

February-March 2024 Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
Date 2024-04-20 11:41

The New Rural Project's
Rural Roundup
Monthly Newsletter

Dear Steve,

In February, we celebrated Black History Month and in March, we celebrated Women's History Month. On April 10, on the heels of recognizing women and Black people, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that a law from 1864 that bans nearly all abortions can be enforced. This law was passed during a time when women didn't have the right to vote and very few Black men had that right. As we see where we are in our country's history, the preservation of the rights and freedoms of both groups is a key reason why **Helen Probst Mills and I founded New Rural Project on April 6, 2021**. Protecting these freedoms is why we knew an organization that works *every* month of the year was needed to help increase civic and electoral engagement among rural folks.

Because people like you are spreading the word about NRP by reading and sharing our newsletters, we just celebrated our 3rd birthday! In honor of this important anniversary, we invite you to join us as we celebrate in Charlotte, NC on April 29 at 6:30 PM. Please click [here](#) to RSVP. Can't join us in person? You can still be part of the celebration by making a "[Happy Birthday](#)" donation to help us continue this important work.



As always, thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

Cynthia L. Wallace
Executive Director
New Rural Project

HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK

LISTENING



From day one, we've always said and lived the fact that our work **BEGINS and ENDS with LISTENING**. Continuing to not only "talk the talk" but "walk the walk", we're preparing to listen to our friends in Scotland and Hoke counties before we launch C.U.R.L.S. events there in 2024!

Do you live in Scotland or Hoke and want to be a part of the planning? Please reach out to [Alexa Roberts](#) today!

We also hope you'll share your thoughts about New Rural Project and the issues you care about. **Watch out for our survey in the coming weeks!**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

New Rural Project focuses our work on four critical issues: **Education, Healthcare, Public Safety, and Voting Rights**. In the past few months, we had the opportunity to make **healthcare** the focus of our civic engagement work.

Healthcare

Canvass for Anson Community Health Fair

On February 3, thirteen volunteers joined New Rural Project to canvass the Morven community, spreading awareness about Medicaid Expansion, our February Health Fair community event, and the March 5 primary election.



Health Fair

On **Saturday, February 10**, NRP hosted our **Anson County Community Health Fair** in partnership with the **HOLLA! Center, Atrium Health, NETworX Anson, Care Share Health Alliance/NC Navigators, and WellCare**. The goal of the health fair was to ensure that Ansonians have the resources and information they need to apply for life-saving healthcare coverage and access to the healthcare services and resources available in and around Anson County. When our health fair was held, around 1,000 of the 3,000 Ansonians eligible for Medicaid had been enrolled since expansion became effective in December 2023. Since our health fair, there have been approximately 250 additional Medicaid enrollees in Anson. Click [here](#) to check out enrollment in your county.



BY THE NUMBERS:

80 people attended

33 people representing

18 organizations at tables

7 people obtained ID cards to be able to vote in the upcoming election

4 happy winners: awarded two gift baskets and two gift cards

and

One fantastic article in the local newspaper, [The Anson Record!](#)

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

#UniteNC Tour: "Ready to Vote" Event

On **February 20 at 6:30 pm at Rehoboth Church of Monroe**, NRP partnered with **Common Cause NC, the League of Women Voters (NC & Charlotte-Mecklenburg), the Union County NAACP, and Rehoboth Church of Monroe** to host our first 2024 non-partisan voter information event. This event helped folks navigate the new voting laws and understand the recent redistricting changes. We learned quite a bit from the Union County Board of Elections staff member and board chair who shared their wisdom and insights with the attendees.





Canvassing (Front Porch Conversations)

February 24 in Scotland County marked the return of our **Front Porch Conversations** connected to voting! New Rural Project canvassed in Laurinburg reminding folks that the election laws have changed and a photo ID would be needed to vote early by March 3 and in the March 5 primary election. The canvassers stressed to residents the importance of having their voices heard through the power of their vote. We were excited about the enthusiastic local folks who joined Nisea and Kia from the NRP team to knock on over 130 doors on their neighbors' Front Porches!

OTHER UPDATES

Regional Medicaid Expansion Training: Presentation on Rural Community Outreach Feb. 27, 2024

After partnering with us for our Anson Community Health Fair, the **Care Share Health Alliance** invited the NRP Programs team, Kia and Alexa, to share some of our tips and experiences with rural outreach at the Southeastern Regional Medicaid Expansion training at the Crown Coliseum Complex in Fayetteville NC.



NC Rural Summit in Raleigh



NRP Program Director **Alexa Roberts** attended the NC Rural Summit in Raleigh on **Mar 20-21** where rural advocates from across the state gathered to discuss ways to help rural North Carolinians.

Alexa listened as community college presidents described rural community colleges as engines of economic mobility, learned how North Carolina is improving internet access in rural communities, and how innovative services and programs in rural libraries are helping small businesses and rural communities.

Reconnecting with friends and partners of NRP at the summit was a bonus and we're excited to share with our focus counties all the great things that Alexa learned!



America Votes Summit

On **March 25 - 28**, Cynthia and Nisea attended the America Votes National State Summit in Washington, DC, with several other NC civic groups. The NRP team was among over 2,000 attendees from across the nation, all working to strengthen our democracy and encourage citizens to get out and vote the entire ballot in the important 2024 election.



This year, Cynthia was invited to participate in a panel titled "Beyond Cities & Metros: Building Power in Civic Deserts," where she shared NRP's strategy for civic engagement with leaders from Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, and Georgia.



[In the News](#)



In March, Cynthia was interviewed by North Carolina Public Radio's Jeff Tiberii, host of "Due South." She spoke about how Black rural voters care about issues similar to most other voters and NRP's efforts to reach rural voters of color through focus groups, community events, door-knocking, and polling. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

Learn more about the other media coverage NRP has received on our [website](#).

We're Hiring!

NRP is hiring organizers in [Union](#), [Scotland](#), and [Hoke](#) counties! Click on the county link to apply or click [here](#) to read about all the career opportunities at New Rural Project!



Thanks for reading! We appreciate you!

Team New Rural Project

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