

HungerCorps VISTA

Capstone.

2021-2022 REVIEW

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AmeriCorps



About AmeriCorps VISTA

This national service organization was created in 1965 during the Johnson Administration to help alleviate poverty.

AmeriCorps VISTA Core Principles:

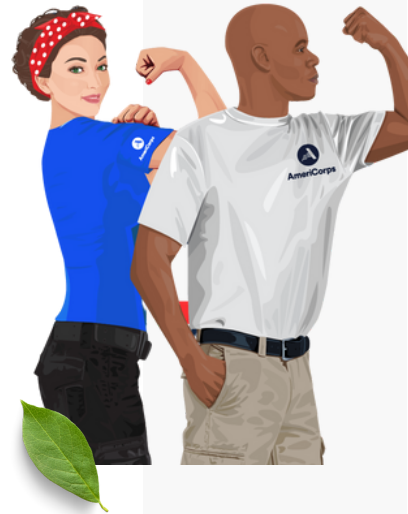
- Ending poverty
- Empowering communities
- Building capacity
- Creating sustainable solutions

Through NC Campus Engagement VISTAs are placed at organizations to build capacity and develop programs that serve the community.



The Collaborative for the Common Good

The CCG is an organization on campus that uses a project-based approach to address economic, social, and ecological issues in eastern Union County. As a hub for community partnership and engagement, the CCG hopes to transform our local region by focusing on creating neighborhoods where people, places, and economies can thrive and prosper. Examples of projects include SLCE opportunities, the Wingate Community Garden, and service experiences.



The CCG and VISTA

VISTA members have been influential partners of the CCG in developing the Wingate Community Garden. I am the 3rd VISTA member at the CCG.

VISTA Assignment Description

The VISTA project will design opportunities for students to learn about the many dimensions of food, nutrition, and food systems through the community garden and also provide access to healthy produce and nutrition education to the campus and community.

- ✓ Community outreach and partnership development related to the Wingate Community Garden
- ✓ Resource development for the Food Council of Union County
- ✓ Research and expand on-campus health and nutritional education opportunities

Food Council of



Wingate Community Garden

Located on the corner of Wilson and Main, the garden is becoming a community space for both campus and community members.

- Fall Festival
- Agricultural Immersion Experience
- Adopt-a-Bed
- Service Learning Projects
- Seedling Fundraiser
- Summer Series
- Partnership with Eagle Scout and WU's Physical Therapy Program

Numbers

- ✓ **\$12,371 managed**
- ✓ **300 lb. donated**
- ✓ **511 youth supported**
- ✓ **12 educational events**
- ✓ **32 campus and community partners involved**
- ✓ **84 WU student volunteers**



Agricultural Immersion Experience

Funded by Carolina Farm Credit, we organized a series of day camps focused on introducing local students to the food system in Eastern Union County

Attendees ate lunch with WU athletes, participated in a wide variety of activities, and left with take-home snacks and materials to continue learning.



Agricultural Immersion Days

At Wingate University

Middle Schoolers will spend a Saturday learning about food in Union County.

September 25: Smarty Plants

Learn about our campus community garden, the science behind it, and plants you might find in nature



October 26: Herd Nerds

Tour DabHar farm to get hands-on experience with farm animals, and then learn about fishing and the effects of overfishing at campus lake.

November 6: Microbiology in Ag

Get up close with our plants through DNA extraction, and then learn about food safety and preservation.



70 5th-9th grade students attended our events



18 community and campus partners involved

This was my first project, and it ended up being a great way to meet the Union County community and the CCG's partners.



Food Council of Union County

- Food Council Spotlight
- Updated Website
- Newsletter
- 2 farmer's market visits
- 2 SLCE groups



Numbers



2,085 Facebook profiles reached



\$5,120 managed

Food Council of



Food Council Spotlight

Carolina Farm Stewardship's October Food Council Spotlight featured information about what is happening with food councils across the greater Charlotte-Metro region. We highlighted councils from Union, Mecklenberg, Cabarrus, and Rowan counties.

We hosted a live stream featuring Wake County Soil and Water District Supervisor Jenna Wadsworth and U.S. Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, PhD.



516 users tuned in

Health and Nutrition Education

- Doghouse Events
- Wednesday Refuels
- Winter Food Pickups
- Wingate Farmers Market
- Cooking on a Dime Partnership
- Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
- 2 Campus Surveys
- 2 Lyceums



Numbers

- ✓ \$6,250 managed
- ✓ \$25,000 in snacks distributed
- ✓ 154 WU students supported through events
- ✓ 9 community organizations involved

Cooking on a Dime

Through a partnership with the Union County Cooperative Extension's EFNEP Coordinator, we were able to host the Cooking on a Dime program at WU for the first time.

- ✓ 7 students attended
- ✓ 6/6 would recommend
- ✓ Overall improvement in health and food literacy



The Facts



37.2 million
Americans live below the poverty level

580,000
Americans are homeless on a typical night



44 million
Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger

1 in 6
children in the U.S. live in poverty

<https://hhweek.org/hunger-and-homelessness/>

