

# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



AN INTERVIEW WITH

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CENTER (HFRCC) - COMMUNITY CORE

### WHAT YEAR DID YOU BEGIN WORKING WITH HEALTHY FLINT RESEARCH COORDINATING CENTER (HFRCC) ?

I began working for HFRCC Inc., - Community Core in November 2017.

### WHAT IS THE MISSION OR PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION?

Before I describe our mission, let me first describe the organization itself. The Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center (HFRCC Inc.,) is a community-academic partnership made up of four Cores. Three of its four cores are comprised of representatives from University of Michigan- Flint, Michigan State University, and University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. The fourth core in this collaborative is Community Core. Collectively, HFRCC's mission is to create synergy, foster ethics, and respectful academic-community partnerships, and develop innovative solutions to community-defined issues.

As the community engagement arm of HFRCC Inc., Community Core is tasked with informing, educating, and engaging Community in Flint-based research. With everything we do, consideration is always given to how Community can be woven into the narrative. We always want to ensure that community-based research 1) includes Community as an equitable partner in the ENTIRE process, 2) brings value to the Community, and above all else, 3) does no harm to the Community.

### WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE HEALTH PROMOTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (HPTED) PROJECT AT THE PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER OF MICHIGAN?

Originally, my role in the HPTED project has encompassed working with my colleagues Tonya French-Turner and Yvonne Lewis, at HFRCC Inc., -Community Core, to engage the PRC research Community Advisory Board (CAB) through organizing and chairing CAB meetings and sharing information with research CAB members.

Most recently, HFRCC Inc., - Community Core has been working to develop an overall PRC Center CAB (C-CAB), whose charge will be to advise, support, and engage in the development, implementation, translation, and dissemination of programs and activities for the overall Prevention Research Center. As a convener of CCAB meetings, HFRCC Community Core will act as a bridge between the C-CAB and PRC Leadership.

## **WHAT TYPE OF HPTED DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION DO?**

While HFRCC Community does not do HPTED work, we are connected to several community-based organizations that are actively involved in neighborhood improvement and revitalization efforts. We support these organizations in their work whenever possible, by offering our assistance in the planning and execution of activities.

## **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT?**

HFRCC Community Core has been involved with this project since its inception in October 2019.

## **WHY DO YOU THINK THAT HPTED PROJECTS COULD BE GOOD FOR FLINT?**

I think HPTED projects could be good for Flint because they present an opportunity to see what is working in Flint and highlight those areas where resources might be better directed.

## **WHY DOES THE HPTED THEORY MAKE SENSE FOR FLINT?**

HPTED theory makes sense for Flint because community health is positively impacted when environments are improved and made comm-usable (community-usable; able to be used by community).

## **WHAT POSITIVE CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN FROM THE HPTED PROJECT?**

I think the HPTED project did much to highlight the availability of resources within the community, such as the wealth of services offered by community-based organizations within communities. Truth be told, just working on this project and engaging with the research CAB, I learned about a whole host of resources that they offer. In fact, I know off the top of my head that I've referred at least two individuals to Tom Wyatt at the Neighborhood Engagement Hub, for assistance in navigating various technical issues within their respective start-up organizations.

The HPTED project also highlighted positive things happening within the community. People tend to focus on things happening within their own neighborhoods, but by being able to see all those positive things amplified next to all the things happening around the corner... and across town, it just makes you appreciate all the good things happening within the community. Ultimately, highlighting the positive things within the community will help change the negative perception that people have about the city of Flint.

## **WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HPTED PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY?**

I would like to see HPTED projects all over Flint!!

## **WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU ONLINE?**

[Facebook.com/hfrcc](https://www.facebook.com/hfrcc)

[Twitter.com/healthy\\_flint](https://twitter.com/healthy_flint)

## **DO YOU HAVE ANY LINKS TO RESOURCES YOU WOULD LIKE US TO SHARE RELATED TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION? (I.E., ORGANIZATIONS WEBSITE)**

To learn more about Community Core and the work of HFRCC, check us out at [www.hfrcc.org](http://www.hfrcc.org).