

## Edgecombe & Nash – “The Twin Counties”



Catalyst Coordinator:

**Derrick Haskins**

(252) 774-0311

[Derrick.Haskins@foundationhli.org](mailto:Derrick.Haskins@foundationhli.org)

Host Organization:

**Edgecombe Community College**

Catalyst Coordinator:

**Shoneca Kent**

(252) 969-0224

[Shoneca.Kent@foundationhli.org](mailto:Shoneca.Kent@foundationhli.org)

Host Organization:

**Nash Community College**



**As the Catalyst Coordinators for the Twin Counties, Derrick Haskins and Shoneca Kent have been involved in the following efforts:**

- Developed inventories to catalogue resources for healthy eating and active living in the Twin Counties. These include a local food asset inventory completed with input from the Just Foods group and an inventory of resources for active living developed with input from the Active Living subgroup of the Twin Counties Partnership for Healthier Communities.
- Collaborated with the Health Matters Project in Edgecombe County to design and build a community garden at Refreshing Springs Restoration Center with plans to develop healthy eating programming in the faith organization and surrounding communities.
- Assisted NC Community Garden Partners in organizing a Community Garden Skill-Building Conference for local community gardeners and those interested in starting gardens.
- Assisted in the development and promotion of the new Tarboro Market, a revitalized farmer’s market in downtown Tarboro.
- Supporting the creation of an adaptive playground for children with exceptional needs at G.W. Bulluck Elementary School in Edgecombe County by connecting and convening partners to design and build a safe playground.
- Actively contributing to the work of local and regional coalitions focused on healthy eating and/or active living.
- Working with school and community leaders to promote school facilities as places communities can use for physical activity.
- Collaborating with Duke University’s World Food Policy Center to design and implement funding opportunities in its Edgecombe County rural food system model.
- Working with local and regional partners to develop and implement the Twin Counties Bicycle Safety Education Trailer project.

### *Highlight: Twin Counties – On the Road to a Just Foods System*

In 2015, a group of interested people came together to discuss creating a just, local food system in the Twin Counties. With support from Rural Forward NC, the “Just Foods” group met regularly and defined its purpose — to bring together a great mixture of community members and leaders from various sectors in both Edgecombe and Nash Counties so that they all can play a role in creating and sustaining an equitable, accessible, and affordable food system across the Twin Counties.

One of the first actions of the group was to assess the current food system. The Twin Counties Catalyst Coordinators got to work, researching local assets and developing a food system inventory. They engaged the Just Foods group to gather info on local food producers, aggregators, processors, and food outlets. Compiling the inventory was an important step in helping the group see the current assets and gaps to be addressed in the local food system. The Twin Counties Catalyst Coordinators remain engaged with the Just Foods group and supportive of efforts to create equitable access to healthy foods in the Twin Counties.