

**THE HOMEWOOD COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND WELLNESS SUMMIT
REPORT 2021**

#BLACKHEALTHMATTERSPITTSBURGH

Executive Summary

On August 14th of this year, the Homewood community enjoyed and experienced a full day of fitness, nutritious food and beverage options, mental and physical health screenings, child development activities, and some much-needed social engagement at the **1st Annual Homewood Community Health and Wellness Summit: State of Emergency; Black Health Matters Pittsburgh**. This event could not be made possible without the investment of community residents, business owners, The Homewood Collaborative, social service agencies and our awesome sponsors. This 1-day event cost organizers, a little over \$64,000, most of which has been offset by sponsors contributions, agency organizers covering the cost to pay their staff to work that day and in-kind cost. Our sponsors were: The Heinz Endowment, UPMC, The Black Equity Coalition (Poise Foundation and Forbes Fund), Operation Better Block, the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Department of Human Services in partnership with Allegheny Health Choices Inc., Highmark and Allegheny Health Network, the Pittsburgh Foundation, Neighborhood Allies, The University of Pittsburgh Community Engagement Center, Primary Care Health Services, Community Empowerment Association and the Homewood YMCA.

Overall, the most unexpected outcomes came from the “Pop-up Skating Rink,” COVID-19 vaccines and information (provided by UPMC), the Olivia E. Jones 2ml. Run|Walk|Bike|Skate, and Depression screenings (conducted by PCHS). Our preliminary outcomes are a reflection of what we knew, but with a greater sense of urgency. Primary Care Health Services (aka Alma Illery Medical Center), the YMCA of Homewood, Community Empowerment Association, Trying Together Family Center, CCAC, and the University of Pittsburgh CEC will continue to strategize and organize to improve the health and wellness of Homewood residents and narrow the disparity gaps amongst Black communities.

1st ANNUAL HOMEWOOD COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS SUMMIT

#BLACKHEALTHMATTERSPITTSBURGH

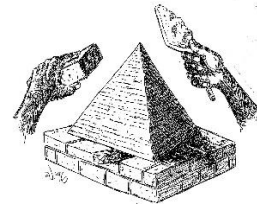
AUGUST 14TH - 2021 8:00-8:00

HEALTH SCREENINGS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, OLIVIA JONES 2m RUN, HEALTHY SOUL FOOD COOK OFF, COVID-19 VACCINES AND VENDORS



What We Know

What we know is that we served over 350 adults, children, and youth. This year, we based our evidence on how many items we started with verses, how many items remained after the event. Here is what we know:



Community Empowerment Association, Inc.	
Activity	# of people
Olivia E. Jones 2ml. Run Walk Bike Skate	61
Healthy Cooking Demo.	67
Book Bags w/school supplies	159
Pop-up Skating Rink	73
Black Health Equity Panel Discussion	32
Children Activity Inflatables	*311
COVID-19 Vaccinations (UPMC)	17

*Duplicated





COVID-19

Report: Just 35 percent of African Americans in Allegheny County are ‘fully vaccinated’

Rob Taylor Jr. - Courier Staff Writer

August 19, 2021



CHALLENGE GAINES, of the Hill District, gets the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine during the Homewood Community Health and Wellness Summit, Aug. 14. UPMC registered nurse Phelicia Goshea administered the shot. (Photo by Rob Taylor Jr.)



YMCA of Homewood	
Activity	# of People
Spinning	13
Line Dancing	17





Primary Care Health Services (PCHS) had all medical departments provide health screenings and supportive services for the Health Summit. This included Adult Medical, Nursing, Dental, Pediatrics, Social Services & Behavioral Health, Pharmacy, and Patient Registration. PCHS staff provided the following screenings:

- **PHQ-9 depression screening**
- **Pediatric height/weight**
- **AccuCheck**
- **Blood pressure**
- **Cholesterol**
- **HgA1C**
- **Home COVID-19 screening kits.**

Our Social Service Team led the community engagement by providing outreach materials and resources offered at Alma Illery and the various PCHS sites- including one-on-one assistance with applying for Medicaid/Medicare and PENNIE insurances, our Sliding Fee Scale, and lists of community support that consumers may find useful. Community residents played diabetic BINGO, took advantage of the Healthy Food Bags, and had open dialogues with our medical physicians and pharmacist. The majority of our conversations with consumers centered around various levels of concern about COVID-19, common medications and their shelf life and registering new patients for health care services at Alma Illery.

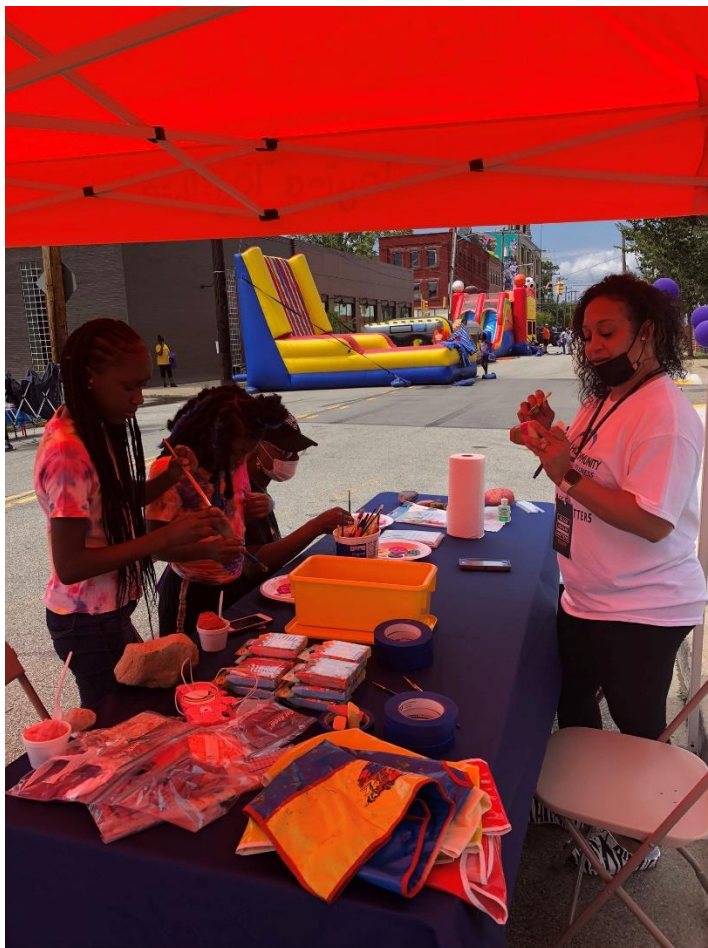
Primary Care Health Services of Homewood	
Activity	# of People
Health and Dental Screenings	70
Healthy Food Packages	36
New Patients	26



Connecting Community Partners

Our community partnerships extended far and wide. Most community business owners, organizations, senior centers, churches, and residents joined in to provide support, resources, and countless number of volunteer hours. One particular agency, The Early Learning Family Center of Trying Together immediately agreed to take **responsibility for facilitating and coordinating the Children's Activity Area**. The Director, Toni Beasley, and staff worked closely with the business owners (**Wade's Barber Shop** and the Galaxy Lounge) in the 7200 block of Kelly to provide numerous educational, yet fun activities, free food and beverages, and most importantly a safe space for the children and youth. Trying Together brought several of their partners to provide child development activities and resources for families to experience.

- Pittsburgh Public School Early Childhood
- Kidsburgh
- Fund My Future
- Prothaven
- Alcosan
- **Sandy Boo's Icey's**
- **Homewood Children's Village**
- **Beverly's Birthday**



Testimonies

Antoinette B. (participant does not wish to share last name)
Community Resident, 15208

“I have been struggling to get my partner to make the decision to get vaccinated. We share custody of three children between us. Having folks at tables sharing information about Covid-19, and on top of that having the vaccinations ready and available to administer on site, gave her the push that I been working so hard at. She got vaccinated!!!”

Chef Carlos Thomas
Executive Director of *Feed the Hood*

“I loved every minute of the Health Summit! I prepared Vegetable Stir Fry and the community was very receptive. Several individuals stayed by the table watching, tasting and talking about healthy food options. I had enough food to serve 150 people (large samples) and I left empty handed.”

Mark Williams
Community Resident, 15208

“It was such a good idea to have the younger children activities separated from the older kids and adult movement. I’ve seen so many kids, young kids...like 5 years of age-8 years of age, move so fast through life, that they don’t have a chance to be just a kid. To have things for them to do that was just for them was a wonderful thing to see.”

Khavah Murray, MSW, LCSW, CCTP
Primary Care Health Services
Director of Behavioral Health & Social Services

“During the Health and Wellness Summit, I completed numerous Depression Screenings with community residents (more than I expected). The weight of depression expressed during the screenings was so heavy that I had to take a break to compose and replenish myself. The screening tool used has a baseline of nine (9) and several people had a score of 20 and above. Needless to say, I was able to schedule an emergency appointment for the following week.”

Damien Carter

Vendor from Philadelphia, PA
Owner of Carda Beverages

“ My family and I drove to Pittsburgh from Philadelphia to vend at the Health and Wellness Summit. We brought 150 bottles of fresh herbal drinks and SOLD OUT by 4:00 PM. I brought three different varieties-Lemonade Turmeric, Ginger Black Tea, and Sorrel (a spiced West African/Caribbean drink). It was good to see people running, skating, dancing, and interacting after the pandemic quarantine. There was so much positive energy!”

Next Steps

The Community Empowerment Association, Primary Care Health Services, and the YMCA of Homewood have met to debrief about the event. We have all agreed to continue to work together to heighten the awareness of health inequities and disparities in our community. We also decided to start planning for our 2nd Annually Health and Wellness Summit for the year 2022. We recognize that an event of this importance and magnitude requires more time for planning and marketing. We have set some goals for next year that include the following:

- Expand the event by at least one (1) block
- Increase attendance by 50%
- Increase community agency or business participation by 25%
- Create a measurement tool for each station to capture basic demographics
- Start Planning in October
- Begin fundraising in November
- Begin marketing on all mediums 120 days prior to event
- Have at least one health activity at each senior citizen dwelling
- Increase the Olivia Jones Run, Walk, Skate distance by one (1) mile

Most importantly, we vowed to continue the conversations and to promote healthy activities with the residents in Homewood. We plan to serve the residents of Homewood using a holistic approach by using one (1) universal assessment to address our most critical social determinates that perpetuate our health conditions. We predict that one universal assessment can benefit families in the following ways: Streamline supports and service (reduce duplication); reduce information sharing/Intake; and improve service coordination. We understand that this will require agency agreements, an electronic system to manage information and legal approval, which we are all willing to work through.