

Join the New Rural Project and me next week!



From Leon Gatewood <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
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Steve,

I hope you will [join me](#) in Charlotte on April 29 for the New Rural Project's 3rd birthday party at former Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts's house from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.



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I was born, raised, and still live in Anson County. I founded HOLLA! (Helping Our Loved-ones Learn and Achieve) and The HOLLA! Center in 2005 after noticing the low reading scores of our children. Through that work, I met NRP's co-founders Helen Probst Mills and Cynthia Wallace in 2018, and I was thrilled to be one of the first people they reached out to for feedback when NRP was just an idea in 2021. [We all recognized that there was an opportunity to reach out to rural voters who feel left behind and overlooked.](#)

The work I've had the privilege of doing alongside the NRP team started with their 2021 COVID-19 vaccine community events, which they hosted at the HOLLA! Center in Morven, NC, a town of 400 where over 80 shots went into arms! We partnered on Candidate Conversations, canvasses, and an epic Election Day party in 2023 in Wadesboro (a town that is 60% African American) before we flipped two council seats and achieved representative government on the town council for the first time.

[Please join me in wishing a very happy 3rd birthday to NRP and join us on April 29th at 6:30 pm in Charlotte.](#) Your support will allow NRP to continue their great rural work in Anson, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, and Union Counties!

Best,
Leon Gatewood
CEO, HOLLA! Center



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

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