



**Dr. Susan Jakes**

Susan Scherffius Jakes is an Extension Assistant Professor and Family and Community Development Specialist at North Carolina State University. She specializes in program design to promote systems and community change, particularly in the areas of diversity, leadership, Appreciative Inquiry, volunteerism, collaboration and poverty. Currently she is doing special projects in local food systems and community gardening and is the editor for the Children, Youth, and Families Education and Research Network's (CYFERnet) Community Development materials. Susan believes that communities have the capacity and leadership to solve today's complex community issues, and that education, mobilization and inclusion are the keys to putting that capacity to work.

Susan received a B.S. in Psychology from Centre College of Kentucky and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Community Psychology from North Carolina State University. Her volunteer activities include church leadership, serving on the Durham/Chapel Hill Reality Ministries Board, and community service projects for hunger and poverty alleviation. Her hobbies include walking, cooking, and anything outdoors be it hiking with her husband Phil and children Madelyn and Benjamin or park hopping.



**Robin Roper, M.S, M.A.Ed.**

Robin has worked with NC Cooperative Extension in several capacities for 19 years. She began her career as a 4-H Youth Development Agent and later came to NCSU as an Extension Associate. Her primary responsibilities are Volunteer, Leadership and Community Development as related to families. She serves a state-level Advisor for the North Carolina Extension & Community Association and a Facilitator of Opening Doors the CALS and NCSU diversity program. Robin attended undergraduate school at East Carolina University where she obtained a B.S. in Child Development and Family Relations. She has received a M.S. in Child Development and Family Relations and a M.A.Ed. in Community Agency Counseling.



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