

3-3-2018

Hub City Farmers' Market Revitalization of the Spartanburg Northside Community

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Recommended Citation

Myer, Caitlynn, "Hub City Farmers' Market Revitalization of the Spartanburg Northside Community" (2018). *Wofford Bonner Scholar Senior Capstone Projects*. 1.
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Introduction and Capstone Focus

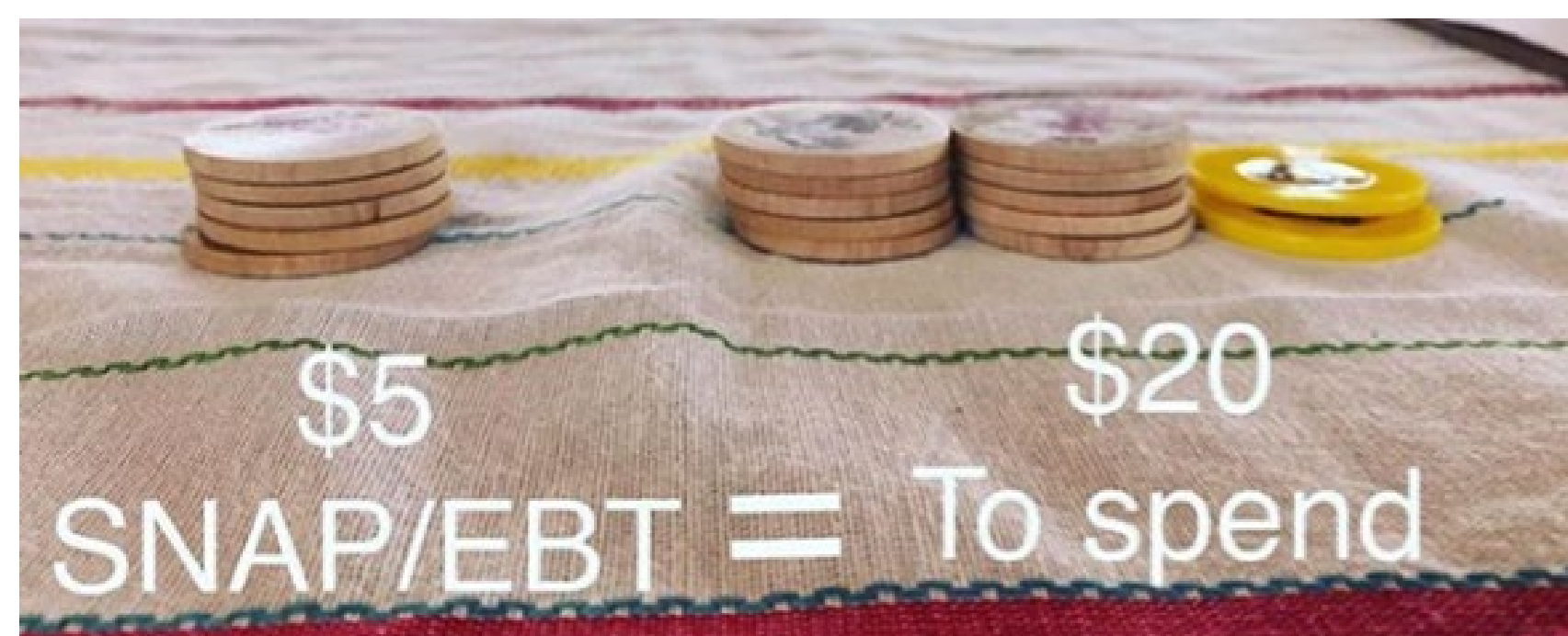
The Northside Community in the early 20th century was a thriving prominent community in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Not only was Spartan Mill – the largest mill in the county, located in the Northside, but also the community became the central destination of the railroad line – thus, coining the epithet “hub city.” How did such a thriving community succumb to destruction? What is the history behind the Northside Community historically remaining a food desert for over 40 years? What changes of investment into the Northside Community have aimed to not only revitalize the community, but also to bring access to fresh, local produce to the area?

Bonner Field Experience and Research Methods

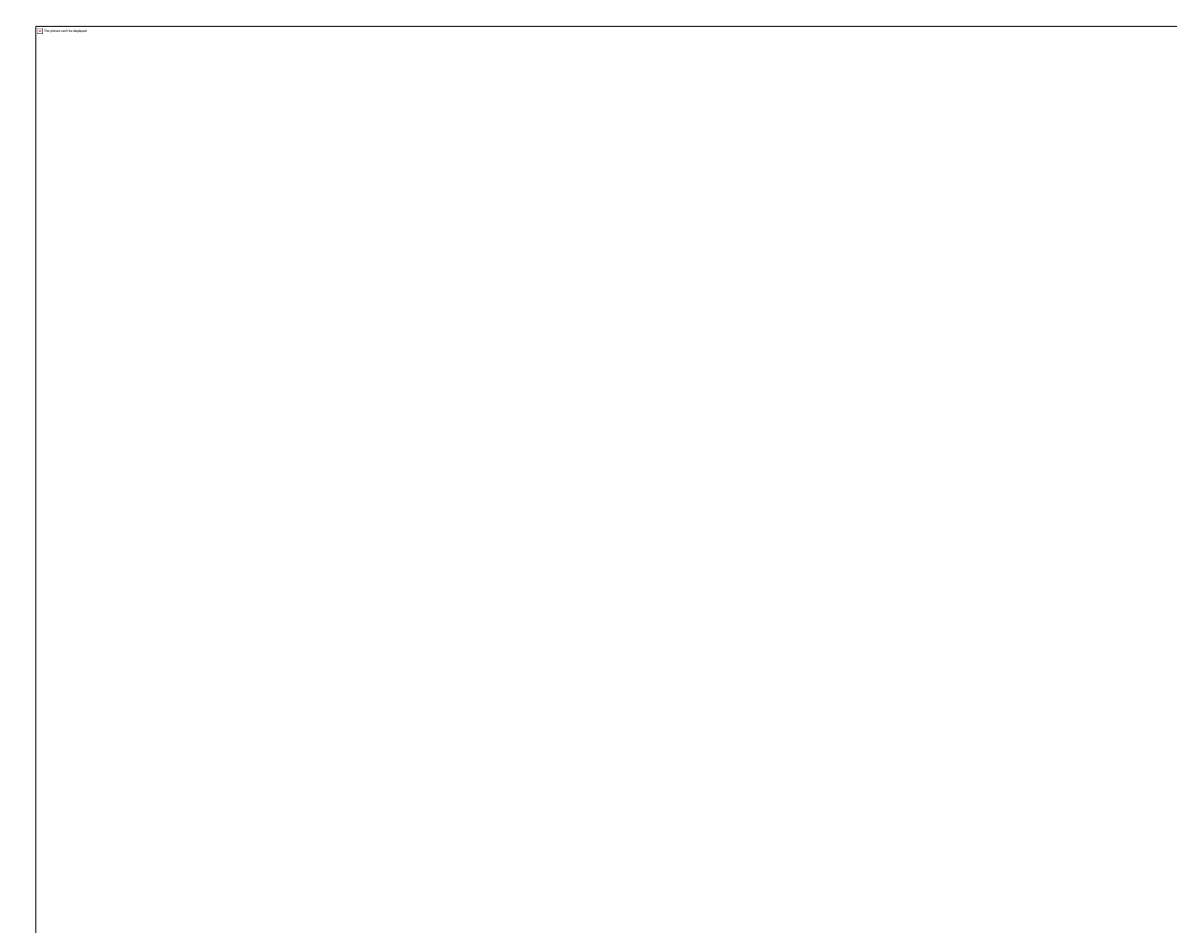
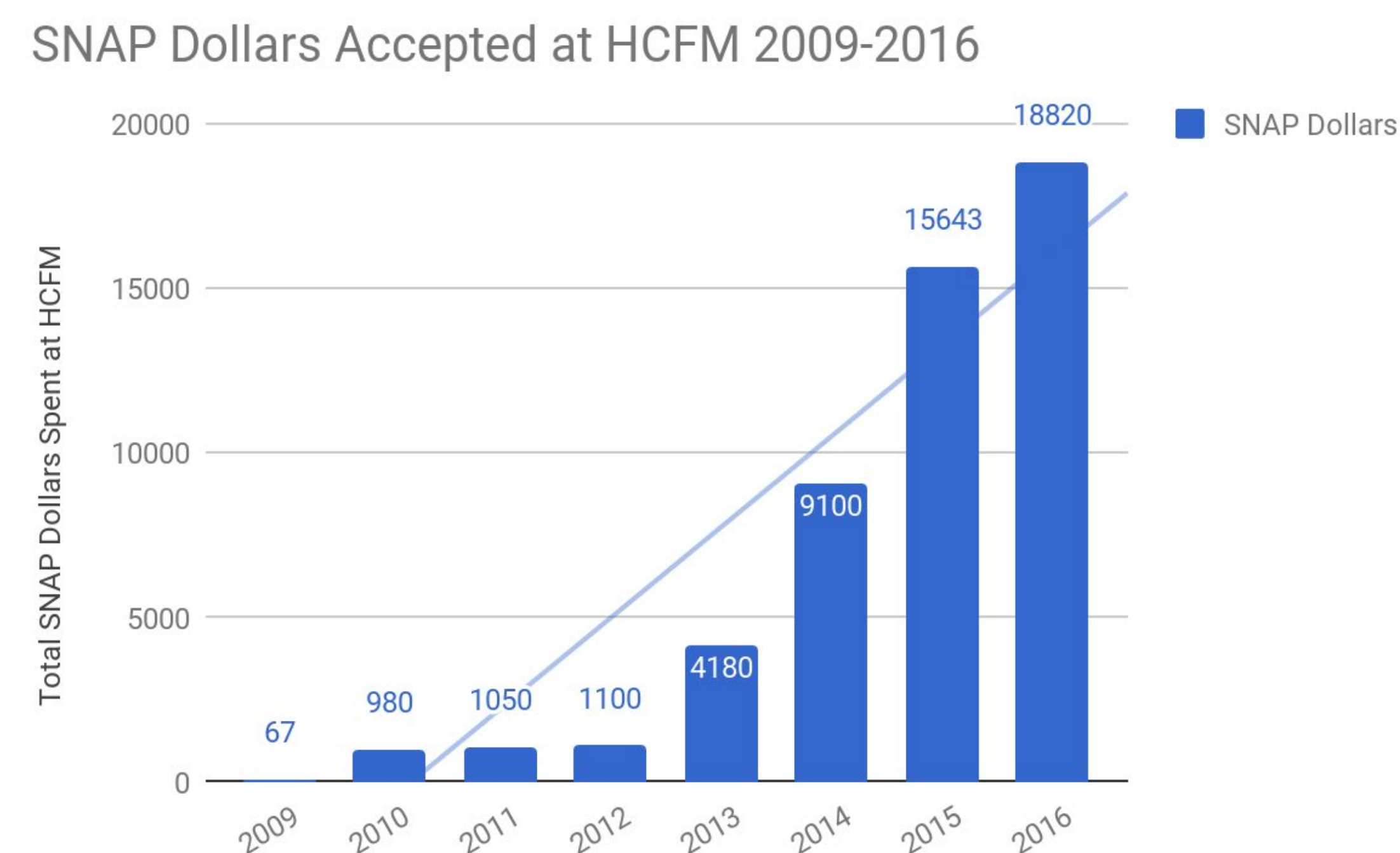
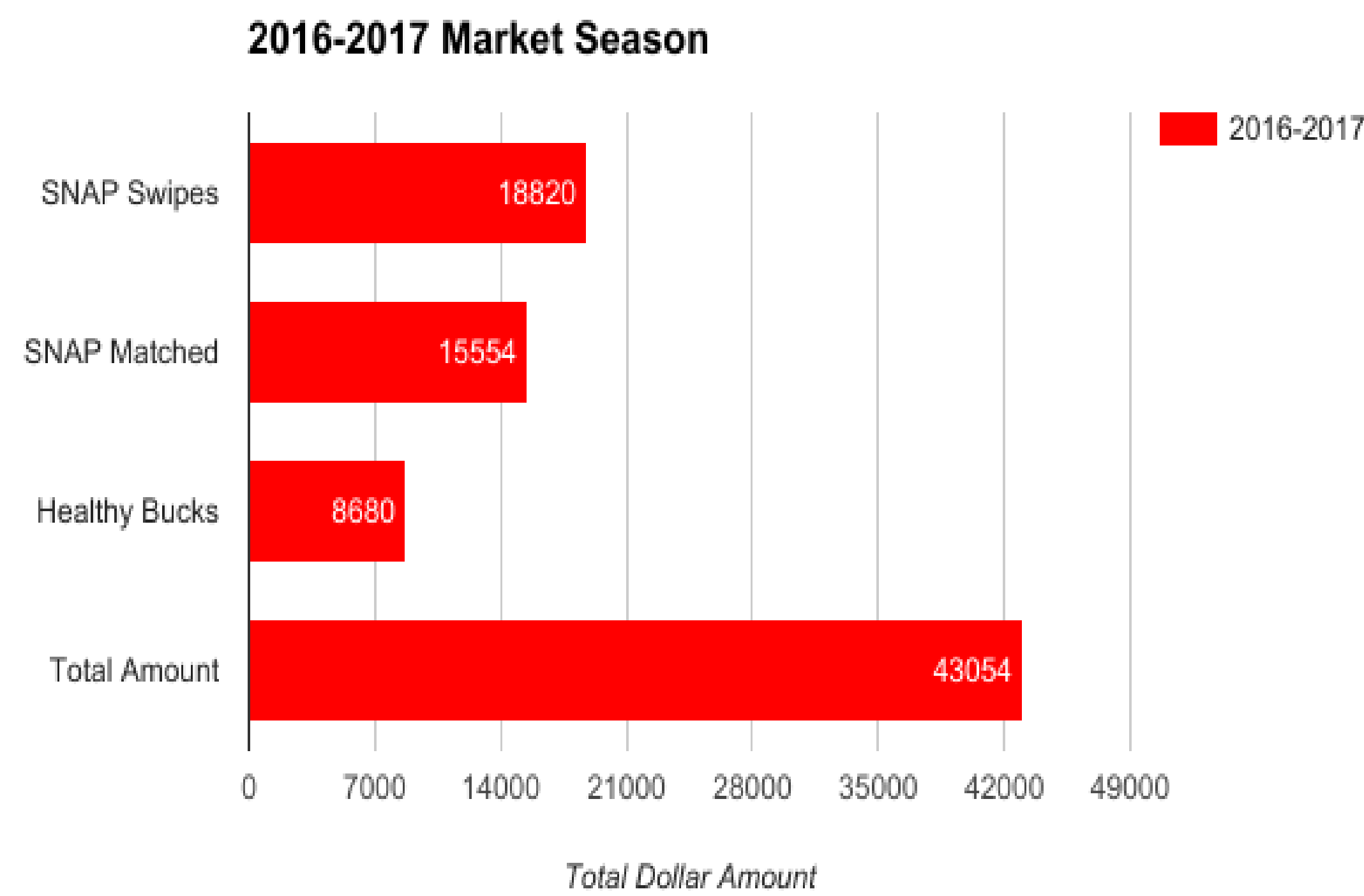
Bonner field experience includes volunteering with the Hub City Farmers' Market for four academic years and two summers, totaling over 1,200 hours. This research uses a mixed method research approach from surveying and systematic collection from existing data comprised from 2016-2017. Research is ongoing and data will continue to be collected.

Results/Reflection

\$1.6 dollars of funding was secured for the food hub (the farmer's market, a café, and a large community garden) within the Northside community. In 2009 the market began accepting SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program). In 2013, the Double SNAP program was created, with funding from the United Way of Piedmont, which matches the amount SNAP customers spend, up to \$40. In Spartanburg County, there are about 43,000 SNAP users, accounting for \$61,000,000 a year in SNAP money. The average benefit breaks down to \$1.41/person/meal. Additionally, in 2014 the State of South Carolina created another SNAP matching incentive, through the Department of Social Services, which grants SNAP customers with an additional \$10 for fruits and vegetables whenever the customers spends \$5. For every \$5 in SNAP spending, \$9 of economic activity is generated locally.



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Summary & Conclusions

Zip codes with predominantly Black residents have about half as many supermarkets as zip codes with predominantly white residents and predominantly Latino areas have only a third as many as predominantly White areas.¹ Low-income zip codes have 25 percent fewer supermarkets and 1.3 times as many convenience stores as middle-income zip codes. Adults living in neighborhoods with supermarkets and grocery stores have lower obesity rates (21 percent) as compared to those living in neighborhoods with no supermarkets (32 to 40 percent).² The Hub City Farmers' Market continues to address the limited access to fresh quality produce as the number of SNAP customers continues to increase each year. the increase in SNAP customers benefits the local economy as the revenue circulates supporting local vendors.

References

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Linkages with the General Economy. (2018, February 12). Retrieved February 14, 2018, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/economic-linkages/>

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the Hub City Farmers' Market and the Wofford College Bonner Scholars Program.