


Overcoming Health Disparities through access services for Migrant Farm workers

CBO in the Trenches

Presenter:

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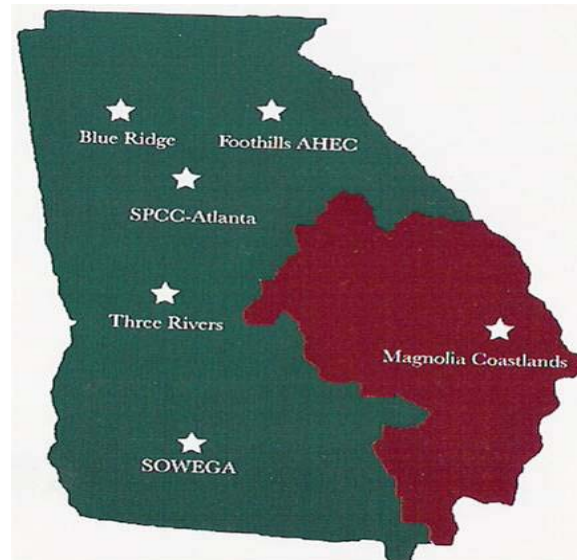


Program Description:

- Health Education and Training Center was established in 1991 in 3 of the 4 poorest counties in Southeast Georgia to address health education and disease prevention needs.

Service Area:

- Candler, Tattnall and Toombs Counties



- These counties have a high concentration of Latino residents, mainly agriculture workers.

Primary Crop: Vidalia Sweet Onion

Sweet Onion Country is home to some 18,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers



Approximately ½ of these workers are transient, most of them arriving from Texas, Florida and Mexico

Latinos in Georgia:

- Latinos have lived in Georgia for many years. Agriculture, poultry plants, clothing factories and forestry seek Latino Labor:



Needs Assessment:

- Working with this population required us to conduct a needs assessment that would help us identify our client's health concerns.
- Culturally Sensitive Surveyors conducted this 450 household study in Candler, Tattnall and Toombs Counties.
- During this process we promoted self-esteem, a basic requirement for community empowerment.

Data Collecting and Finding:

- Through the expertise of Dr. Allen Dever and his staff from Mercer University, the data collected was prepared in a report and used in program development.
- Findings identified disparities in primary care, lack of interpreters, health education, and transportation.

Organizing:

- Documentation of a community ecology was conducted.
- Community Coalition Board recruited to include representation of all three counties being served.
- Networks were developing as participation in different boards became available.

Why start a CBO:

- For 4 years during the early 90's, while community organizing and providing direct services, demands became greater.
- Latinos became more visible, agencies such as Public Health and DFACS were not prepared to deliver services to this population.
- Medical providers had no interpreters.

Process:

- Invite potential board members to the table.
- Organize an orientation with existing CBO serving the same population.
- Secure location for CBO to be housed.
- Name the CBO, develop mission statement, and elect board officers.
- Incorporate and apply for 501 C-3 Status
- Develop strategies using needs assessment, community ecology and networks.

Mission:

- Southeast Georgia Communities Project, Inc. serves the community by promoting all aspects of human dignity through self-empowerment in the area of health and education and permit low income individuals to become partners and contributors in charitable efforts and support systems rather than just consumers.

Goal:

- Serve as Liaisons between health and service providers for the growing Latino community.
- Educate through health prevention education workshops, outreach efforts, and teaching English to eradicate language barriers.
- Empower community to reduce dependency.

Objectives:

- Provide health education and prevention workshops
- Provide Qualified Medical and Legal Interpreters
- Offer presentations on cultural sensitivity and migrant farm worker issues.
- Offer English as a Second Language classes and Citizenship classes.
- Emergency food and clothing closet
- Limited Immigration Legal Services
- Referral and other needed services.

Overcoming Disparities in Rural Communities:

- Collaborating with Educational Institutions opens many doors for program development

SEGCP was very fortunate to have the support of local Universities during its initial start-up.



Health Education and Outreach

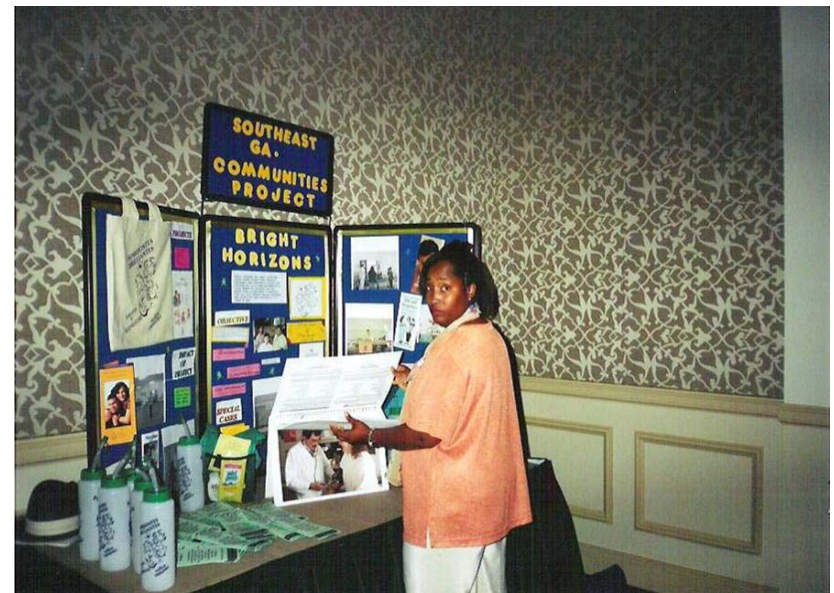
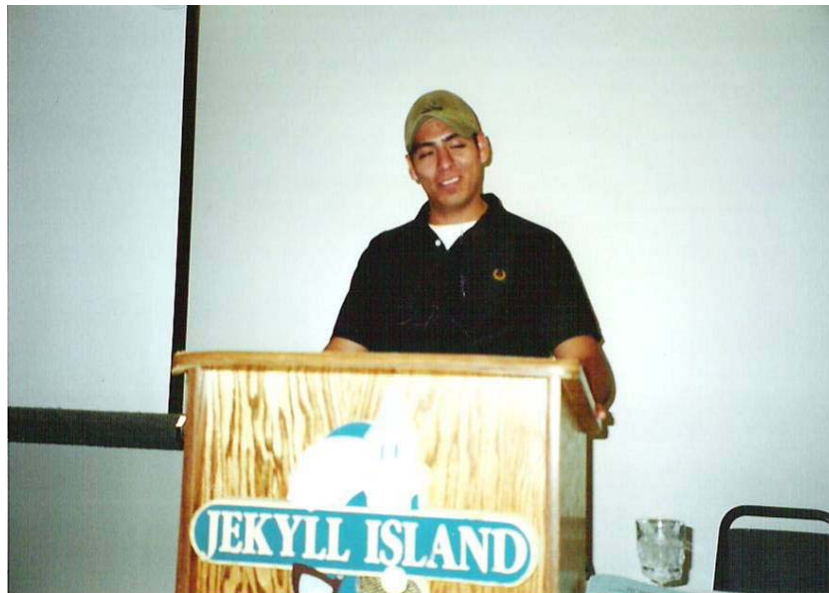
- Our efforts go way beyond group presentations in school settings and community centers.

Labor camps,
individual housing
field visits, and
packing sheds
are common
outreach sites.



Community Education

- Speakers are always available to present at Conferences, group gatherings, social clubs, churches, etc...



Medical Interpreting:

- **Qualified Medical Interpreters are available to physicians, health departments, hospitals, Family and Children Services, etc...**



Farm Clinics:

- Our farm clinics are organized during the peak season, when farm workers are brought in to harvest the sweet onions.

Magnolia Coastlands AHEC organizes the use of MCG medical students, nurse Practitioners, and GSU nursing school volunteers for these Clinics.



Annual Health Fairs:

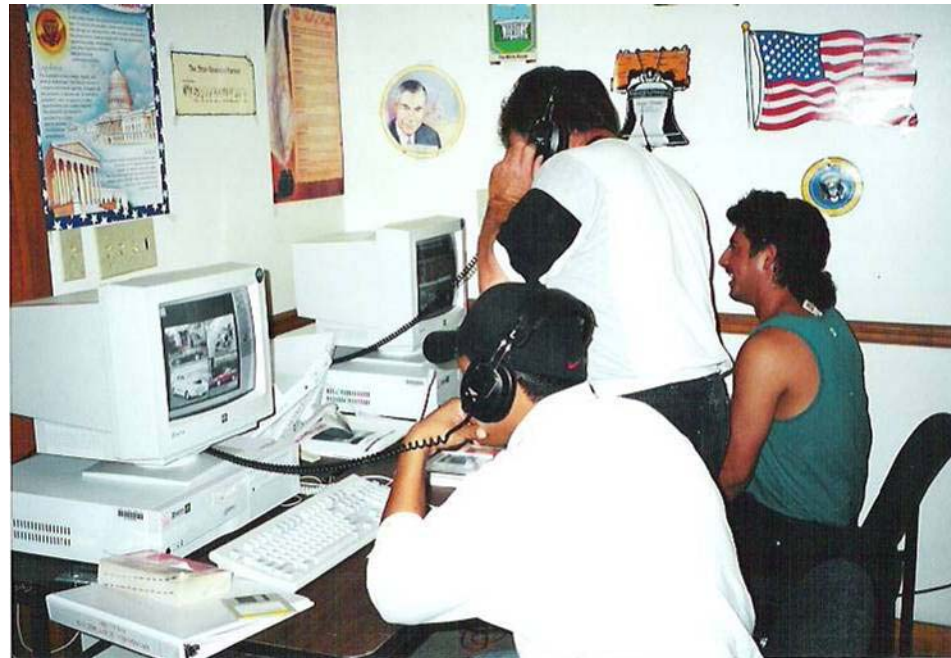
- Annual Health fairs are another strategy we use in accessing primary health care for our clients.



- Volunteer MD's, PA, FNP, RN and Health Educators witness some 1,500 farm workers who come to seek services at the fair.

ESL and Civics Education:

- Church clergy and GSU spearheaded this service at SEGCP



- Americorp Volunteers provided Spanish Classes

Community Forums:

- A panel of experts on important issues come together to speak to farm workers on health, education, Laws, Drivers Licenses, Immigration and topics of importance.



Radio Program:

- “La Voz Latina Del Pueblo” radio was developed to be used as a health education tool and information program.

Volunteers manage
this show every
Sunday from
12 – 6 p.m.



- Health PSA's are developed and aired to reach the multiple communities who listen to the only Latino radio in the area.

Additional Efforts:

- Teen programs and Continuing Education are very important components on our agenda:



- Our migrant students are staying in school longer than before, and moving forward.

Conclusion:

- S.E. Georgia Communities Project is a CBO struggling to survive, but it is also a CBO which knows no limit. Our strengths have been our collaborations and networks. Institutions, agencies, volunteers, and a group of committed staff have made SEGCP what it is now. With God's will, our journey will continue to Overcome Health Disparities for those in need.

**Thank you very much for your
attention:**

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