A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

DUKE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF DURHAM AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

OUR FIVE-YEAR REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
Duke University’s Office of Durham and Regional Affairs (DARA), created in 2008, seeks to apply knowledge in service of society as highlighted in Duke’s strategic plan, “Making a Difference.” By broadening the university’s role as an advocate and partner for economic and community development, the office works to improve quality of life and public education in Durham and to build strong Duke-Durham relations.

DARA oversees the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership, formed in 1996 as the university’s flagship community outreach program. The Partnership works to improve quality of life and educational achievement within the 12 neighborhoods closest to campus, and the creation of DARA has broadened and strengthened the scope of that work throughout Durham.

DARA also oversees the Community Service Center, which for more than two decades has served as a clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities for students and employees.

Visit community.duke.edu to learn more about our work and for a full list of our ongoing goals.

After 28 years as president of Durham Technical Community College, I came to Duke in 2008 to fill the newly created position of Vice President for Durham and Regional Affairs. My charge was to expand and deepen the partnerships and connections between Duke and Durham. I quickly became aware of the countless ties between Duke and its hometown that date to the days of Trinity College. Many of these partnerships already were strong, the connections deep and historic.

I began by meeting with local leaders to gain a fresh perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing Durham, and the partnership role Duke could play. I talked with leaders from the neighborhoods, the school system and school board, city and county government, and a host of other non-profit and civic organizations that work tirelessly to make Durham a great place to live.

The priorities that emerged time and again were youth, K-12 education and economic development. At the time, Duke already had a long history of working with local schools and community centers that serve our youth. And Duke already had played a vital role in downtown revitalization projects like the American Tobacco Campus and the Durham Performing Arts Center.

To expand on that work would mean a significant new commitment to Durham Public Schools, to youth-oriented non-profits, and to economic development and renewal in the neighborhoods in and close to downtown. That is part of what my office has overseen during our first five years.

I hope you’ll explore these pages to see what I mean, and to learn more about the ways that Duke is a partner, convener, facilitator and advocate in Durham.

Warm regards,
Phail Wynn, Jr.
Acting upon that input, President Keohane established the Duke Durham Neighborhood Partnership (DDNP), as the university’s official vehicle for engagement with Durham. DDNP staff developed an empowerment strategy whereby local residents would identify the Partnership’s ongoing goals and priorities.

1998 Partners for Youth, now an independent non-profit, launched out of the DDNP to mentor at-risk students on their path to high school graduation and college admission.

2000 The Juanita McNeill and Joseph A. Lyon West End Community Center opened with Duke financial support.

2000 The Southwest Central Durham Quality of Life Project (QOL), facilitated by the DDNP, was established to organize residents, neighborhood associations, non-profits and businesses in the six Southwest Central Durham neighborhoods. Members work collaboratively to address issues of affordable housing, economic development, non-profit sustainability and community celebrations.

2000 The DDNP coordinated the build of a KaBOOM! playground in the Lyon Park neighborhood. The project was so successful, and the playground so well maintained, that KaBOOM!

1999 School Days, an annual DDNP initiative, began its tradition of bringing Durham 8th graders to campus to set their sights on preparing for college.

2000 The Duke University Office of Community Engagement opened with Duke financial support.

2001 With financial support from the DDNP, the E.K. Powe Elementary School Science Resource Center opened. The center later was renamed the John Burness Science Center.

2003 The Lyon Park Clinic opened to provide accessible quality healthcare to all Durham residents, including those without medical insurance. The community clinic is a joint program of Lincoln Community Health Center and Duke Community Health that opened with support from the DDNP.

2003 Building Opportunities and Overtures in Science and Technology (BOOST) began to provide intensive and long-term support to disadvantaged middle school students who demonstrate interest and potential in pursuing education and careers in science.

2003 The Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park opened in the former Lyon Park elementary school, renovated for its new community purpose with support from the DDNP.

2004 Duke doubled its loan commitment to Self-Help, bringing the total value of the loan to $4 million. The new funds allowed Self-Help, in partnership with non-profit developers, to expand its homeownership efforts in Durham and the nation.

2006 Duke became one of the Latino Community Credit Union’s first and largest supporters, with an initial deposit of $400,000 and a total five-year commitment of $5 million for mortgages in Durham.

2006 Duke’s Board of Trustees approved the university’s new strategic plan, “Making a Difference.” The plan describes Duke’s mission to pursue knowledge in service of society, with an emphasis on K-12 education and economic development in Durham.

2008 The Office of Durham and Regional Affairs, and the position of Vice President for Durham and Regional Affairs, were created to strengthen and highlight Duke’s role as a partner and advocate in Durham and the region. The DDNP staff and programs became an integral part of the new office.
In 2008, E.K. Powe Principal Jeanne Bishop told Durham and Regional Affairs (DARA) staff about the staggering number of kindergarten students who had arrived at school that year with so little pre-school experience that they were unprepared to stand in line, much less to learn letters and numbers.

In 2009, Rogers-Herr Principal Drew Sawyer shared with DARA staff his worry that the school’s Latino students were being recruited for gangs and engaging in other risky behavior at a disproportionately high rate.

Around the same time, a sense of urgency was growing in Durham and around the nation in response to new research demonstrating the impact of end-of-third-grade reading proficiency on long-term academic success, and our partner principals were seeking support.

As DARA staff listened to the challenges faced by teachers and principals, the office’s "Education Architecture" began to form. Staff members identified funding sources and provided support for pilot programs that met identified school needs. As more challenges emerged, the Architecture developed further. And now, as local support for the programs grows, DARA works with Durham Public Schools and other partners to see them implemented independently in new schools and settings.

Durham Public Schools teachers and administrators in Guanajuato, Mexico on the 2012 Visions trip.

**Stepping Stones**

Every summer, 90 rising kindergarten students with little or no pre-school experience attend this school-based program. They meet teachers, practice school routines, and learn social and behavioral skills to get them ready for school on day one. By the end of the program, students typically have improved their school readiness skills by 32%.

**Afterschool Reading Academy**

For 90 1st and 2nd graders reading behind grade level, this program provides 20 weeks of engaging afterschool literacy support provided by trained teachers and Duke tutors. After one year in the program, 33% of 1st graders have reached reading proficiency; 89% of 2nd graders are on grade level after two years.

**Duke University CDF Freedom Schools® program**

To prevent summer learning loss and to build self-confidence and a love of learning, Afterschool Reading Academy participants come to Duke’s campus for six weeks every summer for this enriching program, developed by the Children’s Defense Fund. By the end of the summer, 70% of participants maintain or improve upon their reading level.

**Enlaces**

Every year, in a partnership with the schools and El Centro Hispano, 145 Latino students and their families participate in workshops and receive social and academic support. School staff and participating families report improved student behavior and academic performance; increased parent involvement; and overall improved school-family relationships.

**Duke Regional Spelling Bee**

Dozens of school spelling bee champions from Durham and Orange counties come to Duke’s campus to compete for the regional spelling bee title and a trip to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

**Visions**

Through this professional development program, Durham Public Schools teachers and administrators learn about the local Latino community and explore issues related to Latino student achievement. Participants visit a town in Mexico to experience local culture and understand local school systems.

**BOOST**

Building Opportunities and Overtures in Science and Technology engages 85 minority and female students in science, creating a pipeline from the 6th grade to careers in medicine and technology.

**School Days**

For one day every year, 300 local 8th graders experience Duke for a day, as they’re encouraged to set their sights on higher education.

**John Hope Franklin Young Scholars**

High-potential middle-school students, particularly minorities, develop a love of history through exposure to the most vivid examples of university research in a variety of settings and activities.
The Office of Durham and Regional Affairs (DARA) is a partner, facilitator and convener in efforts to support local schools and prevent disconnected youth. On this page are a few of the ways we seek to strengthen partnerships, streamline local initiatives, and provide broad support for students and teachers in Durham.

**Parent Engagement** DARA’s Parent Engagement Coordinator works to deepen the family components of the office’s education programs. The Coordinator also lends extra capacity to our partner public schools in their efforts to involve parents, through staff and funding support for programs like Parent and Family Advocacy and Support Training (PFAST).

**Disconnected Youth** In partnership with Duke’s Program in Education, DARA sponsored a cohort analysis and developed a pilot program to help Durham Public Schools (DPS) identify and intervene with middle school students at risk of dropping out and becoming disconnected. DPS has adopted the program.

**East Durham Children’s Initiative** DARA is a committed partner in this important Durham initiative, founded in 2008. Through the Stepping Stones program, a K-2 data analysis, funding for a Parent Advocate position, and sponsoring of Duke tutors for a summer learning loss camp, DARA has provided thousands of dollars’ worth of support and programming.

**Latino Parent Council** With staff support from DARA and Durham Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods, Latino parents from the Enlaces program have developed a new and open relationship with Durham Public Schools leadership that has helped the district improve its communication with Latino parents and provided a platform for Latino parents to advocate on behalf of their children.

**Teacher and Principal Professional Development** DARA granted funding for critical Durham Public Schools professional development initiatives, including national curriculum and leadership conferences, Spanish courses for teachers, and a peer mentoring program for new teachers.

**Duke University’s Durham Student of the Month** Every month with financial support from DARA, a Durham Public Schools high school student receives recognition in The Herald-Sun for his or her outstanding ability to overcome obstacles to academic success and to inspire teachers and peers.

**Durham Education Partners** DARA regularly convenes local nonprofit leaders to share best practices and work toward aligning their programs in support of the Durham Public Schools strategic plan, “One Vision. One Durham.”

**Duke University Retirees Outreach (DURO):** Volunteer-led organization that engages retired Duke faculty and staff in meaningful volunteer opportunities.

**MLK Million Meals Event:** Annual volunteer event that brings together Duke and N.C. Central students and community volunteers to package thousands of meals for international distribution by the Stop Hunger Now organization.

**Duke Student Groups:** The DDNP provides staff and resource support for student initiatives like CHANCE, WOODS, Project BUILD, the Magnolia Tree Project, The Girls Club, Swimming with the Blue Devils and Mi Gente.

**DukeEngage Durham:** Places Duke students in meaningful summer experiences at local nonprofits.

**Fuqua on Board:** Prepares Duke students who aspire to be business leaders for thoughtful community leadership through board membership with local nonprofits.

**Duke Law School Community Enterprise Clinic:** Provides free legal resources for non-profits and low-wealth entrepreneurs working to improve quality of life in Durham.
Since the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership (DDNP) began in the ’90s, staff members have worked to promote and facilitate the efforts of neighborhoods and schools to improve quality of life through an empowerment strategy. The community centers, the afterschool programs, the parks and the hundreds of new or renovated houses serve as physical testament to the progress made. Equally important are the less tangible bonds of trust and partnership that have developed within the neighborhoods and with Duke.

When the DDNP became part of the Office of Durham and Regional Affairs (DARA) five years ago, the new office sought to deepen its commitment to the partner neighborhoods even as it broadened Duke’s outreach to the rest of Durham. We’re highlighting some of the ways we’ve made progress on that front—see page 12 for even more.

Southwest Central Durham Quality of Life Project Five-Year Plan

The Quality of Life Project (QOL) was formed in 2001 with facilitation from the DDNP. QOL is a grassroots organization working to improve quality of life in six Southwest Central Durham neighborhoods through affordable housing, economic development, non-profit sustainability, and celebrations and traditions. With coordinated staff and funding support from DARA, QOL works to empower residents and build relationships between the neighborhoods, the city, Duke and other organizations.

QOL has made tremendous progress. The neighborhoods are safer; more residents are homeowners; children have more parks and playgrounds; seniors have a new apartment community; and the neighborhoods are poised to enjoy the product of many years’ worth of planning and organizing as the West Chapel Hill Street commercial corridor project is slated to begin in 2013.

For years, the Duke Habitat for Humanity chapter received staff and financial support from the DDNP, which helped to build one home every other year. In 2011, DDNP committed to provide an annual contribution that will allow the group to build one house per year for a new Habitat homeowner. The gift will match the funds raised by the students and will double the number of homes built by the organization in the long run for new homeowners like the Mejias, shown below with Duke Habitat volunteers.

Walltown Digital Literacy

During the past few years, a focus on digital literacy has emerged in the long-standing partnership between Duke and the Walltown neighborhood. The Duke-based Digital Durham project taught Walltown teenagers how to tell the story of their neighborhood through historic maps and Census data, and dozens of neighborhood youth have graduated from Digital Connectors, a summer technology and career skills program offered in partnership with One Economy, Cisco and the City of Durham.

Partner Neighborhood Associations

DARA began a tradition of hosting regular dinner meetings with our 12 partner neighborhood associations, providing a chance to mingle, share updates and address community issues.

Duke Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter

For years, the Duke Habitat for Humanity campus chapter has raised funds and organize volunteers. Though the volunteer response and the need for affordable housing were high, the organization consistently raised only enough funds to build one home every other year. In 2011, DARA committed to provide an annual contribution that will allow the group to build one house per year for a new Habitat homeowner. The gift will match the funds raised by the students and will double the number of homes built by the organization in the long run for new homeowners like the Mejias, shown below with Duke Habitat volunteers.

The Office of Durham and Regional Affairs (DARA), in partnership with other Duke and Durham entities, seeks to provide capacity-building support to sustain these vital community resources.

Featured here are a few of the organizations and initiatives championed by the office and Duke.

Doing Good in the Neighborhood

DARA coordinates an annual campaign, which encourages Duke University and Duke University Health System employees to donate to a variety of schools and non-profits in Durham and in its United Way of the Greater Triangle. Every year, hundreds of thousands of dollars are raised to support dozens of local schools, neighborhoods, clinics and nonprofits. Visit doinggood.duke.edu for a full listing and to learn more.

Community Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park

The Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership played a key funding and support role in creating the historic Lyon Park Elementary School renovated for use as the Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park. Since then, the DDNP and DARA have provided staff and funding support for the center, including its many programs serving neighborhood youth and seniors. By the end of this year the Lyon Park community will achieve one more long-standing goal for the center: the installation of a commercial kitchen. With the help of donated Duke surplus equipment, a matching grant and staff support from DDNP, the Lyon Park community is raising money and hiring contractors to outfit the Community Family Life and Recreation Center with a kitchen that will provide hot meals for site-based youth programs, local seniors, community events and neighbors in need in the event of an emergency.

Support for Critical Durham Non-Profits

Student U

Founded in 2005 by Duke alumnae Daniel Kimberg, Student U works with families, community members and partner organizations to create a continuum of services for Durham Public School students from the summer before sixth grade to their high school graduation. DARA has been a proud supporter of the non-profit, providing professional and personal development funds for Kimberg to explore his vision for the program, and grants for summer teachers from Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. Central University.

Durham Economic Resource Center

DERC seeks to end poverty in Durham through its job training program, reduced-price merchandise warehouse and community outreach efforts. DARA has been a proud supporter of DERC’s mission and programs, providing funding support through office grant programs to help the non-profit meet challenge grants and expand its outreach to the Latino community.

Housing for New Hope

Housing for New Hope works to prevent and end homelessness by providing access to healthcare, housing and integrated services. Because DARA believes in the non-profit’s commitment to individualized outreach and its ability to collaborate with other public and non-profit entities, the office has provided significant matching grants with funds raised from our business partners in the Durham community.

Durham Literacy Center

The Durham Literacy Center has an outstanding record in empowering local residents to enrich their lives. Staff and volunteers work with clients to improve their reading and writing skills, earn their GED and gain valuable skills for finding and maintaining employment. DARA hopes to see the non-profit and its impact grow, so it happily provided a $10,000 gift to help the Durham Literacy Center settle into its new expanded location on Chapel Hill Road.
since 1994, Duke University and Self-Help have worked together to revitalize Durham’s urban neighborhoods with a focus on homeownership and affordable housing. The partnership began in Walltown when Duke provided a $2 million loan to allow Self-Help, with support from Habitat for Humanity of Durham and community residents, to build and sell dozens of high-quality, affordable homes. Along with other neighborhood and Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership (DDNP) efforts, the homes have helped to return community cohesiveness, local homeownership and low crime rates to the historic neighborhood. In 2004, building on the success in Walltown, Duke doubled its loan commitment to $4 million. The new funds allowed Self-Help and Habitat, along with Builders of Hope and Durham Community Land Trustees, to expand their work to Southwest Central Durham. The non-profit housing organizations worked through the Southwest Central Durham Quality of Life Project (QOL), a coalition of community members, facilitated by DDNP staff, that advocates on behalf of the housing and economic development interests of the neighborhoods.

With the Duke loan and in partnership with DDNP and Self-Help staff, QOL formed a land bank that has become a model for re-development, even as Self-Help was working to develop a land bank of properties strategically located within the neighborhood.

The newly expanded Duke loan commitment will allow Self-Help and a coalition of non-profit housing developers to replicate the successful land bank model as they re-develop those properties at the direction of Southside residents and their vision for their neighborhood. That work helped to produce a blueprint for re-development, even as Self-Help was working to develop a land bank of properties strategically located within the neighborhood.

Slowly progress has been made. Self-Help and QOL rehabilitated a house on the strip that had become known for illegal activities, renovating it and renting it to the Duke Chapel Pathways program. They worked with the city to implement small sidewalk and landscaping projects, and a bike path to improve accessibility.

In 2011, when Duke doubled its loan commitment and set aside $1 million for the West Chapel Hill Street commercial corridor, Self-Help had the knowledge and buy-in to put the significant new funding to good use. Self-Help has acquired 2.3 acres of properties on the south side of West Chapel Hill Street, starting at a city-owned parking lot and wrapping around the corner of Kent Street, with plans to build a street-front retail and office development with a parking lot in back. Staff continue to collect community input as they develop architectural plans and seek office and retail tenants, expected to be announced in early 2013.

Revitalization of the Southside neighborhood, just south of the American Tobacco Campus, has become a priority for the City of Durham, Self-Help and other non-profit developers. To support the collaborative effort from the beginning, Duke and the City of Durham organized door-to-door surveys and neighborhood retreats to solicit input from Southside residents about the future of their neighborhood. That work helped to produce a blueprint for re-development, even as Self-Help was working to develop a land bank of properties strategically located within the neighborhood.

Revitalization of the Southside neighborhood, just south of the American Tobacco Campus, has become a priority for the City of Durham, Self-Help and other non-profit developers. To support the collaborative effort from the beginning, Duke and the City of Durham organized door-to-door surveys and neighborhood retreats to solicit input from Southside residents about the future of their neighborhood. That work helped to produce a blueprint for re-development, even as Self-Help was working to develop a land bank of properties strategically located within the neighborhood.

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Southside

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Duke University Retirees Outreach
Lakewood Elementary School students spend time in the school’s garden, built and maintained with support from Duke University Retirees Outreach.

Literacy Grant from Wells Fargo Foundation
The Office of Durham and Regional Affairs in 2011 received a grant to fund literacy programs for students at Watts Elementary School and El Centro Hispano. Pictured here are Wells Fargo Durham Market President John Messick and Vice President for Durham and Regional Affairs Phail Wynn, Jr., in the Watts media center.

Duke Chemistry Service-Learning Program
A Duke University CDF Freedom Schools® program participant in the lab of chemistry professor Ken Lyle, who leads a service-learning program that engages local students in science through interactive experiments.

2009 Bull City Gridiron Classic
Duke and N.C. Central University students work together to build a Habitat for Humanity house.

2010 Duke-Durham Campaign Kick-Off
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

THANK YOU

DURHAM AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS
THANKS THE FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES, DURHAM RESIDENTS
AND DUKE EMPLOYEES WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT THE WORK
OF OUR OFFICE AND PARTNERS.

PLEASE CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK
OR TO BECOME INVOLVED.

DUKE UNIVERSITY’S OFFICE OF DURHAM AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS
700 WEST MAIN STREET
CAMPUS BOX 104352
DURHAM, NC 27701
(919) 684-3676
DUKE-COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT@DUKE.EDU
HTTP://COMMUNITY.DUKE.EDU