

DID YOU KNOW... that Mustard Seed Community Health in east Greensboro is a justice outreach program of CUCC?

In 2013, the Rev. Julie Peeples approached Beth Mulberry, M.D. regarding the lack of access to healthcare for our underserved neighbors in Guilford County. Julie had already researched the upcoming Church Health Center/Westberg Symposium in Memphis, TN, where a replication workshop for starting community-based health centers was offered, which Beth attended and where a connection with health center start-up consultant, John Mills, from Winston Salem, was made.

Their discussions and recruitment activities back in Greensboro led to the formation of a planning committee, followed by a non-profit board including Julie (who served on the board until 2022), Beth and CUCC member, Ann Buffington. And so, the seed that became Mustard Seed Community Health was planted.

Mustard Seed's Mission, Vision and Values statements were all beautifully crafted or edited by our wordsmith, Julie. Judy Page, CUCC's all-knowledgeable guru, organized our formal policy and procedures handbook.

CUCC continued to provide space for board and committee meetings for many years as Mustard Seed opened a temporary free clinic once weekly on the campus of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in October 2013. Mustard Seed was able to raise the funds to open for daily primary medical and mental healthcare in our current east Greensboro facility in January of 2016, where we are part of the community we serve.

In the ensuing years, Mustard Seed has grown to provide attention to the social determinants of health and currently provides direct access to healthy food, cooking and art classes and also partners with other community groups to support housing, education, clothing, employment and more.

As a part of our focus on lifting education, CUCC offered an enrichment program the second Saturday of each month starting in 2015 for Hampton Elementary students in Mustard Seed's neighborhood of Cottage Grove. The program started with a healthy breakfast for children and family members with half hour rotations through music, a fun physical activity, arts and crafts, reading, and math/science. Hampton Saturdays continued at the school until April 15, 2018 when a tornado damaged the school beyond repair, but CUCC folks just pivoted to continue partnering with the NC A&T Biology program, holding Hampton Saturdays at the university through the 2019 school year.

So many members of our church were consistent volunteers, providing fun learning for the students: Winnie and Tom Leiendecker, Teresa Earles, Karol and John Neufeld, Alice Franks, Jimmy Buchanan, Bill Guill and therapy dog, Autumn, Nancy Glenz, Susan Lane, Jan Donahue, Matina Kalcounnis-Rueppell, Ralph Wenger, Leslie Barker, Judy Groves, Jeri and Will Rowe, Eli Wang and Beth Mulberry, Marion Gamble, Lynn Hamilton, Maria Gaebler, Ben Coffee, Harley Fleischer and musical friends, Steve Haines and his students in the Miles Davis Jazz Program.

In 2018, Milton Shaw and Sankey Moore-Painter provided supplies, effort, and time to help Mustard Seed's staff beautify our community's assisted living gardens so our senior residents could better enjoy their outdoor surroundings, and Laurie Shaw taught quilting in our community art class.

Currently, CUCC's own Patricia Klaers, Diana Bowman, Holly Anderson, Teresa Taylor, and Steve Tate have been regular volunteers for our monthly mobile pop-up market where free healthy produce is provided to anyone in our community!

CUCC as a congregation and individually have been such devoted financial supporters to keep Mustard Seed moving forward with our mission to care for the underserved in our community and Guilford County.

As the need for Mustard Seed's care continues to grow, we are planning for a big move in the next year to provide for that need. We will likely be moving a little bit down the road from our S. English Street address and hope to decrease transportation barriers for our patients who currently walk to Mustard Seed for their care, or just have chronic difficulties finding transportation, by purchasing a van to provide rides to and from Mustard Seed.

Beth Mulberry, CUCC member and Primary Physician/Founder of Mustard Seed Community Health
www.mustardseedhealth.org .

The Mustard Seed Mission:

To provide high quality, holistic, integrated healthcare to those in need, in an environment that dignifies and empowers the whole person.

Our Vision:

We will live in a health community where all have access to quality healthcare, and individuals, families, faith communities, service organizations, foundations, and businesses partner together for the common good.

Our Values:

- Holistic care provided in a faith-based, loving, caring environment
- Respect of Individuals - helping each move to a healthier way of living rather than merely giving medical care
- Professionalism - sustaining the highest practice standards for those working in or representing our Health Home
- Diversity - improving insight and acceptance of different cultures, faiths, backgrounds among people of our community
- Community Partner - being an integral contributor in a strong community support network
- Stewardship - efficiently managing our time and resources to achieve optimal patient outcomes.