Environmental, Policy, and System Change through Community Centered Approach

Josie Williams, Executive Director
Greensboro Housing Coalition
Differences are not intended to separate or to alienate; we are different precisely in order to realize our need for one another
~ Desmond Tutu
Community Background
Bingham Park sits on top of old landfill
Apache St Park sits behind apartment complex
177 unit Substandard Housing complex with high incident of asthma complications
Top 10 Block Groups - Where Do they Asthma, Vacancy, Substandard Housing & Poverty

Indicator Variables
- Single Indicator
- Substandard Housing / Asthma
- Asthma / Vacancy
- Substandard Housing / Vacancy

An overlay of the top 10 ranking block groups for the highest levels of substandard housing, vacancy, asthma related hospital admissions, and poverty.
COMMUNITY’S VISION FOR CHANGE

- Reduce ER/doctor visits related to environmental conditions
- Remediation of substandard housing that exacerbate asthma
- Increase clinical/community partnerships
- Address root cause through policy, system and environmental change
- Walkable community
**RESIDENT VOICE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING PRIORITIZE**

- Clinical Shift: Clinical-Community integration;
- Multi-sector collaboration
- Leverage resources
- Increased capacity
- Sustainable strategies for sustainable solutions
- Advocacy for policy, system, environmental change
Integration of effective clinical services and advocacy for policy, system and environmental change with community partnerships is critical to effectively prevent chronic disease and improve environmental conditions that make one sick.
Positive and Measurable Outcomes

Integrate Health Systems & Department of Health for Data Exchange
Cone Health Data Sharing & Implementing Upstream Strategies
Department of Health Implementing Diabetes Prevention & helping with community data analysis
Cone Health Pediatric Residency Community Immersion

Organization & Institution Expertise
Greensboro Housing Coalition leading housing advocacy & healthy homes assessment, accepting referral from clinical & community partners education
Center for Housing and Community Studies mapping Hot Spots
Local university community research projects
Guilford College Mobile Veggie Market
Social Designs Consulting provided training & education on cultural competency/sensitivity, community engagement/leadership development

Stronger Relationship with City of Greensboro
National conference presentation with Dept of Transportation Parks and Recreation collaboration for park remediation
Code Enforcement system and policy change for Mayor support and advocacy

Leverage Public/Private Funding
BUILD Health Challenge 2.0 & 3.0 award
BCBSNC Foundation Community Centered Health award 5 year
Invest Health award for housing remediation
The Reinvestment Fund & city energy efficiency loans for Purchase/Rehab/Repair Participatory Budgeting Process award for new park equipment
Housing Bonds
Department Of Health Diabetes Prevention Grant & Mobile Food Market

Community and Health Changes
Three cohorts of Diabetes Prevention Classes
A1C drop in over 20% of participants and BMI decrease
Sidewalk implementation
Bike lane implementation
Park remediation
177 units rehab/repair of apartment complex with high ER utilization due to pediatric asthma resulting from poor living conditions
Increased neighborhood access to healthy food/veggies
Job placement among resident leaders engaged in the collaborative increased 10%

This is not an exhaustive list
Josie Williams
Executive Director, Greensboro Housing Coalition
Josie@gsohc.org