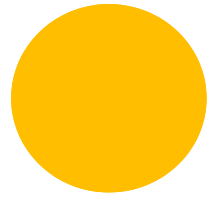


Organization: Toxic Free North Carolina**County:** Wake**Address:** 206 New Bern Pl.
Raleigh, N.C. 27601**Phone:** 919-833-1123**Website:** <http://www.toxicfreenc.org/>**Project:** Non-Toxic House Pest Control Kits**Additional counties served:** Wake, Edgecombe, Chatham, Pender, Duplin and Sampson (so far)*****Below are excerpts from their final report*****

About the Project: The ultimate goal of the Toxic Free Home kits project is to improve women's health by reducing the use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals in their homes and in childcare facilities. Reducing pesticide use will provide direct health benefits to women, and will also result in economic benefits to those families and businesses (since the least toxic pest control and cleaning methods we teach are very cost-effective).

We used this grant to purchase supplies for 100 Toxic Free Home/Casa Libre de Tóxicos kits. The kits contain supplies for non-toxic home pest control and cleaning, plus bilingual recipes and instructions for some of the most commonly needed solutions (such as non-toxic roach balls and all purpose cleaner). Toxic Free NC used the grant to purchase all the supplies for the kits, as well as gas cards to offset the cost of travel to give workshops and distribute the kits. Volunteers assembled all 100 kits at a volunteer work night at our office in March. We've already begun distributing Toxic Free Home/Casa Libre de Tóxicos kits at presentations and outreach events around the state (and will continue to do so throughout 2009).

In the six weeks since the kits were assembled, we've already distributed more than 20 kits. We brought them to a wide variety of community presentations and events (including a Latino health fair in Fuquay-Varina; Childcare Resource and Referral Conferences in Tarboro and Pittsboro; and parent orientation and staff training days at East Coast Migrant Head Start centers in Pender, Duplin, and Sampson counties). All but two or three of the kits distributed so far have gone to low and moderate income women of color. Of those, nine are farm workers, 14 are Latino, and five are African American.



Successes: This grant has enabled us to offer Toxic Free Home kits for the first time to the women we work with. We've used hands-on demonstrations as teaching tools in the past, but this funding opportunity enabled us to create kits that women actually get to take home as a part of our education and outreach programs. This has greatly enhanced our presentations, and is helping the women we primarily work with (they can put what they've learned into practice right away and share that new information with friends and family).

The kits are also helping Toxic Free NC develop new ideas for popular education and community organizing in low and moderate income communities. Peer-to-peer learning is an extremely powerful mode of education for adopting healthy behaviors, and is also the most important channel for people to organize for change at the community level and beyond. Toxic Free NC is very interested in helping rural and low-income people to harness the power of information for community activism (for example: advocating for least toxic pest control in childcare centers, schools, churches, or local businesses). As such, we are watching closely to see how Toxic Free Home kits spark conversations between peers that lead to changes at the personal level and the community level (and how we might use similar techniques in the future).