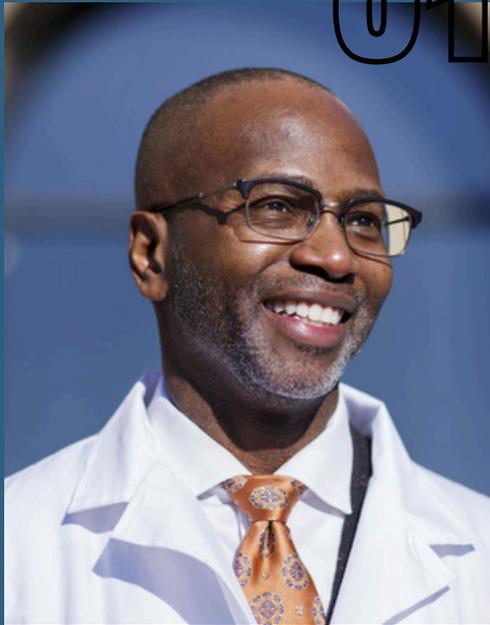




The Newsletter of **URBAN HEALTH INITIATIVE**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EMORY UNIVERSITY'S URBAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

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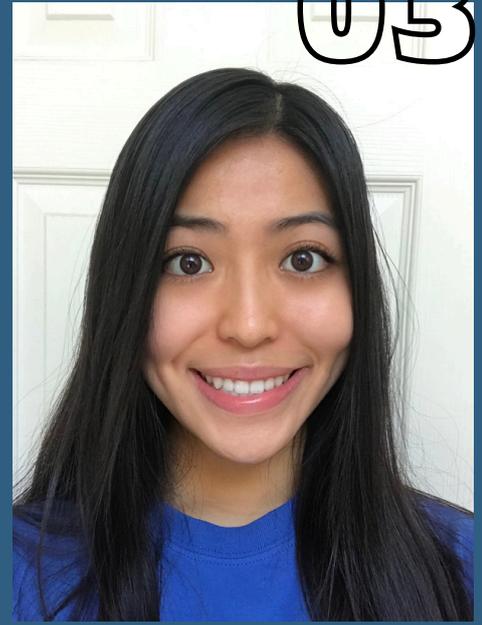
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Ms. Eva Li



Community Partner



MESSAGE FROM DR. CHARLES MOORE



TO EMORY URBAN HEALTH INITIATIVE COMMUNITY,

As we gather for our newsletter update, I am filled with gratitude for each of you and the invaluable contributions you make to our community. Your dedication and commitment inspire us all to strive for excellence in our mission.

In this edition of our newsletter, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for your unwavering support. Your commitment to health equity and community well-being is truly commendable and serves as a beacon of hope for us all.

As we continue our journey together, let us remain steadfast in our efforts to promote health education, foster community collaboration, and advocate for positive change. Your contributions are making a real and lasting difference in the lives of many, and for that, I am truly grateful.

Thank you for being a part of the Emory Urban Health Initiative community. Your passion and dedication are the driving force behind our success, and I look forward to all that we will achieve together in the future.

Warm regards,

Charles E. Moore, MD



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MS. TAQIYYA ALFORD



In our Staff Spotlight this month, we're thrilled to feature Taqiyya Alford, the Compliance Associate for the Violence Prevention Program with UHI. Taqiyya's journey with UHI began in 2019, where she initially volunteered and later assumed the role of Operations & Volunteers Manager, showcasing her unwavering commitment to community service. Her background in rehabilitation, clinical research, oncology, regulatory affairs, and pharmaceuticals reflects her multifaceted approach to making a positive impact.

Taqiyya's work at UHI is driven by her deep-seated passion for spreading love, compassion, and light to others. Even in her new role, she continues to volunteer, embodying her belief that creating lasting change requires ongoing dedication and commitment. Her diverse professional background underscores her dedication to holistic healing, exemplified by her ownership of a small business dedicated to this cause.

Through her business, which includes offerings such as books, journals, candles, plants, and photography, Taqiyya addresses the profound need for healing in today's world, with a special focus on children.

You can visit her website at www.destrinyvision.com

Taqiyya's advice to those looking to make a difference is to embrace their innate passion and purpose wholeheartedly. She emphasizes the importance of remaining steadfast in pursuing one's purpose, undeterred by obstacles or external judgments. Taqiyya's journey is a testament to the transformative power of dedication and compassion, inspiring us all to make a lasting impact in our communities and beyond.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MS. EVA LI



In our Volunteer Spotlight, we're excited to feature Eva Li, a junior at Emory College majoring in Human Health on the pre-med track. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Eva has always been passionate about promoting health equity and pursuing a career in healthcare to address these disparities. Her journey with the Emory Urban Health Initiative (UHI) began in high school, where she was part of Partners in Health, sparking her interest in collaborating with communities to combat health inequities.

Eva's involvement with UHI's Sprouting Readers program started during her freshman year, and she has since become the Program Coordinator. Working closely with the program's leadership team, she organizes sessions, develops resources, recruits volunteers, and coordinates with community partners. Eva finds the most rewarding aspect of her work to be the genuine interest and excitement she sees in the students during each session. She is particularly proud of Sprouting Readers' acceptance to present at Emory's Health Equity Conference, which will showcase their work and hopefully bring more attention to promoting literacy and health education in low-resource communities.

Eva believes Sprouting Readers is ideal for those interested in working with youth populations to promote health behaviors and literacy skills. Currently, she is focused on developing a formal monitoring and evaluation strategy for Sprouting Readers and aims to establish more program sites, especially in communities identified as food deserts. Eva's dedication and passion for creating positive change exemplify the spirit of community service and leadership within UHI.





COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:



HEALing Community Center has been a beacon of hope since 2013, offering vital healthcare services to families and individuals who have historically faced limited access to healthcare. As a federally qualified health center (FQHC) with multiple locations across metro Atlanta, HEALing Community Center is dedicated to providing quality and compassionate healthcare services to diverse communities. Their team works tirelessly to overcome economic, language, cultural, and geographic barriers, ensuring that every patient receives the care they need for excellent outcomes.

Founded by Dr. Charles Moore, HEALing Community Center's mission is deeply rooted in addressing healthcare disparities. Dr. Moore's journey began as a physician at Grady Health System, where he witnessed patients seeking medical help only after their conditions had progressed to advanced stages. Motivated by the need for early intervention, Dr. Moore took action, focusing on three zip codes with the highest rates of head and neck cancers in medically underserved areas.

Dr. Moore's outreach efforts extended to homeless shelters, community, and faith-based organizations, where he provided cancer prevention talks and discovered a multitude of unaddressed medical needs. Through his actions, he realized that sometimes, it's not the size of the act but the act itself that ignites change.



HEALing Community Center stands as a testament to this belief, providing access to healthcare and empowering healthcare professionals to fulfill their calling of caring for those most in need.

UHI ACHIEVEMENTS:



Our **Assistant Director, Brittany Prince**, Recognized as #USCBLACKExcellence by the University of South Carolina during Black History Month. Brittany's commitment to health equity and community wellness shines brightly, embodying the spirit of excellence.



Dr. Stacie Schmidt has been highlighted in the Grady Newsletter for winning the Emory at Grady Community Impact Award! Stacie's dedication and hard work in the field of medicine have truly elevated our community at the level of our school, hospital system, and the city and counties that we serve.

FIRST QUARTER EVENTS RECAP:



1. Agricultural Career Collaborative Kick-Off | January 31, 2024

On January 31st, the Agriculture Careers Collaborative Kick-off was held at the Atlanta History Center. With the support of Brittany Prince's former high school agriculture teacher, Coach Haynes, the newest mentorship program, Agriculture Careers Collaborative, commenced that day.



2. DeKalb Health Summit | February 8, 2024

Our Assistant Director Brittany Prince attended DeKalb Health Summit: Building A Healthier Community today.



3. Sprouting Readers

Sprouting Readers had 6 sessions at the Agape Youth and Family Center in NW Atlanta during the month of April, and outdoor sessions each Saturday at Sara J. Gonzales Park.

Joan Wilson was invited to be a guest columnist for the Saporta Report, and the article is in press at this time. The children at Sprouting Readers get to snack on fruits and vegetables during the program. Eva Li teaches a STEM lesson, followed by a Vegetable "Jeopardy" activity where the children get to demonstrate what they learned during the STEM lesson.



4. Tobacco Cessation Training Class

Our Assistant Director hosted and presented at our annual tobacco cessation training.



5. Medicine in the Street | March 11-15, 2024

From March 11-15, 2024, the Medicine in the Street event, organized by Tammy and Hope, brought together healthcare professionals and community members to discuss important developments in healthcare technology and community outreach.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear firsthand experiences from the Medicine on the Street project. The speakers highlighted the app's role in facilitating community health initiatives, including the completion of 3,300 forms for children's school enrollment. This achievement underscores the app's practical utility and its ability to streamline processes that benefit the community.





6. Circle of Safety | March 26, 2024

On March 26, 2024, the Circle of Safety held its quarterly convening, bringing together over 70 organizations and individuals dedicated to preventing gun violence in Atlanta. This cross-sector gathering aims to connect, coordinate resources, and strengthen the community violence intervention (CVI) ecosystem.





7. ACC / HCC Finale | April 19, 2024

7.a Agricultural Career Collaborative (ACC) Finale

The Agriculture Careers Collaborative hosted a field trip at the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) Outdoor Activity Center for 70 students and educators from Benjamin E. Mays High School. Led by Brittany Prince, MHA, the trip focused on sustainable urban farming, environmental conservation, and the importance of fresh produce for food security and community health. Students learned about sustainable agriculture and its impact on human health, including discussions led by Dr. Stacie Schmidt, MD, on environmental health outcomes. The experience expanded students' perceptions of agriculture and highlighted the importance of integrating agriculture into education to promote awareness and learning opportunities.



7.b Health Career Collaborative (HCC) Finale

The 2023-2024 Health Career Collaborative (HCC) session has come to an end. For the past few months, Emory students from the medical, nursing, and physical therapy programs have led case-based sessions for 10th-12th graders at Benjamin Mays High School. Examples of session topics include pneumonia, shoulder dislocations, DVT, subdural hematoma, and kidney stones. The academic year ended with a finale event held on April 19th at the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance Outdoor Activity Center where the high school students engaged in health-related discussions in an outdoor setting.

Dr. Stacie Schmidt, MD, from the Health Care Collaborative, gave students an academic framework on environmental health outcomes (i.e., asthma and allergies), and their direct correlation to environmental pollutants and reducing risks of disease. Bringing both agriculture and human health synergistically, students' participation and curiosity became advantageous about the opportunities that the agri-food industry has.



6. Earth Day | April 20, 2024

Eco-Action Atlanta sponsored a kickoff event for Earth Day at Springhill Park, in partnership with UHI, HEALing Community Center, and Emory Otolaryngology Dept. The event offered health screenings, including blood pressure and glucose checks, cancer screenings, and pediatric/adult medical screenings. Attendees also enjoyed soil testing, food giveaways, music, and face painting



UPCOMING EVENT:



1. POVERTY SIMULATION | MAY 28, 2024

The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month.

If you want to volunteer for a specific role, email us at jkam2@emory.edu

If you want to participate, **REGISTER NOW:** <https://bit.ly/49XLzDP>
Children are welcome, just email us the complete name and age at jkam2@emory.edu



RETHINK POVERTY.

Community Action Poverty Simulation®

SPEND A SIMULATED MONTH in the poverty experienced by our community's individuals and families. This interactive event promotes poverty awareness, increases understanding and inspires local change. The simulation is based on Community Action clients and their daily realities. **This is not a game.**

Event Details

Where Rock of Ages Lutheran Church
5135 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

When May 28, 2024 | Tuesday
10:00 – 2:00 PM

Register Email us: jkam2@emory.edu
Or call: 404 382 9220

Hosted By



Urban Health Initiative

#PovertySimulation
www.povertysimulation.org

Copyright for Community Action Poverty Simulation is owned by Missouri Community Action Network.

THANK YOU!

"No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted."

- Aesop



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