

Month of Reported Progress:

March

PACE EH Coordinator/Contact Name:

Julianne Price

CHD Name:

Indian River

EH Manager/ Administrator:

Cheryl Dunn

Has EH Manager/Administrator reviewed and approved this report?:

No

Is your PACE EH survey complete?:

No

If your PACE EH survey is complete, list your PACE EH community's top identified issues.:

Our third PACE EH project is just gearing up, and the issues have not been formally identified yet.

Concisely summarize this month's activities.:

It's no revelation that things change; for example, community partners will come and go and attitudes will improve only when results are realized. At times though, it seems that the connection with a community you've worked so hard in for years is the only thing that remains constant or unchanged.

Watching our two first PACE EH communities continue to improve their quality of life is much like teaching a child to ride a bike. Some children are driven to learn a new skill set and no matter how difficult it is, will ultimately learn to ride the bike- and truly will enjoy the reward of mastering a new ability. Other children are just not interested in riding a bike and their fear of injury holds them back from even trying. And then there is the other type of child who tries but cannot successfully master the ability and/or skill no matter how hard they try. They get close, but just aren't ready to take the training wheels off yet. This is when the saying, "Practice makes perfect" is not the case; however, the pursuit of accomplishing a goal, albeit not attained, teaches one (or a community) dedication, persistence, and enriches their spirit with a communal devotion to work together to make things better. Perhaps this is more valuable in some cases than achieving the end result of accomplishing a task, ability, or skill. I would venture to say this is currently the case in our first two PACE EH communities.

The installation of additional streetlights in Wabasso are a good example as many property owners have given easements for them, but since a few don't want them, this means all will lose out. There has to be 100% participation. A few years ago, 44 streetlights were installed successfully and recently, the community requested six more. Because they do not have a few willing homeowners, the streetlights can't go down one street unfortunately.

In the Fellsmere PACE EH community of Hall Carter James, the monthly meeting of the Fellsmere Civic League took place and plans for an Easter egg hunt and a "5 point prayer" were laid out. The Mayor, who serves as the secretary, successfully recruited me as a board member for the civic league. I am encouraged by the good attendance of residents at the meetings and their ability to plan community specific events. The roads are currently being paved and the drainage improvements are complete. The location of the proposed community center has changed, but will be closer to the Hall Carter James community so the news was well received.

Looking to the future, the community of Gifford has been decided to be Indian River's next PACE EH initiative. Preliminary discussions with leaders from the community indicate that they are receptive to taking part in the PACE EH process. Time is being spent talking to residents and learning of the environmental health issues in the community. Housing seems to be a top issue and is multi-faceted to include abandoned homes, substandard housing, and a need for affordable housing. There are many organizations that exist in Gifford such as the Gifford Civic Progressive League, the NAACP, Front Porch, and the Gifford Youth Activity Center. There are also a great number of churches in the community and a pastor's association that meets regularly. My goal for next month will be to meet with these groups to introduce myself and PACE EH.