**Postscript: Windy Ridge in 2013**

Since the submission of this report to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, we have continued our work in Windy Ridge despite the extensive challenges to community organizing, action research, and even to small-scale improvements to the built environment. During the academic years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, an Americorps VISTA volunteer worked with residents on issues including updating and improving the street lighting infrastructure, reforming the ineffective HOA, and continuing to increase social capital among community members. Successes and challenges with regard to each of the three major goals for the project were:

* ***Organizational capacity building***: The VISTA has worked with other graduate students from the Community Planning Workshop and the Geography and Earth Sciences Department at UNC Charlotte to continue to make connections and research-based partnerships in the neighborhood. Several new key stakeholders have been identified in addition to the original core of resident partners, and we have worked with these individuals to continue to improve quality of life. Particularly of note is our work with the Charlotte School of Law to try to identify ways in which to improve the Homeowner’s Association which, with its legal and financial challenges, has been a source of stress for residents.
* ***Public Space***: Establishing a public space for the community continues to prove challenging due to the barriers outlined above and in the report. Additional funding is needed to fully remedy this situation.
* ***Safety***: We have been quite effective in remedying some of the safety issues most concerning to residents. One major victory since the submission of this report was our work with Duke Power to establish reliable street lighting for residents. Furthermore, with the successful installation of the fence and holly bushes referenced in the report, residents have reported a greater feeling of safety within the community.

We do intend to continue our work in Windy Ridge. Currently, a graduate student working with Dr. Sorensen is conducting a series of quantitative analyses regarding the characteristics of starter home subdivisions in Charlotte to better understand why communities like Windy Ridge have proven so problematic. We continue our partnership with the neighborhood’s long term residents and will continue to seek funding and other forms of support to improve life for residents there as well as to raise awareness about the public policy implications of such a landscape.