

Greetings,

My name is Piper Andrews. I worked for NCCFD, Executive Director Travis Hardmon for 3 years. During my stent with NCCFD I saw how the program benefitted a lot of families and made a positive impact at times on the community. He provided programs for children of low income residents of Washington, DC that included meals, transportation, field trips etc. That was how we presented and that was all people on the outside could see.

Behind closed doors. We were forced to participate in grueling recruitment meetings. We were constantly undeserving what our contracts agreed to. For example, if our contract stated that we would serve 20 children in one setting. We would sometime only have 10 children in that setting. Eventually we began to be investigated by Federal Government HeadStart program, OSSE (formerly Day Care Unit), and other funders. There were people coming to the office with arrest warrants to serve and a lot of instability within the organization.

The impact that Mr. Hardmon's activity had on the employees was devastating. We often did not receive our paychecks on time. Some times as far as a week later. When we got our checks people would race to the bank because at times the Wachovia bank (checks were drawn off of a Wachovia account at one time) would only allow the first few people to cash their checks before the bank would report there were insufficient funds. Some pay period, we would receive a paper check that the bank would refuse to honor. People were being evicted from their homes, incurring late fees and other penalties on accounts and enduring overwhelming hardship. There were lots of people (50 or more) without jobs when NCCFD's programs began to get closed down. People who were owed vacation pay or wages were forced to file a complaint with the DC Wage and Hour Board. The Board was able to collect a couple of payments from NCCFD but not nearly enough to pay the employee's what they had rightfully earned. Eventually I received a letter stating that I would not get anymore payments toward what was owed me, due to bankruptcy protection. He had filed bankruptcy.

His funding problems also impacted the children that were being served negatively. Programs that had made meal arrangements with NCCFD's catering or food program were being served meals that were not nutritionally balance and unappetizing. Parents who could afford it made bag lunches and some programs ordered pizza's or had on the spot cook outs for their programs so the children could have something decent to eat. Mr. Hardmon would at times go out himself to buy milk for programs because there was no milk delivery or no money to get milk. Staff were using their own money to put gas in the buses, hoping for to be reimbursed and bus repair bills sat unpaid. Eventually company vehicles were repossessed.

NCCFD was an organization with a great vision but with much uncertainty, lacking honesty and transparency.