Currents of Change Award
Overall Winners 2005-2017
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2017: CARES Clinic at VCU

Community Partners: Center for Healthy Hearts; CrossOver Healthcare Ministry; Health Brigade
VCU Partner: Department of Physical Therapy

Meeting a need in the community for physical therapy services that cannot be fully addressed by other free clinics in the city, the CARES Clinic was conceived, planned, developed and is not operated by students in VCU’s Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. The clinic provides services to uninsured patients in the Richmond metro area and provides students an opportunity to enhance clinical skill development through guided practice.

2016: Wellness Engagement Petersburg

Community Partners: Pathways; Petersburg YMCA; VSU Cooperative Extension
VCU Partners: Departments of Family Medicine & Population Health, Health Behavior & Policy and Pediatrics; L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs; VCUarts

The Wellness Engagement Project, funded by an NIMHD R24 award, has used a community-based participatory research approach to build capacity and plan a comprehensive, multi-level intervention to address obesity and related health concerns in the underserved community of Petersburg. VCU faculty, graduate students and community partners have contributed numerous hours to facilitate extensive data collection and dissemination resulting in the start of 10 new walking groups, a Million Mile Challenge, and physical activity and nutrition events attended by over 100 adults and youth.

2015: The Safety Net Primary Care Psychology Collaborative

Community Partners: Fan Free Clinic; The Daily Planet
VCU Partners: Departments of Internal Medicine and Psychology; Ambulatory Care Center

The VCU Ambulatory Care Center, The Daily Planet and Fan Free Clinic, three Richmond safety net primary care clinics, reached out to the Department of Psychology for help addressing unmet mental health needs among their patients. A high percentage of patients with mental health concerns were either not receiving care at all or were obtaining substandard care due to a wide range of economic and other barriers. In response, Dr. Bruce Rybarczyk embedded supervised doctoral trainees from the clinical and counseling psychology doctoral programs in these clinics. Since 2008, trainees have delivered over 8,500 sessions of pro bono behavioral care to underserved individuals in the Greater Richmond Area.

2014: VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

Community Partner: Richmond Public Schools
VCU Partner: College of Humanities & Sciences, Dept. of Psychology

The Clark-Hill Institute’s mission is to develop and evaluate evidence-based practices to empower youth, schools, families, and other stakeholders to promote the healthy, safe and positive development of youth, with a special emphasis on the middle school years. The Institute is currently implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program to reduce levels of aggressive behavior and associated risk factors among students.
2013: Carbon Awareness Partnership

**Community Partners:** Central Virginia Wildlife Management; Chesterfield County Anti-Litter Campaign; Clover Hill, Douglas Freeman, Varina, Highland Springs, Tucker, & Powhatan High Schools  
**VCU Partners:** College of Humanities and Sciences, Department of Biology, Life Sciences; School of Education

VCU faculty and students have developed a carbon capstone service learning course that trains VCU undergraduates to effectively lead a multi-day carbon module investigation for high school classes, to conduct a scientifically relevant carbon research experiment, and to produce an academic poster/presentation to disseminate their research and teaching experiences to the greater community.

2012: Una Vida Sana!

**Community Partners:** CrossOver Ministry, City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office  
**VCU Partners:** School of Medicine; School of Nursing; and School of Pharmacy

“Una Vida Sana!” translates into “A Healthy Life”. This program provides mobile, community-based, cardio-metabolic disease (diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol) screening services in the City of Richmond and immediately adjacent counties by partnering with local institutions to facilitate access to the local residents. During each event, VCU health professions students, assisted by medical Spanish interpreters, provide health screenings and consult with those patients who need definitive medical care.

2011: Community Partners for Ethical Research

**Community Partners:** CARTIAS, Baptist General Convention of Virginia, Mill House, Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia, Daily Planet, Crossover Ministry, Richmond City Health District, Richmond Ambulance Authority, Urban League of Greater Richmond  
**VCU Partners:** Departments of Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine; Center for Clinical and Translational Research

The CPER is an NIH-funded partnership designed to develop and test a new model for community engagement that was initially based on the need for community consultation and public disclosure for Exception from Informed Consent research. This collaboration designed and tested new roles and responsibilities for Community Advocates Research.

2010: Pharmacist Collaborative Care in the Community

**Community Partners:** Center for High Blood Pressure, CrossOver Health Ministry, Daily Planet, Imperial Plaza, Lupus Foundation of Virginia, Alcohol Aging and Awareness Group, Commonwealth of Virginia Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Commission  
**VCU Partners:** School of Pharmacy

VCU School of Pharmacy faculty and students work collaboratively with organizations in the greater Richmond Community through education, outreach and research initiatives to promote safe and effective medication use with a goal of reducing medication-related health disparities and improving medication-related chronic disease outcomes in patients (elderly, uninsured, and those who experience homelessness). The pharmacist faculty and students provide patient-centered, team-based care and health education via medication...
therapeutics and disease state management with an emphasis on diabetes, hypertension, mental health, lupus, and Alzheimer’s disease.

2008: For Africa

Community Partners: The Richmond Ballet’s Minds in Motions dance troupe, the Cary Elementary School Stepping Team, Living World Theater, the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Peacework, Inc., Capital Bank One and others

VCU Partners: VCU School of the Arts and School of Social Work

The For Africa Project brought together students and faculty from the VCU School of Arts and School of Social Work with artists, nonprofit organizations, and businesses from the Richmond community. This creative project culminated in three nights of benefit performances at the Grace Street Theater on the VCU campus with nightly receptions, an African market, and a silent auction of African crafts. The 3-night event raised $48,000. Through partnership with Sovereign Global Mission (a non-governmental organization based in Ghana that serves homeless street children and rural children who can’t afford to go to school), these funds were used to sponsor 88 Ghana children to attend school and to build a Child Development Center in a rural Ghana village. In January 2008, 21 VCU students and faculty traveled to Ghana to help to build this Center as part of an ongoing VCU service-learning course.

For news story on ‘For Africa’ click [here](#).

2005: In Peace and Harmony: Carver Portrait

The Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Carver Elementary School and the Carver-VCU Partnership coordinated efforts with internationally acclaimed American photographer Wendy Ewald to develop “In Peace and Harmony: Carver Portraits.” Together, they developed photographic images and text exploring the students’ perceptions of self, community, and home. Seventeen 8-by-10 foot banners were hung on VCU buildings, private residences and Carver Elementary School as well as at local businesses. The opening of this yearlong public-art installation was called “Celebrate Carver,” a daylong event that took place on May 8, 2004. This event included a cook-out, a walking tour of Carver and performances by The Richmond Boys Choir, The Moore Street Church Choir and the Carver Elementary School African Dance and Drumming Troupe.