

Charlotte Action Research Project (CHARP) Updates

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November 2011

The Charlotte Action Research Project is a partnership between the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the City of Charlotte's Neighborhood and Business Services division, and local Charlotte communities. CHARP's mission is to match UNC Charlotte students with service learning opportunities in challenged Charlotte neighborhood and, in the process, develop mutually beneficial partnerships.



The CHARP Team

Meet the 2011-2012 CHARP Team



From Left to Right:

Pamela Pate, *Americorps VISTA/Windy Ridge Liaison*

Sheree Harper, *Farm Pond Liaison*

Joe Howarth, *Graham Heights Liaison*

Dr. Janni Sorensen, *CHARP Director*

Liz Shockey, *Student Coordinator*

Jabari Adams, *Enderly Park Liaison*

Dr. Susan Harden, *Crossroads Charlotte Collaborator*

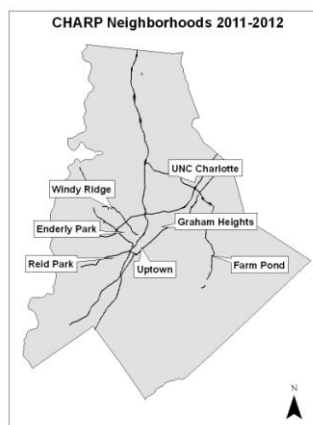
Not Pictured:

Tonya Farrow-Chestnutt, *Assessment*

Artie Pryer, *Reid Park Liaison*

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CHARP works in five Charlotte communities:

- Windy Ridge
- Graham Heights
- Enderly Park
- Reid Park
- Farm Pond

Thank you for taking the time to read the first edition of the CHARP (Charlotte Action Research Project) newsletter! This publication will be delivered bi-monthly to keep you in the loop about what we and our resident partners have been up to. The newsletter will be distributed to all CHARP stakeholders, including student alumni, as well as city and resident partners. We hope that this will serve as a valuable, two-way instrument of communication. You will have the opportunity to keep up to date with our activities, and we also welcome your thoughts and comments. Each issue will feature a spotlight on one of our team members, as well as updates from each of our five CHARP neighborhoods. We hope this will be useful for you, and look forward to continuing our partnership with each and every one of you.

--Liz Shockey, CHARP Student Coordinator

November 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|--|--|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Service Learning Showcase Featuring Dr. Janni Sorensen 1-4pm UNCC- CHHS 284 | 12 Enderly Park Neighborhood Cleanup, 10am Contact Jabari Adams |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Windy Ridge Meeting, 7pm Contact Pamela Pate | 18 Farm Pond Meeting Contact Sheree Harper | 19 Enderly Park Bag of Love Event, 10:00am Contact Jabari Adams |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24  | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

We encourage you to continue your partnership with CHARP by volunteering or donating to our project. If you would like to help with any of the events listed above, or make a donation, please contact one of us!

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
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| Artie Pryer (Farm Pond): | apryer@uncc.edu |

Graham Heights



Pictured Here: Graham Heights residents and UNC Charlotte students gear up for a community clean-up on Oct. 15th. The cleanup was a success, and is the first in a series of exciting events planned in the community for the 2011-2012 school year. This is CHARP's first year working in Graham Heights and Community Liaison Joe Howarth has been pleased with turnout and enthusiasm thus far.

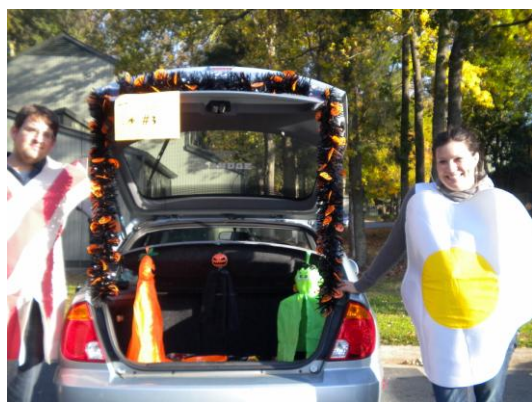
Reid Park



Pictured Here: The Reid Park Pride Team logo, developed by UNC Charlotte's own Tara Bengle in 2010. This year, a big goal for Reid Park is to hold elections. Currently, residents are organizing a Nominating Committee with the help of Community Liaison Artie Pryer.

Neighborhood Updates

Farm Pond



Pictured Here: CHARP volunteers stand by their decorated vehicle at the Oct. 30th Trunk or Treat event. With the help of Community Liaison Sheree Harper, Trunk or Treat was a great success, with a turnout of more than fifty neighborhood residents.

Enderly Park



Pictured Here: Enderly Park residents volunteer at the Meck Food Day event, held on October 22 at the Bette Rae Thomas Center. With the help of Community Liaison Jabari Adams, the Enderly Park Neighborhood Association has taken off and plans an outreach event monthly. This month, community members will collect Thanksgiving donations during the Bag of Love drive.

CHARP Partner Spotlight: Ten Questions for Keihly Moore



How did you become involved with CHARP?

As a part of my Graduate Research Assistantship I started working in Windy Ridge last fall. I was in the unique position to be able to collaborate with the architecture and geography sides of the program. We even co-presented a paper at the 2010 Urban Affairs Conference on the foreclosure issues evident in the neighborhood.

Tell us a little about yourself--basic facts, such as where you are from and why you chose to come to UNC Charlotte.

I'm from the north country! The shores of Lake Superior, in the Duluth, Minnesota area is where I grew up. I chose Charlotte because I was excited about their action and community based research center, the Design + Society Research Center, and the overlap of the Urban Design and Architecture Masters programs.

What was your most memorable "Windy Ridge moment"?

I will say that every time I go there, I always have a story. At the conclusion of the big day when we planted over 425 holly bushes we had a few left over, and some of the resident kids got their parents to pile the kids and many of the leftover bushes into the van. It was practically overflowing with kids and foliage. They drove around dropping off bushes to those who wanted them - it was fun to be randomly gift giving.

What is your favorite thing about Charlotte?

The weather, smells (crape myrtle, wisteria), the greenness of the abundant trees, the proximity of the mountains, the randomness of running into your friends at the gallery crawls in NoDa or Southend, and biking down quiet back streets at night.

Where is your favorite place to travel? Why?

This is a hard one! I think travel is made best when you can have the chance to explore at many different modes of movement. I try to borrow a bike wherever I go because it offers more freedom and independence, and it's quicker than walking everywhere (second favorite). I'd also have to say I like traveling to places where there is a water component built into and around the city. I also like to escape cities for the deep woods, to regroup myself in a quiet and a constantly growing and subtly moving environment. In general, I just plain like to be outside! (Evident when I make sure to check out the qualities of public space and parks wherever I go.)

As a research assistant for Dr. Jose Gamez (Architecture), Keihly Moore is currently working for a second year in Windy Ridge. She has helped the community implement a variety of projects, including the recent Neighborhood Matching Grant-funded landscaping/fencing project.

I know you are a great photographer (and logo designer!!) and all around artsy person. How many cool hobbies DO you have?? How do you find so many creative outlets?

Well, sometimes the creative moments come by accident. For example, I was really dreading working on a certain project a while back, so, procrastinating, I noticed soda cans all around, so I decided to cut one up and make business card holders out of the can. (It's the perfect size!) I've also realized that creativity is just a part of everyday life. You can even think of it in terms of situations - anytime there's a tricky/bad situation, you can use your creative powers to turn it into something good or useful.

I once ate a scone you baked, and it was extremely delicious. What is your favorite edible good that you make/bake?

This sometimes changes depending on the day or season. Just today I made two of my favorites: Ginger molasses cookies (vegan! + easy) and an almond torte..also very easy! I also like to mix in cardamom or lavender wherever it makes sense (and sometimes when it doesn't.)

You are ALSO an accomplished biker. What is your favorite bike route in Charlotte?

I like Dilworth/East Boulevard, and the Little Sugar Creek greenway - riding that makes Charlotte feel urban and connected for that little 2 mile stretch :) I also wouldn't say I'm "accomplished"...I just like to bike everywhere within 7 miles of home and I don't care about bad weather or cold - it's all about the exercise and being outside.

I can't leave out your "couch surfing." Tell us about an interesting or fun couch surfing experience you've had.

Well, I can truly say the system has changed my life. There always seems to be amazing coincidences that happen or small-world-experiences. I've also been amazed at the generosity shown by others! Just recently a woman came to Charlotte for the Smart Growth Conference and after meeting for one night, we've become very good friends and I've surfed on her couch in Baltimore and with her friends in Philadelphia. There seems to be an air of good will surrounding this system, and, like everything you have to be careful, but I've had nothing but good experiences!

I can barely keep up with all the exciting things you do! What's next for you?

Well, I've got one year left at UNCC after this one and then.... decisions to make! I've realized that my goal is to be a "solutionist." I want to solve problems through design. I like the public realm - streets, plazas, parks. There is also always a need to improve the livability of a place. I think there are good opportunities out there to solve problems in a creative way, don't you think? :)

CHARP Neighborhood Spotlight: Holly Bush Planting in Windy Ridge

In 2009, Dr. Sorensen started working in Windy Ridge at the suggestion of the City of Charlotte, who saw the need for support for this foreclosure-ravaged northwest Charlotte suburb. Over the past several years, UNC Charlotte students have been involved in a number of projects in the community. Most recently, students and residents worked together to implement a Neighborhood Matching Grant funded by the City of Charlotte to build a security fence and planting decorative holly bushes along it. Planting took place on Saturday, October 15th and was a great success. Below are some pictures from the day.



Announcements

- **Congratulations to Jabari Adams, who was recently awarded a Front Porch Grant by Crossroads Charlotte to develop a community garden in Enderly Park.**
- **Congratulations to Artie Pryer, Sheree Harper and Jabari Adams, all of whom are finalists in the Crossroads Charlotte A.C.T. grant competition.**