

2017-18 NBA Ministry and Mission Grantees
Impact Report:
S.M.A.R.T. Academic and Enrichment Outreach Program
(Shalom Community Christian Church)
Greensboro, North Carolina

Mission Area: At-Risk Youth and Children **Catalyst Grant:** US \$3,000

We offer educational services to students in the greater Greensboro, North Carolina area. Local principals, administrators, and teachers specifically developed our summer academic and enrichment program to assist students who are at least one grade level below where they should be, as well as those with IEPs. We specifically focus on math, reading, and science and would like to do more with technology since many of our campers are low performing, low income, and/or homeless. Furthermore, Shalom Community Christian Church has been selected as one of two sites in North Carolina to partner with the Ray of Hope Feeding program. This afterschool program provides nutritious meals and snacks for students up to age 18 years old, as well as qualified educational and enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, homework assistance, life skills, computers, and remedial education. We are also partnering with Greensboro Housing Authority to serve students living in communities previously referred to as "projects".

Goals, Outcomes, and Learnings:

- This was the first time that we ran the entire program including the summer academic and enrichment component, as well as the after school tutorial and nutritional program. The Mission and Ministry Grant from NBA was essential for the successful implementation of our program.
- 70% of students eating weekly and receiving tutoring will increase their grades by at least one level. 40% of the students referred to us, who are at risk of failing their current grade, will pass to the next grade level after receiving academic remediation. Even though this number is half of our projected goal, 91% of the students who were referred to us did see statistically significant growth from where they were to where they finished. Lastly, 100% of the

homeless and/or low-income students living in housing communities will have food to take home for the weekend on Fridays at the end of the week during the school year.

- The biggest challenge we faced was that some students were not consistent in attending the summer and after school tutorial program during the school year. We had anticipated that most parents would help ensure the students came regularly, but there were some parents who were disengaged, which made it difficult.
- One of the biggest lessons we are continuing to learn is that it is imperative to identify and partner with key stakeholders and subject matter experts with a project this massive and far-reaching. There is no way that we could have implemented this program without expertise from outside of our congregation. Local congregations should prayerfully discern what they do well and then collaborate with agencies that do their own parts well, in order to offer a quality program of exceptional excellence that honors God.
- A wonderful surprise that occurred was an amazing collaboration between the two largest universities in Greensboro and Shalom. The nutrition departments at both schools taught our summer campers about nutrition throughout the summer. We are coordinating efforts for them to also teach about nutrition after school as well.
- Thinking about the future, we are in talks now with our key partners to offer after school dinners, tutoring, and mentoring to schools throughout the county. We are also reaching out to the senior citizens organization in our city to work to address their needs as well.



As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Benevolent Association partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers to create communities of compassion and care. Founded in 1887 by six women responding to the needs of the day and on their doorsteps, for more than 130 years the NBA has continued to serve "the least of these." Learn more at www.nbacares.org.