

# ANNUAL REPORT: STUDENT SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT 2018-2019



**MCJC**  
COMMUNITY : JUSTICE

The Marian Cheek Jackson Center

# Table of Contents

- **A Year in Review :** **Page 3**  
*Students Are Neighbors In Action!* Features a reflection from Associate Director George Barrett and highlighted achievements from the 2018-2019 academic year
- **Campus Engagement** **Page 5**
- **Community Celebrations** **Page 10**
- **Service Partners: By the Numbers** **Page 20**
- **UNC Learning Goals and Evaluation:** **Page 21**  
Public Service, Intercultural Competence, Self Awareness
- **2019-2020 Goals** **Page 25**  
Envisioning the strides we plan to make in the new academic year
- **Student Features** **Page 26**
- **Program Expenses** **App. A**



# ANNUAL REFLECTION: Service is a Relational Activity



Relationships are complicated. I recognize that that's a very millennial statement, but it's true. They are complex, change minute to minute, and take consistent work. I learn and relearn, day after day, how to be in relationship with the intergenerational and multi-cultural community of Northside. (Our community is way past "diversity"). It is old and new. It is past and it is present. It's undoubtedly future. And it's where I learn, day after day, week after week, year after year, what it means to be a person of integrity.

I realized Northside existed during my senior year at UNC-Chapel Hill. At that time, I believed I possessed the necessary skills to create change in my community. I believed I knew all about public service because I did 40 hours of community service in high school and fed the homeless once every 4 months at my church. I believed I had mastered recognizing my positionality because I did a mini-ethnography project at a white fraternity during my junior year. I audaciously believed I was an expert in intercultural competence because I had spent a summer leading and interacting with hundreds of new students from all over the world through First-Year Orientation. How presumptuous! I was unaware, or didn't want to believe, that all of this learning had taken place in what so many of the students with whom I now work with call a bubble of UNC-Chapel Hill campus, Franklin St. included.

The bubble is thick and mobile. You can take it to your apartment off campus. You can take it to any major city that has a community of Tar Heel alumni. You can even take it to the office of a future employer. This can make it challenging as a student to see the neighborhoods bordering campus, let alone Northside, as anything but an extension of campus.

Thankfully, five years of "bubble popping" for myself and with other students has made me feel more and more like a Northside Neighbor. I've had the privilege to facilitate similar journeys for now thousands of UNC undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, who have in turn participated in thousands of hours of direct engagement with local leaders. They have learned and taught the transformative history of Black folk in Chapel Hill. They've struggled, and continue to struggle, to embody community norms and values. And in all of this, they've faced the reality that they are the target demographic of a housing market causing displacement in historically Black neighborhoods adjacent to campus.

This kind of education does not come easy, fast, or ever on the timeline of a semester syllabus. I am more aware of this every year. That's why 2018-2019 was the year to change things up! This past year we focused on rebuilding a service model that would facilitate a full Carolina Excellence experience. More students are now year-long service partners. We subbed ongoing service teams for ad hoc service opportunities. This change alone was crucial in building stronger affiliation among and with the MCJC. Our staff and neighbors now know more service partners by name. Students are taking on more leadership of service activities. More students are working with residents on creative projects. Relationships, that go well beyond the task at hand, keep deepening and growing.

In Northside, a year of service may look like this: A first-year biology major learns about Northside through a guest lecture in her First Year Seminar in the Communication Department. She chooses to join the MCJC Food Security Team, doing thirty hours of direct service at the St. Joseph C.M.E. food ministry, Heavenly Groceries/Comida Celestial. Under the guidance and direction of a dozen elders, women and men who provide daily bread to fifty patrons every weekday, she learns what it takes to sustain a food ministry for fifteen years and why it is about so much more than food. In the Spring, she becomes a captain of the Food Security Team. She shows new service partners the ropes while continuing to build intergenerational relationships with St. Joseph's volunteers and Heavenly Groceries patrons. She concludes her year at the Northside Festival, feeding 800 people alongside dozens of her peers and neighborhood residents. She anticipates joining the Northside Student Leadership Group the following Fall.

In this Annual Report we've saved more space for students to tell their stories, to complement data based on impact surveys and accumulated numbers. We invite you to listen to the joys, breakthroughs, struggles, and hard realizations young people experience when their campus bubble is popped. Their testimonies bear witness to a year of deeper engagement in a community of improvisation, radical hospitality, reciprocity, and self-determination.

To begin, let me introduce you to Beryl Bortey, a service partner through a course partnership in the Communication Department. Beryl was part of a team that organized a porch celebration in November on Whitaker St. at the home of Noam Zahavi, a student resident and MCJC service partner. Her words illustrate the beauty of diverse participants in all of their differences; coming together to build beloved community.


"... my definition of 'community' is gradually being defined by the Northside. Communities aren't homogenous; their spirit arises from their ability to unify unique identities. The attendees of the Porch Revival Tour served as a microcosm of the greater Northside neighborhood. The diversity of age, racial backgrounds, and beliefs that were present can only be described as beautiful. These individuals didn't simply co-exist or tolerate one another. They manifested agape, a community's ultimate aim."

Thank you, Beryl.

-George Barrett, MCJC Associate Director

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2018-2019 Goals

- Pilot two intentional student learning/service houses 
- Restructure Service Partner activities from ad hoc recruitment to service teams in order to further increase service partner retention and capacity ✓
- Double the amount of small neighborhood gatherings through the Porch Revival Tour ✓
- Raise \$5,000 through student led stewardship ✓
- Create a neighborhood phone tree increasing resident turnout at community gatherings and local policy meetings affecting Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin-Top ✓
- Increase retention rate of student service partners from Fall to Spring semester to 50% ✓
- Continue to engage students in creative opportunities across program areas in collaboration with Jackson Center staff and neighbors ✓
- Enhance Bonner leadership to add critical capacity to service partner, education, and home repair programs ✓
- Incorporate Carolina Excellency in action evaluation metrics to evaluate benefits and influence on academic studies for Jackson Center service and course partnerships ✓



# COURSE PARTNERSHIPS

2018-2019 was our best year yet of course collaboration. Faculty welcomed the chance to embed their students in service teams. In over 2,000 hours of engagement, students learned what it means to serve from those who know it best: neighbors who have long lived by codes of interdependence and care.

A key to this year's success was the multi-year relationship with several UNC faculty. This year was the 3rd or 4th time working with three courses in the Communication and Nutrition Departments. In the preparation of each course collaboration, MCJC staff and faculty had in-depth discussions about past successes and challenges, and developed plans to build sustained student engagement beyond the end of the semester. This planning crystallized into course partnership proposals which - similar to a class syllabus - detailed service activities, timelines, deliverables, and expectations. Now, at the beginning of the semester, students receive a classroom and community partner syllabus.

Increasing the time devoted to pre-semester planning allowed us to craft projects that built on student work from previous semesters. This spring was the third consecutive semester we partnered with Dr. Molly De Marco's course in the Nutrition Department. Two years ago, during our first partnership with her course, a team of students established a food partnership with Trader Joe's on E. Franklin St. that adds hundreds of pounds of perishable groceries to the food ministry on a weekly basis. The students left behind a database of potential food partners, contact information, and comments for next steps for future service partners to continue the project. This year's team picked up where the previous group left off. Using the database, students identified potential food partners, shared the mission of Heavenly Groceries and their project, persisted in the face of bureaucratic roadblocks, and crafted pick-up and drop-off schedules that other student partners are now using to keep things humming at Heavenly Groceries. They were guided by St. Joseph food ministry volunteers and MCJC staff along the way. Now students have added a new food partnership with Panera Bread on E. Franklin and are working in person/on site at Lowe's Food, dramatically increasing the quantity and quality of groceries at the food ministry.

We developed 3 partnerships and began 6 more; 4 with the School of Education, and 2 in Geography and Public Health. For the first time, UNC students joined members of our Community Mentor Team (senior educators and civil rights activists) in educating over 2500 k-12 students on local Black history. Geography students collected granular demographic data through door-to-door survey's, enhancing the community's ability to track population change over time.

Graduate students concentrating in Health Behavior in Public Health engaged with community members in an ingenious initiative that directly enhanced our commitments to enabling senior residents to age in their home environment.

## COURSES

- Communication Studies 262H- Intro to Performance and Culture
- Communication Studies 082- Globalizing Organizations: Food Politics
- Nutrition 245- Sustainable, Local Food Systems- Intersection of Local Foods and Public Health
- Geography 429- Urban Political Geography of Durham, NC
- Education 410- Promotive Youth Services in Community and School Environments
- Education 651 - Schools and Community Collaboration (3 courses!)
- Health Behavior 710- Community, Capacity, Competence, and Power (Photovoice)



# COURSE SPOTLIGHT: PHOTOVOICE

One of our most exciting partnerships this year was with Master of Public Health students using a "Photovoice" approach to understand our community's interests in "aging in place," or continuing to live in their home community with healthcare supports instead of moving to often substandard facilities. Photovoice is a community-based participatory research method that combines photography and social action. What makes Photovoice unique is engaging community members as co-researchers. Photovoice asks co-researchers to think through issues of immediate, emergent salience through focused discussion of documentary photographs. Below MPH student Sarah Muthler reflects on what she learned from the workshop series.

*"We learned from our co-researchers that their relationships within their community are critical to aging in place but that these relationships may be more difficult to build as university students move in. Overall, our co-researchers felt that most people would prefer to age in place and that this provided a better quality of care than most facilities. Our co-researchers had all served as caregivers at some point and had several ideas about how support could be improved for Northside caregivers. These ideas included having a class on basic medical information for caretakers, providing social support and outings for caretakers, and providing help to Northside residents in setting up legal documents such as living wills and powers of attorney. While some of these ideas focus on caregivers more than those receiving care, having that support can improve conditions for both caregivers and recipients. The co-researchers also noted that the care is sometimes lacking in nursing homes and that it can be helpful to have friends and neighbors checking in on nursing home residents. A Northside visiting neighbors program may be a way to address this for people who can no longer live at home. I felt fortunate to be involved in this project that taught me so much about both community-based research and the Northside community."*

Thanks to this valuable partnership between the public health students and community co-researchers, we are pursuing an elder visitation and support program with the incoming graduate students living in the Northside Residential Fellows living-learning home. This new initiative will be in partnership with the UNC Partnership In Aging's reimagined Beyond Clinic Walls program.



MPH Students and their co-researchers

"This project was by far my favorite project I've worked on during my academic career and it is largely because of our amazing partners. The Jackson Center staff were incredibly kind and made my teammates and I feel very welcomed in their space. I'm grateful for the community members that they helped connect us too. Those women were so great to work with and helped us learn so much about the amazing Northside community. I truly wish that I'd had the opportunity to engage with the Jackson Center sooner -- it was such a great experience."

-Nastacia Pereira MPH '19

# TEACHING AND TRAINING

In 2018-2019 the Jackson Center consulted with over three-hundred students. Nine student interns and fellows joined with staff to share the history of Northside and opportunities for engagement. Veda Patil, educated her peers about our service model at the Domestic Orientation Conference hosted by the Campus Y and as a guest speaker in EDUC 130: Navigating the Research University. Danielle Dulkan, a Humanities for the Public Good Fellow working with the MCJC Oral History Trust, partnered with our Associate Director in a guest lecture on Northside in the First-Year Seminar, "Race in Small Town America", in the Anthropology Department. Danielle also offered oral history training to both education students and community members.



20 DCRP students gather outside the Jackson Center before their tour of the neighborhood.

For the fourth consecutive year we partnered with the UNC School of Social Work: Tools for Financial Coaching Course. Student advocates who work with individuals struggling with homelessness in our community, dove into our abundance-based organizing workshop. They learned how oral histories and listening can shape their work. The same advocates who participated in this workshop were inspired and made "abundance" the theme for the second annual Summit on Poverty and Inequity in early March. The students brought together over 100 students from across the country working to decrease poverty in their local communities. The Jackson Center was invited to lead an opening discussion on abundance and to participate on a panel on strategies to fight against displacement in low wealth communities.

Various groups of students and faculty came over to Northside for in house teachings and tours. Staff led undergraduate students from the Department of City and Regional Planning on a tour of the neighborhood to learn and to see the success of the Northside Neighborhood Initiative. For the fourth consecutive year, we consulted on participant action research strategies for graduate students gaining their Certificate in Participatory Research. This was our sixth consecutive year hosting a service day for the Apples Service Learning Initiative. First-year students volunteered at Heavenly Groceries and distributed the Northside News a few days before beginning their first semester at UNC.



Associate Director George Barrett leads a conversation on abundance with over 100 students from across the nation attending the CEF Summit on Poverty and Inequity.

# CRITICAL PROJECTS

## Northside Census

In the fall of 2017, we completed collecting baseline demographics for our Northside census. Since its completion, the data has been used for student engagement strategies such as targeting student hosts for porch celebrations in areas of student households generally unfamiliar with the Jackson Center and Northside history. This strategy alone contributed to the increase in student leadership in the Porch Revival Tour.

Spring of 2019 was the time to do another round of data collection. Instead of surveying 600+ households again, we did a random sample source of 250 houses. Data collected in this sample will be used to see if there have been any changes in demographic trends, and inform future strategies for enhancing engagement of student residents. Five students from the Geography Department partnered with us this Spring as members of the data collection team. In collaboration with university staff and Professor Nina Martin, students accessed the UNC ArcGIS online license to use the data collection app Survey 123. The team of undergraduate students engaged in 150 hours of face to face conversations with members of over 150 households on doorsteps, porches, and patios. The partnership was mutually beneficial, as UNC senior Evelyn Lim describes below. For Evelyn, the experience was a deep dive into political geography beyond the classroom.

"Being a service partner at the Jackson Center has really broadened my perspective of urban political geography here in America. It also brought learning about processes like gentrification and displacement from textbook or classroom curriculum to real life, and I truly learned a lot from being on the ground and observing or interacting with these changes."

## Northside Digital Commons

Wyatt Woodson, a rising Junior at UNC who is entering his third year as a Bonner leader at the Jackson Center, is leading preparation for the Northside Digital Commons. Funded by two major NEH grants, the NDC will be an interactive online platform consisting of over 200 Oral Histories and archival materials. Below, Wyatt explains what he has done to date and the creative ways in which the NDC will preserve the history of our historic community.

*"The Northside Digital Commons is an effort to unify the stories we have collected by providing different paths of entry into these stories, and by giving them context.*

*This Spring has been a time of preparation, as we gather feedback from the community about what they want to see the Commons become, and talk boldly about the potential of this new project. Currently we have plans to add timelines to the site, which can help to show visitors when different events happened in connection with one another. When did the Rock Pile Sit-In happen in relation to the Colonial Drug Sit-In, for example? Additionally, we are planning to add a map of the Historically Black Neighborhoods of Chapel Hill, so that visitors can see how certain houses have stood the test of time, or where vital businesses in the Midway Business District used to be before being replaced. The first entry point will be the people. Visitors will meet their neighbors and hear their stories in concert with one another. . Key to this vision is the idea of creating a site with no dead ends, because community has no dead ends. In this way, the Northside Digital Commons is our attempt to make an online space that really feels like the community whose stories we are telling."*

**Sorry we missed you!**

We came by earlier as your home has been randomly chosen as a participant for the Northside Census. This data will be **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Accurate demographic information helps the community plan new and creative strategies to preserve the future of our diverse and historic neighborhood.

If you are willing to participate via phone or have any questions, **please contact us so we can ensure that your household is counted!**

Phone: (919) 960-1670  
Email: [diana@jacksoncenter.info](mailto:diana@jacksoncenter.info)

**MJC**  
COMMUNITY: JUSTICE  
The Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History

512 W Rosemary St, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
Or, visit us at <https://jacksoncenter.info>





# DIRECT SERVICE SPOTLIGHT



Through course partnerships, students have the opportunity to participate in service partner activities like delivering the Northside News. Below is a reflection from a COMM 262 student who found this activity was about much more than just handing out newspapers.

*This past Tuesday, I had the invaluable opportunity to go into the Northside community and deliver the Northside News with a classmate. As a matter of fact, I was not going to deliver the news on Tuesday, but on a whim my classmate texted me and told me that she would be doing it that day. Little did I know, however, that I would be treated with an experience that would transport my mind, body, and spirit into realms that we have only read about within our class. We were tasked with delivering the Northside News along Church Street, and our path allowed us to end right next to the rock wall. During our path of delivery, we ran into individuals we never knew but still waved to, into friends from campus that allowed us to educate them on the Jackson Center and the history of Northside (they are even interested in hosting a porch revival!), and eventually found ourselves at a state of rest on the wall that civil rights leaders sat upon over 50 years ago.*

*While sitting on the rock wall, my mind immediately shifted into a space over which time and physical feeling had no domain or power. It was as if the world stood still, and in my state of reflection I become at one with my environment, the community of Northside, and the history of the individuals that have lived here for generations.*

*In simply two minutes, we saw three generations and types of individuals that now live within Northside: younger students that do not understand their role in this community and how to respect the individuals that have created lives for themselves here, a middle class community that does not exactly understand their place within the community but still continues to respect those who have come before, and the traditional, African American community that helped erect and sustain this community from its creation. Above it all, we witnessed this entire collection and collision of individuals and history upon the stone wall that civil rights leaders sat upon over fifty years ago to inspire and ignite change in others and in this community. For this brief second, I felt like I was a part of history itself, I was the representation of this intersection of cultures, traditions, and I felt as if it was my responsibility to proclaim to all who could hear the history of Northside, and how they could contribute to its community. I recognized that now I wield the power to communicate this intersection, and change it into a collaboration. Perhaps one day, others will sit on this very same wall and think of the civil rights leaders within Chapel Hill, as well students from Chapel Hill, who furthered the work of those that came before them.*

*-Rising UNC Junior and COMM 262 Student*

# COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



LOVE  
your  
Neighbor  
♡



"The Jackson Center always feels so welcoming when I am there. Their commitment to building community, creating opportunities for learning CH history, and educating students has been inspirational and I (and so many others) am grateful for their presence in this community!" -Rising Senior and MCJC Service Partner

# GOOD NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE

## GNI: A REFLECTION

Small interactions have large impacts.

In the Fall of 2018, Anish Bhatia, a student service partner with the Jackson Center and finance major at UNC, took to the streets as a member of the Good Neighbor Initiative Neighborhood Education and Advocacy Team (GNI NEAT). Anish and a dozen service partners this year were neighborhood advocates, interacting with hundreds of students coming in and out of the neighborhood during evenings and late nights where loud parties and not so neighborly behavior occurred in and near Northside. In this excerpt from Anish's reflection on his service on Halloween, he tells the story of an interaction he had with a mother and her young daughter on their way to Franklin St and makes connections between a mother taking her child into the topsy turvey world of Halloween on Franklin St and attending service at St. Joseph C.M.E., one of five historically black churches at the gateway of Northside. Like many students who immerse themselves in Northside, he became aware that his community goes far beyond the stone walls of the University.

*"While we spoke to her, which went on for about 15 minutes, I thought about how I had rarely spoken to adults who weren't UNC professors, or even just people in general outside of the UNC community. This breathed some humanity behind the rest of Chapel Hill, which I had admittedly neglected from 2015 to 2017, barely ever leaving campus except when it was time to go home. And so she told us about how year after year would pass, and she would never get around to venturing onto Franklin Street on Halloween but that "this is the year!" It felt like we were trading places and trading experiences. She went off with her daughter and didn't even take one of our water bottles or peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, which implied to me that she stopped to talk out of the genuine curiosity and goodness of her heart. ... I observed a pattern throughout the night. Herds of UNC students would walk by and often barely break stride when we said, "Care for a free water or sandwich?" At one point I counted that 27 consecutive peers about my age passed without stopping. The frequency by which parents and children would stop to talk before continuing on their way to Franklin Street was remarkable because it reminded me of the community feel akin to my first visit to St. Joseph's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, when I was met with warm embraces and cheerful glances throughout the majority of the service's duration. About six to eight families from the Northside neighborhood stopped by our station outside Chancellor's Square. They were admittedly just a fraction of the ~300 people who passed by us. Nevertheless, their presence was quite notable to me because of how it, along with many other experiences this semester, reminded me that Chapel Hill is so much more than just UNC."*

The Good Neighbor Initiative is growing! Anish is one of seventy student volunteers involved in touching over 3,000 student residents in 2018-2019 through the GNI Walk-Around, Neighborhood Night-Out Block Party, and N.E.A.T. These creative, boots on the ground strategies, are educating students on how to be involved, respectful, and supportive neighbors. Next year we plan to expand GNI NEAT to more locations in Northside and to consult and collaborate with residents in other neighborhoods to incorporate similar strategies to address student behavior across Chapel Hill. We are also planning new communication strategies (focusing on social media) and recreating the Neighborhood Night Out Block party as a Community Cookout to increase the number of off-campus students learning what it means to be not only a good but a Northside neighbor.



# NORTHSIDE FESTIVAL: REUNITE





Once a month, residents from all corners of the neighborhood gather on the porch or front lawn for food, fun, and fellowship. Each instance of what we're calling the "Porch Revival Tour" is a site of creative place-making. The porch becomes a stage where Northside performs the improvisational and/or traditional choreography of making and remaking community.

Student residents hosted 50% of the Porch Revival Tour gatherings in this inaugural year. Each celebration had a 50/50 mix of students and long-term residents. When the Student Leadership Group members and service partners were not hosting, they were the organizing the twelve porch celebrations. This inaugural year of the Porch Revival Tour was supported by grant funds from the UNC Parents Council awarded to applicants from the Student Leadership Group was awarded last year.

In October, Craig Street, one of the most diverse blocks in Northside, transformed into a spooktacular playground. Four families hosted a multi-porch Halloween block party that drew over a hundred neighbors, mostly neighborhood children, in full costume. Ellie Teller, a UNC senior and member of the Student Leadership Group, was the organizer for the Block Party. She collaborated with Craig Street neighbors, the TOCH Housing Authority, neighborhood DJ Avon Lassiter Jr., and service partners on the events team to start what neighbors have now deemed a new tradition. Listen to Ellie, who has immersed herself in Northside porch culture over the past year, recount her experience on this collaborative project:

"It's no secret that Halloween is a big deal for UNC students. Their customary descent onto Franklin Street sometimes seems to drown out the families and young trick-or-treaters. After a conversation at a Porch Pop-Up in July, a few neighbors imagined a block party that would appeal to the adults and the children of Northside. With Halloween edging closer and closer, I met with the aforementioned neighbors of Craig Street to see what a block party would entail. It didn't take long for the ideas to start flowing: food, games, contests, costumes. By the end of our first meeting, we had ideas for several block parties, and a new level of excitement for all the possibilities.

When the time came, a crew of around ten people donned costumes and came together to set up the street. Kids from the neighborhood and the Boys and Girls Club began arriving, in awe of the tables of food and candy, games, and music courtesy of neighborhood DJ, Mr. Avon Lassiter Jr. Each child was handed a "passport." Once they finished a game, they were given a sticker to cross it off. When they finished all of the games (soccer, limbo, hopscotch, and cornhole, to name a few), they could trade their passport in for a bag of candy and some serious bragging rights. Moreover, no one could miss the family of Santas organizing the cake walk, which gave out its own awesome prizes.

The party started to wind down as nighttime fell, our bellies filled with hot dogs and Halloween candy. I heard one little girl ask her mom, "Can we do this every year for Halloween?"

# PORCH REVIVAL TOUR:

## TAKING BACK TOGETHERNESS

"We are living in a dark time in which political tension, xenophobia, and divisiveness plague our country, a time in which our differences become the center of debate and reactants for vitriolic products. However, despite all of the negativity, there exist beacons of love, hope, and civility within our country. Beacons which cast light upon the darkness and help us find ways to acknowledge and celebrate our differences. What took place in our yard for those two hours on a September evening convinces me that such a Beacon exists right here in Chapel Hill, in Northside."

-Adante Hart, MPH Student/Northside Residential Fellow



# HOLIDAY PARTY

The Jackson Center holiday party is a rare event. Despite snow and cold temperatures, neighbors and students, young and old share the warmth of food, fellowship, and holiday cheer. This year we partnered with UNC graduate and professional students who are members of UE Local 150, the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union. Members made food runs, warmly welcomed guests to the celebration, and even sold MCJC T-shirts. Most important, these students dove into hosting over 150 neighbors and friends with the mature intention of creating beloved community.

Adele Henderson is a second year MPH Health Behavior student who was also a host that night. Adele recounts her experience of her first holiday party (certainly not her last) which began with picking up a beloved neighbor who is unfortunately no longer with us. As you will see, the MCJC gathers up a holiday spirit that runs deep in our community all year long.

*"I arrived at Ms. Valencia's home a few minutes before the party began. We had just experienced an unexpected December blizzard, so the drive was a bit icy for my sedan. I walked up to the door, knocked, then was immediately invited inside to her home. I sat in her living room as she primed and got ready for the party. She shared stories about the photos in her home as I gazed around and then, on her cue, we headed out to the Jackson Center. She needed help down the icy drive with her walker but once we got situated, we were on our way. In this short meeting, we had exchanged life stories, phone numbers, and made plans to attend church together. This is the type of connection nurtured in Northside. One that honors diversity and intergenerational relationships.*

*As we arrived, our cozy office was bustling and filled with the smells of hot apple cider and all things delicious. The community really showed up. I have never seen a food spread quite so extensive. Despite helping set the office up earlier in the day, the office-to-home transformation was impressive. Mama Kat was situated in the corner holding court with her laugh and smile. Artis and Brentton were tapping on the piano keys, and a cast of lead singers rotated belting holiday tunes. I may have been a wallflower, but the spirit in the room affected me all the same.*

*This night displays the wealth of this community when we all come together. As one attendee put it, 'I wish I could have bottled that up.' It truly was a joyous occasion."*



# STUDENT STAFF:

## Bonner Leaders and Student Interns adding critical capacity through project leadership

Our student staff grew with the addition of six graduate and undergraduate interns, each owning discrete projects for our Oral History Trust, Northside Neighborhood Initiative (NNI), and student engagement. Our Bonner Leaders, students doing work study with a service focus through the Campus Y, grew into project leaders, program managers, and MCJC representatives. One of our Bonner Leaders, Veda Patil, is a rising junior in Political Science. Veda managed over 250 service partners of all ages, recruited a wide range of student service partners, and beautifully represented the MCJC in classrooms and campus workshops. This summer, as an MCJC Summer Fellow, Veda continues to build momentum. She and her peers are using their experiences and gifts to lead the charge of bridging the gap between students and long-term residents. For Veda, service in Northside is more than giving back to your community or completing a class to graduate. It is a responsibility, a practice, of being a Northside Neighbor.

*"Students will, for better or worse, continue to be a part of Northside in the years to come. The problem is not the students themselves. The problem is the lack of awareness and positive engagement the students have with their community. As I hone in my summer fellowship work on strengthening bonds between the service partner community and neighbors in the years to come, I want to begin fostering a culture of responsibility and respect towards the people and history of this special, special place. Whether it's through expanding opportunities for students to interact with neighbors or creating space for student solidarity and activism in the fight against gentrification and conventional narratives, I intend to devote the rest of my time as an undergrad and Chapel Hill resident to this neighborhood and all that it offers: joy, pain, history, struggle, and victory in equal measure. Because that's what it means to be part of a community."*

Read Veda's full reflection on the MCJC blog at [www.jacksoncenter.tumblr.com](http://www.jacksoncenter.tumblr.com)



MSW Intern, Kayla Williams, organizes an evening event at Carrboro Elementary School featuring long-time Northside resident and member of the Community Mentor Team, Ronnie Bynum (left)



MCJC Intern, Adele Henderson, enjoys the porch party she organized with Northside Residential Fellows



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP: GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

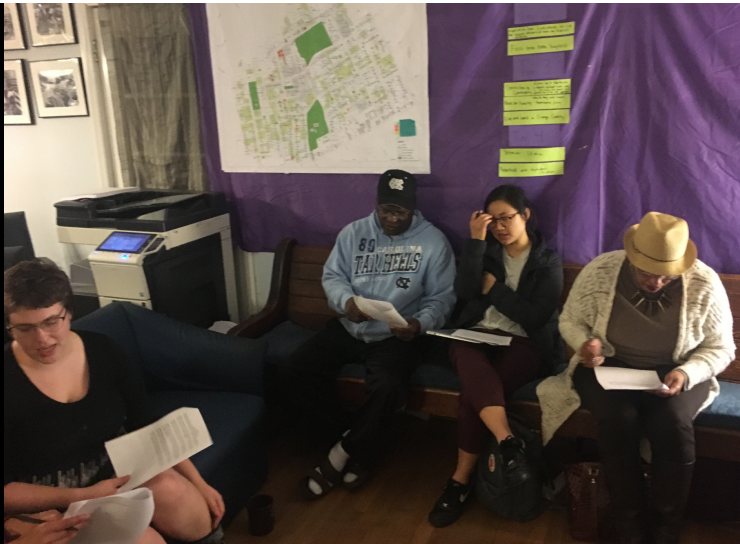


The Student Leadership Group is the core team of student residents and service partners that enabled 50% of this year's engagement goals to be student led. Ellie Teller (see her feature in the Porch Revival Tour pages) and Graham St. resident Jasmyn Thomas led teams of student service partners in doubling the number of porch/block celebrations. Adele Henderson managed the Northside Residential Fellows in the pilot year of the graduate student intentional living learning house. Anastasia Soule was captain of stewardship, scoring thousands of dollars in grant funds from the Campus Y Fund and Parents Council, that supported major neighborhood connective events such as the Porch Revival Tour and the annual Northside Festival. The entire group came together to throw the second annual Benefit Night at Steel String Brewery.

Each year the SLG establishes more internal structure to ensure its sustainability. SLG members recognize that students are a transient population and that without clear structures for involvement and recruitment, the three-year-old team could dissipate. This year, the SLG refined its charge by adding clear expectations for participation, new membership, and accountability. In the fall, they will have full ownership of recruiting and onboarding new student leaders in our community.

Caroline Englert is a first-year Honors student who began her Carolina career as a service partner on the events team. Her first experiences in Northside involved supporting the August and September porch revival tour and events and the GNI Block Party. In October, she was part of the team that collaborated with Craig St neighbors to throw the first annual Halloween Block Party. At the end of the semester, Caroline moved up in leadership, becoming an events captain. In January, she joined the Student Leadership Group and worked with her peers to plan the Second Annual Steel String Fundraiser. Caroline ended her first year hosting 800 people alongside MCJC staff and fellow SLG members at the annual Northside Festival. Caroline expects to be a member of the SLG for the next three years and has already laid the groundwork to involve her sorority sisters who live in Northside. She describes a great start to her career at UNC and her life in Chapel Hill:

"I am only a freshman, but I am very thankful for the experiences I have had. I have not only grown in confidence and cultural understanding, but a love for the Chapel Hill community has begun to blossom."



Aly Peeler and Joyce Yao craft matchmaking priorities with their fellow Compass Group members.



UNC students, members of Dissimilar South, perform at Steel String

# MEET THE SUMMER FELLOWS

This summer marks the fourth year of the Jackson Center Summer Fellowship Program. The MCJC Fellows are paid a stipend for 10 weeks at 32 hours /week of program leadership. This summer's six fellows were selected in the spring of 2019 from a competitive pool of undergraduate and graduate applicants across disciplines. They now own projects based on their interests and skills. These include, but are not limited to, building and maintaining the Northside Digital Commons and Oral History Trust, planning the Good Neighbor Initiative and Community Cook Out in collaboration with the UNC Office of Student Affairs and the Town of Chapel Hill, managing and furthering service partner recruitment through outreach and new course partnerships, revising the Learning Across Generations K-12 curriculum in local, Black history, refining the Northside Residential Fellowship, creating an undergraduate living-learning home, and collaborating with Partnerships in Aging Programs (PiAP) to bring Clinic Beyond Walls to Northside. Their contributions will be invaluable to the growth of MCJC programming and the Northside community. We trust that this intensive, immersive experience in community advocacy and leadership will nurture their growth as well.



Saradine helping neighbors write questions at the "Amity Station" community meeting



Summer fellows attending a dedication ceremony for Mildred "Mama Dip" Council and Harold Foster, two Northside legends, at Peace and Justice Plaza



Wyatt Woodson  
Rising Junior  
Political Science  
and Anthropology



Saradine Pierre  
Rising Senior  
Public Policy



Diana Nayeon Koo  
Rising Senior  
Public Policy and  
Political Science



Anna Patterson  
Rising 3rd year  
Dual Degree  
MPH, MCRP



Veda Patil  
Rising Junior  
Political Science  
and English



Kayla DeHoniesto  
Rising Senior  
Anthropology and  
Global Studies

# NORTHSIDE RESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP



Northside Residential Fellowship

This year we piloted a community-based “living learning” home with three young adults dedicated to community service and engagement in Northside! This program was designed by a Gillings School of Global Public Health graduate student as part of her practicum project. This year's fellows were active members in Jackson Center and Northside community celebrations. They hosted a Porch Pop-up, planned a game night for neighbors, and completed over 50 hours of service at Heavenly Groceries and the Craig Gomains Boys and Girls Club. One of the fellows took on full ownership of a food partnership with a local grocery store, driving the van each Monday to pick up food. Most important, they were engaged neighbors who felt Northside was home. The Northside Residential Fellowship will continue in the 2019-2020 academic year with three PhD students in Public Health, Pharmacy, and Anthropology, respectively. They, too, look forward to meeting new neighbors and sharing experiences with them in the upcoming year. Specifically, they expressed excitement in learning the history of Northside from local voices, inviting neighbors over for dinner, and developing parts of their identity outside of “grad student.” They will be rooted in their community and reminded that the world is bigger than the “ivory tower of academia”. They are committed to learning from, listening to, and engaging with their new neighbors.

## Mission

The Northside Residential Fellowship (NRF) builds on the Jackson Center’s mission to honor, renew, and build community in Northside and UNC’s Partnerships in Aging Program’s (PiAP) mission to cultivate age-embracing people and communities . The NRF strives to complement these missions by providing students quality housing in Northside and creating opportunities for them to be long-term residents and to engage their gifts in service to the community in which they live.

## Vision

The NRF envisions a neighborhood where the history of Northside is honored and valued. We see a neighborhood where every age is celebrated and supported and where elderhood is viewed as a time for continued adaptation, growth, and contribution.



# SERVICE PARTNERS

MCJC service partner activities shifted from ad hoc opportunities to intergenerational service teams, building internal and neighborhood affiliation among student service partners. Students are invited to join teams with focused objectives for at least one semester. The teams, sometimes referred to as “squads,” are micro-communities in which students collaborate directly with neighborhood experts in community journalism, celebration, and food security. As many students attest, this structure increases relationship building and dynamic learning. Within each service team, we created a “service partner captain” role for returning service partners. Captains are team leaders who recruit students to service teams, lead trainings, and organize community building events in the neighborhood.

## By the numbers

- 51% retention rate of service partners from Fall to Spring Semester. (we hit our retention goal!)
- 33% increase in Northside Festival student service partners
- 66% increase in student staff
- 315 attendees at Pop-Up/Porch Celebrations
- 2,415 total student staff hours
- 3,500+ students reached through Good Neighbor Initiative
- 5,186 total student engagement hours.



**“The Jackson Center offers an incredible opportunity to learn about the history of Chapel Hill and its impact on the community we students are a part of today. It is formidable in its ability to bridge campus and community and educate students to be more thoughtful and proactive about being a good community member and neighbor.”** Rising Senior and MCJC Service Partner

# LEARNING GOALS & EVALUATION:

## Public Service, Intercultural Competence, and Self-Awareness

2018-2019 was a year of intentional structural change. We deepened our student engagement model by focusing on UNC Learning Outcomes. We used *Connect*, *Discover*, and *Transform* specifically as frames for reorganizing student engagement opportunities and roles designating increasing levels of engagement. UNC students **connect** through an initial introduction to the history, values, traditions, and challenges of the neighborhoods in direct service. Students **discover** when they learn more about the neighborhood and themselves by fostering skill development in collaborative relationships. Students involved for multiple semesters as well as student staff **transform** by applying knowledge gained through lived experiences in critical leadership roles.

### Connect:

Students introduced to the neighborhood through direct service.

- **Service partner volunteering**
- **Good Neighbor Initiative walk-around, block party, and NEAT**
- **Northside News distribution & census data collection**
- **Northside Festival and ongoing event participation**
- **Northside History Soundwalk & Northside tours**

### Discover:

Students foster in-depth knowledge, skill development, & relationships with community.

- **Course Partnerships**
- **Teaching and Training**
- **Critical project leadership**
- **Porch & block gathering organizing**

### Transform:

Application of knowledge through lived experience.

- **Multi-year service partner leadership**
- **Student Leadership Group**
- **Student Summer Fellowships**
- **Bonner Leader Interns**

\*JC Service Model Chart

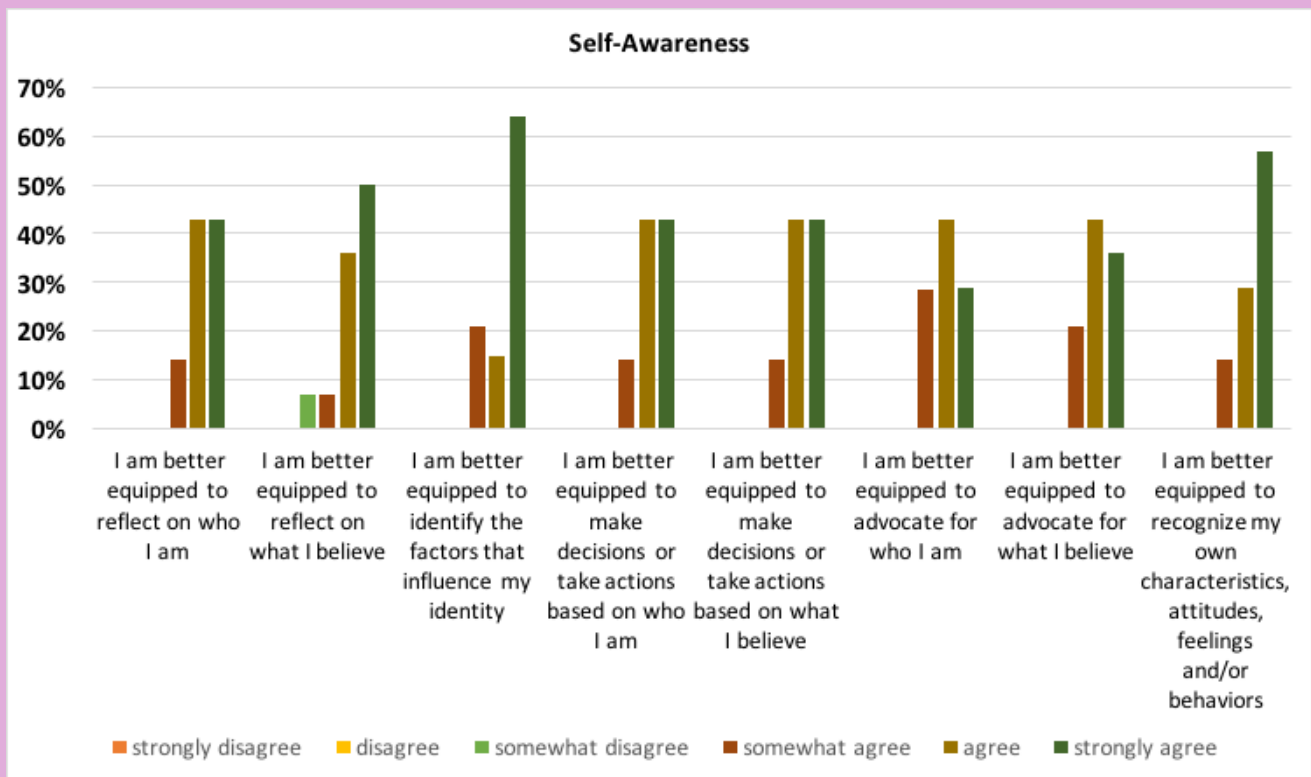
# SELF-AWARENESS

It's a privilege to be among the lucky few accepted into one of the most elite public universities in the country. However, this can create a skewed sense of the world, especially when it comes to wealth. We often hear from student service partners: "How do they expect us to afford books? We're poor students". MCJC engagement activities put students face to face with the realities of income inequality and poverty in Chapel Hill/Carrboro. Members of the Student Leadership Group engage in dialogue with their peers and neighbors around their role as the target population for the booming luxury student rental market that is the main cause of displacement in these communities.



Students who spend weekly hours at St. Joseph Food ministry come into direct contact with intense food insecurity in Orange County, a problem that affects low wage UNC faculty and staff, working class families, long-term residents, and students of low wealth. Quick moments, like this one between first-year student Connor Leeson and long-time Heavenly Groceries volunteer and life-long resident Charlie Norwood, make students aware of their privilege and what it really means to be "poor".

"I remember one day where I was talking to one of my classmates about buying something, and Miss Charlie was in the room. I said something about being broke or poor and Miss Charlie looked at me and said, 'You ain't never been poor. It's written all over you.' It really put things in perspective for me, and it was a very humbling moment. Truly changed how I look at the things that are given in my life."

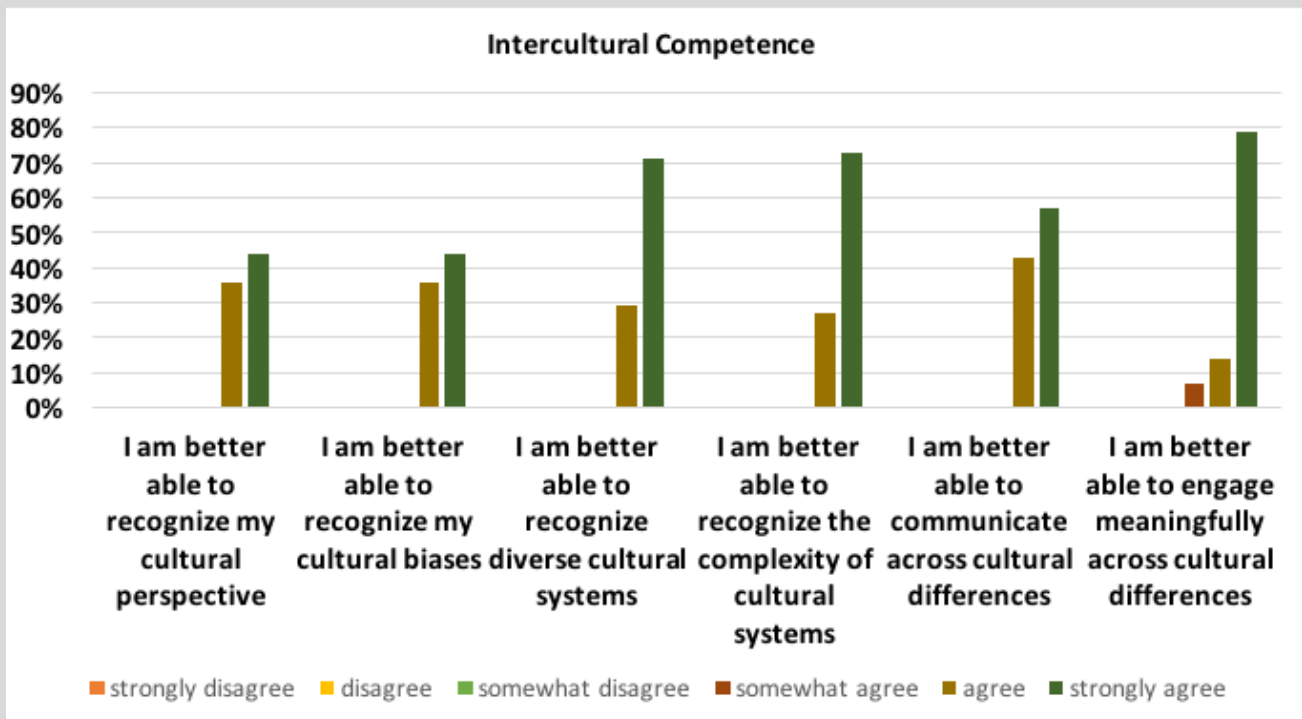


"Being a service partner at the Jackson Center allowed me to interact with the local community and experience nonprofit work. It opened my eyes to the struggles going on around the community and really took me out of the UNC bubble." Rising UNC Senior

# INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

On Graham St., in the western portion of Northside, no home is the same. At the top of the street a long-time resident and community leader walks her dog out of a house built of Chatham stone, the same stone used by the masons who built the walls around the university. Walk a few house down and you'll run into a Burmese family having a cook out in their front yard. Saunter just a couple hundred yards towards Whitaker street and you'll catch a wave from Joe Fearington taking in the day from his porch. Mr. Fearington is a WWII veteran who built many of the houses on Graham St. Each year, MCJC engagement activities take dozens of UNC students on journeys down Graham St. Students invite neighbors to important community meetings, deliver the Northside News, and learn how to play Spades at porch celebrations. They form relationships, engage in dialogue, and navigate complex issues of neighborhood change with a global population. Connor Nielson, a senior Geography and Dramatic art major, was part of the team of Geography students who engaged with over 150 diverse households to spearhead the completion of the second round of our neighborhood census. Connor learned quickly that Northside is not homogenous.

"Northside is a small neighborhood geographically, but it contains multitudes. My service with the Jackson Center enabled me to understand the challenges of neighborhood change from many perspectives, and it prepared me to be a good neighbor no matter where I move next."



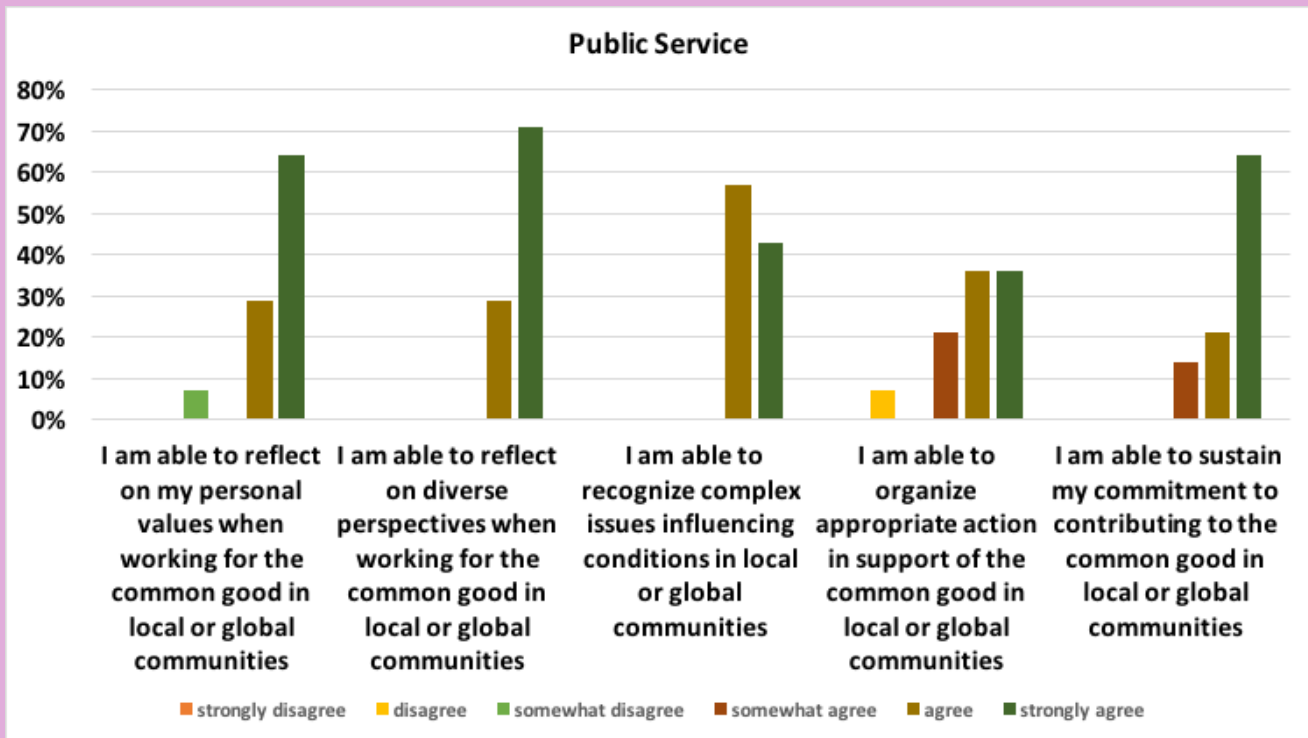
"Learning about Northside and meeting the people in this community has enriched my cultural awareness and connection to Chapel Hill" -Rising UNC Senior

# PUBLIC SERVICE

Everyone does public service in Northside. Through the MCJC, students join in a community of reciprocity where helping your neighbor is a cultural norm. The annual Northside Festival, our largest event of the year, which honors and renews the May Day celebration that marked the end of the school year at Orange County Training School/Northside Elementary, is a primary site for dynamic service learning. Student service partners jump into the food service line alongside Northside and Pine Knolls residents, quickly learning the do's and don'ts of serving 700+ people from experts who have fed the masses for decades. The Student Leadership Group embodies the practice of hospitality by making sure every elderly neighbor has a full plate of food and cold cup of lemonade. Dozens of students weave under and over residents as the day ends with the honor and renewal of the May Pole dance.



"I recommend the Jackson Center for opportunities because their work applies concepts that can seem abstract to the real world. Their approach to preserving neighborhood integrity, from oral history-based education to land banking, is adaptive, innovative, and puts the community first. I am proud to have been even a small part of this mission, and I believe other students will feel the same way." -Rising Senior and MCJC Service Partner



"Being a service partner was fun and a good learning experience. I gained a lot of knowledge about the Chapel Hill community and its history and diverse culture. The experience is completely different than just joining an on campus service organization."

-Rising UNC Senior



# GOALS 2019-2020

- Retain 75% of student service partners from Fall to Spring semester
- Organize 3 undergraduate households committed to living intentionally in community for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Mobilize 16 team captains, at least 2 per service team, to lead training, connect students with neighbors, and recruit service partners.
- Double membership of the Student Leadership Group with students who will be involved for at least two years.
- Increase attendance of student residents of Pine Knolls and Tin-Top by 50% to gatherings through the Porch Revival Tour.
- Develop partnerships with 5 additional student organizations committed to year-long service.
- Empower student led stewardship to raise \$7,000 for public service efforts in Northside
- Strengthen resident and service partner turnout at Good Neighbor Initiative "Community Cookout", MCJC Holiday Party, Northside Neighborhood Initiative celebration, fundraising events, local policy meetings and Northside Festival, through multi-media communication such as text chains and social media
- Pilot student core that supports elderly residents aging in community through the Northside Residential Fellows intentional living-learning house/program
- Spearhead 2-3 welcome events in neighborhood and on campus to build community among students and long-term residents between the GNI Walk-Around and Community Cookout.
- Expand GNI NEAT to other off campus communities (ex. Cameron-McCauley and Davie Circle) through student leadership and direction of GNI NEAT Team.
- Develop student intern and Bonner leadership through spear-heading service partner recruitment, Porch Revival Tour, home repair data management, and discrete projects for the Northside Digital Commons.
- Enhance Carolina Excellency in action evaluation metrics to all areas of MCJC student engagement to further evaluate learning outcomes

**"[Service Partnership] was important because it helped me understand history about where I am living as a student at UNC. This education will change how I view my neighbors and interact with them."**

**-Logan Lucero, Sophomore Course Partner Participant**

# SUMMER FELLOW FEATURE:

## The Power of Being in Community

Kayla DeHoniesto is a rising Senior at UNC studying Anthropology and Global Studies. In her first week as a summer fellow, she played an active role in a community meeting to address a new development that would require rezoning part of the Northside Conservation District. In her reflection on the meeting she captures the dilemma many students find themselves in as both the target demographic for rentals and as friends of the Northside Community.

*As I walked out of the Amity Station Community Meeting, on my second day of this fellowship, I could not process the thoughts and emotions running through my head. I could sense anger, frustration, guilt, heartache, and excitement all in one. Each emotion fought for prominence in my brain, but I ultimately walked away from that meeting confused; confused on what there was left to do and what my personal role was in this new community I had adopted. But in order for me to understand my role in fighting the gentrification affecting Northside, I had to first understand what the neighborhood means to me and to its residents.*



To read the rest of the reflection, visit the MCJC blog here: <https://jacksoncenter.tumblr.com/>

# STUDENT FEATURE:

## How This Work Changed Me

In the fall of 2017, I took a leap of faith by leaving behind a place I had made home, a job I was inspired by, and people I loved in order to pursue my Masters in Public Health at UNC. I felt that to be the change agent for historically marginalized communities I desired to be, I needed to develop my skills and leadership by continuing my education. I chose the program at UNC largely because of the practicum summer experience between the first and second year of the program and, thankfully, my placement at the Jackson Center validated that decision. I knew I wanted to focus on equity challenges in the Chapel Hill community and take my knowledge and skills gained in the classroom out of the academic and abstract. I wanted to get back to doing real work in my community. What I did not expect was that what began as a 10 week Masters of Public Health requirement, would become a year and a half of transformative personal and professional growth.

I did not know anything about Northside until my summer fellowship at the Jackson Center in 2018, despite attending UNC for undergrad from 2009-2013. Like many students, I strolled down Church and Lindsay Streets without having a clue what disruption and exploitation the community was facing. While I initially felt guilty, I recognized my ignorance and moved forward by regrounding myself in the context of the community.

Within the first few weeks of the fellowship, I was sitting in neighbors' homes. I was a little hesitant at first, but Northside embraces an open door policy. The primary purpose of these meetings was to conduct satisfaction surveys for home repairs, but I always left with new wisdom and connection. Sometimes I walked away with a better understanding of the resilience of the Black community in Chapel Hill often supplemented by a real depiction of the struggle in maintaining a home on a fixed income. Sometimes a practical lesson in cultivating a garden. Sometimes simple words of encouragement for my career pursuits. In all instances, these conversations reminded me what community is: connection, support, love.

My experience at the Jackson Center has been invaluable for understanding how to work in community, with community. I was able to join partnership meetings and neighborhood Compass Group meetings that demonstrated how to work across disciplines with multiple stakeholders. To actually attend community sessions and advocate with my colleagues and neighbors for affordable housing has impacted me more than any classroom session on community engagement and racial equity as concepts ever could. Thanks to these experiences, I will be a more intentional public health practitioner always advocating for real voices in the community to be heard. The Jackson Center's approach to "community-first" organizing is an approach I will honor and transfer to all future organizations.

Now, as I prepare for my transition from the Jackson Center, I hold onto the spirit of community and seek to create it wherever I may land next. I will intentionally cultivate connection with the people in the place I make home. Whether I am roaming the streets of New York City or still in Chapel Hill, I will greet neighbors and passers-by with a wave and "how's it going?", then actually pause to hear the reply, because who knows what I may learn.

-Adele Henderson,  
MPH '19 MCJC Organizing and Advocacy Fellow



## Jackson Center Student Engagement & Off-Campus Support Program Expenses

| Expenses  | UNC Contract Funds | Other Funding Sources | Total Program Expenses |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Program Personnel:</b><br>High Impact Learning: Service Placements & Support | \$18,850           | \$18,850              | \$37,700               |
| <b>Program Personnel:</b><br>Off Campus Housing & Student Education Program     | \$14,750           | \$14,750              | \$29,500               |
| <b>Program Personnel:</b><br>Impact Analysis                                    | \$1,900            | \$1,900               | \$3,800                |
| <b>Summer Student Engagement Fellows Program</b>                                | \$9,450            | \$9,450               | \$18,900               |
| <b>Program &amp; Event Supplies</b>   | \$2,925            | \$2,175               | \$5,100                |
| <b>Software &amp; Online Services</b>   | \$425              | \$875                 | \$1,300                |
| <b>Contract Services:</b><br>Data & Consulting                                  | --                 | \$1,458               | \$1,458                |
| <b>Printing &amp; Communications</b>  | \$1,700            | \$1,225               | \$2,925                |
| <b>Program % of Operations &amp; Facilities Costs</b>                           | --                 | \$10,625              | \$10,625               |
| <b>Training &amp; Professional Dev.</b>   | --                 | \$825                 | \$825                  |
| <b>Insurance</b>  | --                 | \$615                 | \$615                  |
| <b>Other</b>  | --                 | \$450                 | \$450                  |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$50,000</b>    | <b>\$63,198</b>       | <b>\$113,198</b>       |

