

**Vicki B. Stocking**

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**December 2024**

Dear friends,

Thanks for tuning in for our final update of 2024. We hope you're keeping warm and enjoying some rest as the days get darker and the winter chill sets in. What winter festivities are you most excited for?

Last month, Vichi headed to The Big Apple to cheer on her sister and brother-in-law in the NYC Marathon, and Graham was excited to meet Seth's new baby for the first time. We hope you get to close out the year with the folks who mean the most to you!

Read ahead to learn more about how we're sharing our insights for building rural capacity at both the local and national scale. You'll learn about our presentation to a panel at the New York Federal Reserve, local collaboration to address gun violence in partnership with Rocky Mount Police Department, and our storytelling work with Collective Change Lab to highlight our strategies for healing and resilience.

Onward!  
Vichi and Seth

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**The Latest from ROI**

### ROI at the NY Fed

Members of our team connected with the New York Federal Reserve for the second time this year for their "Making Missing Markets" event on November 14th. Graham and Community Accountability Board (CAB) Member Johnathan Brunson were selected to present to a panel of community development experts about models for sustainable rural innovation. We're grateful to have had this opportunity to share stories about community-based interventions leveraging public and private investment to address rural child poverty.

[Watch the Event](#)



### N.C. Violence Prevention Conference

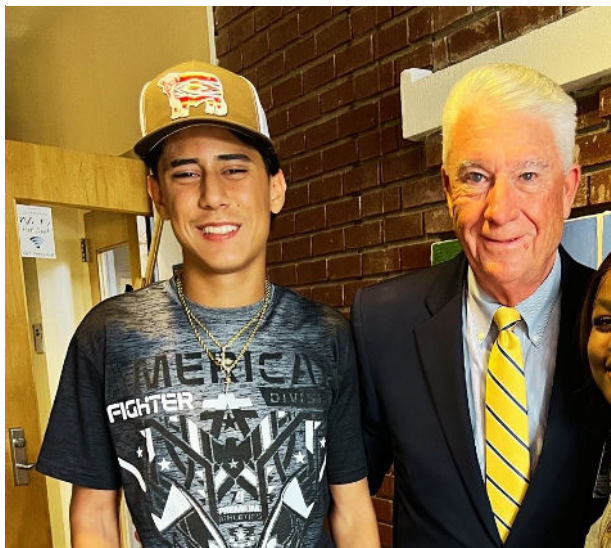
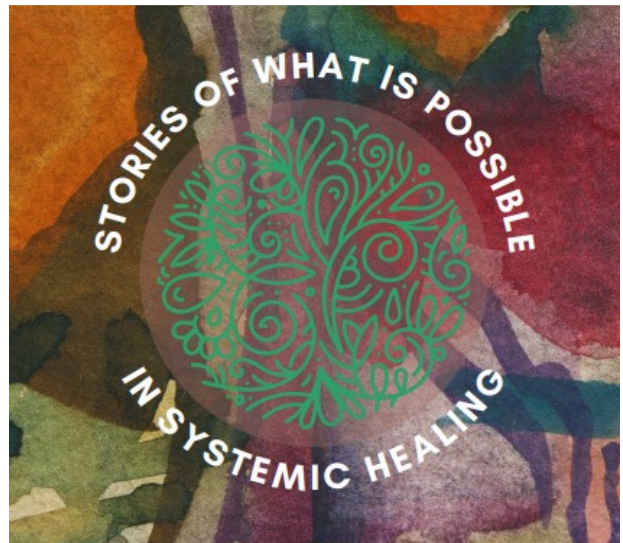
Graham participated in N.C.'s first Violence Prevention Conference following a series of community meetings we convened this spring, which established a better understanding of violence in Edgecombe County. This convening brought together professionals from law enforcement, public health, and community organizations across the state. We recently finalized a report on the root causes of gun violence in partnership with Rocky Mount Police Department, where we identified opportunities to bolster mental healthcare access, economic opportunity, and peer mentorship spaces as strategies to address the root causes of community violence.

[Learn More](#)

## Collective Change Lab Feature

Shout out to Collective Change Lab for highlighting our systems mapping work. Seth collaborated with their Healing Centered Systems Change Team to share our community's story of resilience, alongside the stories of four other organizations. We're grateful to be partnered with other innovators committed to uplifting the power of possibility through trauma healing.

[Explore the Stories](#)



## Edgecombe Community Meeting

On November 7th, our friends and neighbors came together for the Edgecombe Community Meeting. We highlighted our 2024 Young Civic Leaders, who shared their summer internship experiences learning about local government and building strong relationships with mentors. We're coming away from this gathering with hope for the future, rooted in our work to embrace opportunities for young people as change agents of our community. Check out the "Opportunities" section below to learn how you can support this work.

[Read the 2024 Impact Report](#)

## Coming Soon: New Medicaid Learning Collaborative Cohort

We've partnered with the state's Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to help North Carolina school systems hire full-time mental health professionals to support students and staff. Our Medicaid Learning Collaborative (MLC) **cohort members get access to technical assistance valued at over \$100k+, all at no cost to their school or district.**

We're actively looking to connect with interested public and charter schools for the 2025-2026 MLC cohort. While the formal application window has not opened yet, you can register your interest below to stay in the loop.

**Register your**

*"Wow, I learned so much. I had been hyper-focused on the billing side of Medicaid and now I understand the importance of emphasis on the learning collaborative. THANK YOU!!!!!!"*

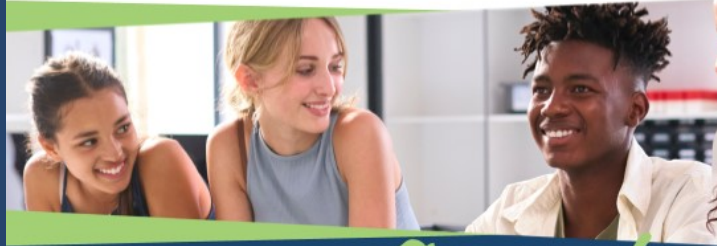
- 2024 cohort participant

## Opportunities

### **Nominate Local Organizations to Host YCL Interns in Summer 2025**

Is your organization invested in mentoring the up-and-coming leaders of tomorrow? We're looking to connect with non-profit, public, and private sector employers in eastern North Carolina who are interested in hiring the next cohort of Young Civic Leaders. To nominate your organization or one you know, please complete the interest form linked below. We look forward to connecting!

**[Complete the interest form](#)**



*Young Civic Leaders*

ROI is recruiting  
**Youth & Employment**

for Paid Summer 2025 Internships



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### **Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Symposium**

Join Trillium Health Resources to learn about human trafficking in North Carolina, risk factors and key indicators for the identification of human trafficking, and the impact of trafficking on victim's physical and mental health. This in-person event will take place on January 31st at Edgecombe Community College Center for Innovation.

[Register Here](#)

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*Rural Opportunity Institute supports youth, organizations and communities to interrupt the cycle of generational trauma and design innovative solutions for healing and resilience.*

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