

Hi there -

Welcome to the Rural Opportunity Institute (ROI) update email.

WHAT'S NEW:

1. We completed our first design research “sprint” where we interviewed:
 - a. 9 parents in East Tarboro
 - b. 12 service providers that serve parents and families in East Tarboro (including community college, health dept, school system, social services, law enforcement, and others)
2. We synthesized the findings from these interviews to generate [9 key insights](#) about the nature of trauma and related challenges it poses for the most vulnerable children and families in East Tarboro.
3. We presented our insights to a cross-sector design team of 25 local leaders across systems (*School System, Social Services (DSS), Child Welfare, Health Department, Hospital, Faith Leaders, and Head Start Pre-K*) who have committed to working alongside us to understand the challenges that families in trauma face in East Tarboro, and to pilot new programs and practices to build a trauma-informed community. The publication [EdNC](#) covered the meeting - you can read the story [here](#).
4. The input gathered in that meeting has informed our next 8-week sprint which began this week, and which will focus on systems mapping guided by [Acumen's course on Systems Practice](#).

SUPPORT NEEDED: If you can provide support to any of the below requests please email me.

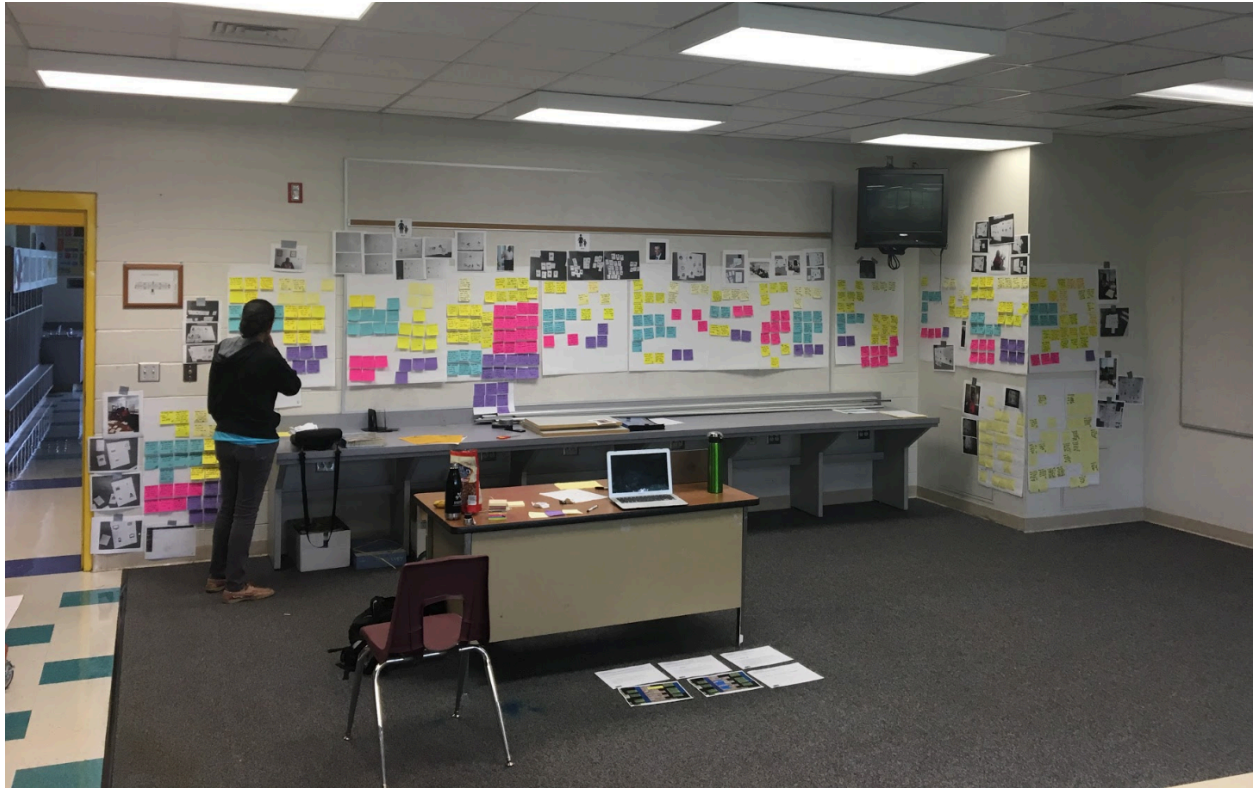
1. **Graduate & undergraduate students who might be willing to incorporate our work into some of their research or programs of study.** We're looking for help with:
 - a. Designing and conducting quantitative and qualitative research to validate and build an evidence-base behind some of the hypotheses and frameworks (captured within our insights) that we have created from our design research.
 - b. Communications - telling the story of ACEs, trauma, and our work in a clear and actionable way to community members and other rural communities in America that face similar challenges.
2. **Systems-thinking expertise:** We are following Acumen's Systems Practice course to guide our work, and would welcome input (in the form of periodic check-ins or paid coaching) from anyone else who has gone through this course before or followed a similar approach to bring systems thinking to their work in practice.

SEE THE WORK IN ACTION:

One of the families we interviewed:



The room we work out of, with all of the notes from our interviews on the wall:



Synthesis in progress:



Presenting to the design team:



In partnership,

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Vichi Jagannathan & Seth Saeugling

www.ruralopportunity.org