

2018 IN REVIEW

DOWN HOME
NORTH CAROLINA





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Kinship matters in Down Home North Carolina.

Over the past year, Down Home members have been all about making the change we want to see in our communities. We have been busy, working our tails off in our counties, getting active on our local issues - healthcare for all, building a strong rural economy, ending the overdose crisis, ensuring humane immigration, and protecting our democracy. These are the issues that matter the most to us, our families and our communities.

You see, at Down Home, we want more out of life than what's currently being offered to us. We want the security in knowing that we have decent jobs that can provide for our children; that we can stop using the emergency room as our main source of healthcare and start going to doctor visits that we can afford; that we take care of our loved ones who are in the most need and that we do not throw people away due to addiction, immigration status, criminal records, or any struggle.

Our relationship to each other has defined what we speak up about and who we stand up for. We believe that standing up for what's right isn't just the decent thing to do, it's what we, as Down Home members, are called to do when we value each other as part of our larger family.

And what does it look like when Down Home stands up for our kin?

Here's a snapshot of the past year that shows our values in action:

- We beat back the Duke Energy rate hike! In January, we started the year off by continuing our fight against the Duke Energy rate hikes by rallying over 20 members to a hearing in Greensboro. Two of our members testified to stop Duke Energy from passing the buck for their coal ash mess onto the backs of working families. We continued the fight through the rest of the year, mobilize to Raleigh in February, submitting online petitions throughout. In June the NC Utilities Commission denied the Duke Energy rate hike!
- We won a living wage for Waynesville city workers! In April, we mobilized 24 members to the Waynesville town meeting where we presented on raising the living wage for city workers. We collected over 100 petitions in the parking lots of Kmart, Walmart and Dollar Tree, and fast food restaurants. We are now calling for a statewide living wage - and travelled to Raleigh together with state allies to represent North Carolina's workers.
- We stood up for the safety and dignity of immigrant families! Since February, we have mobilized over 150 people to the Alamance County Commissioners meeting to stop the implementation of the 287 (g) program and have had over 300 people take local action to keep families together. In July, one of our Western NC members made us proud by speaking in solidarity with immigrant families in front of a crowd of 35,000 in Washington, DC.

- We nationalized the fight to defend democracy and the Alamance 12! In May, we began defending the rights of the Alamance 12 by packing the court with over 50 members. We continued to do so during their trial, while also getting a national spotlight to draw attention to the attack on voting rights, for mainly people of color voters, in Alamance County. Our fight won the attention of a range of national media outlets including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Huffington Post, and the Observer Editorial Board.
- We opened a syringe exchange in Canton! In August, Down Home opened up a syringe exchange with the leadership of our members in Haywood County. We believe that solving the overdose crisis means caring for, not criminalizing, our loved ones who use substances. Our syringe exchange has provided hundreds of naloxone kits in addition to clean syringes, condoms, and fentanyl drug testing strips. We also mobilized 65 people on International Overdose Awareness Day to end stigma around drug use and lift up the need for public health solutions to the crisis.
- We launched and strengthened chapters in 3 counties! As a result of the vision and courage of our family we now have Down Home chapters in Alamance, Haywood and Jackson counties, strengthening the organization, voice and power of progressive rural North Carolina.

We are proud of the work we accomplished in 2018. But, we are just getting started folks! 2019 is going to be an even bolder year. We will continue our local fights for racial and economic justice while also setting our sights statewide as we push for Medicaid expansion and raising the minimum wage. We are excited to grow our family by adding new rural chapters in Western NC and the Piedmont, as well as growing our membership from 1,000 members to 2,000 members. Our voices will no longer be ignored-whether by local officials or by electeds in Raleigh. We are building power through organization, by strengthening the bonds of our kinship, one chapter at a time.

All of this work is made possible by the hard work and commitment of our members. We can't build this movement alone. We need the support of extended kin and supporters like you. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU for your time, hard work, and contributions.



DOWN HOME'S VISION



Down Home NC is a member-led, community organization working to build power for poor and working people of all races in small towns and rural communities in North Carolina

OUR PRINCIPLES



**Everyone is welcome in
Down Home NC**



**We will work to understand and
unlearn the ways in which we have been
taught to distrust and harm one another**



**We will build trust with one another by
speaking honestly and respectfully**



**We must bring others into
Down Home NC**

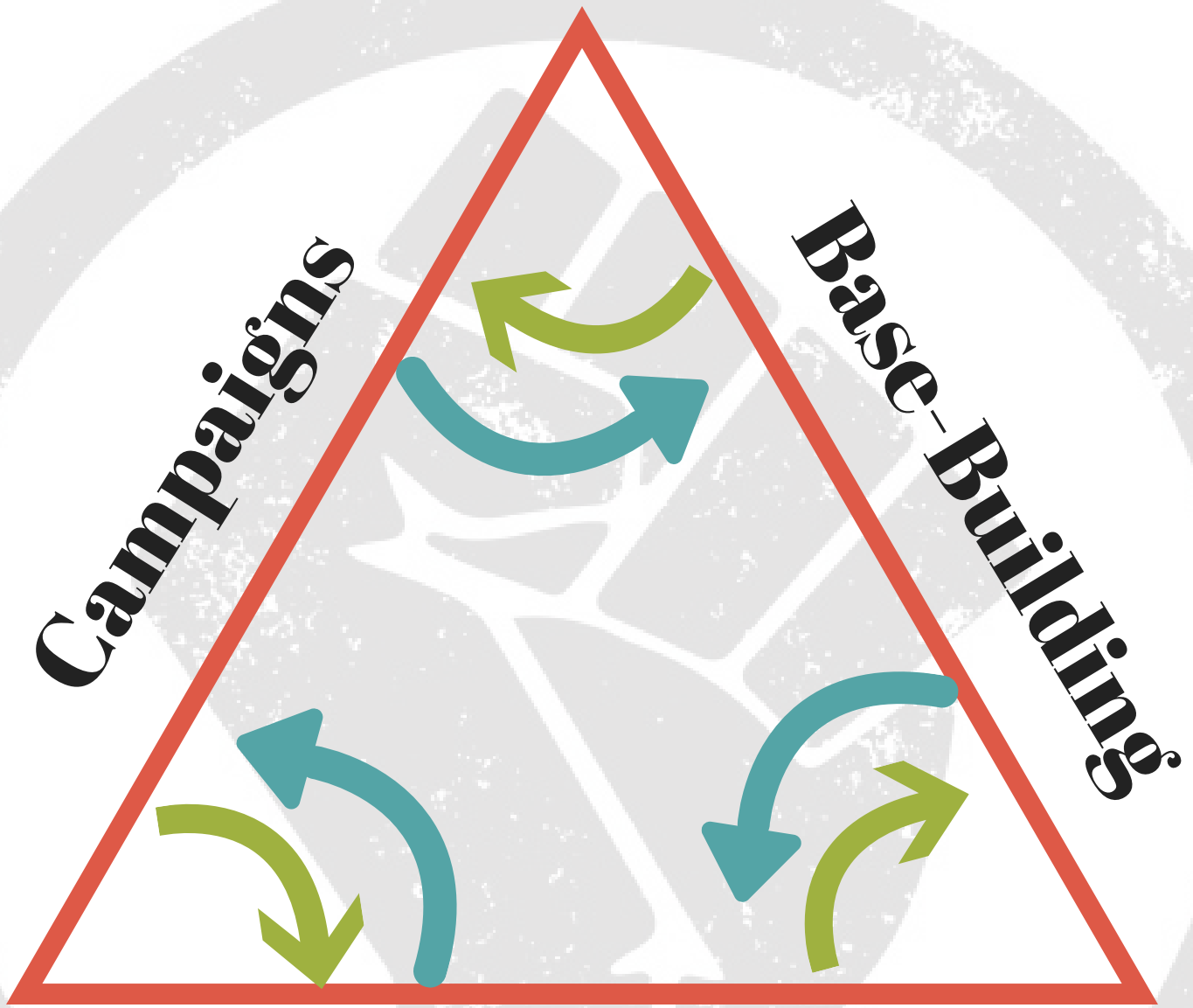


It's going to have to be us



We are the leaders

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



Our Narrative/ World View

It's Simple! We come together around the issues that matter to us, we hash out our differences, we sharpen our skills and strategies, we grow our power in numbers, we fight for what we want, and we don't stop until WE WIN!

DOWN HOME IN NUMBERS:

③ CHAPTERS

② MORE ON THE WAY

1100

MEMBERS

30K DOORS
KNOCKED



DOWN HOME NC PEOPLES' PLATFORM

Our members are building power in their communities by fighting for:

Good Jobs for Rural Working Families

We believe that every person has something to offer our society, and we want to ensure that everyone has access to jobs with good pay and benefits. Everyone should be able to care for and support their families and have a secure retirement. We believe working people have a right to organize in unions as well as equal respect and benefits at home and work.

Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures

We believe in a government that serves working people by assuring everyone has access to nutritious food, good homes, quality education, and clean air, land, and water. We believe these are human rights and are necessary for a good life.

Healthcare For All

All people deserve quality healthcare as a fundamental right guaranteed by our government. We want a healthcare system that prioritizes the health of our people and communities over the profits of pharmaceutical and insurance corporations. We need a healthcare system that guarantees care for all, at the time it is needed, regardless of where we live or who we are.

Stop Criminalizing the Poor

As a people, come from many walks of life and many experiences. We reject any attempt to divide working people; we see an attack on any of us as an attack on us all. We demand fair, human, and compassionate treatment for all people.

Real Democracy

Our government is supposed to be of, by, and for the people. Too often our voices have been denied, suppressed, and silenced. Governing power belongs in the hands of the people at every level of government. We support fair voter access, campaign finance reform, and non-partisan districting systems to fulfil the true ideals of democracy.

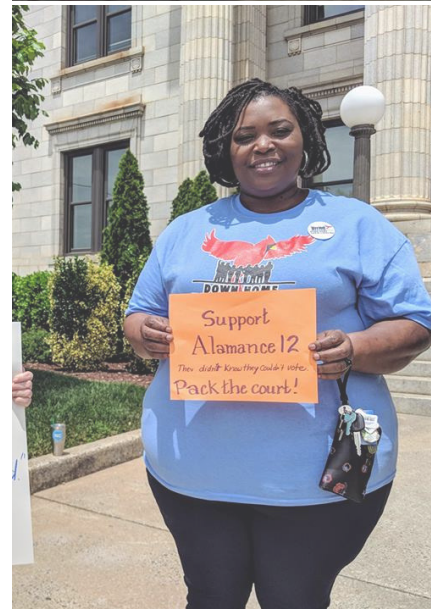
WHAT DID WE DO IN 2018?

- January 24: Down Home mobilizes 20 members to Duke Energy Rate Hike, where two members testify
- January 30: Down Home's rural women's delegation sends five women to the State of Our Union event in Washington D.C.
- February 5: Debbie Smith, member of Down Home, speaks at the Poor People's Campaign kickoff event in Raleigh
- February 27: Alamance Chapter mobilizes 8 members to Raleigh in protest of the Duke Energy Rate Hike hearing
- March 5: Haywood Chapter holds Poor People's Campaign Town Hall. We mobilized close to 150 people with 32 pledging to participate in civil disobedience during the 40 days of moral resistance
- March 8: Alamance Chapter organizes a forum in Alamance to end 287G. We mobilized close to 90 people for it and got the Sheriff to make his first public comments about the policy.
- March 26: Down Home NC releases report, "No One's Ever Asked Me Before," which detailed their findings from over 1300 door conversations.



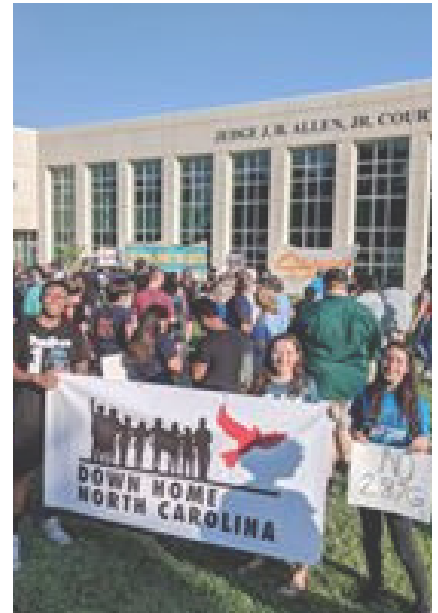
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- April 10: Jobs Working Group for Haywood Chapter testifies at Waynesville Town Meeting to advocate for a living wage for city workers. We mobilized 24 members to attend the hearing, where we testified to raise the living wage to \$12.39 for city workers. We win!
- April 14: Haywood Chapter trains 24 people on non violent direct action for the Poor People's campaign
- April 24: Two members, Kisha Pena and Debbie Smith, speak at the National Press Club in Washington, DC around the "Promise of a Progressive Populist Movement."
- May 7: Alamance Chapter mobilizes 60 to County Commissioners meeting to oppose 287 (g)
- May 12: Alamance Chapter mobilizes 50 to pack the courts to support the Alamance 12
- May 15: Haywood Chapter trains 15 members on Runaway Inequality training for Raising Wages NC campaign
- May 19: Haywood Chapter trains 15 people on Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action for Poor People's Campaign
- June 22: Down Home mobilizes 12 members to Raising Wages Lobby Day, member Jeremiah Jaynes, is a featured speaker at the press conference



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- June 1: Down Home NC turns one-year-old!
- June 3: Alamance Chapter mobilizes 200 people outside of Sheriff's office in Alamance to protest 287(g) along with Siembra NC and Mijente
- June 5: Start of two-week canvass to open our third chapter in Jackson County and expand membership in Alamance County
 - Total doors knocked: 3,168, Totals listening surveys completed: 614, Total members signed up: 201.
- June 10: Sends two members to McAllen, Texas to protest family separation at the border
- June 11: Haywood Chapter participates in Poor People's Campaign Day of Direct Action - We mobilized 16 members from Haywood County and 8 members participated in Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action , video of Sam Wilds arrest gains over 5,000 views on FB
- June 16: Alamance Chapter hosts Stop Pipeline Art Party and purchases billboard
- June 22: NC Utilities Commission denies Duke Energy Rate hike! We win!
- June 26: Marta and Debbie are keynote speakers at the General Assembly for Medicaid Expansion lobby day.



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- June 28: Hold first ever webinar called, A Multiracial Conversation on Immigration
- June 30: Haywood & Jackson Chapters mobilize to DC for Families Belong Together Rally. Haywood member Jeremiah Jaynes, was a featured speaker on the national stage. He shared his message in front of 35,000 people.
- June 30: Alamance Chapter rallies 100 locally for Families Belong Together
- July 12: Alamance Chapter holds ICE Rapid Response training with Siembra NC.
- August 2: Haywood Chapter's Ending Overdose working group opens syringe exchange. Training and ongoing support for the exchange is brought to us by our close partners, NC Harm Reduction Coalition. We distribute naloxone, fentanyl drug testing strips, condoms, safe disposal of needles, and a referral system for expanded treatment options.
- August 3-5: Down Home's First Ever Statewide Leadership Summit brought together 25 members across three chapters to deepen skills and build relationships.
- August 10: Alamance Chapter mobilizes to County Commissioners meeting to protest pipeline, 287 (g) and raise awareness around education bonds



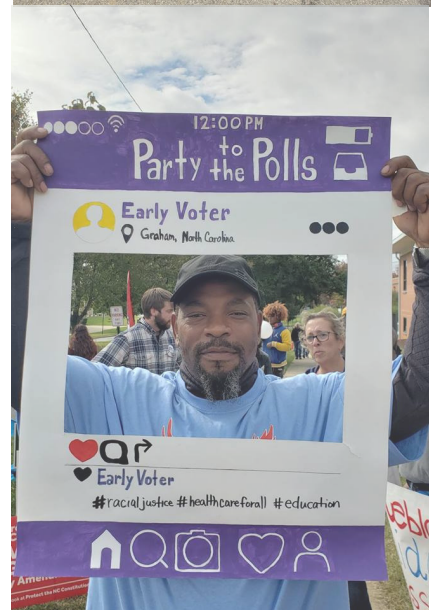
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- August 27: Down Home hosts webinar, “The Failed Drug War: A multiracial conversation” featuring members Derrick Holloway and Samuel Malone, as well as an ally with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition
- August 31: Haywood Chapter mobilizes for International Overdose Awareness Day. 65 people marched from downtown Waynesville to the courthouse to end stigma of drug use and call for public health responses to the overdose epidemic
- September 1: Haywood Chapter participates in local Labor Day event to push for raising wages & distributes “love letters” to workers with coalition partner Just Economics
- September 11: Alamance Chapter holds C3 candidate forum featuring State House candidate, Erica McAdoo and State House candidate, Elliott Lynch.
- September 13: Alamance County Commissioners pass resolution against pipeline. We win!
- September 14: Haywood Chapter distributes hurricane preparedness emergency boxes in response to Hurricane Florence. Within 24 hours notice, we mobilized community support for the drive (which included donated supplies, money and volunteers) and packed emergency preparedness boxes for 28 families.

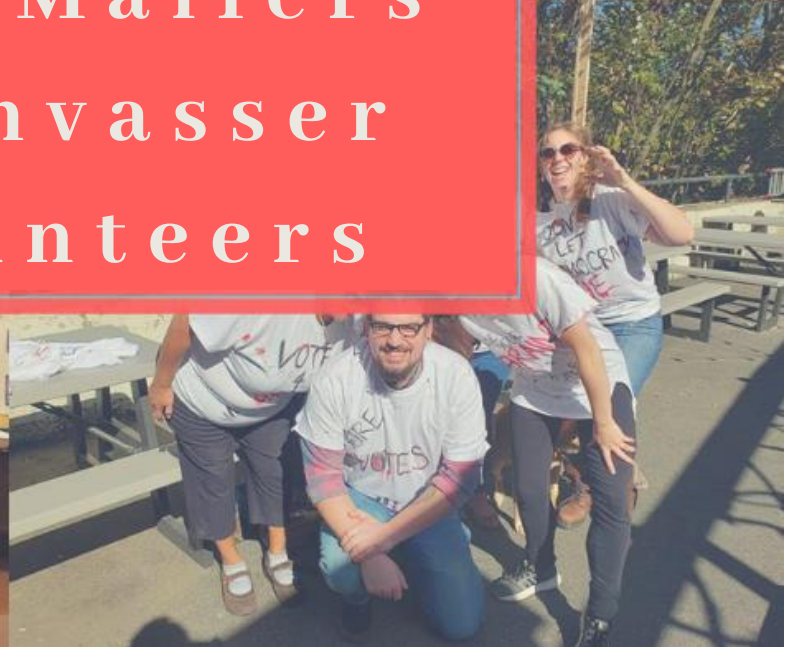


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- September 18: Alamance Chapter opens up distribution center in response to Hurricane Florence. We collected supplies for two weeks following the storm and organized two community dinner and inventory nights.
- September 20: Haywood Chapter mobilizes 10 members to table at the Recovery Rally
- September 21: Haywood Chapter holds C3 candidate forum Mobilizes 45 members to candidate forum that featured State House candidate, Rhonda Cole Schandavel, State House 119 candidate, Joe Sam Queen, and State House 118 incumbent, Michele Presnell
- October 1: Haywood Chapter trains 12 people on a presentation called, "Breaking Down Affordable Housing."
- October 9: Haywood Chapter hosts community forum with 14 people on Down Home syringe exchange
- October 27: Alamance throws a Party to the Polls with 50 people mobilized
- November 6th - Election day!
- November 19th – Down Home members and Siembra face down ACTBAC to oppose ICE jail in Alamance County



OUR ELECTORAL WORK



**WHAT WE DO IN 2019 IS
UP TO US...**



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