

ECOS Spring Meeting, March 17, 2021

Harold Mitchell Jr.
Executive Director
ReGenesis Community
Development Corporation



**DHEC sited a clean closure in 1986.
This photo taken 1998**

During the EPA investigation, it was determined that 48 tons of Super Phosphate fertilizer had been left in the facility, along with 2 underground storage tanks with 90 gallons of fuel oil left in them.



Illegal Demolition after site Investigation

**Sulfur was dumped over the back fence of the property next to FairForest Creek.
The Acid Plant was identified after the sulfur was removed.**



Arkwright Dump



The four categories the
ReGenesis Board wanted to
address

ISSUES

Environmental:

Two Superfund Sites
IMC Global
Arkwright Dump
Multiple Brownfield Sites

Health:

Concerns of Abnormal/High
Disease Incidence
Lack of Health Care

Economic:

Lack of Jobs
Lack of Transportation Access
Lack of Business Development
Lack of Retail Establishments

Social:

Crime
Poor Housing
Lack of Green Space
Lack of Recreational Facilities
Lack of Community Involvement

Community Capacity Building and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Environmental
Cleanup and
Remediation

Transportation

Housing

Economic and
Commercial
Development



Health

Public Safety

Education, Jobs,
Life Skills

Recreation and
Green
Infrastructure



In 2000 The Creation of the M.O.U. between the City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, the Housing Authority and ReGenesis signing ceremony.



The First Federal Inter Agency Working Group EJ Meeting



FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

*Cleanup and Revitalization through Collaborative
Partnerships,
Arkwright and Forest Park Community*

Building A Livable Community Forum

August 21 - 22, 2000

The first "Building A Livable Community Forum" was held in Spartanburg, SC on August 21-22, 2000 and was attended by nearly 100 participants, including various federal, state and local government representatives as well as numerous community stakeholders. The excitement and enthusiasm of the many participants resulted in a vigorous plan to move forward with the many federal, state and local partnerships that have been initiated and will ultimately result in building a livable community.

Specific accomplishments of the Building A Livable Community Forum include:

- Theme:
*Building a Livable
Community Forum*
- Two-days Meeting
August 21-22, 2000
- 7 Federal agencies
were in attendance

- ♦ Charles Lee and Jewell Harper from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), introduced the Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group and the expectations for the demonstration projects. It was emphasized that this project more clearly reflects the community-driven, multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted collaboration that was envisioned when these projects were initiated.
- ♦ Local Officials, including Mayor James Talley and County Administrator James Hartmann shared their vision and welcomed the assistance from the federal sector and others. They further acknowledged that this effort was initiated by the community and pledged their support to make redevelopment a reality.
- ♦ *Expanding Community Transportation Choices Initiative:* A Mile long connector is being proposed to open access to the 500 acre area. Federal and State DOT officials are working with local government and congressional interests to further develop plans. The lack of adequate transportation routes into the area considered an environmental justice concern. Wendell Stills, of the US DOT is the primary contact for this initiative.

The Second Inter Agency Working Group EJ Meeting

- Held a month later, on September 20, 2000
- In attendance 50 participants
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local
 - Residents
- Develop goals for the project

Integrated Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Project

Minutes
Wednesday, September 20, 2000
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Environmental Justice Demonstration Project was held at the Spartanburg Vision Center at 9:30 a.m. on September 20, 2000. The meeting began at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Present:

Approximately fifty participants representing Federal and State Agencies, Spartanburg County & City, and residents of the Arkwright and Forest Park communities.

Welcome & Introductions

Agency Updates/Several Agencies Participated via Conference Call

- \$675,000 - Senator F. Hollings, via EPA, for promotion and revitalization. Vote for approval goes to Senate Floor today but is expected to pass. These funds do not include other grants that may be applied for. Harold Mitchell, Regenis, will forward proposal to the Ford Foundation for fund allocation.
- Ford Foundation, Inc. will provide Regenis, Inc. with funds.

Project Maps

- Maps distributed to the group.
- Project area was defined. Map will be edited and redistributed at the next meeting.
- Forest Park inside City line and Arkwright located within the County.

Community Involvement

Regenis is a community-based organization in the Arkwright/Forest Park area whose primary members are community residents. After discussion it is agreed that the project will be known as the Regenis Project.

The group formed through a beautification project when an alarming amount of similar serious illnesses began to affect the area. Board Members were selected to represent both communities. Collaboration efforts with existing organizations include representatives of the County and City, Federal and State, and Regenis — contact person: Rosalind Brown. Monthly meetings are held and the group is developing Focus Groups to:

- Identify cleanup
- Create an Arkwright model project

Goals

The participants were divided into sub-groups to develop goals from Community, County/City, and Federal/State agency perspectives.

| COMMUNITY | COUNTY/CITY | FEDERAL/STATE AGENCIES |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Affordable Housing> Improvement Programs> Banks> Clean the Land> Crime Management> Cultural Center & Programs | <u>COUNTY GOALS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Community Cleanup> Community Health (Others)> Environmental Cleanup> Improved Infrastructure> Long Term Sustainability | <u>DOE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Brightfields — Attract New Clean Industries to the Site> Efficient Use of Energy> Integration of High Tech i.e. solar, wind, ground source heat pumps |

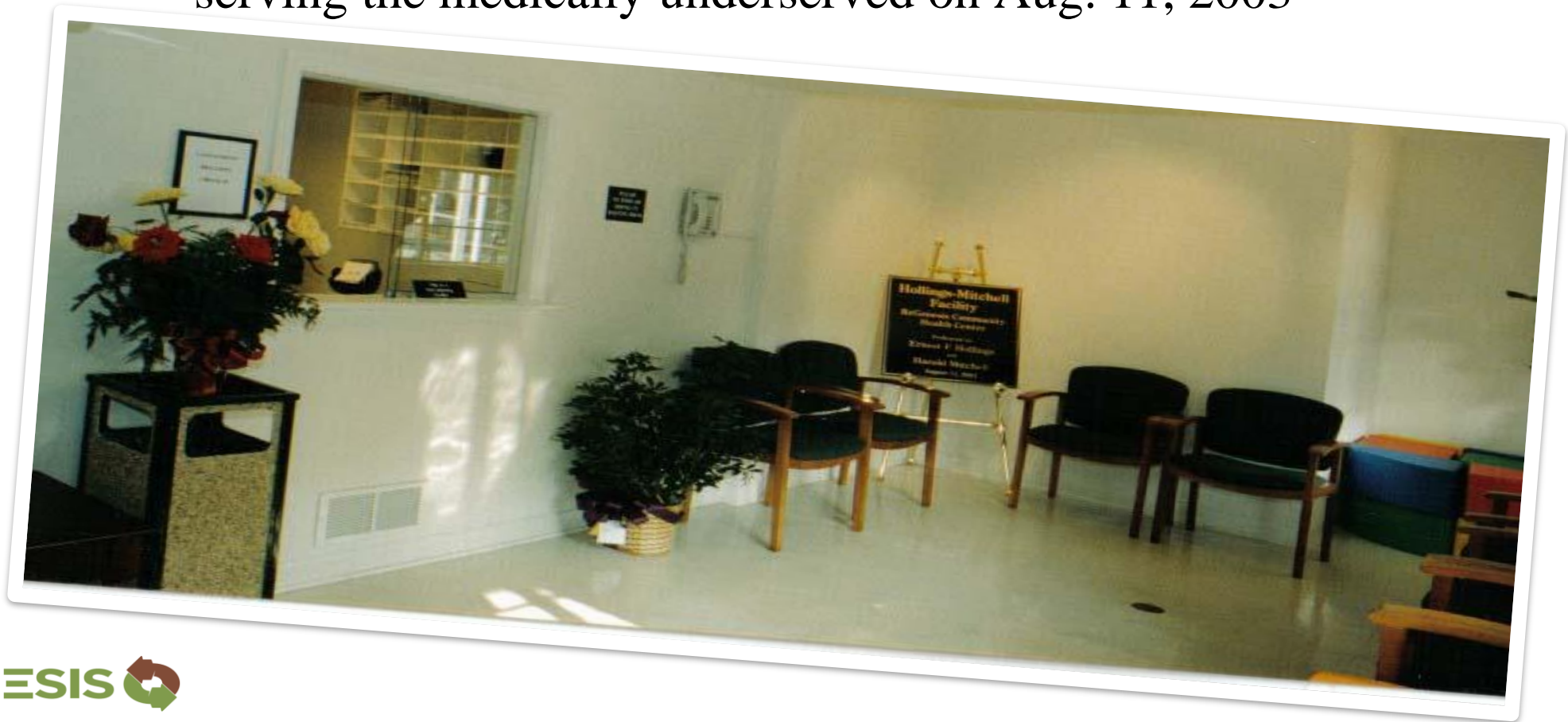
VISIONING

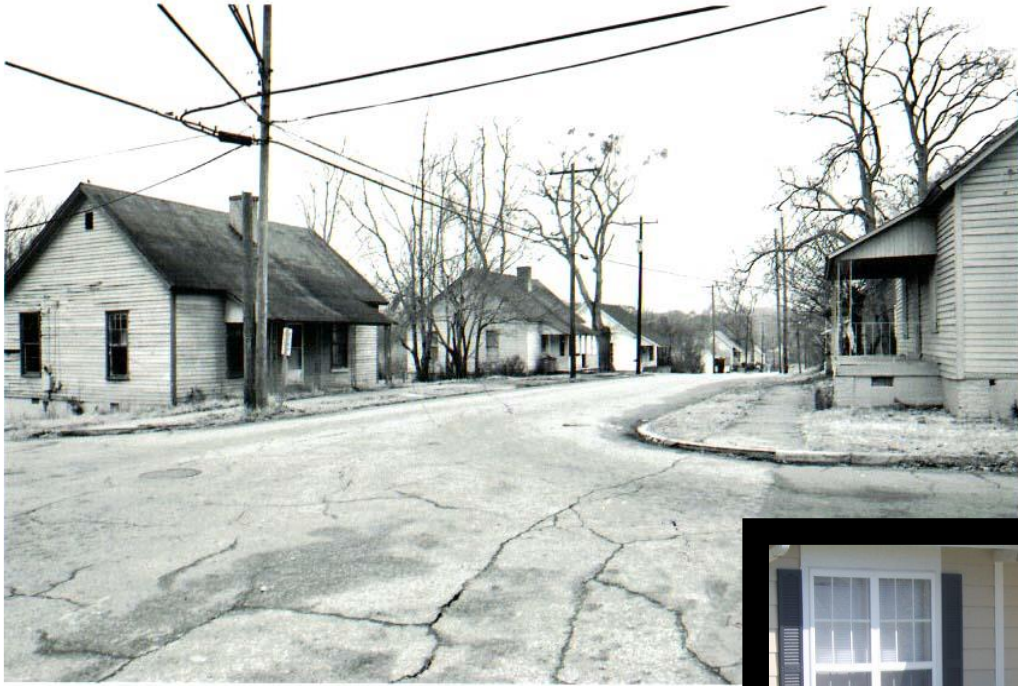


CHARETTES

Affordable, Top Quality Healthcare

- Senator Fritz Hollings & Harold Mitchell worked together and opened the first ReGenesis Community Health Care Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving the medically underserved on Aug. 11, 2003





ARKWRIGHT MILL VILLAGE

Jobs Training, Community Involvement, Self-Sufficiency and Workforce Development

Community Involvement, Self-Sufficiency, and Workforce Development



**Asbestos Abatement
Training 2004**



**\$20 Million HOPE VI grant helped convert the
former Phyllis Goins to the New Collins Park in 2006**



**FORMER PHYLLIS
GOINS**



COLLINS PARK





The New Green LEED Design
C.C. Woodson Recreational
Center opened 2010



NFL Carolina Panthers funded
Multi – purpose Field



SOUTH CHURCH PLAZA

**The New 45,000 sq. ft.
Shopping Plaza addressed
our Food Desert Obstacle**



**Proposed Aquaponics reuse for the Former IMC Fertilizer
Superfund Site Designated as a Opportunity Zone 2017**



**Catherine Heigel SCDHEC Director
Kicks off White House Clean Energy event on the Arkwright
Landfill for proposed Solar Farm Reuse**



Closing Remarks

- 1) Make Environmental Justice & Community Involvement a priority
- 2) To be successful you need Public-Private Partnerships
- 3) EJ communities want cleanup, revitalization, and economic development
- 4) Be the liaison between community & other state/federal agencies
- 5) Utilize resources that are already available
- 6) Government does not revitalize a community, the community does!