

HISTORY OF THE APPOMATTOX COMMUNITY CENTER

A group of concerned citizens realized a need for a meeting place and a facility for a Head Start Program in Appomattox. Consequently the idea of a Community Center developed. A local non-profit organization, The Appomattox Assembly Inc., organized a board of directors to spearhead the project. Mrs. Harriet P. James, retired Appomattox County High School Guidance Counselor and Mrs. Ora S. McCoy, Appomattox and Appomattox County School Board member were elected Co-Chairmen of the Board.

After exploring several possible sources for raising funds to build a Community Center, we finally decided on a suggestion from LYN CAG's Assistant Director, Junius Haskins. He suggested that we apply for a Community Development Block Grant. The criteria for obtaining the CDBG funds were as follows: show the need, local government involvement and community support. Mayor Ronnie Spiggle and the Appomattox Town Council, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Franklin Vaughan and the Board of Supervisors gave The Appomattox Assembly Inc., their support to do whatever was necessary to get the CDBG funds. The Board of Directors of The Appomattox Assembly and Rev. Henry W. Pryor, pastor of the Mt. Airy Baptist Church solicited community support. In 1987, our first attempt to obtain the grant was unsuccessful. We did not give up. We worked diligently to gain more local government and community support. In 1988, we were very excited to hear the news that our mission had been accomplished. Appomattox was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$524,080.00.

The citizens of Appomattox are very proud of this beautiful 6600 square foot facility located on 7.7 acres of land donated to the county by J.E. Jamerson and Sons, Incorporated. A future part of the complex will include an outside basketball court and a 4000 square foot "Tot Lot" with playground equipment for little children. This is the first Community Center funded using CDBG funds in Virginia and we have been told it is the second in the United States funded this way. The primary purpose is to benefit low to moderate income persons in Appomattox. We are extremely fortunate to be another part of a Virginia history making event here in historical Appomattox. We know this facility will enrich the lives of many citizens of Appomattox.

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