



MDB, Inc.

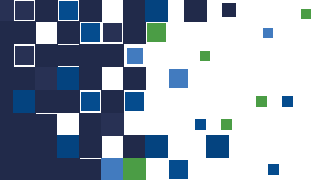
Doing Well by Doing Good

REGENESIS PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS AND LEVERAGING REPORT (2000-2020)

A National Model of Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization Success

MDB, Inc. and ReGenesis Community Development Corporation





Statement of Appreciation

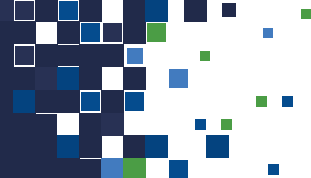
The authors of the ReGenesis Partnership Benefits and Leveraging Report express deep appreciation to Kat Taylor, Tom Steyer, the Tides Foundation, and the Marin Community Foundation for their tremendous support of this effort. Without their support, this 20-year retrospective of the ReGenesis Partnership would have not been possible. They encouraged us to document the history of what was endured by the Arkwright and Forest Park communities in Spartanburg, South Carolina, the benefits achieved due to the hard work of many partners, the large amount of funding leveraged, and the future plans for the ReGenesis Partnership. They wanted to hear about how the environmental justice achievements were accomplished, and how the community revitalization success was achieved. They encouraged us as we conducted stakeholder interviews, as we reviewed research documents and publications, and as we developed recommendations on the direction of the ReGenesis Partnership in the future.

Thank you for enabling this report to be written!

Harold Mitchell, ReGenesis

Timothy Fields, Jr., MDB, Inc.

Joy Lee Pearson, MDB, Inc.



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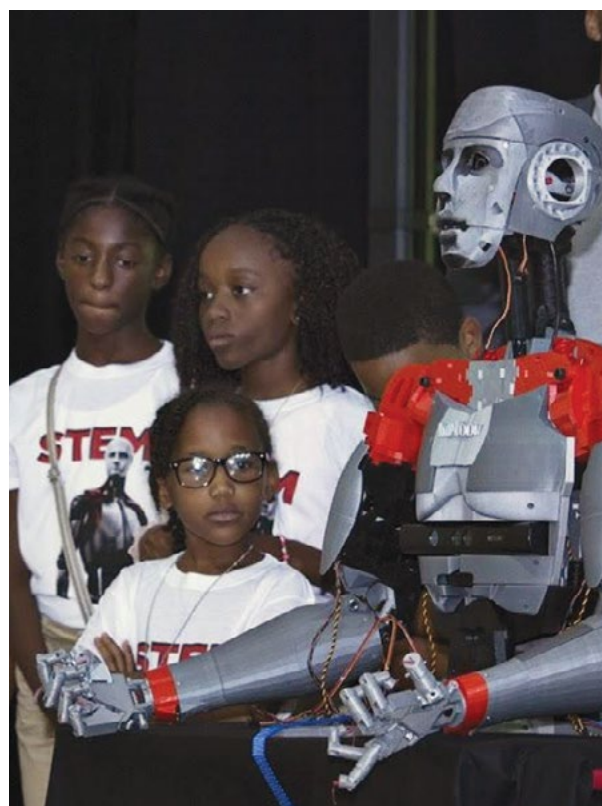
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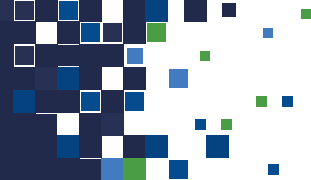
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Executive Summary

This report contains the story of the ReGenesis organization and its partners as they revitalized distressed frontline communities in Spartanburg, SC. After years of disenfranchisement and disinvestment since the 1970s, the communities located in the southside of Spartanburg, SC, in particular the Arkwright and Forest Park communities, were struggling to survive. In addition to the social and economic challenges that the communities faced, the residents of these communities were also suffering from environmental and health issues brought about by industrial sources, including a municipal landfill, an abandoned fertilizer plant, an active chemical manufacturing plant, and other contaminated sites; inadequate healthcare; poor housing; and other issues.

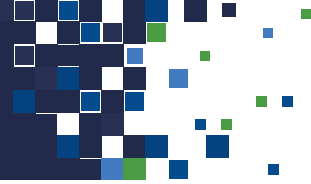
Founded in 1998, the principal objective of ReGenesis, a community-based non-profit organization, has been to execute a plan of cleanup, redevelopment, revitalization, and re-use for 500 acres adversely affected by pollutants from industry and other sources in the Arkwright and Forest Park communities of Spartanburg's Southside. ReGenesis, led by Harold Mitchell, a life-long community resident, has been successful in tackling public health and environmental health issues focused on environmental justice by addressing environmental, health, social, housing, and economic needs of the community.

Early in the ReGenesis project, partnerships were built between community residents, local governments, local industry, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, other Federal agencies, State government, and other entities and organizations. Extensive facilitation between residents and other partners built trust amongst all stakeholders, and frequent dialogue continues among primary partners.

The success of the project is attributable, in large part, to its focus on consensus-building among the partners, rather than litigation.

ReGenesis has been recognized for its success in leveraging redevelopment dollars. Clean up of two Superfund sites and six Brownfield sites set the stage for extensive redevelopment of blighted neighborhoods, reduced pollution, and improved public health. Trust built between community residents and Solvay, a local company, have resulted in employment opportunities and improved quality of life and safety for the community. New housing, a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center, a new community recreation center, and grants that address revitalization needs have resulted from partnership efforts. At this point, almost \$300 million in federal, state, local, private sector, and foundation EJ investments have been leveraged for the project to benefit the community.

ReGenesis has been recognized as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Collaborative Problem-Solving Model, and a national and international model of environmental justice success. This retrospective review of the ReGenesis Partnership and its success over the past 20 years will serve as an inspiration and useful guidance to other communities in the nation and around the world. It is important to recognize that the critical work of ReGenesis still continues.



Introduction

This ReGenesis Partnership Benefits and Leveraging Study was led by Harold Mitchell, ReGenesis Economic Development Corporation, and Timothy Fields, Jr., and Joy Lee Pearson, MDB, Inc.

They conducted a review of all literature, reports, media publications, presentations, and other documents prepared related to the ReGenesis Partnership. A list of applicable resource documents are provided in Appendix A.

The project team also conducted 31 stakeholder and partner interviews via Zoom with individuals who have been intrinsically involved in the ReGenesis Partnership over the past 20 years. A list of the persons interviewed is contained in Appendix B. A timeline of major ReGenesis Partnership events can be found in Appendix C.

Major Issues of Community Concern

In the 1990's, the Arkwright and Forest Park communities in the Southside of the City of Spartanburg, SC faced a number of significant issues:

- Proximity to two Superfund sites, six brownfield sites, and an operating chemical facility
- Concerns about environmental releases from facilities
- Concerns about abnormal/high disease incidents
- High levels of crime
- Lack of adequate transportation access
- Lack of trust between government, business, and the community
- Lack of adequate health care
- Lack of adequate housing for residents
- Lack of business development and jobs



The Arkwright and Forest Park communities were experiencing serious health problems and a disproportionate number of deaths. Due to the lack of zoning restrictions, the communities are in close proximity to a number of industrial sources, e.g., two Superfund sites, several brownfield sites, and an operating chemical facility. Other community concerns included environmental releases from facilities, health and safety, the need for another access road in case of an emergency, lack

of trust between government, business, and the community, lack of adequate health care, food insecurity, need for better housing for residents, and the need for more jobs.

In response to these concerns, Harold Mitchell founded ReGenesis Community Development Corporation (ReGenesis), a community-based non-profit organization, in 1998, that focuses on addressing the environmental health issues in the Arkwright and Forest Park communities. ReGenesis has focused on the assessment, cleanup, redevelopment and revitalization of these communities. In 2000, ReGenesis was selected as one of fifteen national demonstration projects by the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice. ReGenesis has been recognized in numerous other ways over the past 20 years.

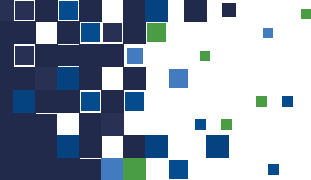
At the core of the ReGenesis project is a community-business-government partnership between ReGenesis, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 4 office, multiple other local, state, and federal government organizations, and Solvay USA, Inc. (previously known as Rhodia), a chemical manufacturing facility located in close community to the Arkwright fence line neighborhood. Timothy Fields was hired by Solvay to serve as the facilitator for this dialogue. For 20 years, this facilitated dialogue, which started in 2001 and continues to this day, has leveraged maximum federal, state, corporate, and local dollars to achieve the ultimate purpose of environmental justice in this primarily African American community. As a result, the community has realized its vision to address environmental justice issues and clean up polluted and blighted areas, as well as to provide underserved and overburdened residents access to health care, environmental (air and groundwater) monitoring, economic and educational opportunities, emergency management, and improved public safety.

Critical to the realization of the ReGenesis vision has been extensive support and commitment from all partners. ReGenesis has been the convener and the voice of the community, EPA Region 4 has provided resources and technical expertise for remediation and revitalization, and Solvay has partnered with its neighbors to create a more livable community in many ways. These "dialogue partners" continue to be committed to sustaining progress in the Arkwright and Forest Park communities. Because of this ongoing commitment, as evidenced by periodic meetings and regular conference calls, and continued revitalization of the area, ReGenesis has maintained its national reputation as a recognized model for achieving environmental justice in minority and low-income neighborhoods.



I first began a partnership with Harold Mitchell in 2009 when he joined the Clinton Global Initiative. His leadership of the ReGenesis organization allowed Harold to be a trusted advisor on environmental justice, community revitalization, and other major issues. As I have visited the ReGenesis project in Spartanburg, SC, over the years, I learned much from Harold about why he was so successful. My hope is that we will be able to emulate his outstanding record of achievement in many other communities.

—President William J. Clinton (1993-2001)



Background

Arkwright and Forest Park Communities

The Arkwright and Forest Park communities, with a combined population of about 5,000, have a population that is 96 percent African American. Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, the poverty rate in Arkwright and Forest Park was 25 percent, and 10 percent of the population was unemployed.

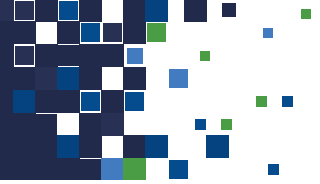
While urban renewal in the 1970s revitalized parts of downtown Spartanburg, these improvement efforts had not reached communities located in the southside of Spartanburg. In fact, these communities, Arkwright and Forest Park communities, are located in close proximity to two Superfund hazardous waste sites, the Arkwright Dump and the former International Minerals and Chemicals (IMC) Fertilizer Plant, an operating chemical plant, and six brownfield sites. The lack of zoning restrictions, economic and social disenfranchisement further decimated these communities.

The only road into the communities was frequently blocked by standing trains, isolating them from other areas of the city for hours. Residents were concerned about the lack of access out of the community, in particular if evacuation was needed during a state of emergency. The communities also lacked sidewalks, safe public transportation areas, public investment by local government, and suffered high crime rates and illegal drug activities, which led to dilapidated neighborhoods and vacant houses and rental properties.

In addition, many residents had health concerns which they suspected were related to the presence of the hazardous waste sites and chemical manufacturing plant. These suspicions created high levels of tension and mistrust between community members and their industrial neighbors. In addition to their health concerns, community residents also complained of noxious odors and waste pond overflow into residential areas. This was critical input for the ReGenesis community needs assessment. It allowed the discovery of the source of the public health and environmental problems in the community.

The ReGenesis project is a 21st century model on how to combine economic benefits and environmental mitigation that builds power, wealth and tangible health benefits for our most vulnerable communities. This community driven model should and could be replicated across our country in both rural and urban settings. The ReGenesis project provides an excellent blueprint that the Biden Administration could utilize in its critical work on environmental injustice, infrastructure and climate economy opportunities.

—Mustafa Santiago Ali, EPA Headquarters (retired)/
National Wildlife Federation



Lack of Zoning Restrictions

After years of disinvestment, the Arkwright and Forest Park neighborhoods faced social, economic, financial, and health challenges. Economic revitalization initiatives that were improving the downtown areas of Spartanburg had not reached these communities. The Arkwright and Forest Park communities, located less than 2 miles from the city center, were established around textile mills and industrial facilities, many of which have been closed. In this community, residential neighborhoods and industry exist side by side due to the lack of zoning restrictions or land use controls in the 1970s.

The IMC Fertilizer Plant, opened in 1910 and operated by IMC on a 47-acre site, was operational until 1986 and was where many of the community's residents worked. In 1987 the plant was closed and acquired by a company that used it to store textile machinery. Although residents of the communities noticed the dusty haze covering the neighborhood and the pervasive odors of sulfur and ammonia, when the plant was operational, no one in the community thought that the dust and the fumes and the liquids being poured from the plant into the local streams and down gullies might be a problem. And later, no one thought much about the children playing in the abandoned plant, their footprints all over the dusty floors and up and down the abandoned piles of chemicals used in the making of fertilizer.



Furthermore, the Arkwright Dump, a 30-acre solid waste landfill, was opened in 1954 by the city. The dump was located within 20 yards of more than 200 community residents. In 1972, the dump closed and was covered with a thin layer of topsoil and sold to a private citizen in 1976. The site had sat unused since its closure, but medical, municipal, and automotive waste had emerged over the years as the topsoil eroded away, resulting in an unsightly debris field. Again, few regulations existed to preclude the dumping of untreated biological and environmental hazards when the dump was operational. Moreover, regulations did not exist to prevent the siting of landfills and potentially hazardous industries within residential communities.

Health Issues Discovered

In 1996, Harold Mitchell began experiencing various health symptoms over a period of nine months that included constant nausea, abdominal pain and tenderness, back pain, and passing blood. Despite multiple visits to the doctor and medical tests, a diagnosis was never confirmed. Soon after his symptoms started to subside, his father, Harold Mitchell, Sr., began experiencing some of the same symptoms. After the same series of tests, this time the diagnosis was lymphoma. About six months later, the senior Mr. Mitchell died. He was 59 years old.

During his own illness and his father's illness, Harold Mitchell started asking questions about the old fertilizer plant and the dump. He researched information on the old fertilizer plant, and he gathered family medical records, including the death certificate of his infant sister who had died in the 1960s within a few hours of her birth. The family was never provided with a reasonable explanation of her death, so Harold Mitchell took the death certificate to a coroner



Arkwright landfill



Sulfur discovered at old IMC Plant

outside of Spartanburg. He was told that his sister had evidently died of sepsis, a systemic inflammatory response syndrome caused by severe infection. By this time, Harold Mitchell had become self-educated on environmental pollutants and chemical hazards. He had consulted a number of sources, including the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory Program. He knew which chemicals were being used at the fertilizer plant at the time of his sister's death and learned about the short-term and long-term effects of these chemicals on pregnant women. Things started connecting for him. He thought of his mother's sister, who lived in the home with the Mitchells in the 1960's. She, too, had a baby girl who died about a week after being born. The same thing happened to a family two doors down from the Mitchells.

Harold Mitchell also started asking his neighbors about their health and how long they had lived and worked in the community. The more he investigated, the more he learned about the health problems in both the Arkwright and neighboring Forest Park communities. Within a one-mile radius, 62 people had died of lung cancer or respiratory disease over a 22-month period. The elderly residents had never wondered about their breathing difficulties and constantly burning throats and eyes when the plant was operating. It was considered normal in Arkwright and Forest Park. Even to Harold Mitchell, growing up with a neon green pond in his backyard, a few feet from a fertilizer plant, was considered normal.

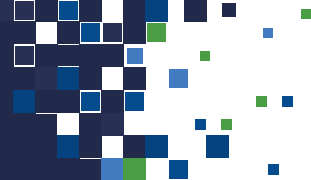
Harold Mitchell continued to conduct research, collect data, and contact public officials and environmental professionals. As early as 1991, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) reported contamination in IMC's soil and groundwater, as well as in nearby Fairforest Creek, another unnamed tributary, and several residential wells. Harold Mitchell traveled to various meetings and got to know other people with similar concerns. In 1997, he took his concerns to the EPA in Washington, D.C. He was directed to the EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta, GA, where Cynthia Peurifoy, Environmental Justice Coordinator, became concerned by the proximity of the IMC plant and the dump to the neighborhoods and about the lack of available information about the facilities.

The ReGenesis Project reminds me that one, we should never forget where we come from. Two, we should always remember whose shoulders we stand on. And three, we should always give back to others what's been given to us.

—Richard Moore, Co-coordinator of Los Jardines Institute, National Co-coordinator of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance, and Chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the U.S. EPA

We are very excited that this comprehensive study has been conducted. This long-awaited study provides us a glimpse of the overall impact revitalizing and redeveloping the Arkwright/Forest Park communities has had not only on those living in these communities, but on many local, state, and federal level stakeholders. Having staff who have worked with ReGenesis, the Arkwright/Forest Park communities and its citizens for over 20 years, we have seen first-hand the benefits of building relationships, forming partnerships, and collaborative problem-solving to achieve positive outcomes. We continue to be impressed by Harold Mitchell's vision and leadership, and are proud to support him and his community in their continued endeavors.

—Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control



Harold Mitchell convened the first formal meeting of Spartanburg community residents in 1997 to convey his concerns. More than 100 Arkwright and Forest Park residents attended, as did Spartanburg's Mayor. As residents shared similar stories of their health issues, including rare respiratory illnesses, cancer, and miscarriages and stillborn births, it became clear that the emissions and pollution from industrial sources were impacting the communities. Concern was also raised by Harold Mitchell regarding the need to educate and train volunteer fire fighters to fight chemical and environmental hazards during fires.



Family home located in front of the IMC Plant.

During this same timeframe, Harold Mitchell traveled to meetings of the EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and met with national environmental justice leaders and Federal agency officials to discuss EJ issues in his community, and lessons learned in other parts of the United States. ReGenesis also came to the attention of the Federal EJ Interagency Working Group.

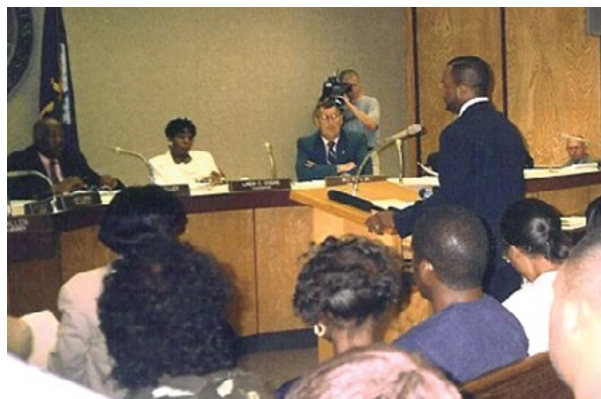
Health problems weren't the only thing plaguing the community. The area was blighted with condemned and boarded up properties that were being used by drug dealers and for other illegal activities. The neighborhood consisted of 1950s-era public and textile mill housing that was old and distressed. Economic development efforts were nonexistent, as the area had no retail stores or other businesses, including an adequate grocery store. There was a lack of green areas and parks for children to play or recreational activities. Those who could afford to do so had already moved away; those who could not afford to do so had to remain in place.

The ReGenesis Project conclusively proved that EJ situations will always render complex, multi-dimensional problems for the impacted communities. Hence solutions cannot be simple, unilateral, quick and easy. Nor should they be controlled by persons and organizations outside these communities. Remedies must be geared toward human and environmental restitution to the greatest possible extent. Consequently, structures like the one I developed in conjunction with Harold Mitchell for the revitalization of the area consisting of several, interconnected mission-driven nonprofit organizations, work best.

—Glenice Pearson, Author of *Secretary of SC State's Nonprofits Manual*

Initial EPA Involvement

In 1997, shortly following Harold Mitchell's visit with Ms. Peurifoy, EPA representatives conducted the first site visit and assessment of the IMC plant and the Arkwright Dump. It was determined that there were no contaminants at the sites that posed immediate threats to the short-term health of residents or to the environment. However, the dilapidated state of the IMC plant, and the fact that it was located essentially within the neighborhood caused significant concern and prompted further investigation.



Harold Mitchell speaking before City Council

In 1998 and 1999, EPA conducted additional tests at the abandoned IMC plant and the Arkwright Dump. At IMC, chemicals associated with fertilizer manufacturing such as nitrate, sulfate, and phosphorus were detected in the soil, and fluoride was detected in the groundwater. Dioxins and heavy metal pollutants such as mercury, lead, and cadmium were found at the dump site. In all, 70 contaminants were found, and 30 of these were at three times the maximum contamination level. It was determined that several nearby private wells could present risks if people were using the water for cooking, drinking, or bathing. An alternate drinking water source was provided to the affected residents. These findings generated a great deal of concern, and as a result, both sites were designated by the EPA as Superfund alternative sites, that is, sites where abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous wastes pose current or future threats to human health or the environment. The EPA provided \$100,000 to ReGenesis for redevelopment planning at these sites with the County as the grant administrator for all financial funding. Also in 1998, the current owner of the IMC plant conducted an illegal demolition on the main facility building, which created significant clouds of particulates, including, dust, fertilizer, and asbestos. Harold Mitchell contacted the EPA Region 4 Environmental Justice Program to file an official complaint, and then reported the incident to the National Response Center (NRC). The NRC ensured that SC DHEC conducted sampling of the air and of construction debris the next day.

During the fall of 1998, EPA and ReGenesis collaborated to solicit information about waste disposal practices from former workers at both sites. Over 30 workers were interviewed and taped. Information helped EPA strategize its sampling investigations and helped civil investigators understand liability issues and site history for both sites.

Importance of ReGenesis Partnerships

Partnership with the State and City

In August 2000, Harold Mitchell convened a meeting with more than 100 stakeholders, including residents, representatives from federal agencies, city and county personnel, Spartanburg business and industry representatives, and faculty and administrators from local universities, to discuss the

issues the community identified as being important. The meeting started with loud and contentious deliberations, due to the long history of tense and distrustful relationships between residents and organizations represented. However, in the calming and articulate manner for which he had come to be known, Harold Mitchell refocused the discussion, exhorting everyone to calm down and maintain focus on the issues. He went on to explain the community's concerns in an organized manner that set the stage for each side to articulate its goals. As it turned out, the goals of residents were to eradicate crime, improve health and access to health care, and improve housing opportunities. Federal and local agencies wanted to help with all of these goals, and businesses, industries and universities were willing to do their part.

In order to work effectively toward the achievement of these goals, the EPA suggested that ReGenesis adopt a more formal organizational structure. Thus, the ReGenesis Environmental Justice Partnership was formalized with its primary members being ReGenesis, the City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg County and the Spartanburg Housing Authority. All were equally represented. Secondary members were EPA Region 4, SC DHEC, and the University of South Carolina (USC) Upstate. Other members included business, industry, and other federal, state, and local agencies, as well as various other stakeholders. While all stakeholders may have had their own interests in this partnership, the focus on the community's goals to address the environmental, crime, health care, and housing concerns and to revitalize the community kept the partnership strong.

In 2000, ReGenesis was also selected by the EPA to be one of the first 15 national demonstration projects of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. Such designation not only revealed ReGenesis's plight to the federal agencies, but also gave ReGenesis access to the resources of eleven federal agencies. For instance, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) worked with local community leaders and the police department to implement the Weed and Seed Program to "weed out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and 'seed' brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization."

As part of the community visioning process, in 2001, community residents participated in design charettes funded by a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant. The process gave residents a way to creatively brainstorm the type of community that the residents wanted for itself, which included



This is a long-term project – not only to deal with the environmental issues of specific sites, but to really take this to a much different level; to have a vision that's not just about fixing a brownfield site or an environmental problem, but rather, to open up an area to economic development, to create a new set of expectations for a community. So we're focused on rebuilding our neighborhoods, rebuilding our job market, getting people to really believe that this is a community into which they should invest jobs and dollars.

—Bill Barnet, Past Mayor of City of Spartanburg

visions for community parks, shopping, a parkway, entertainment venues, a job training center, and a technical center.

ReGenesis helped the City of Spartanburg to consider environmental justice principles as it conducts its work in the city by having a community-based organization out front. City investments included \$11 million to clean up the Arkwright Landfill (under EPA oversight); \$7 million to build the C.C. Woodson Community Center; \$2.5 million in weed and Seed funding (via DOJ); more than \$5 million in support of new senior citizen housing; more than \$100 million in new HOPE-VI funding (via U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)); and more than \$2 million invested in parks and recreation. There have been significant changes over the past 20 years in how the City addresses the needs of the community by incorporating the ReGenesis model into its operational procedures.

ReGenesis also enjoyed a good partnership with Spartanburg County over the years. Millions of dollars have been provided by the County to support Brownfield cleanups, employment training, and other priorities. ReGenesis paved the way for creating a relationship between the County and its residents. Through a Citizens Academy, residents learned about and participated in County services. The County has conducted public meetings to obtain input from its residents.

ReGenesis also developed an effective partnership with the SC DHEC. SC DHEC supported ReGenesis in the cleanup of Superfund and brownfield sites. This demonstrated that a community-based organization (ReGenesis) and a State can work together effectively on EJ matters. This collaboration led to the establishment of a State EJ Coordinator.



As former Director of Community and Economic Development for Spartanburg County, I was extremely fortunate to work with Mr. Mitchell, residents of the ReGenesis Project communities, and dozens of partners. Using cooperation, collaboration, planning and ingenuity, we discovered and implemented unique solutions. Our “model” may have occurred by happenstance, but it is one that can be replicated to address difficult community problems.

—Elena Rush, Texas Consultant (formerly with Spartanburg County)



Partnership with Industry

Also in 2001, another critical partner was brought to the table. Solvay USA Inc. is the current owner of a chemical manufacturing plant still operating in the Arkwright community. The relationship between Solvay and community residents was already tense, stemming from unfulfilled promises made by the first owners of the plant in the 1970s that turned plans for promised apartment buildings into storage facilities for the company. After a series of chemical plant owners and operators, the plant became part of Rhodia, Inc. in 1998. Until that time, communication between the plant and the community was minimal, furthering mistrust.

As the community visioning got underway, residents expressed the feeling that Solvay's continued existence in the community was incompatible with improvements envisioned in the design charrettes. Solvay was asked to move out of the community. However, after researching its options, Solvay concluded that continuing operations was consistent and compatible with the community's redevelopment plans and decided to stay. Jim Trafton, Solvay's new plant manager at the time, voiced a public commitment to support the community's redevelopment efforts by partnering with ReGenesis, EPA Region 4 and the plant's neighbors. The first few meetings between the community, Solvay, and EPA Region 4 were marked with distrust and frustration. While some community members called for legal actions, Harold Mitchell recognized that litigation was not going to help rebuild the community. He convinced community members that the best approach was to work in partnership with Solvay to find solutions to the issues the community faced.

As a result, ReGenesis, EPA, and Solvay together decided to enlist an independent and neutral facilitator, Tim Fields, to ensure that all stakeholders had an equal voice to all partners. Tim, a former Assistant Administrator at EPA, has served as the trusted facilitator for 20 years,

I am so proud of the ReGenesis community and all of its partners. I don't know if I've ever seen another community that has been this successful in making their vision a reality. I think so much of the many community members and leaders who started this journey with us. I know that they are dancing in heaven and proud of the changes that have taken place and the work that continues.

—Cynthia Peurifoy, EPA Region 4 (retired)

to help stakeholders at the table to settle disputes and develop common ground on which the parties could move forward in a constructive manner. Tim was known for his ability to understand the perspectives of the community, the industry, and EPA and be fair to all parties.

Solvay management is committed to be a “good neighbor” and has dedicated time and resources to work with the community to address their concerns. Through various listening sessions, and various visits from the corporate office to Spartanburg, Solvay was able to understand where the communities’ concerns were coming from. To address the community’s primary concern of safety, Solvay conducted assessments and monitoring to show that chemicals were not emitted from the site. Trees were also planted along the fenceline to provide better aesthetics in the community and to provide a degree of separation with the plant. Solvay also contributed to the HUD’s Hope VI grants to redevelop housing in the neighborhood. It also contributed services and resources to various other programs, such as Christmas in Action, where the company “adopts” a family and house in need of repairs and contributed to the renovation of that house, and its support of the Thanksgiving Program, that feeds over 5,000 people. Throughout the year, Solvay opens its facility doors to the community so that residents can visit the facility and learn more about facility operations and management. When families moved into the newly constructed houses, Solvay welcomed them with food baskets and a welcome letter with contact information. These actions and activities have gained the trust and respect of the community members, so much so that residents feel comfortable just picking up the phone and reaching out to the plant manager to ask questions or raise concerns. Over the years, Solvay has become a critical member of the partnership network who have helped ReGenesis achieve its agenda and goals.

To this day, ReGenesis, Solvay, and EPA Region 4 continue to meet at least monthly through a facilitated dialogue to oversee the ongoing vision and revitalization of the community, address outstanding issues, and foster open communication amongst all partners.



Harold Mitchell, Executive Director of ReGenesis, has worked diligently to bring people—neighbors, educators, government and industry—together in Spartanburg, South Carolina. By creating a common vision for revitalization, ReGenesis has successfully undertaken a long list of important projects which serve to strengthen ties and benefit the community. It has been a pleasure to partner with ReGenesis over the past 20 years. Importantly, our work with ReGenesis exemplifies Solvay’s core value of caring for others.

—Doug Schepp, Spartanburg Plant Manager, Solvay

ReGenesis as a National (and International) Model of EJ Success

In 2000-2003, the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice selected 30 communities in all 10 Federal regions as Interagency Demonstration Projects. One of these was the ReGenesis Project in Spartanburg, SC. The ReGenesis Project clearly became the most successful of these 30 projects, and is looked upon by many people as the national model for EJ success. It also became a national model of how community, public, and private partnerships can work.

ReGenesis's collaborative approach to identifying the communities' issues and concerns, engaging all involved stakeholders and partners, and together solving the challenges led it to become the prototype for EPA's Collaborative Problem-Solving Model. The Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) model is a systematic, community-based approach that helps underserved and overburdened communities address local environmental and/or public health issues in a collaborative manner with various stakeholders such as communities, industry, academic institutions, government, and others. To highlight ReGenesis's accomplishments and to encourage other communities in similar situations, EPA worked with ReGenesis to release a DVD on the ReGenesis collaborative problem-solving model in 2007.

A key component of EPA's former Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grant program was also based on ReGenesis' partnership with EPA and Solvay. CARE was a competitive grant program that offered an innovative way for a community to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in its local environment. In order for applicants to receive the grant, they must be able to work collaboratively with industries and businesses to revitalize the community.

Another EPA program modeled after the ReGenesis model was the EPA State EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant program (started in 2003). Harold Mitchell worked as a mentor (as requested by EPA) in training a number of the CARE, and State EJ CPS grantees.



South Korean (top) and South African (bottom) delegations visiting ReGenesis

The ReGenesis Project's success story was not contained solely in the United States. Over the past 20 years, it has attracted visitors from around the world. Visitors have included South Korean reporters, delegations from South Africa, and a research professor from Taiwan. All visitors were eager to learn how ReGenesis was able to effectively work collaboratively with all stakeholders and successfully rebuild a community that faced social, economic, and environmental injustices, and how to bring these best practices and lessons learned to adapt to their communities.

Major ReGenesis Benefits and Accomplishments

Since 1997, ReGenesis, under the leadership and perseverance of Harold Mitchell, has achieved significant benefits for the residents of the Arkwright and Forest Park communities in Spartanburg. The success of the ReGenesis Partnership could be attributed to the holistic approach he took to community-problem solving to ensure that all aspects of the communities, e.g., environmental, health, social, and economic, were considered as the process of revitalization occurred.

The ReGenesis Project adopted seven project goals:

- 1) Create a comprehensive redevelopment plan
- 2) Clean up contaminated sites
- 3) Provide for public safety, education, and life skills
- 4) Ensure public health
- 5) Improve transportation access
- 6) Create open space and trails
- 7) Develop affordable and energy-efficient housing

ReGenesis has spent around 20 years, almost a quarter of a person's life, correcting environmental injustice. All the inspiring projects accomplished by ReGenesis have encouraged people who are dedicated to brownfield revitalization around the world. May ReGenesis shine through the clouds and continue the journey of success in helping underserved communities in the coming decades.

—Professor Tsuey-Ping Lee, National Chung-Cheng University (Taiwan)

While most, if not all, of these goals have been met at a certain level, Harold Mitchell and ReGenesis partners continue to tirelessly work to go above and beyond to further improve their community. The following are the outcomes of the ReGenesis' tireless effort to invigorate the community.

Improving Health Outcomes



Dedication of the first ReGenesis Health Center

Prior to the establishment of the ReGenesis Partnership, the Arkwright and Forest Park communities had no health care facilities in the neighborhood. Not only did some residents lack insurance, many also had to travel far to seek health care, which was often challenged by the lack of safe public transportation and by the one access road out of the community. Harold Mitchell worked with the Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall EJ Clinic law students, and Consultant Lorie Kayler to write a grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) based on the environmental justice and social issues that impacted the community.

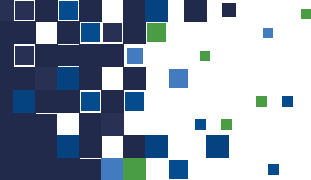


ReGenesis Health Center

In 2003, HHS granted ReGenesis a \$650,000 grant to open a small community health center, ReGenesis Health Care. While the health center was initially established as a temporary measure to increase the residents' access to health care, it became clear that it was an essential need for the community. In the first 90 days of operation, the center saw over 2,000 patients. As a result of its success, a new state of the art facility was provided by Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and qualified as a Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to bring permanent health care to the underserved people in the Arkwright, Forest Park, and surrounding communities. As a FQHC, the Center is community driven and owned, as it requires that 51% of the board is comprised of the residents that the Center serves.

As of 2020, the ReGenesis Health Care Center consists of ten health care, dental, and pharmacy satellite sites, and serves over 15,000 residents of Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties. It's commitment to the community and health is demonstrated in the success it has achieved, including:

- A doula program to provide continuous physical, emotional, and educational support to the laboring mother and family, before, during, and after childbirth. This program, called Birth Matters, is a doula network serving any pregnant woman. Those who are 20 years old and younger are served at no charge.
- A partnership with Merck Pharmaceuticals enables ReGenesis to offer free diabetes education to patients and to the community through twice monthly public events in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties.
- A grantee of the South Carolina Migrant Health Program, which has provided medical and interpretation services to farm-worker patients in an effort to improve the health status of the migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families through culturally and linguistically competent health care services. Seasonal health clinics operate from May through October each year.
- Outreach services and health screenings throughout the area by participating in health events and programs. The outreach program also works with local businesses to provide health screenings for employees.
- A medical assisted treatment program for opioid addiction and a pediatric program.
- Buses were purchased to transport patients to the Center and to bring healthcare to schools and nursing homes, to increase residents' access to healthcare.



Improving the Community Infrastructure

Environmental Clean Up

Following several environmental assessments, the Arkwright Dump site and the IMF fertilizer site were designated as Superfund sites and several other abandoned industrial sites and dumps (e.g., Bomar Avenue Dump, Arkwright Mill Store, North Street Dump, and Page Property) in the communities were designated as brownfield sites. These designations allowed ReGenesis to clean up these hazardous and contaminated sites and redevelop these properties for other use, including green space, mixed-income housing, shopping, recreation and an entertainment complex under the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund.

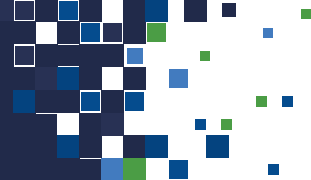
The cleanup activities at the IMC fertilizer site began in 2002, as contaminated soil was removed from the former pond along with fertilizer residuals and stockpiles. A baseline groundwater monitoring event was conducted in 2010, which found metals and organic compounds, fluoride, nitrate and sulfate in the groundwater and more contaminated soil were excavated and transported off-site. In 2014, EPA, SC DHEC, and the site's responsible parties worked with the community to identify the remedial action activities. In 2018, reconstruction began in January and concluded in March 2018. As a result, buffers were installed to prevent further underlying soil and groundwater contamination. As of 2020, the site is in the long-term remedial action phase of the project, and periodic groundwater sampling will take place.



Arkwright Mill site after cleanup

Eliminating Food Desert

The Arkwright and Forest Park communities were considered as “food deserts”, as it lacked adequate access to healthy food. This was complicated by the one access road that was frequently blocked by standing trains. A grocery store was built in the community as part of the revitalization process. This helped to address a serious food insecurity issue in the community. It helped to provide healthier food choices for community residents.



Improved Housing Developments

A key component of the ReGenesis community revitalization effort was the redevelopment of dilapidated housing in the Arkwright and Forest Park communities and an opportunity for homeownership for residents. In 2006, the HUD awarded the Spartanburg Housing Authority a \$20 million Hope VI grant to revitalize several Spartanburg neighborhoods, including Arkwright. The grant built 500 new housing units, most of which were sold to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. The balance of the grant targeted access to education, childcare, transportation, financial planning, and job training. Solvay contributed a total of \$50,000 in support of this revitalization effort.

Since the initial funding, there are now 662 rental housing units and 36 home ownership units in 11 new neighborhoods in the ReGenesis redevelopment footprint. A total of \$121.7 million in federal HOPE VI grant dollars have been leveraged to accomplish this. Specific ReGenesis accomplishments related to housing include:

- A mixed income community in Collins Park was developed with 100 rental units and 36 home ownership units. New development replaced dilapidated public housing through a \$20 million HOPE VI grant to the Spartanburg Housing Authority.
- A 48-unit complex for low-income seniors was completed in October 2009. Fully occupied, the complex is part of the Bomar Street dump redevelopment. The rehabilitation of this area replaced abandoned houses and eliminated drug activity and crime.
- Houses were rehabilitated or demolished and replaced in Fuller Acres through this project.

- Abandoned houses and other blighted structures were removed from the Forest Park neighborhood. Under redevelopment by the City, a total of 70 dilapidated housing units have been demolished and 50 new homes built to replace them by project completion.
- Abandoned housing units in Arkwright Mill Village were demolished. Several new homes were built for single family ownership. Five of these homes were built by students and their advisors at the R.D. Anderson Career Center of Spartanburg School District Five.
- A completed master plan for the Page Property, currently 100 acres of clean green space, includes an \$18 million mixed-income community with housing, retail establishments, entertainment, and a recreational complex.



ReGenesis brought about change to a neighborhood that had been severely impacted by environmental injustices. Change momentum was created by ReGenesis and the opportunity to collaborate with ReGenesis enhanced the efforts of both agencies (ReGenesis and the Spartanburg Housing Authority) to achieve more significant outcomes that would not have occurred otherwise. My time working with ReGenesis has been the most rewarding period in my career in housing.

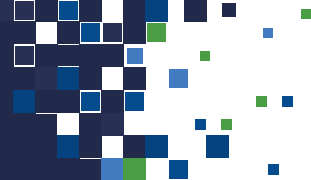
— Roy Johnson, Vancouver Housing Authority

The ReGenesis Community Development Corporation (previously known as Spartanburg Housing Authority and Upstate Housing Partnership), a certified South Carolina Community Development Corporation, provides assistance and guidance to residents who would like to own homes, as well as connect them to the financial, insurance, real estate, and other agents needed to buy a house. Expert staff work closely with each resident to educate potential homeowners and help them change financial habits and behavior to make their goals of homeownership tangible.

Creating a “Safe Haven” for Residents

Opened in 2009, the C.C. Woodson Community Center represents perhaps the largest quality of life investment the City of Spartanburg has ever made. Construction was made possible through leveraging \$7 million from the City of Spartanburg. The Center serves a critical role in the ongoing revitalization of the community by bringing recreation and other services and programs to residents and is the site of a “safe haven” from crime created through a Weed and Seed grant.





Building Safer Neighborhoods

Reducing Crime and Illegal Activities

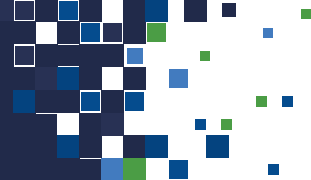
Since the Weed and Seed initiative was implemented, crime in the Southside has decreased by 90%. Traditional economic impact studies assess the benefit of investing in additional law enforcement infrastructure (personnel, equipment, training, etc.); however, ReGenesis actually provides economic benefit by reducing the need for additional law enforcement services. With the removal of abandoned houses and the redevelopment of marginalized areas, crime has decreased. Tangible costs associated with crime, and avoided by crime reduction, include lost productivity (perpetrator and victim), lost wages, medical expenses, property damage or loss, costs associated with legal adjudication and correctional systems, jury compensation awards, victim services, and many others. There are also numerous intangible costs, not the least of which are pain and suffering of victims and their families.

Preparing for Emergencies

One of the first joint community/ industry/ government efforts undertaken by Solvay in 2001 was a simulated emergency response training exercise at the plant involving three local fire departments, including 21 firefighters and emergency responders. As a follow up, in 2002, Solvay invited the Spartanburg County Office of Emergency Preparedness and the local fire department and emergency medical services to sponsor an emergency response field exercise in the community. Solvay provided support by distributing shelter-in-place information to residents door-to-door. In 2003 and 2004, even larger community emergency drills were held with additional first responder organizations involved. Since then, joint emergency response exercises, sponsored by local emergency responders, have been held periodically with residents. This means the community is better prepared for any incident that might occur in the community.

Other Safety Measures

Solvay has continued to enact a wide range of safety measures, many of which cannot be disclosed to the public because of the sensitive nature of the information. That said, Solvay has implemented other improvements such as the installation of elevated fencing and new fence-top wire, controlled access to the plant property and enforcement of the policy that all vehicles entering and exiting the property are subject to inspection, engagement of an active surveillance system, and thorough background checks on all persons hired at the facility. Furthermore, Solvay upgraded the facility wastewater pretreatment system, eliminating the need for off-site disposal of wastewater treatment by-products. An automatic shut-down system was also installed to prevent the release of airborne contaminants.



Improving Transportation Access

The Arkwright and Forest Park residents lacked adequate access to proper and safe transportation and access roads in and out of their community, especially those impacted by industrial traffic and railroad crossings. As part of the revitalization effort, several accomplishments to increase access to transportation include:

- Creation of an alternate roadway to the Sims Chapel Road, which was the main roadway into and out of the Fuller Acres community. It crosses railroad tracks at Solvay and was often blocked by long trains. Through the ReGenesis project, a \$2.2 million appropriation to the SC Department of Transportation funded study and construction for a new roadway.
- Expansion of Highway 295 to provide access to the Page property and connectivity with sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Improvement to the Matthew J. Perry Parkway to provide an alternative safe access to industries and improve safety for residents impacted by multiple railroad crossings.
- Improve train movement through the community. To address community concerns regarding train blockages on the access roads, especially in the case of a plant emergency, Solvay involved CSX in the facilitated dialogue with ReGenesis and EPA for a few weeks. As a result, CSX improved train movement through the community. Solvay also installed a new rail spur to increase safety in rail car deliveries.

The ReGenesis Project is an inspiring initiative that successfully threads the needle between environmental justice, urban planning, and equitable development.

As a researcher, I always appreciated the project because it clearly demonstrates how social equity can be addressed in a pragmatic manner.

—Carlton Eley, EPA (retired)/ Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (Dayton, OH)

Community Empowerment

Educating the Community

The various stakeholder meetings held by Harold Mitchell since 1999 not only provided a voice for the residents of the Arkwright and Forest Park communities to share their concerns, it also raised their awareness about the environmental injustices in their communities and how it impacted their standards of living. By participating in the various public stakeholder meetings hosted by Harold Mitchell, residents learned what environmental justice is, and how they can take matters into their own hands. They understood that they had a role to play in the revitalization of their community, and that it is achievable if they are actively involved. The ReGenesis project gave community residents a seat at the decision-making table, and allowed them to envision the type of community that they want to live in and help to realize their dreams.

Youth Leadership Institute

The Youth Leadership Institute, developed and led by Dr. Jennifer Parker, was held annually from 2006 – 2012. During this time, student participants were intentionally selected to construct a diverse group by race, gender and social economic status.

Funded through a competitive grant process in 2006 by the SC Legislature, USC Upstate and ReGenesis partnered to establish the USC Upstate Youth Leadership Summer Institute. Under the leadership of Dr. Jennifer Parker, the institute began as part of a Community Outreach Partnership Center Federal grant awarded to USC Upstate and ReGenesis by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This annual one-week residential program provided approximately 3,500 high school students from Spartanburg County schools (from 7 districts) and approximately 50 USC Upstate college students an opportunity to develop and build their social, academic, and leadership skills. The program goals focused on effective leadership skills and civic engagement. The students selected critical issues to explore from local, national and global perspectives. Local and national speakers offered workshops and led discussions on the issues. Global partners from South Africa and Germany also participated. The Institute was funded until 2012.

Job Training Initiatives

Through the Upstate Workforce Investment Board, the ReGenesis project was able to begin a series of job training initiatives to give residents an opportunity to gain sustainable employment and improve their livelihoods. Funded by a Hope VI grant, the first job training class consisted of 12 students, all residents from the community, who were trained on asbestos abatement and worked on a Hope VI housing revitalization project in 2006. A key component of this training was the life skills workshop, which provides students with personal and interpersonal skills required to deal with the challenges of everyday life and sustainable employment. All students were placed in jobs following the training, and some were able to get contract work on their own. Since then, there has been two other job training classes.

A partnership with the USC Upstate provided a variety of education and life skills opportunities through the Healthy Living Initiative. These included global classroom opportunities, digital storytelling, youth leadership, health education, environmental testing and screening, a market study of community needs, and other programs and initiatives.



The partnership that we had with ReGenesis allowed us to connect with the community most in need of opportunities to improve their lives through training and supportive services. Without this connection and the relationship with Mr. Harold Mitchell during that time, we probably would not have been successful in recruiting the individuals for the program.

—Ann Angermeier, Executive Director, Upstate Workforce Board

Job Creation

Solvay is committed to working closely with the community, including hiring them to work at its plant. With encouragement from Plant Manager Jim Trafton, community residents began applying for jobs at the plant and qualified workers from the community have been hired. Solvay is working with a local job training organization to better prepare candidates for employment. Starting in 2003 and as a direct result of the facilitated dialogue, Solvay sponsored a Summer Intern Program to employ two students living in the Arkwright community to provide them with hands-on work experience in a variety of jobs from manufacturing to shipping.

The remediation of brownfields and Superfund sites, and the redevelopment of these areas, provided training and job opportunities for residents, including many who were chronically under and unemployed. The ReGenesis Healthcare system also employs over 125 people from the communities it serves.

Project Benefits

The major benefits of the ReGenesis Partnership have included the following:

- Environmental cleanup
- Training and employment opportunities
- Improved quality of life and safety for the community
- New housing projects
- Federally qualified healthcare centers
- New community recreation center
- Crime prevention
- State EJ Legislation
- Improvements in noise and odor control
- New emergency preparedness procedures, including periodic joint emergency response exercises
- New access roads for the community
- Establishment of EPA's State EJ Cooperative Agreement Program

Awards and Accomplishments

Awards and Recognition

ReGenesis was the recipient of the 2009 National EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award for its role in addressing environmental health issues in the Arkwright and Forest Park communities, and working with more than 100 different partners, ranging from nonprofits, private sector, and government agencies, to raise public awareness and reverse the health impacts that the industrial toxic wastes have had on southside Spartanburg.



ReGenesis was also the recipient of the 2015 National Planning Excellence Award on Advancing Diversity & Social Change from the American Planning Association. The award was provided to Harold Mitchell for his commitment in “making the Arkwright and Forest Park neighborhoods within Spartanburg healthy and sustainable communities by advancing environmental justice, collaborative problem solving, and better neighborhood planning.” This was an important award as it raised awareness of the importance of community-driven efforts to redevelopment—communities must take an active role in the decision-making process when it comes to restoring and revitalizing their own neighborhoods.

New Legislation

In 2005, Harold Mitchell was elected as a Democratic member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from the 31st District. Harold Mitchell has had a large impact on the success of African American legislators throughout the nation. He provided leadership on EJ matters to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) and played a key role in passing key legislation for South Carolina. These include:

- SC Housing Commission.
- Local housing Trust Fund and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for Affordable Housing Laws, which promote new construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income households.
- Tax Increment Financing for Affordable Housing Laws to reallocate funds from property taxes to encourage sustainable investments.
- SC Renewable Energy Tax Credits for EPA National Priorities List sites designated as solar energy properties.
- Revision of the Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup programs liability protection to parties conducting response actions.



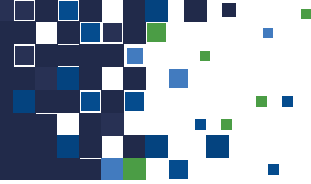
Harold Mitchell has proven to be a charismatic leader for environmental justice and brownfields revitalization. I observed this first hand when I visited the ReGenesis project area in Spartanburg during April 2019. I saw a wonderful health center, beautiful housing projects, an outstanding community center, and other examples of revitalization success that have been created over the years.

—Governor Jay Inslee, State of Washington



The passage of Mitchell’s Resolution was very important to the life and the existence of SC State University. It took true leadership to examine the problems, and quickly find the right answers to resolve the issues facing the university. I’m proud to say there is new life in Bulldog Nation now, because of Rep. Mitchell.

—James E. Clyburn, Congressman (D-SC 6th District)



- First Environmental Justice Law in South Carolina (H4746), which mandated that a government advisory committee be created to study and consider environmental justice practices in economic development and revitalization projects in South Carolina.
- Electronic Prescription Drugs Bill (H4028) that mandated South Carolina healthcare systems to authorize and establish the procedures for electronic prescription processing.
- Human Trafficking Bill (H4202), which added trafficking in persons to the list of Class A felonies.
- Recognition of Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom Day Bill.

Harold Mitchell served as a member of the SC Legislature until he retired in 2017.

Planned Future ReGenesis Projects



In continuing efforts to improve the community, several projects are planned in the near future. These include:

- A 2-megawatt solar farm that is calculated to provide cost-savings for over 25 years to community residents.
- An aquaponics facility that combines conventional aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as snails, fish, crayfish or prawns in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment. This system will also be used to grow organic produce in hopes to improve the dietary health of residents, especially those with diabetes.
- A Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) campus built on former Superfund and Brownfield sites to provide better opportunity for local students. The campus is designed to include a steel superstructure, solar panel array, green roof garden with rainwater storage tanks, wind farm and integrated site biofiltration systems.
- An energy efficient and solar-powered golf course.
- An EJ Center of Excellence to educate leaders, communities, and others about the ReGenesis model for success.

Harold Mitchell's Leadership

Needless to say, the success of the ReGenesis Project is largely attributed to the relentless leadership of Harold Mitchell. His collaborative and strategic approach has proven to achieve significantly more benefit to the community than litigation or other approaches would have achieved. Stakeholders agree that he has a charismatic presence that captured their attention and was able to present the issues in a manner that was not accusatory. He is very encouraging and understands how to make solutions happen.

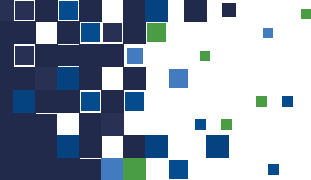
As a recognized leader in the EJ community, Harold Mitchell sets a great example of what leadership means in a collaborative problem-solving process. Underserved and overburdened communities who have had the honor to hear about the ReGenesis project through Harold Mitchell feel encouraged by its success stories and lessons learned, and move on to become change agents in their own communities.

Harold Mitchell's role as a State Representative, NEJAC member, and a leader in the community has also benefited its various ReGenesis partners by being able to make the right connections and build partnerships to improve the community. He has become a role model for the younger generation, many following in his footsteps to further the EJ agenda.



During my 2012 PhD academic analysis on what makes a successful community partnership, due to research time constraints, I missed a key part. I knew I needed to measure the almost unmeasurable value of a community leader who was vested in the success of the community residents and uplifting of the community's economic and environmental condition to the bitter end. A community leader who never gave up on the community. A community leader who personally invested repeatedly into the residents. A community leader who exhibited consistent trust and faith in the residents and what they could accomplish together. I always knew what that type of community leader should look like – it is and remains Harold Mitchell, Jr.

—Marva King, EPA Headquarters (retired)



Leveraged Funding by ReGenesis Partners

A major success of the ReGenesis project was the organization's ability to leverage funding for a number of partners that was used to clean up the environmental hazards and rebuild a healthy and sustainable community. The ReGenesis project started off with just a \$20,000 EPA Environmental Justice grant and was able to further this funding by leveraging almost \$300 million from federal, state, corporate, and local sources. While most of the funding is from federal sources, a large amount has also been leveraged from the State, local funds, corporate funds and non-profit organizations.

Although it is impossible to identify and quantify the complete amount of funding and resources that have been leveraged attributable to the ReGenesis project, it is clear that the dollar figure for leveraged funding is almost \$300 million over the past 20 years. ReGenesis has received tremendous benefits from the numerous partners who support the ReGenesis vision. The partners include members of the Federal government, State government, local government, private sector, academia, and foundations. Many ReGenesis EJ issues would not have been able to be resolved without the support of these partners.

Federal government partners have included EPA; HHS HRSA; HUD, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL); U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); DOJ; and DOE. State government organization partners have included SC DHEC, SC Housing Trust Fund; and local government partners have included Spartanburg County, Block Grants, City of Spartanburg Recreation funds, Spartanburg Housing Authority, Spartanburg Area Transportation Study, and city and county technical assistance grants. Academic partner contributions have included USC Upstate. Foundation partners have included the Ford Foundation, Spartanburg Regional Hospital System, Spartanburg County Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, Mary Black Foundation, Neighborhood America, the Tides Foundation, and the Marin Community Foundation. Private sector partner contributions have included those by Solvay USA, Inc., Mosaic/IMC, Johnson Development and Beau Welling Design.

Some of the major funding initiatives leveraged in support of ReGenesis include the following:

- HUD: \$121.7 million in Hope VI grants for housing and redevelopment; \$20 million in HOPE VI grant for community revitalization; \$40 million for economic impact of housing counseling services
- HHS: \$2.53 million for ReGenesis Community Health Care; \$40 million to support operation of health care centers
- EPA: \$2 million for Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup
- DOJ: \$1.85 million for Weed and Seed programs
- DOT: \$2.6 million for Spartanburg area transportation study and access road construction
- City of Spartanburg: \$11 million for Arkwright Landfill Cleanup

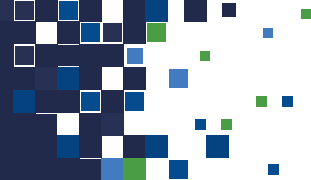
- Public / Private partnerships: \$12 million for cleanup and redevelopment
- State and local government: \$4 million for grant match and other initiatives
- Mosaic/IMC: \$6.5 million for site cleanup
- Ford Foundation: \$230,000 for organizational, operational, and administrative capacity building
- Solvay: \$60,000 for housing project; \$100,000 in improvements to wastewater treatment facility
- Mary Black Foundation: \$750,000 for the CC Woodson Recreation Center
- Johnson Foundation: \$54,000 for Community Health Center
- Spartanburg County Foundation: \$20,000 for Community Health Center Board Development and Training; \$25,000 for operational, organizational, and administrative capacity building
- NeighborWorks America 2005: \$25,000 for creation of website
- United way: \$5,000 for community health care
- Local companies, including Solvay: \$38,000 for Christmas in Action

Partner Contributed Resources and Funding

- HUD—New Affordable Housing
- EPA—Environmental Cleanup
- HHS—Community Health Centers
- DOT—Better Transportation Routes
- DOL—Job Training and Creation
- DOJ—Weed and Seed Law Enforcement Program
- Texas Southern University—Health Care Data Analysis
- Georgia Tech—Groundwater Analysis
- DOE—Charette’s Exercise, Energy Audits, Assessments of Existing Buildings
- DOC—Recreational Facility, Grocery Store Plaza
- University of South Carolina, Upstate—Research
- Solvay, Inc. —Job Creation and Community Revitalization
- The Bridge Tech—STEM School
- Beau Welling Design—Golf Course Initiatives
- Numerous other funding partners

It is important to also note that significant in-kind support and resources from the various partners were also provided to support the efforts of the project. Many partners, such as EPA Region 4 staff and SC DHEC staff, graciously offered endless times they were available if Harold Mitchell had any issues or concerns.

Moreover, the ReGenesis story must reflect the contributions of the living and the dead. While the interviews reflect the thoughts and input of current ReGenesis partners and stakeholders, the contributions of those who have passed on are also reflected in the report findings and recommendations. (See list of “ReGenesis Contributors—In Memoriam” in Appendix D).

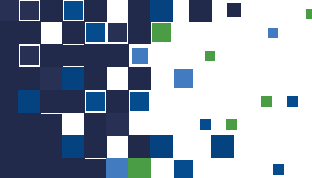


Replication of the ReGenesis Model

As mentioned earlier, while the ReGenesis project is unique in many ways, such as having Harold Mitchell as its leader, and a great team of community, government, private sector, foundation, and academic partners, the process and approach used to accomplish its achievements can be replicated by other vulnerable, underserved, and overburdened communities. That said, some elements that can be used to replicate the ReGenesis success include:

- A vulnerable, overburdened, or underserved community with significant EJ concerns and needs
- Community leadership whose goals are to revitalize its community
- Government officials committed to support a private-public-community partnership
- A trusted, neutral facilitator to bring the partners together in achieving mutual goals
- Partners (Federal, State, Local, Private Sector, Foundation, Academia) willing to make investments to address the needs of the community
- Partnerships with members of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice





Recommendations for the Future

As part of the preparation of this report, 31 stakeholders and partners, including current and former federal, state, and local officials, private sector employees, non-profit organizations, healthcare employees, housing authority staff, community members, and others were interviewed about their experience with ReGenesis. A list of stakeholders interviewed can be found in Appendix B. This section details some of the recommendations based these interviews, and input obtained from the resource documents noted in Appendix A.

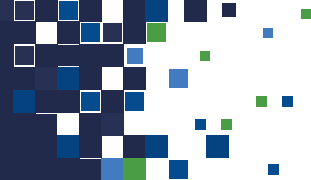
- **Resources should be provided to Harold Mitchell** which allow him to share the ReGenesis model and provide the technical assistance needed to support overburdened, underserved, and vulnerable communities. He is a great storyteller of his own success, and his charismatic personality and success have influenced his peers and the younger generation to follow in his footsteps. He can be a tremendous asset to other communities.
- **Members of the Federal EJ Interagency Working Group should provide a greater priority to addressing the EJ needs of at-risk communities.** For instance, the ReGenesis project was able to garner more attention from the Federal government as a demonstration project in 1999. Agencies were able to work together with the ReGenesis community to determine the community's needs and collaboratively work on the issues in a holistic manner. This technical assistance provided substantial benefits to ReGenesis and the community. This approach can work for other communities as well.
- **ReGenesis should continue its partnership with the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), the African American Mayors Association, the American Planning Association, and other organizations on EJ matters.** The ReGenesis project demonstrates the need for more partners and decision makers to be educated on EJ issues, and how to be more socially conscious as they make local decisions that can have a major impact on communities.
- **ReGenesis should create a National EJ Institute in Spartanburg, SC** to better educate its community, other communities and future partners across the United States on environmental justice issues, and to share its best practices and lessons learned with other communities who would like to emulate this model of community revitalization.
- **ReGenesis should expand its focus in the future on strengthening the economic base of its community.** It should create economic resilience by bringing in new businesses, developing a business development strategy, and obtaining financial resources to better support the community.
- **ReGenesis should create a consulting entity** (modeled after the ReGenesis organization) to provide technical support to other communities across the nation. Ideally, the consulting entity would be able to mentor communities and other stakeholders on the revitalization process, and provide as-needed consultation and technical assistance.

- **ReGenesis should create a nonprofit organizational structure in the future** which allows ReGenesis to more effectively address its revitalization, health care, housing, business development, research, and training priorities.
- **ReGenesis should recommit to the mission and the goals** which it established when the organization was first created more than 20 years ago. While much has been accomplished, there are more organizational improvements that need to be achieved in the future.
- **ReGenesis should reconstitute and expand its Advisory Board** in the future, especially to include more residents of the Arkwright and Forest Park communities. This will better assist ReGenesis in implementing its mission, vision, and goals.
- **ReGenesis should continue to complete its revitalization vision**, which was defined several years ago. This includes the following:
 - Construction of a solar farm as a source of solar power for the community;
 - Construction of an urban aquaponics facility as a source of healthy, fresh, and cost-effective protein and vegetables;
 - Creation of a Spartanburg Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) School;
 - Creation of community golf course initiatives; and
 - Establishment of a National EJ Institute in Spartanburg, SC.
- **A number of stakeholders have recommended that a report be written** on the outstanding work by ReGenesis on creating benefits for its community, its success in leveraging of resources, and its goals for the future. This report is designed to satisfy this recommendation.
- **A “how-to-guide” or “play book” should be prepared as guidance** to other communities and partners on how to emulate the ReGenesis model in the future. This tool can be used by communities to better understand how to approach EJ issues, work collaboratively with all stakeholders and partners, and leverage funding necessary to revitalize communities. That said, this tool needs to also consider cultural differences and sensitivity.
- **ReGenesis should develop a 5-Year Strategic Plan (2021-2025)** which contains its future mission, vision, priorities, and commitments for continued community revitalization.

Conclusion

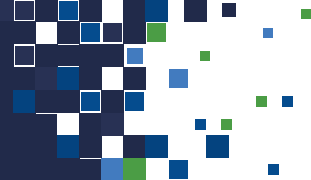
ReGenesis has demonstrated that community-driven problem solving and partnership building works, and proved that it could be effective with the right mix of partners, funding, and technical assistance. It stands as a model of how grassroots frontline communities can work in partnership with government, academia, business, and non-profit organizations in an effective manner. As a result, the community has realized its vision to not only clean up polluted and blighted areas, but also to provide vulnerable, underserved, and overburdened residents access to proper health care, food security, better housing, economic and educational opportunities, and improved public safety. Thus, the ReGenesis partnership has become recognized as a national model of environmental justice and community revitalization success.





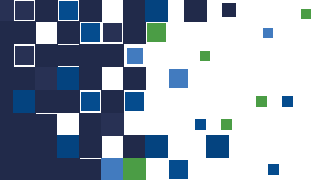
Appendix A: Major Resource Documents

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program.” Accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0> (November 14, 2020).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2006). “EPA’s EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Model.”
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “Summary of 2009 EJ Achievement Award Presented to the ReGenesis Project.”
- Brady, Kathleen (February 2014). “The ReGenesis Project: The benefits of collaborative problem-solving.”
- Fields, Jr., Timothy (October 2014). “A Dream Realigned: Community Driven Revitalization in Spartanburg, SC.”
- Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “Health Center Program Data.” Accessed at: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/data-reporting/program-data?type=AWARDEE#titleId> (December 11, 2020).
- Henschel, Davis, and Arkfeld, Devin (2015). The ReGenesis Project, Spartanburg, SC. A Report for the Just Transition Anthology. Available at: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=2ab871b317bb4b0b95ba510121026025>
- King, Marva (January 2019). “A Community Case Study to Replicate: Equity and Climate Justice” Health and Climate Solutions. Accessed at: <https://healthandclimatesolutions.org/2020/01/regenesis-community-revitalization/> (November 14, 2020).
- Lee, Tsuey-Ping (September 2016). “A Collaborative Model for Brownfield Revitalization: Learning from the ReGenesis Project.”
- MDB, Inc. (June 2015). “Moderating a Forum for the ReGenesis in South Carolina.”
- Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (January 2005). “Operation Weed and Seed.” Accessed at: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/205894.pdf> (November 14, 2020).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (June 2007). Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships. Documentary Film.



Appendix B. List of Interviewees

- Mustafa Ali, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (retired)/ National Wildlife Federation
- Ann Angemeier, Workforce Investments Job Training Initiative
- William Barnet, former Mayor, City of Spartanburg (2002-2010)
- Anita Beasley, ReGenesis Community Development Corporation
- Gilda Cobb-Hunter, National Black Caucus of State Legislators
- Cookie Dean, ReGenesis Community Development Corporation
- Carlton Eley, EPA (retired)/ Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (Dayton, OH)
- Shaunte Evans, Spartanburg Housing Authority
- Cedrick Herbert, ReGenesis Community Development Corporation
- Brian Holtzclaw, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
- Marlon Hunter, ReGenesis Health Care
- Roy Johnson, State of Washington Housing Authority
- Mitch Kennedy, City of Spartanburg
- Marva King, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (retired)
- Charles Lee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters
- Tsuey-Ping Lee, National Chung-Cheng University
- Richard Moore, Los Jardines Institute/ EPA National EJ Advisory Council
- Jennifer Parker, University of South Carolina- Upstate
- Glenice Pearson, Author of Secretary of SC State's Nonprofits Manual
- Cynthia Peurifoy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 (retired)
- Quentin Pair, U.S. Department of Justice (retired)
- Robert Reeder, City of Spartanburg Former Councilman
- Wila Reeder, Forest Park Community (former ReGenesis Healthcare Board Member)
- Myra Reece, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Kathy Rivers, Spartanburg County
- Michelle Roberts, Environmental Justice Health Alliance
- Elena Rush, Texas Consultant (formerly with Spartanburg County)
- Karen Sprayberry, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Kate Stanley, Solvay USA, Inc.
- Rod Tullis, ReGenesis
- Lathran Woodward, SC Primary Care Association



Appendix C: Major ReGenesis Partnership Timeline

1998

- ReGenesis Community Development Corporation (ReGenesis) founded by Harold Mitchell.

2000

- EPA awarded to ReGenesis a \$20,000 EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grant.
- ReGenesis was designated as a Federal Interagency Working Group on EJ Interagency Demonstration Project.

2001

- ReGenesis Environmental Justice Dialogue was formed (ReGenesis, Solvay, and EPA).

2002

- Harold Mitchell was selected to be a member of the EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

2003

- ReGenesis Health Care was established.
- Harold Mitchell was selected for EPA's Citizen's Excellence in Community Involvement Award.

2005

- Harold Mitchell was elected to SC House of Representatives.
- ReGenesis entered into Memorandum of Understanding with Spartanburg County, City of Spartanburg, and the Spartanburg Housing Authority.

2007

- Harold Mitchell testified at a hearing conducted by the U.S. Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee on Environmental Justice.

2008

- Harold Mitchell led the efforts in SC Legislature to enact its first Environmental Justice Law.

2009

- ReGenesis recognized with National EPA EJ Achievement Award.

2013

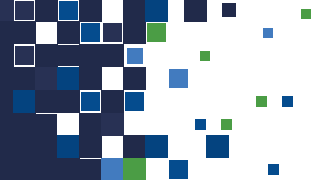
- Harold Mitchell was elected as Chairman of SC Legislative Black Caucus.

2015

- Harold Mitchell recognized with the American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Award.
- Harold Mitchell selected as Vice Chairman of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

2020

- Harold Mitchell was selected as a member of the National Brownfield Coalition Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the Environmental Justice and Public Health Subcommittee.

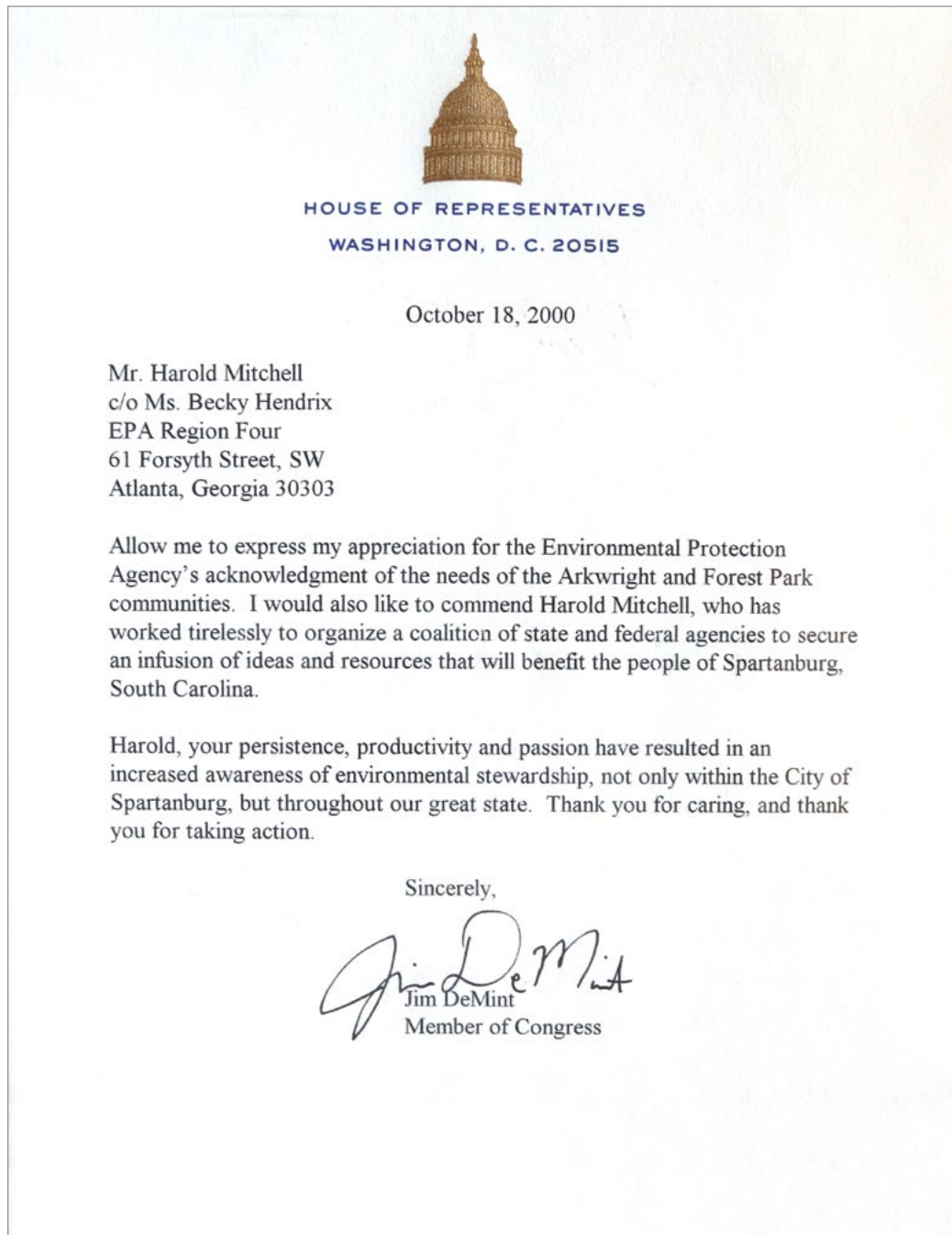


Appendix D. ReGenesis Contributors—In Memoriam

- Lewis Pilgrim, former ReGenesis CDC Board Chair
- Charles Hagler, former ReGenesis CDC Board Chair
- Herbert Dubious
- Betty Garrett
- Richard Gibbs, former ReGenesis CDC Board member
- Lila Philson, former ReGenesis CDC Board member
- Grover Hankins
- Fred McDowell, former ReGenesis CDC Board member
- George Means, former ReGenesis CDC Board member
- Jackie Gilmore, former ReGenesis Health Center Board member
- Irma Ramos, former ReGenesis Health Center Board member
- Dr. Freda Wilson, first Health Center CEO
- Dr. George Newby, former Health Center CEO
- Jerry King, former ReGenesis Board member
- Dr. Joyce Miller, former ReGenesis Health Center Board member
- U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings, major supporter of the ReGenesis Project
- Dewey Tullis, former ReGenesis Health Center Board member
- Mary Austin, former ReGenesis CDC Board member
- Connie Tucker
- Rep. Joe Neal
- Reggie Waters
- Wade Morrow, former ReGenesis CDC Board Chair
- Calvin Webb

And all of the Friends and Family in the Arkwright & Forest Park Communities who stood, supported, and fought for change!!!

Appendix E. Letters of Support for Harold Mitchell and ReGenesis



Barack Obama

July 26, 2007

The Honorable Harold Mitchell
South Carolina House of Representatives
P.O. Box 3046
Spartanburg, SC 29302

Dear Harold,

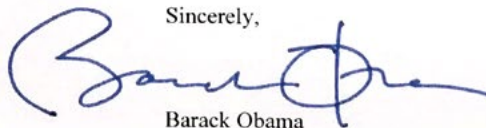
I just heard that, since our meeting in Spartanburg last month, your work on environmental justice has been featured in a documentary for the Environmental Protection Agency. I'm proud to have your support, and this is just a quick note to congratulate you on that well-deserved honor. The more I hear about your work, the more impressed I am with your lifetime of service to your community and the Palmetto State.

You have had a profound effect, locally and statewide, by bringing the ethic and mentality of the community activist into the state capital. It was challenging for me to create change as a young organizer on Chicago's South Side, to make the transition to the state legislature, and then to move that body to address the problems of some of the most downtrodden parts of my state. I know that Arkwright and the south side of Spartanburg face similar challenges, such as poverty, crime, environmental hazards and a lack of health care. You have risen to these challenges, bringing in over \$150 million for environmental justice through the ReGenesis Project, and breathing new life into land decimated by mistreatment and neglect – but that is just one facet of your work.

By creating a movement for environmental justice, leading the struggle to create affordable housing, and fighting injustice, you are creating the kind of change in South Carolina that I am working to create nationwide. You have inspired and uplifted forgotten communities, and shown the people of your district that by working together, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things.

Too often in these cynical times, we forget that we all have the power to create a better world. You have not only remembered that truth but also confirmed it anew. I am pleased to have you as a supporter, but I am honored to call you a friend. Congratulations again on your honor – I look forward to seeing you again and hearing more about your work.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



Obama for America • PO Box 8210 • Chicago, IL 60680

Paid for by Obama for America

STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
UNITED STATES SENATE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4001

May 17, 2001

Mr. Harold Mitchell
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I would greatly appreciate it if you would have the following message read at an appropriate time during this event:

Dear Friends:

I regret that my schedule does not permit me to join you for the annual Building a Livable Community Forum. However, I would like to take this opportunity to extend warm greetings to all of you in attendance.

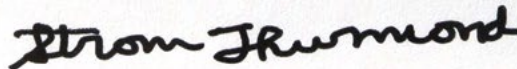
Today's forum facilitates the building of community-based partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies. The establishment of these alliances is extremely important because they enable the creation of a strong foundation needed to address the environmental and economic issues faced by many minority and low-income communities. The cooperation among community stakeholders and federal, state, and local government representatives makes it possible to revitalize distressed neighborhoods, and create a bright future for the residents of these less fortunate communities. I commend you for your efforts to better our communities.

Also, congratulations to the Re-Genesis Community Development Corporation on being recognized as a model community. I applaud Re-Genesis, along with Mr. Harold Mitchell and Mayor James Talley, for the praiseworthy contributions they have made to the Spartanburg area. They have done a fine job, and may take great pride in their efforts and their success.

I would like to thank the Federal Interagency Work Group and the International City/County Management Association for making this forum a reality. As always, please do not hesitate to call upon me if I may ever be of assistance to any of you as your United States Senator.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



Strom Thurmond

ST/th

JAMES E. CLYBURN
8TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
CHAIR

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
TASK FORCE
CO-CHAIR



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4006

March 3, 2000

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPORTATION

www.house.gov/clymburn/
E-mail: jclymburn@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Albert Gore
Vice President of the U. S.
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing to strongly endorse an invitation you have received to speak in my home State of South Carolina at a ReGenesis, Inc. gathering in Spartanburg. I understand they are willing to schedule the event based on your availability in the state, and expect to draw a crowd in excess of 2,000 people.

ReGenesis, Inc. is one of the most outspoken grassroots organizations in South Carolina. They have enthusiastically taken up your call for bettering their community through your "Liveable Communities" initiative. I believe they are a role model for what you envisioned with your exciting new initiative. ReGenesis, Inc. is also working closely with several federal agencies for grant monies and support from other initiatives. Their work will be showcased by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) in May of this year when a delegation from South Africa visits the United States.

I think you will agree with me that the ReGenesis, Inc. community has been met face-on by environmental justice violations. I am proud to have this organization in South Carolina, and I know they would benefit greatly from your presence as they work to unite in one front their federal, state and local representatives, financial institutions, developers, and hundreds of volunteers who live and work around their community.

While I know there are tremendous demands on your time, I hope your busy schedule will permit you to be a part of this worthy and important event. And again, they are very willing and flexible to work with your schedule during this very busy time of your public life. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Lindy Birch of my staff at (202) 225-3315. Thank you for your consideration.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

James E. Clyburn
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

JEC:lb
Enclosure

319 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4006
(202) 225-3315
(202) 225-2313 FAX

1703 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 799-1100
(803) 799-9060 FAX

181 EAST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SC 29506
(843) 662-1212
(843) 662-8474 FAX

2106 MT. PLEASANT STREET
CHARLESTON, SC 29405
(843) 965-5578
(843) 965-5581 FAX

401 LONGSTREET
KINGSTREE, SC 29556
(843) 354-7484
(843) 354-3004 FAX

437 AMELIA STREET
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115
(803) 533-1000
1ST & 3RD MONDAYS

21 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUMTER, SC 29150
(803) 773-3371, EXT. 271
2ND & 4TH MONDAYS

JAMES E. CLYBURN
8TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
CHAIR

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
TASK FORCE
CO-CHAIR



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4006
October 4, 2000

COMMITTEE
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPORTATION

www.house.gov/clyburn/
E-mail: jclyburn@mail.house.gov

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to support the invitation to help celebrate the announcement of the progress that is being made on one of the Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects extended to you by Mr. Harold Mitchell, Chair of ReGenesis, Inc. in Spartanburg, S.C. The event is scheduled to be held on October 16, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. at the International Minerals and Chemicals site. ReGenesis is a grassroots, community-based organization that is setting a standard for international economic redevelopment. I, as a representative of South Carolina, am proud to support this community's efforts to revitalize their neighborhood and rise above the reputation that has been placed upon them.

Residents of South Carolina are aware of your commitment to the environment. I, along with several of my friends and Colleagues in South Carolina, have made the same commitment. I am positive that you are as excited as I about the incredible progress that ReGenesis, Inc. has made in turning your Livable Communities Initiative into a reality.

I am aware of the constant demands on your time, but I urge you to support this community in their efforts to reinvigorate their community by accepting their invitation to this celebration. If there are any questions, please have your staff contact Lindy Birch in my office at (202) 225-3315, or Mr. Mitchell in Spartanburg at (864) 542-8420.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

James E. Clyburn
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

JEC:lb:kdw

319 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4006
(202) 225-3315
(202) 225-2313 FAX

1703 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 799-1100
(803) 799-9060 FAX

181 EAST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SC 29506
(843) 662-1212
(843) 662-8474 FAX

2106 Mt. PLEASANT STREET
CHARLESTON, SC 29405
(843) 965-5578
(843) 965-5581 FAX

401 LONGSTREET
KINGSTREE, SC 29558
(843) 354-7484
(843) 354-3004 FAX

437 AMELIA STREET
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115
(803) 533-1000
1st & 3rd MUNDAYS

21 NORTH MAIN STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29169
(803) 773-3371, EXT. 271
2ND & 4TH MUNDAYS

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NEW YORK



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-3204

August 1, 2007

The Honorable Harold Mitchell
Executive Director
The Office of the ReGenesis Project
Economic Development Organization
Post Office Box 3046
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306

Dear Representative Mitchell:

I would like to thank you for testifying at the July 25th oversight hearing on the environmental justice programs of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The work you have done with ReGenesis is a model for other communities. With your help, I hope that we can work to ensure that local organizations have the tools they need to work with the EPA and other federal agencies to create change.

Again, thank you for sharing your expertise with the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund and Environmental Health, and thank you for all your work on helping to secure environmental justice both in New York and across the nation. I look forward to seeing you at the Region 2 EPA meeting later this year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton".

Hillary Rodham Clinton

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS
SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICES:

1835 ASSEMBLY STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
803-795-5731

103 FEDERAL BUILDING
SPARTANBURG, SC 29301
864-585-3702

126 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREENVILLE, SC 29603
864-233-5366

112 CUSTOM HOUSE
200 EAST BAY STREET
CHARLESTON, SC 29401
803-727-4525

United States Senate

125 RUSSELL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4002
202-224-6121

COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION: RANKING
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND
THE JUDICIARY: RANKING
DEFENSE
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
INTERIOR
BUDGET
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

May 19, 2000

Mr. Harold Mitchell
505 North Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I regret that a prior commitment prevents me from joining you in celebrating the ongoing work to redevelop the Arkwright and Forest Park communities. The ReGenesis project is a shining example of how citizens can mobilize and bring about change in their communities. As the visit from the South African delegation indicates, this project serves as a model not only for communities throughout our nation but throughout the world that face environmental and economic barriers to success. I commend the hard work many of you have done to help transform these once at-risk communities into vital and livable ones for generations to come.

Once again, congratulations on your many accomplishments thus far and best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Ernest F. Hollings
Ernest F. Hollings

EFH/jf

From: "Ali, Mustafa" <Ali.Mustafa@epa.gov>
Date: July 14, 2015 at 9:23:24 AM EDT
To: Assistant Administrators <Assistant_Administrators@epa.gov>, Regional Administrators <Regional_Administrators@epa.gov>, DRA <DRA@epa.gov>, DAA <DAA@epa.gov>
Cc: EJ Coordinators <EJ_Coordinators@epa.gov>
Subject: Note from POTUS - Acknowledgement of EPA Environmental Justice Efforts

All,

I wanted to share this note we received from President Obama thanking us for our environmental justice efforts. Our hard work and progress to protect those most vulnerable to pollution is being acknowledged all the way at the top. It's not just one team that's responsible, it's an agency-wide effort. Please take a moment to read this and share with your staff. I hope this note will encourage colleagues to press ahead with this important work, especially as we gear up to finalize and implement the EJ 2020 Action Agenda.

"Gina - Thank you for your leadership protecting our most vulnerable and underserved communities. We need to keep doing all we can to make sure these communities don't bear the brunt of the nation's pollution, and to make sure their voices are heard when we make decisions. EPA's environmental justice effort is a big part of our work towards greater justice and equality. Reverend Pinckney was such a visionary minister and public servant. It's gratifying to know that Rep. Mitchell will continue to look for new ways to build on their work together."

Many Blessings

Mustafa Ali

Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice
 Office of the Administrator
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ali.mustafa@epa.gov
 Room 2226 D WJCS
 202-564-2606 (O)
 202-306-8285 (C)