INTRODUCTION

Building Hope Community Life Center is a faith-based non-profit founded in 2001 for youth and family development designed to serve the community.

The organization has a variety of programs designed to assist youth in the community.

PROJECT GOALS

- Increase the youth exposure to healthcare careers and professions in STEM.
- Improve minority physical health and mental health through interactive programs and projects.
- Developing culturally competent servant leaders for our communities.
- Utilize this opportunity to educate students about disparities in care for African Americans
- Create workshops that emphasize racial reconciliation as it relates to healthcare

ABSTRACT

We worked with adolescents to host a summer program that exposed children to activities in the following three areas:
- Health and wellness
- Career exploration
- Leadership development

This camp allows students an enrichment opportunity during the summer months when they are not in school.

Students gained valuable exposure to careers in healthcare to which many students had no prior exposure.

METHODS

- We worked with approximately 20 summer camp students ranging from ages 11 to 16.
- We utilized lectures, open discussions and hands on learning activities to teach the children about the various topics of focus.
- Students also participated in two service activities.

RESULTS / DISCUSSION

- Through this project we were able to successfully expose students to healthcare careers, review relevant adolescent health concerns, and conduct workshops to build leadership skills.
- Pre-surveys showed 88% of respondents were excited to participate in the program, although 76% of the respondents were not initially interested in healthcare careers.
- We were unable to conduct post surveys due to time constraints.
- Staff indicated that students reported interest in the program and enjoyed activities.
- Our hopes are to continue the program as an after-school program biweekly on Fridays with children from elementary school through middle school.

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Building Hope Community Life Center, Melanin Healthcare Professionals, and our Student Volunteers, for making this project possible.