



GREATER CRISFIELD ACTION COALITION

May 17, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Greater Crisfield Action Coalition, Inc. (GCAC) is pleased to announce the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES), through their John T. and Hannah Handy Crisfield Improvement Fund, has awarded to GCAC a \$10,000 Community Improvement grant to be used to help fund the costs associated with a marketing campaign targeted to investors, developers and builders. “By investing in community growth, we hope to benefit the overall socioeconomic welfare of Somerset County residents,” states Community Foundation President Erica Joseph.

Through the marketing campaign GCAC will promote the Greater Crisfield area, pointing out the strengths and the opportunities existing for potential investors. The goal is to identify entities to address the severe housing shortage by developing new rental and first time homebuyer housing stock and to build housing suitable to attract retirees and remote workers to Crisfield. Simultaneously they will reach out to commercial investors and developers for Crisfield’s commerce needs.

“No growth is possible without adequate housing if we are to retain and grow our population. Currently new household formations looking for rentals leave town because there is little available. Homeownership helps individuals and families build wealth. The lack of newer entry level housing denies individuals and families that opportunity and they too will seek it elsewhere.” says GCAC board president Frances Martinez Myers.

“The bottom line is we have to grow the population and number of visitors. The current population cannot financially support our existing businesses year round. We absolutely need more sit down restaurants/bars with diverse cuisine, retail stores and services to attract more residents and visitors. A full service hotel will support tourism and large scale events so folks can stay longer in Crisfield.” says Donnie Drewer, board vice president.

“To achieve this growth it will require the simultaneous execution on several fronts. We are confident once projects begin the solicitation of others will be easier.” says Martinez Myers.

The Greater Crisfield Action Coalition, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Community Development Corporation, located in the City of Crisfield, MD. The organization was formed in 2015 through the efforts of the Crisfield business community and local residents seeking to help promote economic development to help transform the City into a thriving and vibrant community. They are committed to working and collaborating together with the City, County and State government to make it happen. To learn more about GCAC go to www.greatercrisfieldmd.org.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore. They are a 501 c (3) nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and have provided more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984. They collaborate with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interest with community needs and strengthen local nonprofits through grants and resources. They are devoted to improving the regional community and believe in the power of philanthropy. To learn more go to www.cfes.org.

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