

April's Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
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The New Rural Project's Rural Roundup Monthly Newsletter

Steve,



Last month, we rang in our first anniversary and hosted a virtual celebration on April 6th. We were thrilled to see so many of you there on the Zoom as we reflected on all we've accomplished this year. Within this first year, we've been successful at boosting

civic and electoral engagement in rural North Carolina communities by launching programs like our Front Porch Conversations (Deep Canvassing) and Barbershop Conversations, which are aimed at advocating for, and listening to, folks in these communities.

In April, we also celebrated our wonderful volunteers with our Volunteer Appreciation Month! We couldn't have accomplished all we

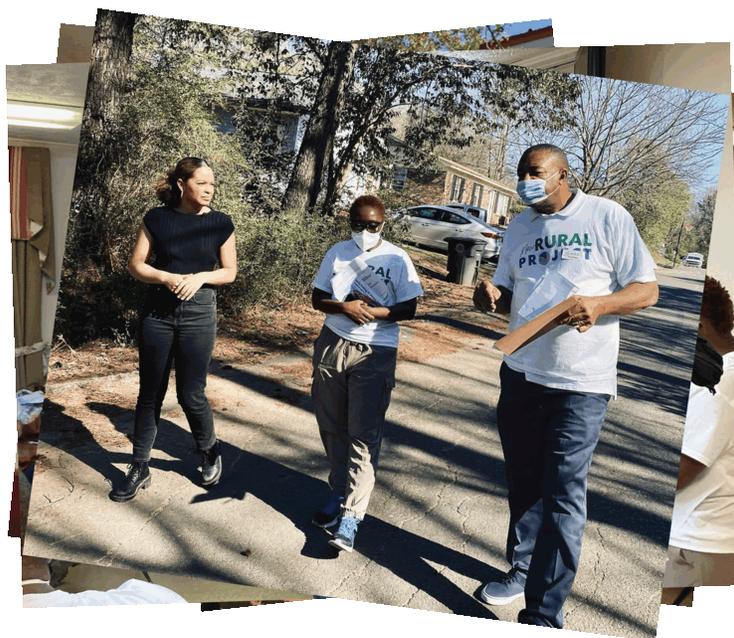
CELEBRATING
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH!
WE THANK YOU ALL!



did this year without their dedication and support.



Additionally, we are so proud that our Front Porch Conversations (Deep Canvassing) program was featured on MSNBC's Meet the Press - "County to County" series. Antonia Hylton's reporting helped amplify the voices of Black voters in Anson County and showcased the work we and so many others are doing to engage these voters. You can check out the story [here](#).



We couldn't do this without your support, and we are so grateful to have you on our team.

With gratitude,
Cynthia and Helen
Co-founders of NRP

LISTENING

On April 26, we had the final session of our Four-week pilot

Barbershop Conversations: **Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment (F.A.D.E.) program in Anson County. We had a modest goal to reach about 10 to 12 men per week, and we doubled that number!**



One 30-year-old named Rayshawn said that he never registered to vote because he didn't think his vote mattered or would make a difference. But at the very first session, after hearing from Wadesboro Councilman Davis and listening to the conversations with the other young men about how town zoning impacts Wadesboro businesses, he decided it was time to register. Most of the men have already pledged to vote in the May 17th primary election and also committed to bring at least five other friends and family members to the polls with them. **What started off as a 10 person program could potentially reach 100 or more voters in just this one county!**

Our next FADE series will occur in Scotland County in June. Stay tuned!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

On April 20th, we partnered with Dr. Karen Smith and her COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Team to continue our COVID-19 health equity work! The community event in Hoke County was hosted by Open Door



Soup Kitchen, Molding Young Moguls, and Affairs of the Family.



The event included an Easter egg hunt and Easter baskets, food boxes, and vouchers were donated and made available to attendees. We hosted several phone banks to support the event and are so grateful to all those who donated.

Two of our dedicated volunteers represented NRP at the Moore County NAACP & Climate Crisis Working Group "Earth Day is Every Day" event. There were hands-on activities to get the kids interested in nature and in protecting our environment. Almost 50 children and their families participated and enjoyed going to the different table stations. Every child took home a Dr. Seuss bag with their crafts and information on NRP.



ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT



We hosted our third deep canvass, or Front Porch Conversations, in Wadesboro, where our dedicated



volunteers spoke
with hundreds of
infrequent voters.

Our deep canvassing aims to speak to all 1,000 voters of color in Wadesboro who were registered but didn't vote in the 2020 general election.

Through this program, we are gaining a better understanding of the barriers that have limited these folks' voting behavior, identifying the issues that are of concern to them, and working to increase voter turnout this year.

We also hosted a deep canvass on April 30th in Scotland County in partnership with the Laurinburg Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. We hope you can join us [in Scotland County on May 14th \(the last Saturday of NC Early Voting\) to speak to even more folks in Laurinburg](#) on their front porch. Throughout the summer we will be expanding our Front Porch Conversations into even more communities.

[Additionally, you can join us every Thursday for our weekly phonebank into one of the seven counties we serve in rural North Carolina!](#) Whether you are new to phone banking or a seasoned pro, all are welcome to attend, and you'll be trained before making any calls.

OTHER UPDATES

Important North Carolina Election Dates

Primary season is upon us, and early voting has already started! There are competitive races all across North Carolina. Make sure your voice is heard and go out and vote today!

North Carolina Statewide Election Dates

NOW

Absentee ballot requests are being accepted. Requests can be made online or by mail.

APRIL 28 - MAY 14

One-stop, in-person early voting period

MAY 10

Deadline to submit an absentee ballot request form

MAY 17

Election Day and absentee ballot return deadline



[NRP on the Road](#)



In early April our co-founders, Cynthia and Helen attended a meeting in Illinois where they were honored to have the opportunity to speak with some significant donors about the reality of grassroots work in NC.

Uplifting the needs of this work in front of an audience of concerned donors who can help NRP is important as we continue to build our programs to reach rural voters.



North Carolina Rural Broadband
Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022
12:00 PM



 <small>Helen Proctor Miller Co-Founder/Policy & Operations Director for New Rural Project (Moderator)</small>	 <small>Senator Natalie Murdock SD 20</small>	 <small>Representative Terry Brown HD 92</small>
		

On Thursday, April 21st, [Rural Voices USA](#), the bipartisan coalition working to advance issues that support rural America, along with the

Activist Monica Gibbs
Gibbs Public Affairs LLCNisa Denny
Deputy Secretary for Rural Broadband & Digital Equity for
Governor Roy Cooper

Marie Goode, Educator

[New Rural Project](#) hosted

a virtual town hall on important upcoming investments in rural broadband across North Carolina. Helen moderated the town hall which included President Biden's broadband policy lead, Governor Cooper's rural broadband lead, and leaders from the state legislature working to advance broadband access.

On April 4th and April 21st, our Regional Organizer, Nisea, and Program Director, Alexa went to the Sandhills Community College at the invitation of the Speakers Lab on campus. They were able to attend a voter registration event and speak to two Public Speaking classes to students from Moore and Hoke counties about civic and electoral engagement, how local elections impact daily life, and how one can speak at local government meetings.

You can listen to why students like Deborah will vote by clicking [here](#).



As always, make sure you check [the NRP website](#) to see more about what we're up to (including other news articles on the work that we are doing).

Thank you so much for being such a valuable member of the New Rural Project! Check out the bottom of our email for more ways to get involved.

Team New Rural Project

CONTRIBUTE

VOLUNTEER



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New Rural Project
PO Box 77424
Charlotte, NC 28271
United States

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