



Remembering Delegate Rudy Cane

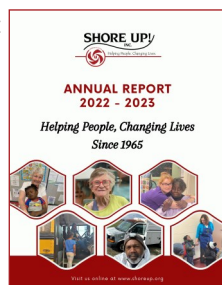
We were saddened to learn of the passing of former Maryland State Delegate, Rudolph C. "Rudy" Cane. Prior to becoming a Delegate, Rudy was the Housing & Community Development Administrator here at SHORE UP for many years. He oversaw our programs for energy assistance, self-help housing, weatherization assistance, Housing Counseling, and Loretta Village subsidized housing.



Rudy was very involved in the community and always advocated for being a difference maker. It was no surprise that in his obituary, the request was made for donations to SHORE UP instead of flowers. Our prayers go out to his family members. We are grateful for the donations we are receiving but, more importantly, we are grateful for the chance to have worked with him!

Annual Report Now Available

Curious as to what SHORE UP does over the course of a year? Check out our Annual Report, which is available on our website (<https://shoreup.org/annual-reports/>) or stop by our office for a printed copy. Our Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report is also available on the same page.



It's Tax Time, and SHORE UP is Here to Help!

Each year, SHORE UP recruits and trains volunteers to assist in preparing income taxes for low- to moderate-income households. Anyone with a household income of \$64,000/year or less who wants to have their taxes completed through SHORE UP's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program will need to pick up a tax packet from our office at 520 Snow Hill Road in Salisbury or at our Somerset County office (12409 Loretto Road in Princess Anne).



Individuals may drop off their documents along with a completed tax packet or schedule an appointment for one-on-one assistance. VITA requires the following documentation:

- A social security card for EACH family member.
- Every taxpayer must bring their picture ID.
- W-2 forms for all jobs worked in 2022.
- Bank routing and account number to direct deposit your refund. Voided checks work best. Refunds may be placed in more than one account; and can also be used to purchase savings bonds.
- Childcare provider's name, address, and tax ID number.
- A copy of last year's tax return may be needed.
- Any documentation or information about money you have received from the IRS or Maryland.
- All 1099 forms for other income, if any.
- Form 1095-A if you received the Premium Tax Credit to help pay for health insurance.
- Any other tax related documents you have received.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 410-749-1142, extension 1903. Appointments are available in either Salisbury or Princess Anne.

Staff Notes

Joyce Farrare, our Foster Grandparent Program Director, was recently appointed to serve as a representative on the AmeriCorps Seniors Professional Network Board of Directors. AmeriCorps Seniors is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the funder for the Foster Grandparent Program.



Jimmy Reid, our Transportation Supervisor, successfully received his Commercial Drivers License (CDL). His was the first Maryland CDL issued in 2024!



Our Weatherization Auditor, Carl Estime, successfully completed a 1-Day EPA Lead Renovation course. He will soon be taking two more classes.



Community Mailbag

We love to hear from the people we have helped! Recently, a participant in our Energy Assistance Program wrote to tell us how much she appreciated us:



Affordable Internet: Now What?

You may have heard that the federal government's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provided low income households with a discount on their home internet bills, was not renewed for additional funding. The program is expected to run out of funds sometime in April 2024.

Steps you can take if you have been receiving a discount on internet service through the ACP (or if you think it's a necessary program and you would like to see it continue:

- Help urge Congress to continue funding by contacting your local House Representative and Senator.
- Talk to your internet provider about how this change affects your bill and ask about other affordable plans.

Possible alternatives to ACP:

The **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program** allocated funds to enhance high-speed internet access across the country. BEAD focuses on expanding internet in unserved areas (lacking access or having access below 25/3 Mbps) and underserved areas (with access below 100/20 Mbps).

Run by the FCC, **Lifeline** helps make phone and internet services more affordable by offering up to \$9.25 off monthly costs for phone, internet, or bundled services. Enrollment in public assistance programs like Medicaid, SNAP, LI-HEAP, SSI, etc. automatically ensures eligibility; otherwise income eligibility requirements must be met.

The Fondest of Farewells

On January 11, SHORE UP Board members, current and former staff, and members of the community gathered to celebrate the work of Mr. Freddy L. Mitchell and wish him well on his retirement from SHORE UP. Mr. Mitchell worked here for 54 years, and led the agency as its Executive Director for 50 years. Below are some highlights of the celebration.



Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Craig Mathies presenting Mr. Mitchell with a gift.



SHORE UP's new Executive Director, Dr. Chase, with Maryland Community Action Partnership's Executive Director, Angela Martin.



Mr. Mitchell enjoyed a display of newspaper articles that highlighted some of his accomplishments.



The honoree and his lovely wife, Dr. Judylynn Mitchell.



Former Chief Development & Communications Officer Tameka Keenan-Norman returned to emcee the event and interview Mr. Mitchell.



The theme of our celebration was "The House that Freddy Built" in recognition of how much SHORE UP grew and expanded under Mitchell's leadership.

SHORE UP was established in 1965 to serve Worcester & Wicomico Counties, with an annual budget of about \$1 million. Today, the Agency serves all nine Eastern Shore counties and has an annual budget in excess of \$25 million.