



Down East Partnership for Children

City

Rocky Mount

Organization Description

Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) is a nonprofit organization serving children ages 0-8 and their families in Edgecombe and Nash counties in eastern North Carolina. DEPC is committed to launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade. This commitment drives DEPC's mission to build a strong foundation for children and families by advocating for and supporting both high-quality early care and education, as well as a coordinated system of community resources. As a natural extension of DEPC's focus on quality early care and education, our strategic milestone of improved healthy nutrition and physical activity practices in early care and education is included in our strategic plan. With a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, DEPC began working with five Title 1 elementary schools in Edgecombe and Nash counties to transform their existing playgrounds into Outdoor Learning Environments. A School-Community Team at each school guided the planning and work. DEPC is committed to continuing this work with these schools, helping them move beyond improvements to their outdoor learning environments and related policies and practices and toward embracing a holistic approach to

child health by encouraging nutrition-related behavior change. Presently, our two FoodCorps service members are successfully working in 3 of the 5 schools, providing the knowledge and commitment needed to support these schools in moving forward in their service.

Community Description

DEPC is located in Rocky Mount, which straddles both Edgecombe County and Nash County. Edgecombe County has a population of 55,574 with 57.6% of the population black, 40.4% white, and 3.9% Hispanic or Latino. Nash County has a population of 95,093 with 38.4% black, 58% white, and 6.5% Hispanic or Latino. In Edgecombe County, 25.2% of the population is below the federal poverty level, while in Nash County, 17% of the population is below the federal poverty level. The two-county service area includes two school districts: Nash Rocky Mount Public Schools (NRMS), which serves all of Nash County and Rocky Mount, including the portion of the city in Edgecombe County, and Edgecombe County Public Schools (ECPS), which serves the remaining areas of Edgecombe County.

Service Activities Description

"Presently the two FoodCorps service members serve at GW Bulluck, Baskerville and Williford Elementary Schools. The service members work alongside DEPC staff to support School-Community Teams in elementary settings to integrate nutrition, food, and gardening information into school curricula. Additionally, the service members provide direct nutrition education to elementary students in 3 participating schools. The service members also provide food and nutrition information to families through nutrition/health themed community events coordinated by DEPC staff. Additionally development of new gardens and sustainability of existing school gardens in elementary schools will increase engagement of children and families in those gardens and promote healthy eating practices to positively impact student and family health. The FoodCorps service members along with DEPC staff will meet with school staff to coordinate nutrition and garden lessons with school menus and other existing food/nutrition efforts. The service members will join DEPC staff on the district level school health advisory team, informing and encouraging planning related to incorporation of local foods.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

FoodCorps service members will primarily serve with elementary age students and families in elementary school settings in economically disadvantaged communities. Ability to interact with children ages 5-8 will benefit the service member. Prior experience is helpful. Knowledge and understanding of the culture of a rural community, especially eastern North Carolina, is important. Individuals should demonstrate initiative and be a self-starter.

Community Type

Rural

Service Members Need Car

Required

Guilford County Cooperative Extension

City

Greensboro

Organization Description

North Carolina Cooperative Extension (NCCE) partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enriches the lives, land, and economy of North Carolinians. Our educational programs benefit farmers, rural and urban residents, families, community leaders, civic leaders, and youth. 4-H is the youth development component of NCCE that offers experiential learning opportunities to youth between the ages of 5 and 18. Through 4-H, hundreds of thousands of North Carolina's young people learn new skills and serve their communities each year. 4-H offers clubs, special interest programs, summer camps, school enrichment, and after-school child care. Guided by North Carolina Cooperative Extension educators and adult and teen volunteers, 4-H youths gain knowledge, skills, and experience that help them become responsible citizens and leaders.

Community Description

Welcome to the Piedmont Triad area of North Carolina, cornered by Greensboro, High Point, and Winston Salem. The area is home to nine colleges and universities and a diverse multicultural population. The Piedmont Triad area is ranked second in the nation for food insecurity (FRAC 2012), and much of this need is centered in High Point. Therefore, all schools served by Guilford County FoodCorps service members are located in High Point (the 7th largest city in NC, located about 20 miles southwest of Greensboro). While High Point may be known for the glory of its furniture manufacturing past, a history of religious freedom is also important: as early as the mid-eighteenth century, Pennsylvania Quakers settled in the region in search of affordable land, good climate, and an opportunity to create a principled and ordered community. There are many apartments and homes for rent in the area (approximately \$300-800/mo), and because the Triad is home to many students and young professionals, there is ample opportunity to find roommates. A car is required for service at this site.

Service Activities Description

The service member will serve in Allen Jay, Northwood and Parkview elementary schools located in High Point, NC. The service member will spend a full day a week serving in each school in an effort to get to know the teachers, administration, cafeteria staff, community partner and students. This deeper connection into the school will allow the service member a great insight into the workings of the school in addition to simply teaching lessons. They will be able to use this time to plan with teachers during their planning time, network with cafeteria managers after lunch, have lunch with different students each week and teach weekly lessons. The number of grades and lessons will be different in each school based on the school's individual needs and will be formulated as a partnership between the service member and the teachers at the beginning of service. In addition to serving in three schools the service member will have the opportunity to engage the community in their efforts to build healthy school food environments through programs such as family cooking classes, summer open garden times, garden work days and individualized creative partnerships between the service member and the school.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Experience engaging with diverse, low-income neighborhoods and networking with community members (church pastors, boys and girls club leaders, etc.) will greatly assist our service member's transition into service in our community. We also have a strong relationship with media outlets (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, etc). Interest or experience in these aspects of service to increase community engagement, recruit volunteers, and celebrate successes will be valuable to our service member.

Helpful Languages

Spanish, Arabic, Urdu

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required

Dillard Academy Charter School

City

Goldsboro

Organization Description

Dillard Academy Charter School is a nonprofit, public charter school which has been open since 1998. Dillard Academy provides a program of academic excellence for students in pre-K and kindergarten through 7th grade with special emphasis on remediation for the academically at-risk student and acceleration and enrichment opportunities for the academically advanced student. The goal is to provide a supportive structure and an educational program of age-appropriate activities that support character development and establish a strong foundation of physical, social, emotional, and intellectual capacities upon which lifelong learning can be built. Each student is assessed, and Individual Academic Plans are tailored to the child's specific needs.

Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the educational process both at home and in the school, to be supportive of school activities, and to spend a minimum amount of time in the school each month. Teachers and parents share responsibility for student academic progress. The academically at-risk population will be reduced by at least 50%. The academically advanced population will thrive on a challenging program that will accelerate them beyond grade level. Tuition, transportation, and meals are free at Dillard Academy.

Community Description

Goldsboro is a small city of approximately 37,000 people located in the coastal plains of North Carolina. Goldsboro is a great place to work and play, especially if you want urban convenience with a small town feel. Goldsboro's up and coming downtown area is near the school and offers a range of local restaurants, art galleries, and shops. Goldsboro also has national brand grocery and clothing stores, supercenters, and places for family entertainment and recreation. It is centrally located between Raleigh and the beach.

Service Activities Description

The member will help to create a healthier food environment by increasing knowledge and engaging each student with healthy food healthy living habits and gardening during weekly classes and clubs. The member will engage the broader community by collaborating with local farmers, markets and local gardeners to create a local supply chain increase access to healthy local food both in the school for students and faculty, as well as in the children's homes and communities.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The Dillard Academy service member should be able serve with groups of 20 or less children, independently. He/she should have knowledge of basic gardening techniques. The service member must be organized and upbeat. Should be comfortable engaging at a grassroots level in a high risk area.

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Helpful

Good Food Sandhills

City

Pinehurst

Organization Description

Good Food Sandhills (GFS) is an affiliate of Sandhills Community College (SCC). We specialize in school gardens, farm to school programs as well as neighborhood food system development. Our FoodCorps service member will report to the SCC office or to their designated schools for daily activities. Their service will be dedicated to nutrition education and STEM-Fork related garden activities at two to three schools in concert with healthy, local food access projects that involve our students. Our service member will team up with Moore County Schools, School Garden Coordinators, teachers, Good Food Sandhills Community Partners, and community volunteers.

Community Description

Moore County is a rural county with 11 municipalities. These 11 municipalities illustrate a paradoxical disparity. In the midst of affluence where Moore County is "The Home of American Golf," "Horse Country," and a popular retirement location, there are food deserts and communities with extreme need. Since the recession, there has been a 140% rise in the poverty rate. In the words of The Pilot, "Poverty in Moore County has more than doubled in just three years, making it one of the five hardest-hit counties in the country with a population of 65,000 or more." In the town of Robbins, the childhood obesity rate has exceeded 50%. Two communities, East and West Southern Pines, merged in 1931 to become the town of Southern Pines and are a prime example of this disparity. Prior to that annexation, West Southern Pines was one of the first and few incorporated African American towns in North Carolina. Today, it is a discrete, long-term, low-income, minority community with all of the food and health issues of a more urban inner city where the nearest food outlet is a gas station. The economic downturn and the decrease in a viable work force have caused many manufacturers to leave the county, making it a community in transition. The military population (connected to Fort Bragg) on the other hand has blossomed creating a new vibrant space for

young people to play, live and work. Businesses like R. Riveter (Shark Tank winner) and Southern Pines Brewery (local craft beers) have developed at the hands of young veterans and military spouses. Moore County has a cosmopolitan feel in a small-community setting surrounded by lakes, pine forests, and equestrian trails with a full range of educational, cultural, and recreational activities readily accessible such as live, local music and theater, a local community college, hiking, biking, and canoeing. The natural, scenic beauty reveals itself in over 20 parks, more than 15 miles of Greenway trails, and at the Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve, which is 900-acres of natural Sandhills terrain with walking trails. Southern Pines Horse Country has the Walthour-Moss Foundation, an unspoiled 4,000-acre preserve with miles of horse riding trails, and the Pinehurst Harness Track, an 111-acre equestrian and training center where events such as harness races, dressage, and polo matches occur. The setting is extraordinary and the challenge to change children's health will be demanding. There will be five other FoodCorps service members within a 1.5 hour drive east, west, or northeast. A car is required for service at this site.

Service Activities Description

Aberdeen Elementary School- Grades 3-5. Your service will be with a partner grade-level teacher for nutrition education, support of farm to school sourcing and parental/community projects related to a healthier school environment and reduction of food insecurity in this high needs school. Southern Middle School- Grades 6-8 While embedded in this challenging middle school, service will center on enrichment in nutrition education, food systems and developing student leaders within a healthy school environment. Both schools have an after school component where our STEM Gardens/STEM Youth Farm Lab serve as the gateway to nutrition and skill building in science, technology, engineering and math. Service will include extending the healthy schools environment model into the after school setting expanding the learning day as well as healthy environment for students who routinely spend up to 10 hours at school each day and consume 3 institutional meals Monday through Friday.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Skills would include gardening or farming ability, lesson plan development, classroom management, being a self starter, independent and high comfort level with group projects. Being flexible, sensitive and confident are essential in conjunction with an awareness of social, racial issues impacting access to

healthy local food. People skills combined with knowledge of science and math will be critical for working in our STEM program. Above all, a willingness and commitment to take on a huge learning curve in these areas if they are not already areas of strength for the candidate.

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Community Type

Rural

Service Members Need Car

Required

Cherokee Choices

City

Cherokee

Organization Description

Cherokee Choices works to mobilize the community to confront environmental and biological factors that put Cherokee people at high risk for diabetes. The cornerstones of this program are listening to the community and providing social support to increase physical activity and promote well-being and healthy choices, which can reduce the risk for obesity and diabetes. This approach makes Cherokee Choices different from the top-down programs typically provided by social service agencies. Our two service members, together with community mentors, work with K-12 students and staff to develop lesson plans on self-esteem, cultural pride, conflict resolution, emotional well-being, and health knowledge. There is also a weekly after-school program to enhance teamwork, cultural awareness, and physical health.

Community Description

Cherokee is a rural community of about 8,000 people, and of that, around 75% are Native American. Cherokee contains approximately 45,550 mountainous acres of land, and as a result of the terrain, most farms in Cherokee are small in size. Cherokee has beautiful, mountainous scenery and is perfect for a number of outdoor and historical activities like hiking, fishing, rafting, hunting, visiting the museum of the Cherokee Indian, touring the traditional Oconaluftee Indian village, and seeing the history of the Cherokee in the play "Unto These Hills". It is surrounded by a number of other small mountain towns and is about an hour from the bigger city of Asheville and around 3 hours from Atlanta, GA, and Charlotte, NC. There are two FoodCorps service members at this site but no others nearby. However, Cherokee Choices does have a young professional from the CDC Public Health Associate program who will be co-located with our service members.

Service Activities Description

The service member will be serving in Cherokee Elementary, Middle and High Schools. The primary responsibilities of the service member in the elementary school is to provide monthly educational sessions with each grade block, Pre-K through 5th grade, hold quarterly garden visits for students to the campus garden beds and green house, participate in annual health fair and lead the after school garden clubs twice a week. The middle school responsibilities include collaborating with science teachers to incorporate garden related education, assist with after school Garden Club once a week and participate in annual health fair for middle and high school students. Their responsibilities for high school are to connect with teachers to provide nutrition related education to students, assist in garden related activities in the Agriculture Class, and serve closely with Family and Consumer Sciences students. District wide activities include quarterly taste tests incorporating local fresh ingredients and nutrition education and attending SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) meetings every other month. The service member will also connect with the broader community by partnering with Cooperative Extension and Cherokee Choices and attend and promote farm to school and garden related programming.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The service member must have experience engaging with all ages of children and adults. Strong communication skills both in speaking and writing are a

requirement. Knowledge of gardening is preferred and knowledge of green house operation would be helpful. Coordination educational and school support programs. Ability to assess and prioritize multiple tasks, projects and demands. Must be a strong leader and have the ability to independently assess the need of the service site in regards to nutrition education and connection to garden.

Community Type

Rural

Service Members Need Car

Required

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council

City

Charlotte

Organization Description

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council exists to advocate for practices that build a sustainable, equitable, and healthy local food system. The goals of our council are to enhance the health of our citizens, strengthen local economies and market opportunities, and reduce hunger and food insecurity. To achieve these goals, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council connects local and state organizations involved in food systems work and educates community members about the importance of healthy, fair, and sustainable local food. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council exists to address local food issues primarily through advocacy and education. Our local and national food system is broken in many ways, but through the work of food policy councils like ours, change is underway.

Community Description

Charlotte is a small city located in the Piedmont Region of North Carolina. Charlotte is two hours from the mountains and three hours from the ocean. Charlotte is host to a vibrant local food community, a great food truck scene, a lot of local breweries, and over 20 farmers markets. A car is required for service at this site.

Service Activities Description

Barringer Academic Center and Shamrock Gardens Elementary - both Title I schools and partial magnets. Service members will be involved with students, teachers, and administrators teaching nutrition and cooking classes as well as spending time in the school gardens. Shamrock Gardens launched a school-based CSA program this year and Barringer is in its third year with an active Outdoor Committee consisting of teachers from every grade. Garinger High School is a large, high poverty high school with an urban farm and greenhouse. Our current FoodCorps service members have been collaborating to get the Garinger Urban Farm GAP certified so that the hydroponically grown greens can be served in the school cafeteria. Service members will also be helping with child nutrition staff, the health department, and other partner organizations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Food Corps service members should be comfortable working in an urban setting and have a strong gardening background. FoodCorps service members should be comfortable documenting their progress and work with their students with photos and weekly written updates appropriate for blog posts, Facebook updates, and school newsletters.

Helpful Languages

Spanish

Community Type

Urban

Service Members Need Car

Required