



TOGETHER FOR RESILIENT YOUTH (TRY) COALITION

Community Impact Report Since Last DJT Quarterly Meeting

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From November 2025 through March 2026, TRY Coalition demonstrated the full depth and breadth of its role as a comprehensive community health and resilience infrastructure. Over five months, TRY engaged in 99+ events and convenings, reached 3,265+ community members, distributed 2,000+ naloxone kits, conducted 6 harm reduction trainings, produced 13 original training modules and program materials, and engaged in cross-sector partnerships with Duke University Medical Center, DART, ENtrust, 7 C's CERI, and NCCU.

This report documents TRY's work across five interconnected areas: (1) community engagement and coalition building; (2) naloxone distribution and harm reduction; (3) LIFT youth leadership and juvenile justice programming; (4) family intervention and youth well-being; and (5) curriculum and materials development. The breadth of this work also reflects TRY's finding that Durham is not facing one crisis, it is facing four, in the same zip codes, at the same time and that young people and families must be at the center of the response.

Youth & Family Programming Highlights

LIFT (LEAD, INSPIRE, FLOURISH, THRIVE) remained one of TRY's most active and visible youth programs across the reporting period. LIFT youth participated in Tip Shares, Youth Showcases, and the Youth Coalition — serving as peer leaders, creatives, and community voices. In November, LIFT youth made and distributed care packages for others in the community. In January and March, LIFT hosted Youth Showcases where young people presented their work. LIFT programming ran continuously across all five months, engaging 14–25 participants per session.

BRAVE (youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system) maintained consistent engagement across the period, with sessions focused on youth violence exposure, Duke Child and Family collaboration, and OJJDP-connected follow-up work. Attendance at Hillside Youth/Parent event in March reached 155 participants — one of the highest single-event counts during the period.

Coping Together for families including with justice-involved youth ran in multiple formats — in English (DJJ sessions) and Spanish (Caminando Juntos) — with consistent family participation across Durham. DJJ Coping Together sessions carried this message into every class: "Failure is not what this moment says about your child or your family. It is not the charge, the court date, or the consequences they're facing. It is not a reflection of your love, your effort, or your worth." Rooted in Bronfenbrenner's framework — every child needs at least one adult who is irrationally crazy about them — these sessions gave parents language and community.

"This program showed us our strengths and weaknesses. We saw the places where we needed to make adjustments. We also felt good when learning that we had handled a situation in the past the correct way. Great reassurance. Great program. It made me feel good on the inside. I felt seen. The sessions were a pleasure."

"The Coping Together sessions were very informative and we have started incorporating the lessons in our home life. I would recommend this program to all people. It will help your family as it has helped me. I am thankful to have the written portion given to us to look back on throughout the years."

The CEV National Convening (January 2026) brought 72 participants together around youth well-being. The NC Arrest Diversion Meeting engaged 52 participants on statewide juvenile justice reform. The COPE State Appointment convening engaged 38 participants on youth well-being at the state level.

Signature Presentations

What Happens After Discharge: How ZIP Codes Shape Recovery, Risk & Survival — Dr. Boone delivered this original lecture as Guest Lecturer at Duke University Medical Center School of Medicine to 122 medical students. The presentation reframed opioid use disorder treatment by centering what happens after a patient leaves the hospital. Core message: “It is not their diagnosis that determines survival. It is their ZIP code.” The lecture introduced future clinicians to the role of community infrastructure including TRY’s Health Ambassadors as essential to post-discharge survival.

United Voices. One Conversation. Hosted by Dr. Boone on March 24, 2026, this community event brought together Iya Ade Wilson (SpiritHouse South), Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock (We Are), and Uzuri Holder (Violence Recovery Program) to add community voices to the collective table on violence prevention. The event featured youth sharing their words and art centering young people as storytellers and solution-holders, not just subjects of intervention.

Good Mental Health & Self Care for All — DCABP-sponsored panel event on January 26, 2026, organized and sponsored by Dr. Boone as DCABP Chair of Health & Safety. Three tracks ran simultaneously: mental health for children (Keni Church), for men (Alexander Daye), and for women (Judith Johnson-Hostler). The panel modeled TRY’s whole-family, whole-community approach to behavioral health.

Durham Is Not Facing One Crisis. It Is Facing Four — In the Same Zip Codes, At the Same Time. Dr. Boone’s original data presentation framework documents Violence (9 homicides, 22 shot YTD 2026), Overdose (1 death every 17 days in the highest-burden zip code; 73% Black victims), Chronic Disease (18% diabetes rate), and Homelessness (1 in 4 homeless deaths = overdose; 7x the state average) as simultaneous, co-located crises. This framework grounds all of TRY’s coalition and funding work.

Metric	Count	Notes
Total events & convenings	99+	Nov 2025 – Mar 2026
Total attendees (confirmed)	3,265+	Conservative estimate; excludes ‘100+’ events
Naloxone kits distributed (cumulative)	2,000+	264 in last 2 months of period
Harm reduction supplies (period)	222	
Naloxone trainings / workshops	6	Last 2 months of period
Community members reached (harm reduction)	335	175 in last 2 months
LIFT / youth program sessions	10+	Showcases, tip shares, coalition meetings, care packages
Coping Together (DJJ & Spanish)	7+	Justice-involved youth & families; English and Spanish
BRAVE sessions (juvenile justice)	5+	Youth violence exposure, OJJDP, Duke Child & Family
Hillside Youth/Parent event	155	Largest youth-focused single event of the period
Duke Med School ZIP Code lecture	122	Medical students; original TRY presentation
Training modules & materials created	13	Original TRY-developed content
Sectors engaged	10+	Across 12-sector coalition
Documented life saves (naloxone)	2	Real-time overdose reversals reported

Health Ambassador Field Notes: Voices from the Field

The following themes are from Health Ambassador field reports collected during naloxone outreach across Durham's neighborhoods, barbershops, businesses, college campuses, and community events.

Education drives distribution. Ambassadors consistently found that leading with education not simply handing out kits, was what made community members receptive. The most impactful messages: overdose is not limited to street drugs; there is a critical difference between when an overdose occurs and when emergency services arrive; and the Good Samaritan Law protects those who respond.

Community reception was overwhelmingly positive. Barbershops, restaurants, fuel stations, Waffle House, local vendors, college students, and even Durham Police Department welcomed TRY ambassadors and their kits. Many locations requested return visits. One restaurant owner was overcome with emotion and cried. The DPD were excited that kits came with instructions and Good Samaritan Law education.

The 'Upstander' framework transformed the conversation. Framing naloxone around being a proactive, responsible neighbor, an upstander shifted how people received the kits. Community members were reminded they had the power to save a life. Students and vendors welcomed the "Power to Save Lives" message.

Resistant community members became the most important conversations. Those who said 'I don't live where people use drugs' became openings for ambassadors to explain unintentional overdose and broaden understanding of who is at risk.

"My friend died. If I knew about this, I might have been able to save his life." — NCCU student (6 students joined the effort to carry naloxone that day)

"We thrive when we are in unity, oneness — a village is still necessary." — Durham community neighbor
"Our community never fails to express their gratitude for our willingness to distribute, to educate, to encourage, to empower, and to promote prevention." — TRY Health Ambassador

One TRY distributor gave a resident the microphone at a community event. She shared that she had used Narcan in her own community two months prior as a TRY program distributor. A nursing instructor requested a full box for her class and was introduced to the Duke CERI research group. The Bull City Riders welcomed an impromptu naloxone demonstration on Roxboro Street.

OTHER

CARA Grant Report Summary, by Re'Dhonda Malone (January 2026)

Milestone: TRY has completed 5 years of CARA funding a significant achievement.

TRY implemented a multi-layered strategy combining youth leadership, family strengthening, and community opioid response. Key highlights called out specifically: Health Ambassadors (youth and adult) conducted 150+ field engagements and distributed 1,500 naloxone kits through the "You Have the Power to Save Lives" campaign. LIFT and LIFT-DJJ built youth decision-making and emotional regulation. Coping Together and Change Your Words. Change Your World strengthened family communication and caregiver confidence. Evaluation was strengthened through real-time Ambassador data, state-level (ECCO) indicator alignment, and documented outcomes including a 47% increase in training participation and 82% of participants reporting increased confidence in responding to overdoses. The coalition also secured 20+ partner letters and a gubernatorial letter (Governor Josh Stein).

Monthly detailed activity reports are available on the TRY Coalition website. TRY4RESILIENCE.ORG