

# Integrating Health Education, Community, and Health Care



**THE BRANDYWINE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, OVERSAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING:**

## **New Health and Housing Facility:**

Completed in 2008, the facility contains primary care, behavioral health, and dental services. It also has two floors of affordable rental housing for seniors.

## **Community-Based Planning and Service Coordination:**

The initiative brought together residents and organizations from throughout the community to create a vision and develop a strategic plan for youth.

## **Coatesville Youth Initiative's (CYI)**

working groups have followed up on the aforementioned strategic plan in an effort to improve the transition to post-secondary education and careers, enhance the skills of parents, coordinate out-of-school-time programs, educate community leaders and residents about youth issues, and sustain a youth council. CYI's signature program, **Summer ServiceCorps**, provides employment and youth leadership for young people, ages 14 through 18, who come from primarily low-income backgrounds.

A case study from *Collaboration to Build Healthier Communities: A Report for the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America* (published June 2013)

## **MAJOR OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Brought in the county's first** Federally Qualified Health Center and funded the first local dental provider for individuals who are receiving medical assistance or are uninsured, thus filling a major gap in the local health care infrastructure. This facility was the community's first major community economic development project in 30 years.

**Established the Brandywine Center** to unify health care programs and provide 24 units of affordable rental housing. Approximately 10,000 people access the facility annually.

**Engaged the community** to initiate a youth program that has mobilized the community and placed over 100 young people, primarily from low-income families, in summer-long paid internships. After three years of incubation, the Coatesville Youth Initiative is scheduled to become an independent nonprofit at the end of 2013.

## **INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS**

"We worked with community members to create a vision, and then sold it to others in the community. People bought into it, and it really resonated with everyone. If you take the time to bring the right people to the table, you can be effective. You must make community engagement a constant process— not a 'once and done,' but a core operational value. This includes the kind of staff you hire and the board members you bring on . . . A foundation by its nature, even a public foundation, will always be somewhat removed. Not everyone in the community is part of the foundation's board of directors or staff. So, you need to create avenues to receive ongoing feedback and identify who in the community you need to build relationships with. Be respectful that people at every level deserve to have input."

—Frances Sheehan, President and CEO, Brandywine Health Foundation

## **KEY PARTNERS**

**Community Development:** Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Community Lenders CDC, Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Chester County Dept. of Community Development, City of Coatesville, Federal Home Loan Bank, Regional Housing Legal Services

**Health:** ChesPenn Health Services, Chester County Community Dental, Child Guidance Resource Centers, Coatesville Center for Community Health, Chester County Health Department, Chester County Maternal and Child Health Consortium, the Brandywine Health Foundation

## **POPULATIONS SERVED**

Lower-income members of the community—predominantly individuals and families of color. Approximately one-third are African American and one-third are Latino. Caucasians and people of other races comprise the remainder.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

<http://www.brandywinecenter.org/>



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