

WORLD & NATION

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New co-op created to fight food insecurity

BY SOMMER FANNEY
STAFF WRITER

This year, a Greensboro community is expected to have access to a grocery store after 15 years of existing as a food desert.

Since Winn-Dixie shipped out of the shopping center on Phillips Avenue in Northeast Greensboro in 1990, this predominantly black, low income community attempted to attract a store to their area with no success. But in 2012, the community decided to start the Renaissance Community Cooperative food store in the center Winn-Dixie had inhabited earlier.

With the initiative of the community and other partners, this model of solving the problem of living in a food desert is working for the Phillips Avenue community.

"(The community) is not waiting on the generosity of others," said first-year Arundhati Krishnan. "I think this situation shows incredible innovation of the community that has done this."

Since 2012, the community has partnered with Fund For Democratic Communities and has received financial support from other partners to move their idea from dream, to plan then action. As organizations have learned of the RCC's community plans, support has snowballed into something massive — lenders all over the country are striving to donate to the RCC.

The media attention has not only attracted unwavering support from donors. Other communities living in food deserts are looking at the RCC as an example of an innovative way of gaining access to healthy food.

"I think once an organization has already started and has done some problem solving and figuring out the best practices, then others won't have to reinvent the wheel," said senior D'vorah Nadel. "But running a business is not easy. It takes a lot of work, energy and knowledge."

The RCC's partners, like F4DC, helped locate people

who had expertise in areas such as financing and management to help the community create a plan for running their store. Chelsea Yarborough, a senior and a worker-owner of the Greenleaf cooperative, believes that members of the RCC can share their knowledge and tips for success with other co-ops.

"The RCC and the Greenleaf and other co-ops in GSO should be there to support other (new) co-ops and help them get off the ground," said Yarborough. "It is a very bottom-up movement. The network gets stronger when more people are involved with it."

Krishnan was concerned that some communities that want to follow RCC's example not have many local resources, like the F4DC, or nearby suppliers of healthy food.

"Some (communities in the U.S.) do not have access to good suppliers, and that could be more expensive because of things like transportation," Krishnan said. "That could be a potential obstacle that (these communities) run into."

In the meantime, Greensboro is currently tied as the second city in the nation with the most food insecurity. But as more co-ops like the RCC and the Greenleaf grow, the stronger the support system for new co-ops in Greensboro will be.

Krishnan, Nadel and Yarborough believe that Guilford could offer support to the RCC by supplying the co-op with food from Guilford's farm. Guilford currently is a supplier for the Deep Roots market, another co-op in Greensboro, so it is reasonable to believe that the RCC could be a potential buyer.

Before the RCC opens, the community needs to raise \$612,372 to meet their goal of \$1.72 million. The RCC has received their donations from individuals in 23 different countries and partners including Self Help and the Moses Cone Health Foundation. They hope to receive \$600,000 of this needed aid through support from the city of Greensboro.



Julia Beveridge and Fahiyh Hanna chat after a meeting regarding the RCC at the Melvin Municipal Building on Feb. 3.

STUDY PHOTO OF THE WEEK ABROAD



The Neues Rathaus, or New Town Hall located in Marienplatz in Munich, Germany. Located in the northern part of Marienplatz, the building houses local city government offices.

Each week, The Guilfordian will feature a picture from students' experiences abroad. Whether you have studied or are currently studying in London, Sienna, Munich or somewhere else, we would love to see photos from your trip. Please email photos to Sara Minsky at minskysj@guilford.edu with information about the subject and where & when you studied.

Racism towards Canada's First Nations increases

BY BEATRIZ CALDAS
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 22, the Canadian magazine Maclean's published an article about the murder of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine.

What most people do not know, however, is that this case is just the tip of an iceberg. Fontaine was not the first girl to go missing or to suffer sexual abuse in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

And the reason why she, and others, went through this horrendous experience is because they are First Nation.

"The racism against native North Americans is profound, and ongoing," said Eric Mortensen, assistant professor of religious studies. "It is not something that has been solved. There is a sense that the whole society in general has a little bit more of a tolerance for intolerance than perhaps in times a little further back."

Such hatred against First Nation peoples started centuries ago.

"Those negative stereotypes go back to the very beginning, back to 1492," said Thomas Guthrie, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology. "Europeans were dispossessing indigenous peoples of their lands in North America, and that process was often violent — especially against women."

Fontaine was visiting her mother during summer vacation and having a good time before classes started again. Unfortunately, she would never come home.

"I think there is almost close to 1,100 or more missing or murdered aboriginal women," Damon Johnston, president of the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, told The Guilfordian in a phone interview. "And because Manitoba has one of the highest per capita populations of aboriginal peoples in the country, a fair number of the victims are from Manitoba or happen to be in Manitoba."

Racism against Native North

Americans is not exclusively Canadian. The United States is also a central stage to many cases of discrimination and hatred.

"My stepmom is Native American, and she is fairly successful," said first-year Danika Gottbrecht. "But at the same time she still faces a lot of prejudice. She cannot escape that feeling of racism in our modern world."

Maclean's article covers not only Fontaine's past but also cases similar to hers and different points of view on the subject including that of Winnipeg's mayor, Brian Bowman, who believes that Canada is not divided.

"You have got a more conservative government in Canada, so they do not want to make a big deal of it, or focus on it or put it on the table as a topic for important discussion and change," said Mortensen.

Some people believe that change might, in fact, be the best solution, and that a great place to start is kindergarten.

"Early within the educational systems of this country, there has to be a retelling of the true history of this country," said Johnston. "It has to be retold from our perspective, but also from a perspective of fact and truth in terms of the colonial approaches."

The idea of reeducating people from an early age is also shared by other Americans who truly want to see racism and prejudice eradicated.

"When you are born you do not have any prejudice," said first-year Eli Phillips. "It is really important to educate so that, as time progresses, there will be fewer and fewer incidents of racism."

"In a world so diverse, the most important thing should be unity instead of war," said Johnston.

"I do not see other Canadians as my enemies," said Johnston. "I see them as going on this journey with us. And that we have a common goal, that is to heal our wounds and start repairing the damage that was done and, in the end, have a better Canada."