



ALBANY, GEORGIA TOOLS FOR CHANGE, INC.
P.O. BOX 3841, ALBANY, GA 31706-3841

February 2, 2012

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Mr. William Buster
Program Officer
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
One Michigan Avenue East
Battle Creek, MI 49017

RE: P0126182

Dear Mr. Buster,

This Annual Report covers the work done by Albany_ New Tools, New Vision2 (NTNV2) from April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

Albany, GA Tools for Change, Inc. Board of Directors (AGTFC) and the NTNV2 Steering Committee are grateful for the opportunities the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided through this grant. We acknowledge with deep appreciation the collaborative spirit and opportunities you have afforded us throughout the NTNV2 project. If similar grants become available, we would like to be considered as a potential partner to execute those grants or be in a position to apply for them. AGTFC continues to be committed to carrying out its mission of engaging and empowering the community with respect to eliminating health disparities, promoting environmental justice, and providing health education throughout southwest Georgia.

NTNV2 and the AGTFC Board have made colossal progress in Year 3 and we are looking forward to continuing this progress.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Ellis Harris (Ellis.Harris@aaphc.org) or Rebecca F. Reid at breid01@bellsouth.net or 229-432-7266).

Sincerely,

Ellis Harris, President
Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc.



“Local People Solving Local Health Problems”

New Tools, New Vision 2 Annual Report Year Three

April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011

W. K. Kellogg Foundation’s
New Tools, New Vision 2

January 2012

2011

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OVERVIEW

New Tools, New Vision 2: In 2008, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation directly funded four community-campus partnerships in the state of Georgia through the New Tools, New Visions 2 Project. The intent of the funding was to build capacity among community residents and Historically Black Colleges and Universities to partner and develop community-based participatory research projects that would achieve significant and measurable impacts on the health of African American communities. This report is about the Albany grantee organization Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc and the work in the identified NTNV2 communities. These two communities College Heights and College Park are located in southwest Dougherty County south of Albany State University. The mission of Albany, GA Tools for Change, Inc. is to engage and empower the community with respect to eliminating health disparities, promoting environmental justice, and providing health education throughout southwest Georgia.

Albany, Georgia is located in southwest Georgia and is the ninth largest metropolitan area in the state and the county seat of Dougherty County. According to the population estimates of 2009 Albany has approximately 75,616 residents; 69.3% of whom are African American. As of June 4, 2011 based upon the Dougherty County Population Summary Report the population for Dougherty County is 94,565; 67.12% of the population is African American/Black.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc. (AGTFC) is a community non-profit organization, incorporated by the state of Georgia in 2006 and received its 501(c) (3) status in 2008. Local citizens in East Albany, Georgia, originally established the organization in the mid 1990's to address community health concerns, particularly those related to illnesses and diseases thought to be caused or exacerbated by environmental pollutants. AGTFC Inc. submits this report to document progress as a third-year recipient of a grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation's New Tools, New Visions 2 (NTNV2). The report covers the timeframe from April 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011.

The major goals of the work proposed under the NTNV2 grant were to document and eliminate health hazards, to improve the overall health residents in East Albany, to maximize access to health resources and to educate the community about environmental health and how to minimize the impact of such hazards to better protect and promote their health. The goals have not changed; however, we have not been able extend our work to all of East Albany. Instead we have concentrated on improving the overall health of residents living in the College Heights (CH) and College Park (CP) communities and to support the work of Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc. The primary strategy for achieving the goals included building both organizational and neighborhood leadership and capacity through: 1). educating residents and board of directors about environmental health hazards; 2). maximizing access to health resources, and 3). facilitating partnerships with area organizations that would help eliminate identified environmental toxins.

Having accessed the history of the organization and the work produced over the past two years, the group agreed that the main goals for Year-Three would be to continue the work of Year-One and Two of the NTNV2 Albany project, completed the Institutional Review Board Proposal (IRB) process through the Albany State University's Institutional Review Board, conduct a health assessment in the targeted communities and conduct testing of the air, water, and soil in the communities. The goals include: 1). Building capacity of the AGTFC organization - leadership, structure, and functioning; 2). The NTNV2 Steering Committee continue to guide the project and its efforts in the communities under the leadership of the Community Coordinator and the Steering Committee president, and 3). Engage and empower the community with respect to eliminating health disparities, promoting environmental justice, and providing health education within the target communities in southwest Georgia.

In Year Three, the program action goals are to: 1). Strengthen the Steering Committee and the AGTFC Board of Directors. 2). Assemble Research / Data Team, 3). Conduct residential surveys: Health, Risk & Concerns

of Toxins, and 4). Document health concerns, issues and underlying causes. The short-term outcomes/impact included: 1). Increase board members and participation; 2). Engage College Park/College Heights residents in participating in the project; 3). Increase community participation in the project; 4). Build Awareness to health issues that may be caused by environmental concerns; 5). Collect Baseline Data; and 6). Testing the soil, water, and air in the targeted communities.

Training for community residents, board members, and staff at the local and national level has increased the understanding of CBPR, the role of partnerships; enable all to have a better knowledge of health disparities, environmental justice, and the needed for more education on environmental health issues.

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have community organizations and community participants become more capable and ready to lead campaigns to improve their health and eliminate health disparities?

This year, AGTFC has continued to focus on building leadership capacity in the organization and building capacity within the priority communities. The community coordinator and steering committee have made significant strides in increasing steering committee membership and engaging residents. Multiple canvassing and outreach activities were continued in year three with focus on obtaining health data in the target communities through the use of an key informant household survey in preparation for testing the water, air and soil in the communities. Learning our audience and implementing effective outreach strategies to gain their trust and attention continued to be at the forefront of the steering committee planning for the upcoming community health assessments. Through the household survey interviews and talking with resident's age groups, family size, marital status, length of residency, types of illness and health problems of the neighborhood residents were documented.

With this knowledge, training, and the collaborative support of our partnering organizations, the steering committee and staff were able to lead the first major campaign to collect data from the residents of the communities. Continuous improvement through board participation, formal training, and knowledge gained from conference participation, the steering committee members, community coordinator, project assistant/health analysis, intern, and Albany State University students have researched data about the communities, conducted a household survey with members of both communities and an analysis of the data has been completed. Monthly Steering Committee meetings have included presentations by Dougherty County Public Works, Code enforcement, etc.

The AGTC board continues to develop, increase its membership, and recruit new partnerships. The partnership with Albany State University has now been reestablished and Dr. Everett Freeman, president of ASU has appointed Dr. Michael D. Rogers as the liaison between ASU and AGTFC. The new Memorandum of Understanding outlines in detail the responsibilities of ASU and AGTFC in the partnership.

2. What specific changes have occurred, or are likely to occur, in the community health profiles as a result of partnerships created through this program?

The organization continues to be committed to building its own capacity and improving its overall effectiveness as an organization as well as building capacity in the targeted communities. Such a focus is in alignment with the priority goals for the third year of work. Actual improvements in resident health profiles, through the reduction of disease, especially cancer, and other illnesses will be difficult to verify in the short term. Although large numbers of cancer are in the neighborhoods currently know cluster exist. AGTFC may be able to measure availability of new health resources; improved knowledge among residents concerning environmental toxins and their impact on health; document toxins found in air, water, and ground through test; and provide progress toward their elimination. Documentation provided in the testing report will be used to educate the residents and to seek funds for additional testing of the air as recommended in the report. Well-established community organizations and partnerships may sustain long-term efforts toward continuous health improvement. Objective evidence surfaced in the testing that cancer-causing toxins currently exist in the immediate environment, but they are not above the EPA levels. Thus, additional testing will be needed to get all of the answers the residents are seeking. The individuals and families,

neighbors and communities will determine the direction as to what they can do to change behaviors to improve overall health quality, specifically in the areas of exercise, nutritional food, cooking methods, preventative measures, and emotional/spiritual /economic support. Systemic and structural issues can also be addressed that focus on removing quality health barriers such as poverty, lack of quality education, lack of quality employment, homelessness, lack of health insurance, and promoting the building of essential personal assets that provide improved health and well being.

3. *What conceptual and practical skills have students acquired to work through ethical questions and leadership challenges?*

Residents in the College Heights community are mainly the original homeowners and retired educators. College Park community residents are mainly renters, with families, who are currently employed by one of the near-by Superfund sites. We have learned that different strategies are needed for each of the communities. Based on the experience during the initial canvassing activity, students are better-prepared and properly equipped with fundamental knowledge of the audience and achieved successful outcomes during subsequent trip into the communities. Role reversals on trips this year have proved to be highly effective. Our student volunteers gained practical skills of adaptability, addressing racial and non-target group barriers, and effective communication.

The NTN2 steering committee developed a community outreach plan to incorporate “block captains” to serve as the lead communicator for their respective block. In addition to creating a collaborative assessment teams with resident committee members serving as the “team leader”, this approach enabled the achievement of our mission, objectives, and goals noted in the NTN2 Guiding Principles. The Community Coordinator has conducted mini-CBPR training with the volunteer students and provided CBPR material prior to the community outreach to teach the students on how to engage in dialogue that will personalize, inform, and empower the resident on the importance of participating in efforts that directly affect them and their home.

Student interns and volunteers were recruited in year three to assist with CBPR community initiatives. These opportunities enabled the students to gain valuable work and research skills. Student interns and volunteers participated in CBPR 102 trainings; completed the National Institute of Health Human Research Participant training online and other relative training suggested by the NTN2 and AGTFRC technical advisor.

4. *How are students, faculty, and grassroots leaders incorporating ethical skills and strategies into the policy and political arenas, which address health disparities?*

Faculty at our local university continues to work with our project on a limited basis and is available for future consultation and participation. It is a challenge for faculty members at our local university to participate because of their teaching load, but they continue to be interested in the project. Some of the steering committee members and board members are grassroots leaders. Community members have expressed concern about the amount of flooding and water holdings in the residential area. Residents believe this maybe a drainage issue or connected to the close by Marine Base environmental monitoring activities. The standing water creates a number of health hazards including West Nile Virus. In Year 3, we have worked with the Dougherty Public Works Department and the County Commissioner on a number of short-term projects to address these issues. By working within our local government we hope to bring visibility to the issues for which we are seeking solutions. The Community Coordinator has attended Dougherty County Commissioners and Albany City Commissioners meeting to keep them abreast of the work we are during to address health disparities in the targeted communities.

5. *What are the indications (qualitative and quantitative) that faculty and student teams are developing skills and capacities for interdisciplinary research and action on health disparities?*

In Year 3, we add a Project Assistant/Health Analysis from the ASU Masters of Public Administration program to our staff and an intern with a degree in Public Health from Armstrong State University. The Project Assistant/Health Analysis background in research helped lead our research efforts. Mr. Knight’s association with the research staff in his program was a major benefit to the project especial in his role as the Principal Investigator for the research conducted in the communities. He developed the IRB Proposal to be presented to Albany State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval. We received the IRB approval in December 1, 2010. The intern, Ms. Bell, was able to interpret the data from the household survey in the two communities and assisted with the development of the documents used for the Focus Group Sessions and the environmental testing.

Building a strong community based steering committee, strengthening the board of directors and remaining a focus-driven organization has been the motivating force and key to our recent successful list of accomplishments. As noted in the Year One and Two Annual Report, we identified key goal-oriented task, which correlated with the organization’s scope of work, and they have stood at the forefront of our decision making process.

The chart below provides an overview of the status of the originally proposed scope of work for Years 1-3.

Scope	Strategy / Task	Status to Date
AGTFC Organizational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the capacity of AGTFC Leadership by fully organizing and provide CBPR training for new Board members along with training in GIS and in the use of other data producing systems. • Select, orient and train project leadership, project coordinator, support personnel and acquire resources needed to include office space and equipment. • Build organizational rapport and create partnerships with local entities such as the chamber of commerce, health departments, area physicians, nonprofits, churches, local government officials including elected council/commissioner members and local media. • Create a technology/website workgroup 	<p>Completed CBPR training other part of goal amended</p> <p>Accomplished</p> <p>Accomplished</p> <p>Website completed Workgroup ongoing</p>
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and train network of resident work teams with in the specified communities in East Albany through the use of Resident Team Leaders. • Develop work groups within each of the subject communities the use of Team Leaders. • Educate elected officials and other policy makers about health issues, and identified environmental impacts on health and recommend and implement strategies to overcome obstacles to improve health. • Develop educational materials and programs to enhance the knowledge of the community members on health hazards in their neighborhood. 	<p>Accomplished / on-going</p> <p>Accomplished through</p> <p>Accomplished / ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Community Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct “Dialogue Sessions”, surveys, and access medical records medical records of area hospitals, physicians, and schools. “Focus Group Sessions were used instead of “Dialogue Sessions”. • Formulate feasible strategies to address community health issues and concerns. 	<p>Goal amended</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Community-based Participatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage local researchers in the projects identifying faculty members students, and others including governmental agency experts. • IRB approved by ASU January 2011 • Engage researchers in the activities, including federal, state, local agencies, environmental agencies, ASU faculty members and students . • Identify research opportunities as guided by community input and directions. • Identify research questions and methods of approach guided by community input and direction. • Identify a “control neighborhood” with comparable demographics. 	<p>Ongoing – SWPHD Epidemiologists is the AGTFC Technical Advisor</p> <p>Accomplished</p> <p>Ongoing, New MOU and Approved by ASU</p> <p>Accomplished</p> <p>Accomplished</p> <p>Goal Amended</p>

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document historical testing and, as required, begin water, air, and soil testing for hazardous chemicals. • Testing completed by Environmental Consultant – see report on website – www.agtfconline.org • Continue determination of environmental exposures throughout East Albany using historical information and water, soil, and air testing for hazardous chemicals with emphasis on College Heights and College Park | <p>Goal Amended</p> <p>Testing completed</p> <p>Additional Testing Recommended</p> <p>Goal Amended</p> |
|---|--|

Year 3 for AGTFC - New Tools New Visions 2 (NTNV2) partnership has continued with tremendous success! Guided by AGTFC leadership, staff, and a community- motivated steering committee, energy has revived the focus to a mission driven organization and project.

We successfully achieved all of our goals listed in the original proposal that were not amended. Strengthening of the AGTFC Board and the NTNV2 Steering Committee enabled the project to move forward. In addition, we worked with our board technical advisor, Jacqueline Jenkins, the project assistant/ principal investigator, Torrey Knight, intern, Amber Bell, the Evaluation Team, led by Dr. Mondy Mason, Dr. Cassandra Arroyo and our community partners to participate in training to achieve the goals of – 1). Documenting health concerns, issues, and underlying possible causes of environmental health hazards in the targeted communities; 2). Conducting of a household survey to obtain the household health assessment data; 3). Secured the services of an environmental consultant to test the water, soil, and air for environmental pollutants/toxins.

Staff and members of the NTNV2 Steering committee were invited to participate in an Organizational Development Training Workshop sponsored by the EPA CARE Steering Committee and the AGTFC Board. The workshop was facilitated by Michael Lythcott, Senior Associate of Skeo, Inc. This interactive workshop enabled the steering committee members and the Board members to review and examine the work of the Board, steering committees/community residents, and staff. Feedback with suggestions was given throughout the workshop.

Listed below, is a list of activities and outcomes for Year Three

NTNV2 YEAR-THREE ACTIVITIES – APRIL 1, 2010 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

YEAR-THREE ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES
APRIL 2010	
<p>NIH Human Participation Research - Online</p>	<p>ONLINE Training. Completed by the Community Coordinator, NTNV2 Project Assistant, NTNV2 President, and 4 NTNV2 Steering Committee members</p> <p>*All SC members w/ computers were encouraged to complete the course. During Year 3 several of the residents completed the course. Outcomes: Residents had a better understanding about Human Participation in Research. This training was required of all residents and staff conducting the door-to-survey.</p>
<p>Community Education Outreach, Friday, April 9, 2010, Home of Mrs. J. Gates, College Park.</p>	<p>NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting - Discussion / Proposal – Four persons from the Board and the NTNV2 Steering Committee including the Community Coordinator were approved to attend the Community Partnership Conference in Portland, Oregon. The following activities were discussed and accepted – CRCT Party, Competition to involve all households, activities with Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful such as community stash-for-trash event in the summer, host a walk-a-thorn, CPBR2 Training and the development of the IRB proposal. Residents were urged to complete the NIH Human Participation Research training online ASAP. Pre-registration cards created to register families/households that are willing to participate in the assessment</p>

	sample.
<p>Community Outreach Event, Friday, April 16, 2010, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>NTNV2 Steering Committee CRCT Celebration Party and Cook-Out. Outcome: Recognize students for their work on the CRCT, registration and learn about upcoming community poster contest and health assessment. Pre-Assessment data was collected during the event.</p>
<p>MAY 2010</p>	
<p>AGTFC Board Meeting, May 5, 2010 – 12 Noon, Dougherty Health Department</p>	<p>AGTFC Board Meeting - Presentation of Evaluation Report for Year 2 by Dr. Cassandra Arroyo. Concerns were presented and the revised report will be completed and returned for final approval. NTNV2 Update – IRB is in process; Environmental Postal Contest is being planned, Community Partnership Conference in Portland Oregon, May 12-15. Attending: 1 Board Member, 2 Steering Committee Members, and the Community Coordinator. (Total of 4)</p>
<p>Technical Assistant Coordinator (TAC) May 10-11, 2010</p> <p>May 12-15, 2010 Community Partnership Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Portland, Oregon</p>	<p>Held a breakfast meeting with the Steering Committee and conducted a CPBR2 Training for Board members, staff, and steering committee members.</p> <p>Community Partnership Conference. Two NTNV2 Steering Committee members, one Board member, and the Community Coordinator to attend the conference. The attendees, came back and start putting in to practice some of the Lessons they learned at the conference.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Event/Project</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children Activities/Block Party</p> <p style="text-align: center;">College Park</p>	<p>Children Activity/Block Party. Objectives/Outcomes: 1). Introduce AGTFC & NTNV2 SC to more families & other CP/CH residents. 2). Recruit additional SC members/Younger CP residents to the NTNV2 SC 3). Introduce the Health Assessment, pre-register interested families to participate in June. 3). Introduce the Health Assessment, pre-register interested families to participate in June.</p> <p>ASU student interns/workers participate with event.</p>
<p>JUNE 2010</p>	
<p>Community Education Outreach/Dialogue - June 4, 2010</p>	<p>NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting-Guest Speaker – Dougherty County Mosquito Control Director.</p> <p>Goal: To provide Mosquito Awareness. Outcome – 1) Provided information on what we could do to prevent Mosquitoes. 2) Presented Plans by the County for the water holding pond in the College Park area. 3) Provided samples for protecting against mosquito bites.</p>
<p>JULY 2010</p>	
<p>AGTFC BOARD meeting, July 6, 2010 , 12 noon, Dougherty County Health Department</p>	<p>BOARD Meeting: Dr. Cassandra Arroyo presented Year 2 NTNV2 Evaluation report for feedback at the meeting. The concerns in the report were discussed. The report would be revised and sent back for approval.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY CANDIDATES POLITICAL FORUM - JULY 9, 2010</p>	<p>CANDIDATES PRESENTED PLATFORMS; RESIDENTS SHORT-TERM – CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITY) AND THE COMMUNITY–AT-LARGE</p> <p>Outcomes: Attendees became more familiar with candidates (Short-Term Goal) Attendance: 5 Steering Committee Members; 1 Board Member; 2 Staff Members; 1 ASU Student Intern; 4 Guest; 8 Candidates</p>

AUGUST 2010	
Health Assessment Party	Health Assessment Party. Celebration, health assessment, release data to date report to participants, gave back-to-school items to youth residents.
NTNV2 Wellness Walk-A-Thorn –August 21, 2010, 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Wellness Walk-A-Thorn. Sponsored by the Steering Committee to help improved health in the residents as many of them like physical activity. Residents, staff, and community members at large participated.
SEPTEMBER 2010	
AGTFC Board Meeting, Wednesday, September 12, 2010, 12 Noon, Dougherty County Health Department	AGTFC Board of Director’s Meeting. The plans/outcomes of the following were discussed: Health Assessment, Focus Groups, Website, and Future Plans. NTNV2 – IRB Proposal progress and Walk-A-Thorn.
OCTOBER 2010	
October 8, 2010 – Community Education Outreach	NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting. Presentation by Do Co Public Works Dept on, community needs /assessment. IRB Proposal was submitted on October 6, 2010. 1 – New Member.
NOVEMBER 2010	
November 6-11, 2010 – APHA Conference, Denver, CO	APHA Conference. An abstract was submitted and approved for presentation at the conference. The community coordinator presented ‘LESSONS LEARNED’ from our community endeavors. The presentation was well received. NTNV2 was represented by the community coordinator, steering committee vice president, project assistant, and the technical advisor. Each attended received valuable information at the conference to help the project move forward, including the opportunity to network with others.
DECEMBER 2010	
AGTFC Board Meeting, December 10, 2010 at the home of Dr. & Mrs. W. Campbell	Board Meeting with Social. Board Meeting, Capacity Building Activity, and meet & greet Board & Staff family members.
LIBERTY HOUSE PROJECT (Short-Term Capacity Building Activities)	Liberty House Project. A huge success. Items were donated by College Heights/College Park residents and the Albany/Dougherty County Communities at-large. This activity provided for instant achievement of success while doing for others.
Community Education Outreach – December 2010 December 20, 2010 -Community Christmas Dinner Received IRB Approval December 1, 2010 from ASU for December 1, 2010-November 30, 2011.	NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting - Celebration of the NTNV2 Project’s success, upcoming research, Community activities and contest! Reports were presented about the Dougherty County Drainage Project & Street Light Petition for Holly & Betty’s Drive. The items for Liberty House were on display. Increased attendance by residents of the two communities.
JANUARY 2011	
Community Outreach, Friday, January 7, 2011	NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Liberty House Project & Community Social • Drainage Project Update • Elected New Officers • Assigned 2011 Block Captain “Team” Leaders
AGTFC Board Meeting – Dougherty County Health Department, January 12, 2011	The Board was asked to review redesigned website and to provide input on website. New Board Members were discussed in the context of the Bylaws. NTNV2 steering committee new President was nominated and added to the Board.
	IRB Proposal Approved December 1, 2010 – This allowed the targeted communities to move forward with the survey and testing of the water, soil, and air. It also signals ASU support.

<p>Evaluation Team Workshop – January 13, 2011- Evaluation Planning and Research Training Workshop – Conducting Surveys Door-to-Door</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Workshop. Orientation on how to conduct door-to-door surveys with practice and interaction conducted by the Evaluation Team – Dr. Arroyo and Dr. Charles. Participants included five (5) steering committee members (residents of the two communities), three (3) staff, one (1) board member, and two (2) ASU faculty members. Results: Each participant learned strategies for conducting a survey through the use of role playing partners. A understanding of topics such as gaining entry, building trust and confidence, listening, human subject’s projection and informed consent process – ethics, privacy and confidentiality were discussed.</p>
<p>February 2011</p>	
<p>Community Education Outreach – Friday, February 4, 2011</p>	<p>NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting – Phase I of Household Survey. Review of the questions to be used on the household survey with residents for their input. After this session residents had a better understanding of the household survey.</p>
<p>Evaluation & Training – Year-3 Evaluation – Key Informant and Phone Interviews, February 18-19, 2011</p>	<p>Evaluation & Training. Goals: The NTNV2 evaluation allows AGTFC to “tell the story” about the growth process and impact of the partnership on the grown, progress, and impact of the partnership on addressing health in the targeted communities. 2). Help to ensure a balance exists with interview from staff, Board, Steering Committee, university/faculty, and community partners. Outcomes: A successful balance of participants was achieved – 18 people took part in the Partnership Assessment – 16 community partners and 2 academic partners. Represented were AGTFC Staff, and members of the Board of Directors, NTNV2 Steering Committee members and local partners.</p>
<p>MARCH 2011</p>	
<p>AGTFC Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 2, 2011, Dougherty County Health Department, 12 noon.</p>	<p>AGTFC Board of Director’s Meeting Update – 7-9 persons have completed the online NIH Human Participation Research training and are eligible to conduct surveys in the community, two abstracts submitted to APHA, advocacy continuing for additional street lights on Holly Drive, drainage project and tractor trailer code enforcement compliance and citations for CITGO gas station. A six month no cost extension has been requested and approved. As a follow-up strategies will be developed to increase community participation in the research surveys. A discussion was held on seeking new Board of Director’s and members were asked to submit names for potential board members. Target 18 people on board. Monthly financial report with breakdown of expenses.</p>
<p>Community Education Outreach – Friday, March 4, 2011</p>	<p>NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting – Goals: 1). Informed community about the household survey and its purpose; 2). Share survey strategy with Steering Committee members; 3). Revised survey based upon comments at the meeting. Attendance outcome: - Staff/Intern -4; Community members completing survey – 12; Steering Committee members completing revised survey – 5; College Park residents completing survey – 1.</p>
<p>APRIL 2011</p>	
<p>AGTFC Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 6, 2011 12 Noon, Dougherty County Health Department</p>	<p>AGTFC Board of Director’s Meeting. The agenda included MOU between AGTFC and ASU, IRB Update, NTNV2 update. Outcomes: It was decided that the Board would meet every other month; the MOU is to be sent to ASU lawyer to make sure all parts of it are legal; IRB is being updated as requested. The NTNV2 update provided information on the door-to-door survey status. Monthly financial report provided to the Board members.</p>
<p>Community Education Outreach – Friday, April 8, 2011, 6:00 pm – 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting - Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in health survey – participants signed up to participate.

- Update on the County Drainage Project – Report with a discussion.
- Street Light Petition for Holly & Betty’s Drive (Project scheduled to begin June 2011, but has not started to date.)
- Lights were improved at the intersection of Holly and Liberty Expressway South (Hwy 19).
- Code enforcement Presentation – Holly Drive Traffic – Laws was explained. Attendance: 4 Steering Committee Members; 3 Staff Members

MAY 2011

May 13-14, 2011 - EPA CARE/BOARD RETREAT – Organizational Development & Leadership Training Retreat was conducted by Michael Lythcott, Senior Associate of Skeo Solutions, Charlottesville, Virginia

Organizational Development & Training Retreat. Outcome: AGTFC Board Members, Steering Committee Members/Residents (both grants) became more knowledgeable about organizational structure, management, collaboration and gained a better understanding of how to engage communities. Participants shared ideas in small and large groups and then made presentations to the entire group.

JUNE 2011

Community Education Outreach – Friday, June 3, 2011

NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly Meeting – Presentation by L. Farkas, Water, Gas, Light for the City of Albany. Goals: 1). Inform community about the survey and its purpose. 2). Appeal to members to assist with securing the final ¾ surveys. 3). Inform the community about the current water restriction laws and address their concerns about their water. Outcomes: 1). Mrs. Farkas presented a 40 minute presentation on the restrictions and answered questions regarding water quality, supply, and rate increase. 2). The Program Assistant/Principle Investigator for the project presented the research update and made the appeal to SC members to assist with securing residents for the final few surveys needed for the Household Survey.

JUNE/July 2011

Household Survey was conducted by Steering Committee Members, Community Coordinator, the Intern, and Program Assistant.

Household Survey. Appointments were made with selected residents to be interviewed. Although this was a difficult task, we did reach our goal of 50 participants. Some of the findings: 1). Property Owners: 30% of the residents have lived in the area thirty (30) or more years, 2) Education: 40% of the residents had a Master’s Degree or higher, 20% Bachelor’s Degrees, 22% some college and 12% a high school diploma/GED, 2% did not response to the questions, 3) Household Income – 48% greater than \$50,000, 14% between \$30,000-\$50,000, 34% did not response to the question, 4). Health Issues found in the two communities – While a variety of health issues were found in the communities the largest were Allergies, Arthritis, Asthma, **Cancer**, Gastrointestinal Problems, Hypertension, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Depression/anxiety, Immune System problems, and Reproductive problems. 5) Residents like access to paved trails or sidewalks, thus do not get enough physical activity, 5) Community Concerns/Problems: 1) Lack of street lights in neighborhood (College Park), neighborhood watch, and facilities to engage in physical activities, 6) The most important health problems in the communities: - air quality, water quality (drinking), soil contamination, water drainage, street lights, cancer, education on health and wellness, 7). Environmental conditions – 58 % rated it as fair, 38% rated it as good, and 8% rated it as bad.8). Environmental issues: - Water (after big rains, air pollution, water pollution, molds, pesticides and toxins (unidentified), lesser concerns included noise pollution and stray animals, Recycling: 28% rarely recycle, 48 % recycle sometimes, and 18% frequently and 6% always engage in recycling, 9) Conditions of the Environment: Fair – 58%, Good 38% and Bad 8%, 10).Community Support: The majority agreed that community relationship among neighbors was good, community support was good, disaster response plan was needed and community planning could be improved.

JULY 2011

AGTFC Board Meeting, July 6th – Dougherty

AGTFC Board of Director’s Meeting. The agenda include

County Health Department

status of NTN2, future plans for NTN2 (with or without funding).
Outcomes: The Board pledged to continue to work with both groups with or without funding. Monthly NTN2 financial report.

AUGUST 2011

AGTFC Board meeting August 3, 2011 – Dougherty County Health Department

AGTFC Board of Director’s Meeting. Outcomes: Report on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Albany State University (ASU); Received Reports from both Grant Community Coordinators; Discussed the future of each grant; Received monthly financial/budget information.

FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS. Two Focus Group Sessions were conducted by an independent consultant. Purpose: To further explore the environmental and health concerns discovered in previous research and the key quality of life issues raised by College Heights/College Park residents from previous dialogues in order to craft successful strategies. College Park residents who participated in this focus group have lived in this neighborhood for an average of approximately 20 years. College Heights’ residents who participated in this focus group have lived in this neighborhood an average of 30+years. 8-10 residents participated in each focus group session.

Because of the limited number of respondents and the limitation of recruitment, this research must be considered in a qualitative frame of reference.

Issues:

1. HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

- The major issue facing College Park and College Heights can be summed in one word, “cancer.” Long-time residents of these two neighborhoods have gone from “talking about cancer” to “having cancer.”
- Though cancer was the most important, other chronic disease-states concerned residents, and were linked to possible environmental factors – asthma, allergies, skin rashes, diabetes, high blood pressure, Upper Respiratory, obesity, headaches, depression/anxiety, etc.
- There was only slight differences between the groups
- Many of these diseases can be related to environmental factors.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED ISSUES

- Four environmental issues dominated the conversation with water contamination the most important due to its possible cancer link. Highway noise, daily smog from nearby industry, and the abundance of ant colonies were causes for concern. The discussion provided a pathway to community engagement, advocacy, and neighborhood barriers.
- The noise level from Highway 19 is a major problem in certain blocks of College Park/College Heights due to a Convenience Store/Truck Stop built about five years ago. To build the convenience store, land was cleared, which included many trees serving as a buffer to the highway.
- Residents complained of smog, fumes, and a gaseous smell in their neighborhood. It was described as a “settlement” or “yellowish-orange” haze prevalent in the evenings.
- Due to deforestation to make room for the convenience store/truck stop, residents have noticed a decline in wildlife and particularly, squirrels

3: ROLE OF THE NEW TOOLS, NEW VISION 2 COMMITTEE

- The sponsors of this research wanted to know the relevance and role of the committee and its impact on the quality of life issues facing the residents of College Park

Focus Group Session (1 for each community)
 Mark Miller, M.S., Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital,
 Focus Group Consultant
August 4, 2011 – College Park Focus Group
August 8, 2011 – College Heights Focus Group

and College Heights. The discussion ranged from healthy skepticism, to frustration and evolved to signs of positive things for the future. Committee role and relevance was a bigger issue for College Park than College Heights.

- The project began in 2006, lost steam for some unknown reason, and disappeared. Two years ago, it was re-energized under the name of New Tools, NewVision2 (NTNV2). Both College Heights and College Park would like for the work to be continued with some action and provide the neighborhood a catalyst for change.

4: NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

- To a certain extent, College Park neighbors feel like the “red headed step child” to College Heights. Though College Park is a well established neighborhood, College Heights has a longer history and is perceived as being able to get things done. There was mutual agreement that they need each other and would make greater progress if they worked together.
- Engaging the neighborhood is a necessarily messy and frustrating process especially in College Park.
- While one could iterate other frustrations and barriers to neighborhood engagement, residents did offer alternatives.

5: NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

- If they possessed the power to make one change in the neighborhood to make a big difference, what would it be?
 - Street Lights (Both neighborhoods, brighter lights in College Heights)
 - Sidewalks (College Heights)
 - Written rules and standards (covenant for example)
 - Re-routing water away from homes
 - Resource Center
 - Increase neighborhood participation (Both neighborhoods)
 - Build a barrier to lessen noise created by convent store/truck stop/ similar to I-75 in Atlanta. (College Park)

Community Outreach Event – August 5, 2011

NTNV2 Steering Committee Monthly meeting:

Special guest speaker: Dougherty County Police Department and Code Inspection Office. Goal: 1). Address the #2 Issue identified in the research survey and previous community forums, committee meetings, etc...SAFETY. 2). Learned about the county code enforcement laws on tractor trailers parked in the community. 3). Learned of enforcement plans to address the blatant violations of tractor trailers using Holly Drive as a shortcut. **Outcomes:** Residents were given the county codes addressing semi-truck traffic and parking pertaining to their community; Residents were provided with direct contact to Officer Tucker; Residents addressed concerns and came up with solutions to present to the county commissioner. Officer Tucker followed-upped in the community on concerns presented at the meeting.

AUGUST 6, 2011 – Community Event – August 6, 2011

Recycle Day & Flea Market: Goal - 1). Empower residents to learn more about the importance of their environment and how it affects their health, 2). Provided us the opportunity to share environmental health information with residents 3). Recruited new participants. Outcome: (9) Residents participated in the Flea Market as a vendor; (52) residents/Shoppers came through to either discard recycle or shop the flea market. **Outcome:** Promoted recycling awareness & activities and recruited three (3) new members in CP/CH.

TESTING OF AIR, SOIL, AND WATER BY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

Dr. Navid Nekouee, Environmental Consultant
Neko, Inc. – August 13 – 28, 2011

Dr. Navid Nekouee, Environmental Consultant, Neko, Inc. conducted the testing of the Soil, Water (well water), and Air. College Heights and College Park consisting of about 172 homes, may have been subjected to environmental pollutants over the past years due to industrial facilities and factories which is a suspected cause of poor health and conditions in the area. A set of environmental tests in three locations north, south, and east of College Heights area was performed in order to investigate the level of pollutants in groundwater (well water), surface soil, and air. Ground water analysis on the east side (College Heights) did not show a significant level of hazardous contaminants. However the ground water should not be used for drinking purposes. The surface soil showed some level of petroleum hydrocarbons in north and south (College Heights/College Park), but it was not significant enough to pose a threat on residents' health. Air study results did not show any compound with high toxic level; however, Dr. Nekouee recommends long term air contaminant monitoring and tests for Dioxin/Furan and PAHs. These are some of the byproducts of paper and pulp manufacturing industries that can pollute the air by emission from nearby industries. A copy of the testing results is available on the AGTFC website. The results of the tests are not what we anticipated. However, much of this is due to like of understanding and education concerning the causes of cancer and environmental hazards.

SEPTEMBER 2011

NTNV2 Sustainability Banquet – September 30, 2011

NTNV2 SUSTAINABILITY BANQUET -

Goal: Celebrating the ending of the grant project and the many successes and work in the community. Announced the research work results and sustainability plan to the group. Excellent closing of the grant with participation by AGTFC Board members, Congressman Sanford Bishop, Keynote Speaker – Dr. Kimberly Coleman, NC Central University, Presentations of results from the Focus Group Sessions by Mr. Miller, and the Testing by Dr. Nekouee. Dr. Nekouee presented a power point presentation on his findings. Outcomes: See the results of the testing above. Awards were given – Trophy/Certificates.

OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 2, 2011

American Public Health Association 138th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

Sustainability – A group of four attend the meeting to continue to keep the present of the work of AGTFC & NTNV2. A Lessons Learned Posted was presented by the Community Coordinator.

In summary, AGTFC and the NTNV2 project has experienced a tremendous amount of growth and progress over this year! The board continued to engage the board of director's leadership, and work with both grants in identifying and addressing immediate needs with viable solutions. The NTNV2 steering committee grew with more residents from the community participating during Year 3. College Heights and College Park are two very distinct communities; however, through the leadership of the community coordinator and the steering committee members they garner participation and shape messages and information to reach each resident more effectively. The NTNV2 project has engaged the community residents and helped them find solutions to short-term concerns and understand the possible health disparities and environmental hazards that maybe affecting their neighborhoods. Even with the success we had, some community members still do not trust the work of research, thus are hesitant about participating.

ENVIRONMENT/CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES

Our IRB has been approved by ASU, December 1, 2010, however, involving faculty in research, and their students on the project, continue to be a challenge. Nevertheless, as the college focus on applied research it is anticipated that students will conduct research related to health issues in East Albany. Students taking research courses and needing research topics will be guided toward environmental topics for possible research project in the

future. Faculty members continue to be invited to participate in our activities, but, it is a challenge for them to do so because of their class schedules. Deans and department heads have also indicated that they are interested in the research that we are doing, so we hope that in the future we will be able to get more involvement from the University.

Utilizing our budget to support vital training efforts, conference attendance, encouraging committee involvement, and producing community driven events and outreach forums continues to be a challenge. As noted in the grant proposal, the funds have been utilized to continue to build a sustainable collaborative community based committee that will continue its mission and efforts long after the grant term has ended. The Steering Committee, staff, and Board members continue to attend the American Public Health Association and Community and the Campus Community Partnership Conferences to enhance their knowledge on environmental health issues and share our lessons learned with others. Getting community residents other than officers to participate in out-of-town meetings has been a challenge. Some other key challenges included group dynamics, university capacity, and readiness for CPBR, and community capacity for creating change.

Keeping residents involved continues to be a challenge, but with education, building of trust, and progress is made it is hoped that participation will continue to improve.

COLLABORATIONS

As evident through the continuous participation and support of the Southwest Health District and its staff, under the direction of epidemiologist, Jacqueline Jenkins, Mrs. Jenkins has elevated the collaborative efforts of the partnership. With the reaffirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding with Albany State University and the appointment of Dr. Michael D. Rogers as the official liaison to the AGTFC Board some communication and interest has been initiated with the ASU faculty. The MOU spells out the responsibilities of AGTFC and ASU. However, for ASU to become a full partner the faculty at ASU must receive training in the community-campus research process and have a clear understanding of Community-based Participatory Research. The Dougherty County School Board is also a committed partner with the AGTFC Board and in the future we hope to make more use of this opportunity to educate students and parents about environmental health hazards. Two elementary, one middle school, and a high school are in the general area of the neighborhoods currently targeted.

OBSERVATIONS

The key for success remains with the ability of the board to create the environment within which residents of the focused communities will be willing to accept change.

The Board will have to recruit more members able to attend meetings and with a wider range of expertise in order for the board to provide the effective leadership necessary to influence the residents to take actions that will help improve their own health and well being—either by changes in behavior and/or steps that eliminate identified toxins from the air, water, or ground and/or ensure that they remain within the EPA level standards. Staffing in the future must include personnel and contractors with health expertise and research knowledge.

As indicated in Year 3 activities, we have achieved the scope of work outlined in the grant proposal. Training, university involvement to a limited degree, community outreach and education, health assessment and actual testing has been completed.

Capacity building and improved organizational effectiveness of AGTFC is an ongoing priority. The focus for Year 3 included developing the research plan, conducting health and environmental assessments in preparation for testing the soil, air, and water with the help of ASU faculty members, the technical advisor, the program assistant

and the intern. Year 3 priorities were reviewed and revised to ensure that we meet them with support from the involved communities as a major effort. Continue to develop the strategic plans for both AGTFC and the NTN2 Steering Committee.

Increased efforts were made to seek more participation by Albany State University leadership, ASU faculty, and students in research for the project. CBPR principles continued to guide the work of the project. Efforts were made to solicit increased participation of young people from the targeted communities, adding youth to the steering committee.

The AGTFC board, staff, and NTN2 steering committee worked together with the guidance of the Board's Technical Advisor, the program assistant / principal investigator, and ASU Faculty on appropriate to assess the best course of action to determine our needs and ensure that the assistance offered is effectively strengthening the project. We were fortunate to have a student as an intern who had just completed her degree in Public Health and was preparing to go to graduate school. She has committed to continue to help us with this project as part of school work at Georgia Southern University.

FUTURE PLANS

Our future plans will include continuing to actively recruit committed board members, community steering committee members, and partnerships to assist in the development of the strategies needed to achieve the following remaining inputs:

- Sustain the working community coalitions in both neighborhoods.
- Use remaining funds and seek additional funds to carry out recommendations of the research findings starting with re-testing of the air for a long period of time.
- Create partnerships with other health agencies and community organizations.
- Continue to work with local, state, and national agencies to ensure the elimination of environmental hazards and health disparities in the communities.
- Include all current communities in future projects and select additional communities in East Albany/Dougherty County for study using CBPR/PACE-EH.
- Create a more dynamic Board.

We have successfully achieved the short-term and long-term successes and outcomes, which included the following:

- 1). Engaging CP/CH residents – hold meetings once a month,
- 2). Increasing community participation,
- 3). Build Awareness of environmental toxins,
- 4). Continued to Collect Baseline Data,
- 5). Conducted research in both communities,
- 6). Improved the organizational structure of the Board, and
- 7). Designed a Logo and revised the website.

Now, we must follow-up on the outcomes and successes within the communities with input from the communities and seek additional funds to move forward. We got the momentum going, so we must act quickly, are we will loss what we have worked so long far. The steering committee will continue to be the driving force for the project under the leadership of its President and the AGTC Board of Directors.

Because the problems of environmental health hazards and health disparities are not just local a problem this project can be adopted elsewhere with modifications utilizing lessons learned.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

NTNV2/AGTFc has made information and evaluation findings from the project available to the residents, partners, and the community through the website (www.agtfconline.org). Brochures, community forums, seminars, local newspapers, radio, TV, presentations at County Commission meetings and/or City Commission meetings have been used to keep the community at-large aware of our work. Through County Commissioner, Jack Stone, State Representative, Carol Fullerton, and U.S. Congressman, Sanford Bishop, efforts will be made to bring the environmental pollution problems to the attention of elected officials at the local, state and national level, in hopes they can also influence solutions. Through lessons learned and posters our work has been presented at national health conferences.

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S OPINION

The project director's opinion concerning the outcomes and "lessons learned" from this project are:

Outcomes

- 1). AGTFc is a better organized organization.
- 2). Residents are more aware of environmental health hazards.
- 3). Residents are more interested in participating in the research of environmental pollutants/toxins.
- 4). Board members and residents have a better understanding of the CBPR method of research.
- 5.) The NTNV2 Steering Committee is providing community leadership, but will still need guidance from the Board or a community leader to ensure that the project continues. The steering committee president is a member of the AGTFc Board of Directors.

Lessons learned (These lessons learned could be used by others with similar projects)

- 1). Residents should be included in the initial development of the project.
- 2). Involvement of the President, administration, and faculty are necessary for the ASU partnership to be a success. The Community-campus partnership and CBPR must be thoroughly understood before starting the grant. Once this takes place then full faculty and student participation will follow.
- 3). All staff members must have the qualifications for the positions which they hold. Consultants must be experts or have training in the field.
- 4). Community residents must understand Community-based Participatory Research first in order for the project to be a success.

Recommendation for other project directors working in this area or to the Foundation:

1. Ensure that leaders have the capacity to carry out the project.
2. Make sure that the organizational structure is in place first.
3. Hire qualified personnel and contractors.