



**RCMI CENTER
FOR HEALTH
DISPARITIES
RESEARCH**



The grand opening of Henderson's Rural Community Resilience Center (RCRC) ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Dr. Deepak Kumar (NCCU), Mayor Melissa Elliott (City of Henderson) and Dr. William Pilkington (NCCU)

>>> HALIFAX COUNTY TOUR



On June 4th, we had the wonderful opportunity to tour around Halifax County, an enriching experience that showcased the vibrant community spirit and dedication to preserving history and improving lives. Our first stop was at the Concerned Citizens of Tillery, an organization that has been sharing its stories for 45 years.



During our visit, we were treated to music, history, and prayers, all under a beautiful morning sky. It was a touching experience, and we eagerly anticipate returning to Tillery for more community engagement activities. We look forward to partnering on future projects to further support and uplift the community.



Additionally, we visited the Hattie Palmer Station Senior Center of Excellence in the town of Scotland Neck. The HPSSC is dedicated to providing well-rounded programs and services for older adults in the community. Their offerings include social activities, health and nutrition programs, wellness initiatives, and efforts to ensure a meaningful quality of life in a safe facility. Our visit reaffirmed the importance of supporting such invaluable community resources.

>>> HEALTH FAIR - HALIFAX

On June 21st, we participated in a health fair at St. Paul Baptist Church, located in Enfield, NC. The event drew approximately 100 attendees from the local community, all eager to take advantage of the various health services and resources offered.

Our team, including Dr. Aaron Moore, Dayane Friedkin, Charlotte Yuan, and Linda Arrington, provided BP (blood pressure), BMI (body mass index), and HbA1c screenings, offering valuable health insights to the Enfield community. Dr. Cherise Hay provided hearing screenings with her team.

Alongside these screenings, we set up an educational table featuring information about future events and health pamphlets to further promote wellness and preventive care. In addition to the health screenings and educational outreach, we were also involved in the food distribution efforts outside the church. Fresh fruits and vegetables from the food pantry were handed out to those in need, ensuring access to nutritious food.



>>> HENDERSON'S RURAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER (RCRC)

On June 22nd, we celebrated the grand opening of Henderson's Rural Community Resilience Center (RCRC). The RCRC is set to bring essential services to our downtown district in Henderson, while also strengthening the Health Sciences workforce in partnership with North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and other collaborators.

One of the event highlights was the health screenings and health education provided by the dedicated team from NCCU at our mobile health unit, extending our reach and impact on community health.

It was beautiful to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking a new chapter for Henderson. The efforts of Mayor Melissa Elliott, Dr. Deepak Kumar, Ms. Ruby Gerald, and their supporters, whose leadership and dedication to our community are truly inspiring, were on full display.

Our team, including Dr. Aaron Moore, Dr. Zainab Afzal, Dr. Tina Scott, and the incredible team of volunteer doctors and nurses from NCCU, showed outstanding commitment and hard work, making this event a success. Together, we are making a significant impact on our community's health and resilience.



>>> MOBILE FREE PHARMACY - GASTON COUNTY

On June 14th we participated in the NC MedAssist Mobile Free Pharmacy event in Gaston County, an initiative aimed at providing essential medicines to the community. The event saw an impressive turnout, with approximately 450 attendees benefiting from this valuable service.

We set up an educational table that attracted significant attention from attendees as they waited to receive their pre-ordered medicines. Our table featured a variety of resources and giveaways, including shirts, brochures on breast cancer and healthy living, COVID-19 test kits, medicine containers, masks, and surveys for our Food Security and Long COVID studies.

The interaction at our table not only provided immediate health resources but also gathered crucial data to support ongoing research and community health initiatives. We were thrilled to engage with so many community members and contribute to the overall success of the event.



>>> JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

On June 22nd, we had the honor of participating in the Juneteenth Festival on the Green at Barber-Scotia College in Concord, NC. The event, held in celebration of the Juneteenth holiday, attracted around 400 attendees and featured a variety of vendors from the nearby Concord area, each providing valuable information about their organizations.

Our table was a hub of activity, offering swag to visitors along with health information specifically targeted towards Black men and women. We were proud to contribute to the festival's mission of promoting health and well-being in the community.

Additionally, the festival included a generous giveaway of fruits and vegetables, ensuring that those in need could take home free food. This initiative further emphasized the spirit of community support and care that defined the event.



>>> MOBILE FREE PHARMACY - LILLINGTON

On June 28th, the NC MedAssist Mobile Free Pharmacy held an event in Lillington, NC, at the Harnett County Buildings Common Area, located at 309 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd. This event was a collaborative effort involving dedicated nursing students and faculty who provided essential health screenings and education to the community.

A total of 57 community members participated in our BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol, and A1c screenings. In addition to these vital health checks, attendees received comprehensive health education materials aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles.

The event was part of our ongoing commitment to improving community health and ensuring access to necessary medical resources and information. We extend our gratitude to all the volunteers and participants who contributed to the success of this initiative. Together, we are making a positive impact on public health in Harnett County.



COMING SOON

- 07/26 - Summer Chill Out- Weldon, NC.



For further information regarding event specifics such as location and hours, please refer to our virtual calendar.

We invite you to connect with us and share your updates, ideas, faculty publications and ongoing research endeavors. Your insights are invaluable to us as we strive to keep our community informed and engaged. Reach out to us today and let's collaborate!



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