

# GO! NEWS

WHAT'S GOOD WITH GREEN OPPORTUNITIES



## The CorpsNetwork

**Strengthening America through  
service and conservation**

### The Corps Network Approves "GO Corps" Program

We were excited to learn last week that The Corps Network, a national coalition of conservation and service programs, approved our "GO Corps" program for funding for two years.

#### **What is "GO Corps?"**

GO Corps is a full-time paid green jobs training and service program, designed to teach eco-trades and green sector job skills to members of marginalized communities through service projects.

For those motivated to take the next step toward a career or college, or both, GO Corps could be a great option!

GO is now recruiting for 9-month member positions (beginning Fall '21) and offers training and hands-on experience to help you grow while serving your community.

GO Corpsmembers spend four days a week engaged with service projects and one day each week spent with classroom training sessions. Program graduates also receive education awards that can be applied to college tuition and all members are eligible to opt-in to health insurance while enrolled.

Preliminary projects we have identified for GO Corps in our first year include supporting urban agriculture, solar installation, weatherization, and watershed restoration projects that will benefit Asheville Housing residents and neighborhoods.

Young adult leaders (16-24) that want to spend 9 months learning trades, developing leadership skills, earning a stipend, and transforming the community, should apply!

More at [greenopportunities.org](https://greenopportunities.org)!

## "RETURNING TO ROOTS"

### GO Board Approves New Strategic Plan

COVID has presented many challenges for organizations, including GO. While the pandemic reduced our ability to offer in-person training, we took advantage of the opportunity to take stock of where we are, review community needs and workforce data, and interview stakeholders to learn more about where GO should be headed moving forward. Pulling this data together, we are proud to release "Returning to Roots," our new strategic plan designed to guide our efforts for the next three years.

The full plan is available to view on our website, but highlights include:

- A focus on small, relational training programs, designed to provide transformational experiences for program participants.
- A return of focus toward "green" jobs training and service that builds community capacity.
- Being responsive to the current need for trades workers in our community and providing opportunities for training in that sector.
- Gradually increasing our fundraising, social enterprise, and board capacity to eventually decrease our reliance on grant funding.

## TRADES ACADEMY WRAP-UP



Through significant help from a Dogwood Health grant, a partnership with YMI, and participating employer partners TP Howard's Plumbing, SolFarm Solar, and MB Haynes, GO was able to launch its first 3-week Trades Academy in April and May.

Participants learned social/emotional skills, earned workplace safety certifications, conducted employer interviews, and spent two weeks with on-the-job training.

100% of our trainees made it through our classroom week, and we graduated 80% from the full program. Half of those moved straight into full-time living wage work, while the remainder has secured full-time or part-time employment since the program ended. We are excited about the success of this model and looking forward to more 3-week Academy cycles.

We need funding support to make this happen, however. Your financial support contributes to this important work!

Donate at [www.greenopportunities.org](http://www.greenopportunities.org).

RETURNING  
TO ROOTS

**go!**  
green opportunities  
STRATEGIC  
PLAN 2021-2024

## TRADES ACADEMY FEEDBACK

"This was a great program to be a part of!" - CB

"Everyone who had their hands in or something to do with the class I was in was above average! They met every need and assisted every concern. I personally greatly appreciate their help and company through this journey." - MM

"I greatly appreciate all the support that I have received for the duration of the program and I thank you dearly for the opportunity." - GH

100% of members that responded to post-program assessment stated:

- GO staff cared about them and their success in the program.
- GO staff were "very" or "extremely responsive" to their needs throughout the program.
- they increased their self-sufficiency as a result of the program.
- rated the classroom week content as "high" or "very high quality."
- stated they were "very satisfied" with the Trades Academy and would recommend to a friend or colleague.

75% rated the on-the-job training component as "above average" or "excellent."

Special thanks to our friends at Southside Kitchen for donating lunches to our trainees during our classroom week!



## INTERIM DIRECTOR UPDATE

When I was asked last November to serve GO as an Interim Director, I was honored and humbled. As a former GO volunteer and involved community member, it was easy to see what GO meant to so many and its important role in our city. Beginning my time as Director in January, it was clear we had to accomplish the following objectives:

- Facilitate a strategic plan process.
- Design and establish new long-term training programs and get them funded.
- Implement short-term training.
- Reestablish GO's status in the community as a change-maker and positive force.

With staff and board help, we have been able to meet all of those goals, and GO has a road map to support the community over the next years.

However, there are many challenges that remain for GO, and we will need all of your support to continue to move forward. Current ways in which you can support are through financial donations and/or volunteering to serve on our board.

My period as Interim Director has come to a close, and I will be moving on from a staff position at GO on June 4, but have committed to continuing to support this work moving forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of assistance and I look forward to seeing you at a GO event or community gathering soon!

Reach Ben at: [bdwilliamson1@catamount.wcu.edu](mailto:bdwilliamson1@catamount.wcu.edu) or 828-772-7115.

## GO BOARD RECRUITMENT



We are fortunate to have a board of directors that have given, and continue to give, so much to our organization and the community.

We must take time here to thank **Rachel Larsen**, **Brenda Gernandt**, and **Larry Haas** for their time on our board. We are so thankful for all they have done! Simply put, we would not still be here operating as a non-profit if it were not for their efforts.

Looking ahead, we must now add new board members to our organization. If you are interested in volunteering to serve 2-4 hours a month in this role, please contact the GO office at 828-398-4158 or [info@greenopportunities.org](mailto:info@greenopportunities.org).

We are especially looking for Housing residents and candidates that live in Southside.





This is from our friends at Solarize Asheville. If you own a home or business and may be interested in learning more about how you may be able to qualify for financial assistance to add solar, reach out to [beatrice@bluehorizonsproject.org](mailto:beatrice@bluehorizonsproject.org)



## **WHAT IS THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM?**

N2N offers full and partial grants to income qualified households that also meet the requirements listed below.

These grants are given on top of the group purchasing discounts of the Solarize Campaign helping to make solar more accessible to all.

## **HOW DO I KNOW IF I MIGHT QUALIFY FOR A FULL OR PARTIAL GRANT?**

1. Own a home within Buncombe County
2. Your electricity is provided by Duke Energy
3. Make less than 100% of AMI based on 2020 income (taxable and nontaxable income) and household size
4. Have a roof that receives a lot of sunlight
5. Have a roof that is younger than 15 years (priority given to roofs that are 10 years or less)

Grants are disbursed as funding is available. Equity, equality, and efficiency of roof are taken into account to the highest degree.

The camp below reached out to us and is seeking applicants. They have scholarship funds for 13 participants! This is a great opportunity for young adults interested in technology and programming.

## Learn to Code Apps in One Week



### App Development Summer Camp in downtown Asheville



Swift App School is offering an in-person app camp experience for students interested in learning how to make apps for the iPhone and iPad.

Students will spend the week learning Apple's Swift programming language and how to make apps for Apple's App Store. Students will discover SwiftUI and Augmented Reality.



[swiftappschool.com](http://swiftappschool.com) | 828.423.0257  
[Info@swiftappschool.com](mailto:Info@swiftappschool.com)

Located at HatchAVL in downtown Asheville:  
45 S. French Broad Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

**Ages 13-18**

**Skill Level:** Beginner - Intermediate

Register today at [SwiftAppSchool.com](http://SwiftAppSchool.com)

Limited number of attendees

**Ask about our Early Bird Discount!**

**July 5 - 9, 2021**