



Smithville Whole Health Partnership

Rural Funders Convening

www.philanthropysouthwest.org/events/rural-funders-convening

When: Monday, November 13, 4PM

Where: St. David's Foundation / Austin, TX

SWHP Partners

- Local partnership around health and well-being (primary partners)
 - Smithville Community Clinic
 - Methodist Healthcare Ministries—Wesley Nurse Program
 - City of Smithville (Smithville Public Library—communications; Parks and Recreation Department—activities; Grants Administrator—funding/resources)
 - Smithville Independent School District (SHAC, School Nurse, Nutrition Department)
 - Seton Smithville Regional Hospital/Seton Healthcare Family
- Outside Partners
 - RWJF Coaching and Funding
 - Applied for Culture of Health Prize in 2014 and 2015
 - Worked with Mary Bennett in UW-Madison (2015-2016)
 - Received Acceleration Path funding for consultant (2017 program)
 - It's Time Texas
 - Harrell Baker, Ph.D. (Founder and CEO of ITT), spoke at 2016 Forum
 - Smithville took 3rd Place in 2017 "Community Challenge"
 - Became a big part of RWJF Acceleration Path program
 - "Lunch and Learn" programming
- Multiple Hats in Rural communities – everyone in leadership taking on multiple roles
 - Nonprofits and other volunteer organizations often have no paid staff
 - Many people take on different volunteer jobs to expand resources

SWHP Activities/Accomplishments

- RWJF Coaching
- Action Plan
- Resource Guide
- Focus Groups
- We Grow, We Cook, We Eat
- Diabetic Outreach
- Kitchen Table Talks
- It's Time Texas Community Challenge / Choose Healthy App

Hope for the Future

- ULTIMATE GOAL: Reduce the "unhealthy is the new normal" mentality and reality
 - Community members more fully embrace "Culture of Health" concepts/lifestyle
 - Improve Bastrop County's health status ranking in the RWJF County Ranking Roadmap
- SWHP grows partnerships with other organizations to find resources that will facilitate and sustain existing/additional healthy community programming
- Partner members find a way to provide staff (within their organizations or as part of SWHP) to take on organizational/outreach/marketing challenges

How funders can be supportive – “Many Hands Make Light Work”

Clearly, communities need funding, but that’s only one small part of the kind of support organizations can use to make a big difference and face the challenges before us. Other kinds of assistance include:

- Making connections with people who have the expertise, knowledge, and abilities to help us all grow capacity at different levels (from leadership to community members)
- Providing (free/low cost) training opportunities on a wide variety of topics (including webinars)
- Examining the potential for volunteers, internships or work placement in our community to help provide the expertise and the “new knowledge” so important to creating an infrastructure that can help sustain the organization into the future
- Developing a “Health Worker in Residence” program to bring experts and students into Smithville – living in the community helps people understand the realities of life in rural America (versus the theoretic ideals of how things *should* work)
- Helping us “tell our story” – since we are all so busy living and working to make it happen, it can be difficult to get the story out there and bring attention to the good things going on here
- Becoming an active partner in sharing resources and contact information on a more continual, more hands-on basis (hats off to Mary Bennett on this point)

For more information:

- Jill Strube, Grants Administrator at City of Smithville: (512) 237-3282 x 2109 / jstrube@ci.smithville.tx.us
- Janice Bruno, Executive Director at Smithville Community Clinic: smithvillefreeclinic@gmail.com
- SWHP: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithvilleWholeHealthPartnership/>

