

# Healthier Glades Impact Report (April 2018 – September 2018)

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Neighborhood: The Glades

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## Summary:

### **Healthier Glades Impact Report (April 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018)**

Healthier Glades (HG) is a community-led, place-based funding approach to solving the community's most complex healthcare needs. Glades residents selected "Behavioral Health" as their focus. The past six months have been dedicated to engaging Glades residents and its community partners in embracing the concept of the Initiative through individual Stakeholder Interviews, Force Field Analysis, Focus Groups and "Let's Talk" Community Conversations. This engagement process encourages Glades residents, of all ages and cultures, to share their ideas, hopes and dreams for a Healthier Glades, and

presents the opportunity to participate in the Initiative's activities. HG's Steering Committee members volunteer their time, supporting an array of HG activities, in addition to meeting monthly to review HG activity/project timelines and alike.

## **Vision**

The Glades is a community where all residents are thriving physically, emotionally and spiritually.

## **Mission**

The mission of Healthier Glades is to assist residents in coping with life stressors and to create a sense of well-being that will impact the Glades communities.

During this period, Healthier Glades (HG) has accomplished many of the set goals from the previous period, as it continues to work diligently to fine tune the focus and direction of the Initiative. HG continues to strengthen its visibility in the community as well as its relationship with community partners and residents. HG accomplishments:

- Eighty-percent (80%) of HG Steering Committee Members are Glades residents;
- HG Steering Committee Members meet monthly. Engagement and attendance of its membership averaged 80% this reporting period;
- HG Marketing workgroup members finalized HG Vision & Mission Statement;
- HG Marketing workgroup members submitted HG logo and Steering Committee approved HG logo design;
- HG selected its Steering Committee Chairs for FY 2018-2019
- HG Governance workgroup meets monthly to review the Governance document and make changes, when needed;
- HG partnered with PB County Criminal Justice Commission in June 2018, hosting a "Community Conversation" dialogue with local Glades PBSO Staff County Judges, and Public Defenders/Prosecutors;
- HG continues to strengthen relationships by connecting with new community partner's – Everglades Preparatory Academy, Quiet Waters Senior Service Center, Pahokee High School, FAU Medical School and Palm Beach State College;
- On September 17<sup>th</sup>, HG hosted a "Let's Talk" Community Conversation at First United Methodist Church in Pahokee. Seventy-one participants attended the event;
- On October 8<sup>th</sup>, HG hosted a "Let's Talk" Community conversation at Leon Camel Resource Center in Raderville. Seventy-four participants attended the event;
- On October 13<sup>th</sup> – Loula V. York Branch Library in Pahokee partnered with Palm Health Foundation, BRIDGES at Pahokee, NAMI and Healthier Glades in a conversation around brain health by reading Hardwiring Happiness. Twelve residents participated in the conversation and an additional session was held with residents who attend First United Methodist Church in Pahokee.

- On Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> & Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – HG partnered with Student ACES and its leadership to encourage residents attending local football games to take the “Brain Health” pledge. More than 200 residents were engaged in this effort and pledged to take better care of themselves by eating healthier, being kind to someone, exercising at least 30 minutes daily and finding a quiet place to take a rest.

## Key Partners:

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Glades Residents, Community Partner’s, Inc., Federation of Families, Glades Ministerial Association, Office of Community Revitalization, Palm Beach County Sherriff Sheriff’s Department, State of Florida Department of Children and Families, Glades Initiative, BRIDGES at Pahokee, BRIDGES at Belle Glade, Mz. Millionaire Radio Talk Show Host, Department of Juvenile Justice and City of Pahokee Parks and Recreation Department

## New Partners:

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First United Methodist Church in Pahokee, Canal Point Methodist Church, Everglades Preparatory Academy, Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center, Palm Beach State College, Student ACES, Pahokee Housing Authority, Grace Fellowship Worship Center, Motivational X – Neighborhood/Beautification, NAMI, Palm Beach County Library System in the Glades (Belle Glade, South Bay & Pahokee) and Quiet Waters Senior Center.

## Goals:

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1. Increase awareness and community engagement (1). Participate in 20-30 outreach/community events/meetings representing HG. (2). Conduct 5-7 presentations/listening tours with a focus on developing new relationships. (3). Pilot an HG “Lunch & Learn” and invite Glades stakeholders and others to participate.
2. Community Engagement - Develop an HG Communication Plan
3. Engage residents and HG Steering Committee members in unpacking the Sense Making data, setting the direction for selecting activities based on what the community residents would want to see.
4. Develop a roadmap that would communicate next steps to the community-at-large - ensuring transparency throughout the engagement process.

## Process and Implementation Outcomes:

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- Outcome: **Trust is built and nurtured**

Progress:

Authentic engagement is a way to create relationships and build trust with residents and different groups within the Glades community. Throughout the course of making connections and listening. It is important that Glades adults and youth, who have taken a risk to engage with HG during the reporting period, leave the interaction with a degree of certainty; they should know their feedback and shared life experiences will be honored, respected and used to influence the direction of the Initiative. Identifying trusted resident leaders and community partners, who share similar aspirations for Glades residents, is another element essential to nurturing and building trust in the community

Associated Attachments:

[Download File "photo0.jpg"](#)

- Outcome: **Quality, meaningful collaboration**

Progress:

During this reporting period, Healthier Glades (HG) collaborated with BRIDGES at Belle Glade & BRIDGES at Pahokee to support a multi-lingual Focus Group – Force Field Exercise.

Fifty-two diverse residents participated in a Spanish/Creole session conducted at BRIDGES at Belle Glade on July 25, 2018.

Associated Attachments:

- [Download File "20180725\\_175754-1.jpg"](#)
- [Download File "20180725\\_171129-1.jpg"](#)

- Outcome: **Community-led process**

Progress:

HG has approved its voting members which makes up the HG Steering Committee for FY 2018-2019.

HG has selected their Steering Committee Chair and Co-Chair through the process of ballot voting – Approved July 2018.

HG has formalized its Governance document. The Governance workgroup meets monthly – 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm in the conference room at Glades Initiative.

HG Marketing & Community Engagement workgroup agreed to combine efforts and the members meet monthly – 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at BRIDGES at Belle Glade.

HG logo design - Katherine Martinez (Glades resident & Educator/Artist) offered her expertise by enlisting the support of local “Youth Artists” representing students from Glades Central High School and the Boys & Girls Club in the Glades. The students created concepts/ideas specific to a logo for Healthier Glades. As a result of this effort, HG Marketing workgroup presented a rendering of the logo to HG Steering Committee in June 2018 and the HG logo design below was approved.

As a result of many discussions reflecting the communities’ strengths and assets, the HG tagline captures in essence the first steps in re-writing the communities’ narrative – “Unlocking Our Community Strengths,” as defined by members from the HG Marketing Committee.

A total of forty-three Glades residents participated and were key Stakeholder contributors to the sharing community strengths, assets and challenges in addition to where to best focus “Behavioral Health” efforts/activities in the upcoming months.

Associated Attachments:

- [Download File "Healthier-Glades-Logo-Flat-medium.jpg"](#)
- [Download File "HG-2018-Stakeholder-Interviews-Graphic.png"](#)

Detailed Narrative:

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## Data Sense-Making:

The qualitative data and needs assessments collected from the community have been put through analysis where they were broken down and categorized based on responses from the residents. Listed below are the categories Glades residents referenced throughout the course of HG Sense Making activities. Analysis of the data revealed how Healthier Glades residents connected the broader community issues/challenges to Behavioral Health.

. • Lack of Opportunities: Industry, business, resources, community needs, job opportunities, doctors, employment, affordable housing and residents moving away from the community.

- Lack of Healthy Activities: Park quality and accessibility, lack of healthy and safe activities for residents, lack of recreational outlets.
- Mindset: Habits, football over education, healthy eating, obesity, young vs. old mindset, generational cycle, youth not attending church and pessimism.

During the “Let’s Talk” Community Conversations held on September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup>, HG created the space so residents could discuss the data in small groups.

HG presented the engagement activities to the participants and asked each to prioritize how the categories relate to the overall health and wellbeing of the residents in the Glades.

The Community Conversations engaged residents from the Steering Committee, key community contributors, youth, residents, stakeholders, and some city officials. It was apparent, residents were fully engaged in the process, and voiced their willingness to sign on as HG Community Planners. In each of the two communities hosting the Community

**Glades Residents**  
**The Time is Now!!**

**17 SEPTEMBER** **MONDAY**  
5:30pm - 8:00pm  
First United Methodist  
491 E Main Street, Pahokee, FL 33476

**OR**

**08 October** **MONDAY**  
5:30pm - 8:00pm  
Leon Camel Resource Center  
266 1st Street, Raderville Belle Glade, FL 33430

**Let's Talk**

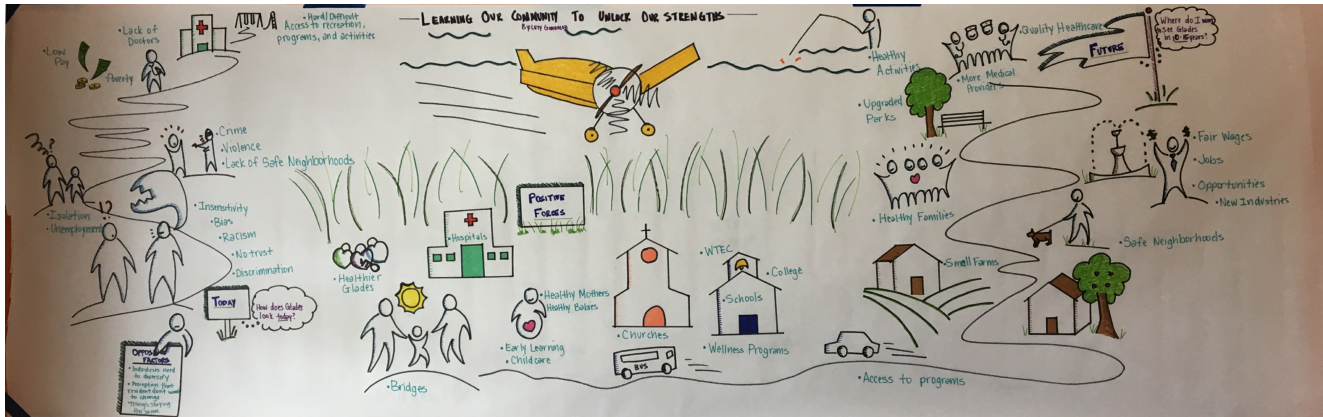
- The results of resident surveys.
- The results of focus groups.
- What you said our community will need.
- Tell us what you want to see.

Join us for light dinner as we shape the future for a  
**Healthier Glades**  
Healthier Glades is a Palm Health Foundation Partnership

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Conversations, residents were open and honest about wanting to see “Action” associated with this effort. The priority areas highlighted did not come as a surprise to the residents engaged in the dialogue activity. HG will continue to unpack and do their due diligence in “Hearing the Voice” of the Glades residents, which will be used as a guide to determine the actions that make sense, moving forward.



## Lessons Learned:

1. There have been many “aha!” moments and lessons learned during this reporting period; however, the Project Director realizes that, increasing resident involvement will take time and effective effort, while keeping the momentum with current participants.
2. Healthier Glades has achieved many “wins” since inception. However, we have not escaped the challenges of a start-up Initiative and have learned many lessons.

The multi-lingual and multi-cultural make-up of the community makes engagement particularly challenging, because the resident/community leaders who have partnered with HG in this effort are often engaged in other community projects making it almost impossible for them to support HG activities/events. Identifying and building new relationships with grassroots leaders will be needed to support resident engagement at every level, while supporting existing partners from getting “burned out”.

3. The development of a Community Plan is imperative. Having a plan designed with support from the HG Steering Committee, a road-map to delivering Initiative information, will help focus the message and increase effective outreach, regardless of culture, language and geographic boundaries.
4. The Project Director and group leaders must ensure the assignments are prepared and completed between meetings and in advance of upcoming Steering Committee meetings.

Top three things you are proud to have accomplished through your work with Healthier Together:

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1. The high degree of commitment from HG Steering Committee and Workgroup members.
  2. The progress made in collecting quality, meaningful data from the various and distinct; groups in the community and in breaking down this data, in a comprehensive, yet readily understandable, manner, for presentation to the groups who attended the Sense-Making Community meeting September and October of 2018;
  3. HG gaining momentum for the Initiative by consistently staying engaged in the community, and being the face of HG at large community events and local and county-wide meetings.

### Top three challenges you have faced with your work with Healthier Together:

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1. The Glades has limited available meeting room space that can support large community-wide events/activities at a time when residents are available and can participate. The venues that are available are cost prohibitive will cause a challenge to the Initiative in the upcoming months with respect to rolling out HG community engagement events.
2. There are a number of Community Conversations which occur throughout the Glades region. Residents are impatient and tired of meetings, with no actions resulting, though they suggest action(s). How can Healthier Glades showcase its value within the context of building “Wins” supporting residents moving from dialogue to action and/or with System Partners working in the Glades around an effective approach to engaging Glades residents as determined by the residents?
3. Maintaining the consistency of key community stakeholders and residents due to their rigorous schedule and other priorities. Also, remembering residents are Volunteers.

### Next Steps:

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Healthier Glades next steps are exciting:

1. Finalize Theory of Action/changes we want to see document.
2. Advertise/hire VISTA Outreach Coordinator
3. Pilot a “Lunch & Learn” no later than January 2019
4. Engage Resident Ambassadors who have organically emerged from this process and support ways to build their capacity.
5. Create a Marketing brochure for HG.