

A Surprise to Celebrate and Honor Cynthia



From Helen Probst Mills <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
Date 2022-07-08 08:45



Steve,

Today is Cynthia's birthday! She is on a long overdue and well deserved family vacation, and we would love your help organizing a bit of a surprise for when she returns.

As many of you know, Cynthia and I founded the New Rural Project just over a year ago this past April. What you may not know is the whole back story.

After Cynthia and I were unsuccessful in our 2020 bids for office, Cynthia used her math skills and spent dozens of hours digging into not only our election results but also historic election results for the same counties. (*And thank goodness she did because I am not a math person!*)

What Cynthia found is what we all see so very clearly now - the lack of electoral participation by young voters of color in these rural counties has changed the way the counties voted. From our time on the campaign trail, Cynthia and I both knew that to increase voter participation in these communities, someone must be willing to take the time to listen to young voters of color and hear their concerns. That's when we realized we could take the knowledge we learned on the ground, the relationships we had built in the communities, and put together a non-profit that would engage with rural young voters of color with the goal of increasing voter participation of those voters.

Well, easier said than done. First I got shingles, meaning Cynthia had to do all the work for several weeks (make sure you get the shingles vaccine when you are eligible - shingles is excruciating!). And then along came COVID making it very difficult to strategize and get our organization off of the ground. But Cynthia brings a heck of a lot more than math skills to the table! She has great tech skills (*no surprise - also not my strong suit!*) enabling us to seamlessly keep moving forward. And finally, Cynthia has deep compassion. **I am in awe of how much dedication, coupled with passion, Cynthia has for the work we are doing.**

Please join me in thanking Cynthia for all of the hard work that she has put into forming and launching the New Rural Project by taking a moment and wishing her a Happy Birthday [on our Facebook feed here](#), and by making a [donation in her honor here](#).

From the bottom of my heart Cynthia, thank you for all that you are doing to uplift the voices and improve the lives of marginalized people of color in our rural communities. Happy Birthday!

Here's to you Cynthia!

Helen

P.S. NRP is hiring! We're looking for an [Organizing Director](#) and an additional [Regional Organizer](#) to join our team and support our Field Organizing work. You can find the job postings for our open positions on [Indeed](#). If you're interested in applying for Organizer roles, please

follow the directions in the job description on Indeed and reach out to us at jobs@newruralproject.org.



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