

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Fayetteville Street Elementary School**

Covenant Presbyterian Church partnered with several non-profit and faith-based organizations to offer a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Fayetteville Street Elementary School on Saturday, December 11, 2022, in an effort to address the disproportionate number of black and brown populations in Durham county who have not been vaccinated. The vaccine clinic offered the COVID-19 vaccine, a booster shot, and a flu shot. The vaccine clinic was scheduled from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. By the time the event ended at 2:00 p.m., 97 vaccines (COVID and/or Flu) had been given. This was an opportunity for families to come together to take advantage of this needed vaccination event.

This event demonstrated how an array of community faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations and UNC Health could work together in local neighborhoods to bring families out to take advantage of a needed health preventive service. The group was comprised of a gathering of white, black, and brown individuals and faith-based Christians and Jews. This is certainly representative of God's kingdom. The partnership included (1) **Principal and Staff of Fayetteville Street Elementary School**; (2) **LaSemilla**, a new faith community that strives to be present in service with the Hispanic/Latinx community, along with the larger immigrant community in Durham, NC and its surrounding areas; (3) **Slice 325** a community organization founded by Shemecka McNeil to educate low-income people on the many creative ways to serve healthy meals using affordable ingredients; (4) **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, an inner city faith based organization near Fayetteville Street Elementary School which is located in the southwest central area of Durham with outreach ministries to black and brown population; (5) **Vaccine Ambassadors** that assist underserved populations in low to middle income countries in gaining access to vaccines; (6) **Jewish Vaccine Team** who are members of Judea Reform Congregation, (7) **Book Harvest** that provides an abundance of books and ongoing literacy support to families and their children from the time they are born; (8) **African American COVID Taskforce Plus (AACT+)**, (9) **Communities in Partnership**; and (10) **UNC-Health** which provides vaccine services.

Creating effective partnerships is essential to addressing the long-term health inequities among black and brown populations which is critical in Durham communities especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and its variants. This event was a success because it represented partners that were committed to promoting health equity in local black and brown neighborhoods. Choosing a local school where families consistently gather is ideal for involving them and their children in the process to promote health literacy and local involvement. Because all of these partners had a similar mission and outcome, it resulted in an ideal relationship that is needed for advocacy and working together to achieve a common goal. The following tasks were performed by the partners:

- **La Semilla**- onsite drive-thru and walk-up COVID testing, Spanish translation services, pre-event canvassing

- **Slice 325**- Delicious Brunswick stew (candy, snacks and drinks), fresh produce, gift bags of cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer, pre-event canvassing
- **AACT+**- Health education, pre-event promotion and planning
- **Covenant Presbyterian Church**- community feedback survey, pre-event canvassing
- **Vaccine Ambassadors and The Jewish Vaccine Team**- Flu/COVID-19 information, coats (all sizes), children's face masks, drinks
- **Book Harvest**- children's books
- **Communities in Partnership**- additional testing kits for La Semilla and children's crafts
- **DCGST**- Free gunlocks
- **UNC-Health** provided excellent vaccination services to the clinic participants



In addition to organizational leaders, there were many volunteers from these groups which made it possible to work together as a village to perform the various and sundry tasks. Even more than that were the families and individuals who showed up for the vaccine and patiently waited until it was their turn to be called. While this was, indeed, a walk-in clinic, participants appeared to be eager to receive the service and expressed their appreciation for those who delivered it. Members from the Covenant team



included Sue McLaurin, Fay Mitchell, Karen Andrews, and Patricia Ricks. A survey was administered to 46 participants who took the vaccine or had their child to take the vaccine. All of the respondents demonstrated an eagerness to survey individuals who had been vaccinated to gather their perspective on the vaccination services they received. No one turned down the opportunity to be surveyed which was a plus.

Some of the predominant responses included the following:

- I found out about the vaccine clinic:
  - ✓ from a friend
  - ✓ from the school
  - ✓ from a neighbor
  - ✓ from a family member.
- I came to Fayetteville Street Elementary School to take the vaccine because:
  - ✓ it was close to my home
  - ✓ it offered three different vaccines
  - ✓ a friend told me to come
  - ✓ I liked what the flyer said about the vaccine clinic
  - ✓ my children attend school here
- What did you like best about the clinic?
  - ✓ the staff was welcoming
  - ✓ they had an interpreter

Information gained from the survey can be used to gain insight into the comfort level of individuals showing up to be vaccinated; and also key points to use on how best to recruit individuals from neighborhoods where vaccinations are needed.

Having a variety of partners to offer an array of community resources that included, the vaccine, clothing, food, books, etc. demonstrated the capacity for these partners to deploy their unique capabilities to attract families to the event and to provide a sound methodology for addressing health equities in underserved communities.