



## 2018 NC Cooperative Extension Wake County Report

### North Carolina's Challenges

- In North Carolina, **1 in 5** children live in poverty.
- North Carolina's adult obesity rate is currently **32%**.
- **15.2%** of 2- to 4-year-olds from low-income families are obese. This makes us the **16th** most obese state.
- North Carolina has the **15th** highest rate of diabetes and the **11th** highest rate of hypertension.

### Supporting North Carolina's Families with Greatest Needs Since 1969

EFNEP helps address the challenges limited resource families face when introducing healthy changes through nutrition education, cooking classes, physical activity strategies, and shopping on a limited budget. EFNEP provides:

- Peer-to-peer, hands on education in the community
- Healthy, low-cost recipes
- Simple strategies to help families move more together



### EFNEP Reaches Diverse Audiences in Wake County

In 2018: **316** families enrolled in EFNEP  
**854** participated in 4-H EFNEP  
**76%** of EFNEP participants enrolled in one or more food assistance programs.

### WHAT IS EFNEP?

EFNEP serves limited-resource families with young children, school-age youth, and pregnant teens through a series of lessons offered by paraprofessionals and volunteers, many of whom are indigenous to the population. In 2018, EFNEP served 45 counties in North Carolina. Participants learned how to:

- Make wise food choices
- Increase daily physical activity
- Manage food resources
- Practice food safety

### EFNEP Makes a Real Difference in Wake County

- 97%** of EFNEP participants improved dietary intake.
- 93%** now practice daily physical activity.
- 91%** practice better food resource management.
- 96%** have improved their food safety habits.

### Volunteers Strengthen EFNEP

In 2018, **71** adults and youth donated time to EFNEP, making a difference in their own communities and contributing to EFNEP's ongoing success.



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Wake County  
EFNEP programs obtained

# \$23,665

in funding and support  
from local efforts.

## EFNEP SUCCESS



### A New Outlook on Life

EFNEP in Wake County partnered with a mobile home community to teach residents simple strategies for eating smart and moving more. One participant approached the educator about her health condition. She felt depressed because she had recently been diagnosed with diabetes. She was desperate to learn how to eat better so her condition didn't worsen.

As part of the class series, participants learned practical ways to choose, purchase, and prepare healthy foods. Early in the series, the Educator utilized the *Walking with Leslie Sansone* DVD created for use in EFNEP as a way to begin each class. Each of the participants received a DVD so they could continue to follow the walking program at home. The EFNEP Educator challenged participants to walk at least 30 minutes each day.

By the end of the program, the participant who felt depressed because of her diabetes diagnosis, had a whole new outlook on life. She is no longer depressed but is now excited about her health. She walked for one hour a day, six times a week, and began to lose weight. She also controlled her portions and read the nutrition labels on food to make healthier choices.

She stated that the program made her feel **"enthusiastic to continue doing the right thing to have a full life of health"** and that she would definitely recommend the program to everyone she knows.



### Making Smarter Drink Choices

EFNEP in Wake County partnered with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC to teach food bank recipients how to prepare foods that are low in fat, sodium, and calories and to make healthy food choices. After learning that participants drank soft drinks on a daily basis, the educator decided to teach them how to prepare water infused with fresh fruit and herbs. Participants prepared and tasted several different flavors of water using ingredients such as pineapple, mandarin oranges, mint, rosemary, and strawberries to name a few.

By the end of the program, one participant stated, **"I have not drunk anymore sodas or sport drinks since I learned how to make infused water. I feel more energized, and feel better about myself."** She went from drinking 24–60 ounces of soft drinks per day to zero.



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