

SUCCESS STORY

Stronger Together: New Partnerships Expand Access to Resources

Hand, Heart + Soul Project (HHSP) is fostering change in Clayton County, Georgia by bringing together two groups dedicated to expanding access to resources that support healthy living. Through strategic collaboration and action, HHSP is strengthening pathways for well-being and a thriving lifestyle in the community.

Community Champions is a diverse, multigenerational group of 8–10 Clayton County residents who lead by example — encouraging families, friends, and neighbors to increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables. Their efforts include distributing food cards, yard signs, and magnets featuring healthy recipes and wellness messages. The **Clayton Collaborative** unites local organizations to identify and elevate underutilized “jewels” — making them more accessible and beneficial to residents.



Both coalitions represent a broad spectrum of community stakeholders, including:

- Early care and education sites and local public schools
- Parent, guardian and caregiver associations
- Youth
- Health care organizations
- Older adults and seniors
- Faith-based leaders
- Elected officials
- Nonprofit and local business leaders

Since January 2024, both groups have met monthly, working in tandem to foster a culture of health in Clayton County. While Community Champions engage directly with residents to inspire healthier habits, the Clayton County Collaborative partners with local organizations to enhance awareness and referrals to existing resources.

Both groups will continue supporting and addressing Clayton County residents' needs. Recruitment for another cohort of Community Champions began in October 2024, and the Clayton Collaborative will continue to accept active members. The program's success is being evaluated by the retention of coalition members and by the reach of activities.

As a result of the groups, Clayton County residents are changing their thinking about the foods they eat. HHSP is supporting a community-led effort to support healthy eating and active living.

For more information, contact evaluation@handheartsoulproject.org

