

Cleveland County



Catalyst Coordinator: **Tammy Bass**

Host Organization: **Cleveland County Cooperative Extension**

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As the Catalyst Coordinator for Cleveland County, Tammy Bass has been involved in the following efforts:

- Assisted in creating debit and SNAP/EBT programs at Foothills Farmers' Market in Cleveland County. Worked with board members in developing an outreach program and sustaining card services.
- Collaborated with Safe Kids of Cleveland County, the Healthcare Foundation of Cleveland County, and the Active Routes to School Program to provide a bicycle and pedestrian safety trailer for educational use in schools across the county and at community events. This includes training Cleveland County elementary through intermediate school Physical Education teachers on the *Let's Go NC! Bike/Pedestrian Safety Education Curriculum*.
- Connected representatives from the Town of Boiling Springs, NC Department of Transportation (District 12), the Active Routes to Schools Program, Gaston-Lincoln-Cleveland Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Boiling Springs Elementary, and Odom Engineering to partner on a sidewalk project in Boiling Springs that will eventually provide three neighborhoods with safe walking routes to school.
- Assisted partners from Faith Harvest Church and Central United Methodist Church in planning upgrades to a community park managed by Faith Harvest. This park offers outdoor basketball and has great potential for increasing active living options for all ages. Many community partners came together for low-cost community service improvements. An Eagle Scout project provided raised beds for a community garden at the park. A YMCA Togetherhood project completed the painting of new lanes on four basketball courts.
- Serving on the Gaston-Lincoln-Cleveland MPO Bike/Ped Committee.

Highlight: A Farmers' Market Increases in Diversity & Expands Outreach

Greg Traywick, Director of the Cleveland County Cooperative Extension, summed up Tammy's contributions to the Foothills Farmers' Market:

With Tammy's guidance and encouragement, the board is now exploring programs and activities to eliminate barriers to participation among low-income populations, embrace them as customers, and improve the board's ethnic and socioeconomic diversity.

Tammy continues to support the work of the Foothills Farmers' Market in increased outreach to limited resource populations, in fiscal sustainability and in board development. Tammy's insight and lessons learned through her work with farmers' markets have been shared with regional and state partners.