

Northside Residential Fellowship Overview

2022-2023

Cultivating connected,
compassionate, and
age-embracing
communities together.



Northside
Neighbor

Overview

Background

The Northside is a historically Black neighborhood in Chapel Hill whose residents live by the mandate “love thy neighbor as thyself”. However, in recent years, the Northside has experienced “studentification” marked by a shift from a predominance of single-family owned homes to rental properties shared by college students. This process has disrupted the sense of community of Northside and made it more difficult for long-time residents to stay in the community. The health and wellbeing of older residents who have long been models of courage and care are essential to the health of the community more broadly. Retaining and preserving strong community networks supports the longevity and vibrancy of the community as a whole. The Northside Residential Fellowship seeks to connect long-term Northside residents and UNC students through mentorship and support. We seek to create space for students to be more active members of the Northside community and to re-establish a multigenerational neighborhood where all residents feel supported.

This year, we are moving NRF to focus on undergraduate students. Through doing so, we hope to find students that are committed to working in the community long-term and becoming student-leaders.

What to Expect

The Northside Residential Fellowship brings UNC undergraduates (graduate students may still apply) interested in aging and social justice together in a living-learning community. By joining this program you can expect to:

- 1) Build relationships with other fellows and your neighbors, both young and old
- 2) Dive deeper into issues for historically Black communities
- 3) Participate in community-wide events
- 4) Find and create support for community

Program Requirements

You and your housemates will create a community agreement that outlines your values and commitments for intentional community engagement. The NRF program coordinators will facilitate and support your continued participation in various components of the fellowship including:

- 1) Community Engagement Activities
- 2) Monthly and Biweekly Discussions
- 3) Jackson Center Partnership
- 4) General Reflections or Journaling

Core Ideals

Mission

The Northside Residential Fellowship (NRF) builds on the Jackson Center’s mission to honor, renew, and build community in Northside and UNC Partnerships in Aging Program’s (PiAP) mission to cultivate age-embracing people and communities. The NRF strives to integrate these missions by supporting intentional and reflective community engagement that facilitates opportunities for students and long-term residents to grow, support, and build relationships together in their everyday lives.

Core Intersecting Perspectives

Expanded View of Aging: The NRF seeks to cultivate age-embracing communities where elderhood is understood as an opportunity for growth and vibrancy.

Antiracism: The NRF seeks to offer a space where racism - structural or individual, covert or overt - can be understood and dismantled.

Housing Justice: The NRF seeks to highlight the integral role home and place have in the health and well-being of residents and the community.

Expected Program Components

Fellowship Structure and Activities

- **NRF Orientation**
- **Bi-Weekly Discussions and Community Meetings**
Every other week, the NRFs, program coordinators and occasionally guest speakers will meet for discussions on relevant topics. Past discussion topics include Antiracism work, Community Organizing, and Radical Consent. In the spring, NRFs will each lead their own discussion on a topic of their choosing.
- **Participation with LINK**
As NRF's, you will be participating in LINK, another initiative organized by PiAP and the Jackson Center. LINK connects students at UNC with elders in Northside to promote mentorship, intergenerational connection, and support. Each Northside Residential Fellow will be matched with an elder from Northside and you will connect with them weekly. Your participation in LINK will include weekly visits/phone calls with your elder.
- **Weekly Check-In/ Reflections**

Learning and Engagement Activities

The following are included to prepare you for an enriching NRF experience. We want to make sure you have the tools necessary to grow, so we have incorporated a variety of onboarding training and service components.

- **Conflict Resolution Workshop**
- **Soundwalk of Northside**
- **Jackson Center Service Partner Orientation**
- **Commitment of Community Partner Engagement in Northside**
We ask fellows to commit to 16 hours of engagement a month as a way to dive deeper into the issues that Northside faces. We will pair you with one of the following Jackson Center positions -
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Aging

In addition to your work with the Jackson Center, feel free to seek any opportunity related to engaging with the Northside community directly.

- **Oral History Workshop**
- **Be WITH your neighbors**
We will encourage you to immerse yourself into your surroundings and take the chance to get to know neighbors in the community.
- **Community Events***
 - Good Neighbor Block Party
 - Porch Revival Tour
 - Northside Festival
 - Holiday Party

*events are dependent on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and CDC guidelines