

ATTACKING THE OBESITY CRISIS

A new national report confirms what we all have known, that Arkansas has one of the unhealthiest populations in America—most notably the third highest rate of obesity among adults in the 50 states and the District of Columbia and also one of the highest rates of food insecurity. In its 47 years of existence, the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center (BGACDC) has sought to deal with such problems, along with others that interfere with the health, social and educational development of children. For the community parenting project that is BGACDC, those goals are all interrelated.



One step that is helping deal with the problem in the Marvell-Elaine community is BGACDC's collaboration with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) to improve access by young adults and children to state and national services and resources related to conquering obesity, including Medicaid and other health services.

UAMS's Translational Research Institute awarded a \$25,000 pilot grant to support a partnership between BGACDC and Dr. Tiffany Miles, an instructor in UAMS's Department of Pediatrics, to intervene in the severe obesity problem. The translational research grants are intended to develop ideas and methods of dealing with community health issues like food insecurity and obesity.



Dr. Miles is a postdoctoral fellow in UAMS's College of Medicine Department of Neurobiology and Developmental Science, where she and other professionals created plans for collaboration of UAMS and community-based organizations such as BGACDC. Obesity has always been a serious health problem, but it has been increasing at a rapid rate in recent years, especially in rural and poor regions where food options are limited.

(This project is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under award number UM1TR004909. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.)