiency for ALL citizens through support of programs that enhance the educational, economic, health, and social development of ALL citizens of Allendale County. ACA strives to deepen our citizen commitment of each other, our county, and our Country, with kindness, selflessness and respect."

This past year, over 21 million dollars were brought into the county through various programs and projects in which ALIVE partnered with or was directly responsible for obtaining, in large part due to the Enterprise Community designation of the county.

Through the efforts of Allendale County officials, the Tri-County Alliance, the Allendale County Economic Development Board, and representatives of ALIVE, over 1.5 million dollars have been committed to the development of an Industrial Park in Allendale County . Over 90 acres along a major highway have already been purchased. A 50,000 square foot spec building is planned for construction to attract prospects to this area.

ALIVE has sponsored and participated in a wide variety of community programs and forums during the past year. Continued outreach by ALIVE allows citizens of the county to become more aware of the purpose and goals of the organization, and encourages their participation with various ALIVE task forces. ALIVE has continued to develop partnerships and collaborations with local, regional, state, national organizations and/or governmental entities.

The South Carolina Collaboration Colloquium is an innovative new effort to provide assistance to small rural communities to eradicate barriers that hinder economic and social progress. The Colloquium — a collective body of 35 federal and state agencies, colleges and universities that include Clemson University and the University of South Carolina, the state Department of Commerce, South Carolina Arts Commission, state Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism — selected Allendale County as the Pilot Project for its initial focus.

The Colloquium provides information on funding sources and assistance with grant preparations and technical assistance. College students in various disciplines are given assignments related to identified community opportunities. These range from landscape design to road planning. After assessment by other students, faculty members, plus a committee from various universities, the most highly regarded plans are presented to citizens of the community for reaction and input. After the final review, funding opportunities are mapped, and the combined agencies work together to obtain funds for selected projects.

ALIVE has established six Task Forces that work with individuals and groups in many areas of community development — Health, Education and Workforce, Infrastructure, Human Relations, Revitalization, and Leadership. These volunteer led groups encourage and welcome citizen participation. Most Task Forces hold monthly meetings at locations throughout the county, insuring full community involvement.

The Individual Development Account (IDA) program has been started in the county. After holding several community meetings, eligible participants have been identified and have opened accounts. This program was made possible by a grant award of \$38,500 from the South Carolina Association of

Community Development Corporations.

ALIVE partnered with the Allendale County Hospital and other local organizations and a grant of \$225,000 was received from the Duke Endowment to establish a training program for citizens interested in becoming Certified Nursing Assistants or Basic Emergency Medical Technicians. This program is designed to increase the employment opportunities for the unemployed or underemployed.

Along with the Town and County of Allendale, ALIVE is in the process of signing a contract with Santee Lynches' CDC to assess the housing needs in the county, to provide technical assistance for securing funding for housing, and to develop a five year strategic housing plan for the county.

The Board of Directors of ALIVE are reviewing and updating a Grant Solicitation Manual to formalize operational procedures for funding requests and proposals by the organization.