

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Environmental Justice Achievement Award

Community-Based Organization



## West End Revitalization Association



WERA's AmeriCorps VISTA Site Supervisor Natasha Bumpass, President Omega Wilson, and U.S. EPA Intern LeKeshia Franklin take drinking water and surface water samples to virology lab at School of Public Health, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for testing & analysis.



First-time sewer installation for 51 homes in West End Community stops septic tanks from overflowing and creating a stream of sewage that threaten drinking water. Project was funded by a million dollar block grant and City of Mebane matching funds in 2008.

**EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the **West End Revitalization Association (WERA)** for its leadership in addressing environmental hazards affecting low-income and minority communities in Mebane, North Carolina.**

WERA led initiatives that resulted in first-time safe water and sewer services for residents of Mebane, and provided job training for youth and young adults to prepare them to better address their health and economic disparities. WERA has helped its community leverage actual reduction and removal of environmental hazards that create disproportionate and adverse public health risks.

WERA has trained affected residents who became community monitors for community-based research on water, sewer, and landfill hazards; designed a stakeholder management and facilitation training workshop; and facilitated semi-annual progress reporting workshops on assessment, management, and reduction of water contamination. WERA has participated in major public health conferences, workshops, and seminars in North Carolina, Virginia, California, Florida, Canada, and France. One of WERA's most successful activities is the Right to Basic Amenities Collaborative Institute, which is held periodically for WERA and other stakeholders to build the capacity to address public health disparities related to environmental hazards.

