

Gwen Smith founded CHARRS in 2016, as a non-profit community organization committed to Environmental Justice, environmental and economic health, education equity, and citizen science. CHARRS is concerned with Social Determinants of Health, their impact on African American and underserved communities, and implementing solutions to the inequities and injustices associated with them. In 2017, CHARRS launched the Collier Heights Environmental Health Outdoor Classroom which was funded by the Emory's Center for Children's Health, the Environmental, the Microbiome and Metabolomics. Prior to CHARRS, Gwen worked for Southface Institute; the Georgia Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Section in the Chemical Hazards Program, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the Healthy Homes Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the Lead Hazard Control Program; and the U.S. EPA Region IV's Regional Administrators Office as an intern. She is an alumna of the inaugural classes for the Partnership for Southern Equity's Just Equity Academy and the U.S. EPA, Region IV's Environmental Justice Academy, and is a former president of the Environmental Justice Academy Alumni Association. In 2020, she was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leader Fellow and is a member of Team ATL. Gwen graduated from Agnes Scott College with a B.A. degree in Sociology/Anthropology in 2011. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Gwen is married, has two children and a twelve-year-old granddaughter, Stellar.