Unfolding the Full Story of the Triangle
Population growth from 1990 to 2010 by county:

- Orange County: 47% growth
- Wake County: 64% growth
- Durham County: 43% growth
- Chatham County: 53% growth

Population growth in the Triangle (737,825 to 1,365,886): 85%

Triangle residents under the age of 5 who are children of color, by county, 2014:

- Orange County: 40% children of color
- Wake County: 51% children of color
- Durham County: 67% children of color
- Chatham County: 43% children of color

Population growth from 1990 to 2010 by county.
Our region has undergone a remarkable demographic, cultural, and economic transformation over the past 25 years, and we continue to grow and diversify at breakneck speed. Judging by many indicators, the Triangle is a prosperous place—topping many “best of” lists—but we know that not everyone is thriving here. Let’s learn together…
Food Security

Overall Triangle Region

AT RISK OF HUNGER, or HUNGRY, in 2013

15% 212,490 people

Triangle’s residents

20% 33,000 children

Triangle’s children

20%
69,070 children

Triangle’s children

15%
212,490 people

Triangle’s residents

AT RISK OF HUNGER, or HUNGRY, in 2013

Chatham County

7,750 people, 12% of all county residents

2,900 children, 21% of the county’s kids

AT RISK OF HUNGER, or HUNGRY, in 2013

Orange County

20,900 people, 15% of all county residents

5,880 children, 21% of the county’s kids

AT RISK OF HUNGER, or HUNGRY, in 2013

Durham County

50,380 people, 18% of all county residents

13,360 children, 22% of the county’s kids

AT RISK OF HUNGER, or HUNGRY, in 2013

Wake County

133,460 people, 15% of all county residents

46,930 children, 20% of the county’s kids

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2015: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates, at the County Level, http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2013/overall
We envision a Triangle where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

What is the gap between our vision, and the reality?

How can we interrupt the vicious cycle of inequity in order to fulfill the promise of equal opportunity and shared prosperity?

The building blocks of opportunity and prosperity are not accessible to everyone. Poverty and economic inequality, fed by racism, sexism, and other structural barriers, live in our region too.
### Education

**Overall Triangle Region**

- **White**: 84%
- **Black or African American**: 45%
- **Hispanic**: 43%
- **Asian**: 87%

**Public Third-Grade Students Grade-Level Proficient in Reading, 2014–2015**

- Chapel Hill Carrboro: 78%
- Orange County: 61%
- Chatham County: 57%
- Wake County: 70%
- Durham Co.: 45%

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### Food Security

**Why Does This Matter?** Children and families who are hungry cannot focus at school or work, and struggle to meet milestones of success, or provide adequately for their families.

### Education

**Why Does This Matter?** Reading is an essential skill for school success—which helps determine the future success of our region’s residence, economy, and civic infrastructure.

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**Source:** NC Department of Public Instruction, Accountability and Testing Results: 2014-15 Data Results, [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/)
We live in a region with an abundance of assets—natural, creative, and most of all, human.

Yet, not everyone has the same opportunity to be successful. We see that outcome gaps are widening, particularly along racial and economic lines.

We see that our growth isn’t slowing down. We see that our counties share similar issues, but are also very diverse.

And we see that the pillars to success shown here are connected—that one affects the other, and to make change, we must change the entire system.
### Income

**Overall Triangle Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Median Household Income in 2014 in Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE, non-Hispanic</strong></td>
<td>$75,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK or African-American</strong></td>
<td>$40,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISPANIC</strong></td>
<td>$39,814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chatham**
- 121% WHITE, non-Hispanic
- 44% BLACK or African-American
- 57% HISPANIC

**Durham**
- 133% WHITE, non-Hispanic
- 75% BLACK or African-American
- 74% HISPANIC

**Orange**
- 109% WHITE, non-Hispanic
- 73% BLACK or African-American
- 73% HISPANIC

**Wake**
- 120% WHITE, non-Hispanic
- 65% BLACK or African-American
- 60% HISPANIC

**Why Does This Matter?**

All families require adequate income to meet their needs, to ensure upward mobility, and to invest in their children’s future.

**Why Does This Matter?**

Without stable and affordable housing, families can’t get a foothold in community, access other resources and opportunities, or build social networks.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, One-Year Estimates, 2014
In order to make the greatest impact, donors, nonprofits, businesses, government officials, and community leaders must build skill and confidence, and a collective will, to identify, and ultimately transform, structures that unfairly benefit some while burdening others.

We are not the expert here, and are embarking on an education of sorts, to learn about how we can help, and we ask you to do the same.

Let’s learn together. It’s time to change. Let’s unite in our sense of urgency and figure out, together, how we can each help to close this gap.
RENTER/HOMEOWNER HOUSEHOLDS, ON AVERAGE, WHO SPEND AT LEAST 30% OF THEIR INCOMES ON HOUSING COSTS by county, between 2010–2014

**Overall Triangle Region**

- **Homeowner**: 23%
- **Renter**: 46%

**County Specifics**

- **Chatham County**
  - **Renter**: 41%
  - **Homeowner**: 24%
- **Orange County**
  - **Renter**: 49%
  - **Homeowner**: 23%
- **Durham County**
  - **Renter**: 48%
  - **Homeowner**: 24%
- **Wake County**
  - **Renter**: 45%
  - **Homeowner**: 22%

**Why Does This Matter?**
Lack of employment opportunities hurts individuals and families, and denies our whole community of everyone's full talents and potential.

*Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates, 2010–2014*
Employment

OVERALL TRIANGLE REGION

AVERAGE TRIANGLE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BETWEEN 2010–2014

Employment rates by ethnicity:
- **White, non-Hispanic**: 6%
- **Black or African-American**: 13%
- **Hispanic**: 9%
- **Asian**: 5%

AVERAGE TRIANGLE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES by county, between 2010–2014

“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”
—Einstein

In reference to the data in this document, and data in general, it is important to note that one cannot learn everything there is to know from numbers, and that they are a tool that we use to paint a picture, and tell a story. While the Foundation does not have programs that fund all of the specific issues we raise up here today, we believe that each of them are connected and necessary to achieve success, and intend to spark a community conversation about change. We hope you’ll join us.

The Foundation would like to thank John Quinterno, South by North Strategies, LTD, and Gita Gulati-Partee, OpenSource Leadership Strategies, for their assistance and leadership on this project.