

Hurdle Mills Community Resource and Needs Assessment



2004 BRYAN FELLOW

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HOMETOWN: Nashville, Tenn.

MAJOR/DEGREE:

Master of Public Health,
Class of 2005

PROJECT TITLE: Hurdle Mills
Community Resource and
Needs Assessment

FACULTY MENTOR:

James Emery,
School of Public Health

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Lattisville Grove Missionary
Baptist Church, Union Grove
Baptist Church and
Walnut Grove Baptist Church

PROJECT LOCATION:

Orange and Person counties

“I cherished my experience as a Bryan Fellow. I was able to identify ways in which to make the Hurdle Mills community a fun and safe place to live, empower community members and solidify existing partnerships. I realized through serving the community, I had become a member of the community.”

From working closely with Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist church through UNC's Student Health Action Coalition (SHAC), I heard about the Reverend's vision for a community center. I was inspired to learn more about the community and help them identify the types of programs and resources they needed most. In collaboration with community members, we conducted a resource and needs assessment of Hurdle Mills and produced an action plan.

Project Goals

- Increase community members' awareness of community needs and local resources.
- Prioritize community needs and develop an action plan to meet identified needs.
- Empower community members to address future needs by using methods learned during the needs assessment.

Through interviews, surveys and focus groups, community members shared their thoughts on community needs and discussed what local resources were available to address those needs. Community members then worked together to prioritize their needs at a community forum. The next step was to generate strategies for addressing the top need of the community which was “a fun, safe place for kids to go.”

From these meetings, a Community Action Board was established to develop an action plan, apply for funding and create excitement and support for change within the community. The Board was composed of community leaders, church leaders and UNC students. In addition, a community guidebook was created which detailed the



assessment process, the tools and the findings so that community members can use the process to address future community needs.

In undertaking this project I learned that it is important to become immersed in the community you serve. On the Sunday of the first focus group, I attended church service in order to show my commitment to the community and recruit congregation members for focus groups. I sat in the pew next to the key community member whom I trained to co-facilitate the group with me. She said to me, “My son is being baptized today, so I may be a few moments late to the focus group, but I will be there.”

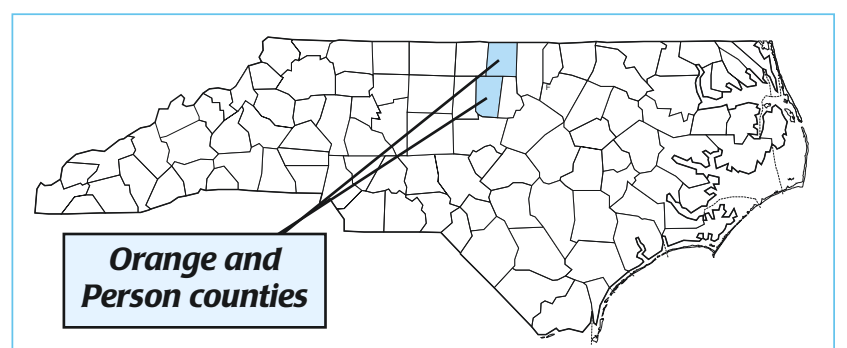
Later in the service, the Reverend announced the upcoming activities for the project and encouraged the congregation to participate. He asked me to stand and everyone



began clapping and saying “Amen.” I was greatly moved by their appreciation.

These gestures were poignant examples of the dedication and commitment of the community members to the project. I realized that as the community members begin to recognize you and feel that you respect their community and traditions, they will give you and your project respect in return.

Carolina students will continue to sit on the Community Action Board that was established through the fellowship project. Students and community members will work together to secure funding sources and implement programs that meet the needs of the Hurdle Mills community.



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