## **NEWS FROM SCDCA**

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Carri Grube Lybarker, Acting Administrator

March 7, 2011 Release #11-004

SCDCA Media Contact: Carri Grube Lybarker, 803.734.4297

1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC) Email: <u>Clybarker@scconsumer.gov</u>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA Celebrates National Consumer Protection Week March 7th - 11th

**Columbia, SC...** - The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) kicks off Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. SCDCA is sponsoring a number of activities throughout the state this week in an effort to help consumers increase their financial literacy, spot and prevent fraud and avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Please see the below listing of events.

"If I Had \$100, I Would..." Essay Contest Awards Ceremony- The 10 essay winners, chosen from over 450 entries authored by 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from around the state, will be recognized in a ceremony at the Statehouse Capitol Rotunda on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 12pm.

**Shred Days** – SCDCA is partnering with Shred 360 to offer three, FREE shred days:

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>- Charleston Area Convention Center (North Charleston), 10am-2pm Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>- Richland Fashion Mall Forest Drive Entrance (Columbia), 11am-4pm Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>- Haywood Mall Near Pier One (Greenville), 10am-2pm

**Phone Banks** – SCDCA is partnering with the US Postal Service and Better Business Bureau for three consumer phone banks:

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> - WLTX Columbia, 5pm-7pm Wednesday, March 9th- WSPA Spartanburg, 5pm-7:30pm Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>- WIS Columbia, 5pm-7:30pm Consumers can also visit <a href="http://www.ncpw.gov/outreach-ideas/">http://www.ncpw.gov/outreach-ideas/</a> to read, view, download and order multiple copies of educational materials provided by nearly 30 organizations. The website's blog features posts from consumer experts nationwide, and allows consumers to connect directly with them about a variety of consumer protection resources.

SCDCA aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. For more information on SCDCA's Consumer Protection Week activities, or to file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit <a href="https://www.scconsumer.gov">www.scconsumer.gov</a> or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.