



Executive Summary

Discouraged by their inability to adequately address local health and social needs, local Haddington clergy decided to seek out assistance from Main Line Health System. Their goal was to initiate a broad-based program through which the Haddington community's significant health and social needs would be better met.

Main Line offered its financial support, and the Haddington Community Health Project was established. What began as a four-member organization has grown to over 80 members, including doctors, clergy, schools, and local business owners. All participants contribute with the goal of improving the quality of life and health of Haddington's residents. Current project programs include providing lead paint testing, tutoring programs, health screening, and health education. The number of programs has grown each year, and community members are enjoying healthier lives.

Organization Size: 200 beds

Program/Initiative Description

Haddington Community Health Project: Unlike most community health projects associated with a health system, the Haddington Community Health Project was initiated and established by members of the community. In 1995, Haddington was considered a "fringe community," meaning it could either prosper given the right direction and assistance, or it could continue to spiral downward. Already one of the area's most impoverished communities, Haddington also had the worst health and disease rates in the city. Of its 18,000 residents, approximately 92% are African American. Frustrated with the direction their community was headed, neighborhood clergy sought support from Main Line Health System. Main Line pledged its financial support, and the Haddington Community Health Project was initiated.

What began as a four-member organization has grown to include over 80 partners. Members range from local pastors and legislators to business owners and Main Line Health physicians. The organization is broader based than most. Rather than focusing solely on health care, the group also works to beautify the Haddington neighborhood, provide development programs for youth, increase literacy rates through tutoring programs, and offer health education.

With an overarching goal of improving the health and quality of life of members of the Haddington community, the project also provides lead paint testing, physical evaluations for youth, and screenings for common diseases.

With 25 church members, the organization has recently focused on a congregational nursing program wherein nursing services are offered at local churches and are available to all community members.

Establishment of Program/Initiative: 1995

Racial or Ethnic Disparities Problem the Program/Initiative Was Designed to Address: A high rate of unmet health and social needs in the underprivileged Haddington community

Major Objectives

- Provide broad access to health care
- Improve the health and quality of life of people in the community

Significant Results

- The organization has grown from four members to over 80 members.
- The number of health and social services available to the community has increased.

External Partners in the Program/Initiative: Local clergy, business, legislators, and schools

Limitations or Problems Encountered

- Finding adequate funding to sustain the program
- Ensuring communication among all members

Advice to Other Organizations That May Want to Start a Similar Program

- Keep expectations realistic; don't expect change overnight.
- Make a commitment with a long-term focus.
- Demonstrate successes.

Estimated Cost of the Program, To Date: \$130,000 annually

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