Community Revitalization Projects

***Person Reporting:*Minnie Mitchell     *Location:*Cabarrus *Date:*2012-12-31**

In 2008, The NC Cooperative Extension Center in Cabarrus County began collaboration with the City of Kannapolis in its community revitalization pilot project for the Old Carver School area. The project overall assisted residents in addressing socioeconomic issues, assessing needs and action planning to develop a common vision for their future and plan towards the implementing that vision.

By the end of 2010, the neighborhood organized and established a community watch program with local police that currently maintains monthly meetings of officers and residents to voice safety related issues. Meetings average 10-15 residents in attendance. As a result, **there is a 40 percent drop in the number of arrests for illegal activities and disturbances, and reduced issues of loitering due to increased police presence and residents reporting suspicious activities.**

With the help of the Community Development Agent of Cabarrus County, **the community organized and hosted its first back to school event in 2011 that provided school supplies to 64 families and was supported by 14 agencies who participated as vendors and sponsors. The goal of that event was to introduce the community to its recently elected community officers and provide back-to-school supplies to school age children.**

In 2012, the Old Carver School area community held its 2nd annual Back to School event in partnership with local churches and returning vendors and sponsors. Through word of mouth and notifications used via email, the successful event exceeded its previous attendance with more than 120 families and friends.

***Person Reporting:*Reba Green-Holley     *Location:*Gates Date: 2012-12-11**

Many houses in Gates County are in ill-repair due to low income elderly residents not being able to afford nor have the necessary repairs done on their homes. One of the county commissioners along with the Department of Social Services recognized the need for a program in this area for many years.

A committee was formed and Cooperative Extension was asked to serve on the committee. The committee has been able to form a 501(c) 3 status and has obtained donations and a grant in the amount of $75,000 to assist with housing issues. The Housing Program has one employee to coordinate the work and using numerous volunteers. As a result of this program at least 25+ homes have had some type of repair work done that has allowed the elderly to live in a safe and healthy environment.