

2019 NEWSLETTER



PROJECT HORSESHOE FARM

FROM THE 2018-19 FELLOWS



Our 10th class of fellows hailed from ten different states and from schools in every region of the United States. Our class is so grateful to have been welcomed with open arms, enjoying our time spent with friends, volunteers, adoptive families, partner organizations, and so many others. From exciting Alabama (Roll Tide!) and Auburn (War Eagle!) football games to a friendly, back-yard sing-off (Kevin still claims his class won, but we know the truth Kevin!), to a delicious supper with the Rhodes' family (Jack spoils us rotten!), to a 4th of July BBQ with Michael Ryans and his family, to a scary evening at Haints and Haunts Festival in Demopolis with Kirk Brooker, to a private painting lesson with Caroline Cutler, to picking vegetables with Bobby Williams, to ending the year riding ATVs with Larry Burt (is this much fun really legal?). The amazing experiences and memories that we have had in our year in Alabama are too many to count, but we wanted to express our thanks to everyone who has helped make such a wonderful year for our whole class – thank you from Class X!!!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM JOHN DORSEY, M.D.

A key part of Horseshoe Farm's mission is to work with and build on the strengths of our community. This part of our mission highlights two important ways in which we approach our work. First, instead of starting with "needs assessments" or trying to address weaknesses, we believe that it is a far more effective starting point to identify and build around the many existing strengths in our community. Second, we actively seek to pursue our work with our community, and believe that we are not succeeding unless our community is succeeding. We always have more work to do in fully living up to our values, but we are grateful to our partners and believe that the greatest community successes can be achieved only by working together.



ADULT COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW

We are very fortunate to have such an incredible downtown space (the historic Old Greensboro Hotel building) to host community center programs for seniors, adults living with disabilities or mental illness, or anyone who just wants to come by to enjoy the spirit of fellowship, friendly faces, and good fun. We are grateful to our local Churches for continuing to supply such wonderful meals for the programs. Some of our new offerings at the center this year included new exercise groups – Ben says "You've got to move it, move it!," meditation groups and Bible study, book club, monthly pet therapy in partnership with Laurie Nevin and our local animal shelter, and a weekly farm-stand with produce in partnership with BDA Farm. As our programs continue to grow, we are excited to be nearing completion of a new fitness area as well as a new Main Street store space. We are also grateful to be partnering with the Auburn Rural Studio architecture program (go Zach, Claudia, Caleb, and Claire!!!) to build a beautiful new courtyard at the community center, which they hope to complete by early 2020. ATVs with Larry Burt (is this much fun really legal?). The amazing experiences and memories that we have had in our year in Alabama are too many to count, but we wanted to express our thanks to everyone who has helped make such a wonderful year for our whole class – thank you from Class X!!!

A SECOND HORSESHOE FARM SITE LAUNCHED IN MARION, ALABAMA

Thanks to two of our second year Fellows, Brooke and Tim, and the welcome they received from so many in the Marion community, the launch of our second location was a success. Brooke and Tim partnered with the Marion Nutrition and Activities program to bring added energy and new programming. They also partnered with Francis Marion Elementary School, receiving wonderful support from Elementary School Principal Dr. Cathy Trimble and third grade teacher Mrs. Kedra King. Through this partnership, Tim and Brooke provided in-class support three times per week (“Power Hours”) to students in Ms. King’s classroom and we hope to expand to other classes in the coming year. To support improved healthcare, they worked with Dr. Shane Lee to provide home visits, transportation, support navigating the health system, and social support to patients who Dr. Lee saw could use an extra helping hand. Beyond their daily work, Tim and Brook discovered the warmth, richness, and hospitality of the Marion community and have been grateful to get to know and become a part of the community in so many other ways. We are excited to be expanding the Marion site to four Fellows in 2019-20 with the team led by one of our outstanding returning second year Fellows, Zavier Carmichael.



ENHANCED INDEPENDENT LIVING HOUSING A KEY TO INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Project Horseshoe Farm supports three enhanced independent living homes for women, including women living with mental illness. Past Fellows have set an example by showing such strong commitment to and care for the women in the programs. Working with the women in the housing programs has been one of the highlights of our year as Fellows. It is hard to describe the humanity and love that has shaped our hearts though this experience and how we will take this with us for the rest of our lives. In anticipation of growing needs to help support women to live independently, we are grateful to be working with the Auburn University Rural Studio architecture program (thank you Lauren, Sydney, Gavin, and Frank!) to design and build new housing that will give greater flexibility in our offerings for women and will be completed by late 2019.



YOUTH PROGRAMS – DEVELOPING SKILLS OF EMPLOYABILITY AND SUCCESS

As our K-12 youth programs (run in partnership with Greensboro schools) continued to grow, we continued our emphasis on skills of employability and success with all of our students. As an example, we launched a YouthWorks program for middle and high school students. We formed teams that started a car washing business, developed an apparel business, and led the preparation of 40+ meals each week in our “meals-on-wheels” type program. For the coming year, we are grateful to be working with Ms. Richey and teachers at Greensboro Elementary School to begin providing in class support to students while continuing to provide after school programming 4 days per week.

EXPANDING OTHER PARTNERSHIPS AND DEVELOPING NEW FELLOWSHIP TRACKS

Working with Hale County Hospital to Improve Community Health: We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Hale County Hospital nearly from the beginnings of Horseshoe Farm. To build on this partnership, Hale County Hospital and its CEO, Shay Whaley, are graciously sponsoring 2 “Hale County Hospital” Fellows for the coming year. These Fellows will provide extra community-based support to vulnerable patients, develop community outreach programs with Greensboro Elementary School and the Newbern Library, provide administrative support to the hospital, and serve the community in other ways. The Hospital is an underappreciated jewel in our community and we are thankful to be expanding our partnership with Shay and her wonderful team.



Farming, Health, and Nutrition – Working with BDA Farm to Bring Healthy Eating to Horseshoe Farm:

In the past year, we began a farm-stand that offers fresh produce straight from Bois d’Arc Farm (BDA Farm) as well as from donations from local gardens. This year we are expanding our partnership with BDA Farm and launching an innovative new Farming, Health, and Nutrition track for 2 fellows. The Fellows will spend half of their time working and learning at BDA under the guidance of Kyle Platt. The remainder of their time will be spent working to make a positive impact through nutrition as they increase our emphasis on healthy eating with our participants, ladies in our housing programs, and students in our after-school programs.



LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

It is hard to believe that with our current class of Fellows, more than 90 Fellows and more than 50 interns have participated in Horseshoe Farm’s leadership development programs over our first ten years. To celebrate, our fearless second year Fellow, Morgan Zabow, put together a wonderful 10 Year Anniversary Reunion Celebration. Horseshoe Farm alumni from all of the country came back to Greensboro. True to the spirit of Horseshoe Farm, the day started with a morning work day of painting and scraping at our community center. Then Fellows enjoyed catching up with community members and Horseshoe Farm participants at a beautiful luncheon catered by Pie Lab and the Stable. Later that evening, Fellows let their hair down with a sing-off competition between classes and dancing the night away at our community block party. The love and joy was palpable in the smiles, hugs, and affection seen among the Fellows as they reunited with one another, with participants, and with so many friends from Greensboro and the broader community.

At the same time we were saying our goodbyes and celebrating our first ten years, we welcomed our largest class yet of 21 Fellows for the 2019-2020 year. The new class will be led by our two returning second-year fellows, Ninna Mendoza and Xavier Carmichael. After a competitive recruitment season, we’re excited to see how the new fellows take the lead in Greensboro and Marion. We are so grateful to the many generous donors, partners, volunteers, and the Greensboro and Marion communities who have helped us to make all of this work possible. Thank you!

WELCOMING NEW FACES TO HORSESHOE FARM

We want to welcome two outstanding leaders who have joined the Horseshoe Farm Team. Sarah C. Hallmark from Demopolis, Alabama hit the ground running since starting as our new Assistant Director in April, 2019 – please drop by to say hello. In addition, we are grateful that the Honorable Judge Don McMillan joined Project Horseshoe Farm’s Board of Directors this spring. He has done so much to help with the launch of the new site in to Marion and to help get Tim and Brooke settled, and he brings such a wonderful spirit of care for the community.



2019-2020 FELLOWS

2018-19 INTERNS

- Morgan Alexander, University of Alabama
- Nadia Anabtawi, University of Alabama Birmingham
- Lindsey Baroch, PA Student, University of Alabama Birmingham
- Madeleine Conrad, University of Michigan
- Elijah Goldberg, Williams College
- Donna Hill, medical student, Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Maria Hill, University of Alabama Birmingham
- Jeff Kutra, medical resident, Hilo, HI
- Victor Liu, medical student, St. George’s University
- Nila Masha, Duke University
- Tereza Molfino, medical resident, Philadelphia, PA
- Uttav Sandesara, medical student, Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

UAB Nursing Students led by Dr. Elizabeth Crooks

2018-2019 FELLOWS

- Zavier Carmichael
- Tavene Findlater
- Winona Gbedey
- Amy He
- Ninna Mendoza
- Ben Metrikin
- Shivam Patel
- Katherine Stanton
- Davis Temple
- Anna Wood
- Amy Xu
- 2nd-Year Fellows
- Brooke Hess
- Timothy Huang
- Morgan Zabow



WELCOMING THE 2019-2020 M FELLOWS

- Ninna Mendoza (2nd Year Fellow), Augustana College
- Lydia Abma, Calvin College
- Katie Blankemeyer, Penn State University
- Morgan Bond, Western Washington University
- Grace Chamberlin, Williams College
- Anita Ho, Scripps College
- Jordan Lazarus, The University of Michigan
- Bridget O’Brien, The University of California Berkeley
- Sophia Orlando, The University of Washington Seattle
- Kayla Rykiel, The University of South Florida
- Catie Sanders, The University of San Diego
- Christine Tanna, Williams College
- Jintana Williams, Wesleyan University

Hospital Fellows – in partnership with Hale County Hospital

- Sonya Bedge, Oregon State University
- Reem Ghanem, Stanford University

Farming Health and Nutrition Fellows in Partnership with BDA Farm

- Jade Fredrickson, Texas Christian University
- Rogelio Oliva, Amherst College

Marion Fellows

- Zavier Carmichael (Second Year Fellow), Duke University
- Jennifer Gamble, The University of Georgia
- Reed Miller, The University of South Alabama
- Mary Zhou, The University of California Berkeley

HORSESHOE FARM BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Hale County Hospital

Kirk Brooker, Director
Marengo County Historical Society

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