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With the help of programs outside of Uniontown, CHOICE branched out and began to create programs of their own, and thus 2 major programs have come from this desire. The first program, called Educate Through College, pairs students with a mentor to help and encourage them through their first year of college. For students who come from rural, small, heavily impoverished areas, college can be a daunting task, and without encouragement, many drop out. By pairing these young adults with mentors, they can be helped, encouraged, and loved on while in their first year of college. With this program, more students will succeed in college and graduate with higher education.

Another mentorship program is the Youth Advisory Committee. This group is composed of ninth through twelfth grade students within Uniontown, Alabama. These students strive to give back to their community by planning and hosting a community event. This committee fosters community pride, time and money management, character, and leadership skills. After the students finish their term, they can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. This can help them get a jump start on a bright future.

Commented [KC1]: Because the primary purpose of this document is to educate readers about the "education" aspect of the programs that C.H.O.I.C.E. offers, this definitely needs to stay in the new copy. Gives readers an understanding of what types of educational resources/programs C.H.O.I.C.E. offers, which is important to the program's purpose



In ~~From~~ the small, rural area town of Uniontown, Alabama, ~~C.H.O.I.C.E.~~ Choosing to Help Others In our Community Excel (~~C.H.O.I.C.E.~~) serves as a resource-based organization that improves quality of life, self-sufficiency, and employability for Uniontown residents. This organization's purpose and importance lies in the history of the South. Uniontown is in the historically, poverty-stricken Black Belt region of Alabama which spans the Southeastern part of the US.

The region is named for its rich, black soil—often coveted for plantations—and its reputation as a former slave state. ~~Before and long after the Civil War, the region's Black community~~ ~~this region~~ was consistently disenfranchised. Today, these community members are forced to stay in the area because their economic status prevents them from moving elsewhere.

Through collaborative partnerships, C.H.O.I.C.E. strives to solve the long-lasting problems facing the Uniontown community. The organization provides access to programs, activities, and services in six focus areas: workforce development, mentoring, education, cultural arts, health and wellness, and athletics and recreation. Emefa Butler, founder and director of C.H.O.I.C.E., began the organization by emphasizing two areas in Uniontown's community: youth and education.

Poverty in regions such as Uniontown often reaches at or above 50%. As a result, these rural areas are underdeveloped and have few resources for their struggling citizens, ~~of the state was dominated by a few white elites, who consistently disenfranchised and created barriers to the black community still living~~ especially youth, who cannot access internet, computers, or school supplies to further their education. ~~Because of these These~~ circumstances, ~~led C.H.O.I.C.E. to partnered~~ with several organizations to and bring three –strives to help those in need. With a focus in civic and community development, their mission is to offer resources to the community with the hope of increasing self-sufficiency, employability, and the overall quality of life of people within the Uniontown community. A large aspect of their work consists of creating collaborative partnerships to fill the gap between the people of Uniontown and the programs intended to help them. Many of the partnerships they make are intended to provide access to resources, programs, activities, and services in six focus areas: workforce development, mentoring, education, cultural arts, health and wellness, and athletics and recreation. Emefa Butler, the founder and director of C.H.O.I.C.E., began with a special attention to the youth community and one of the most important things for this community: education.

The importance of this organization and what they do lies in the history of the South. Uniontown, Alabama is located in a region called the Black Belt. This region, spanning across the southeastern part of the United States, gets its name from the rich black soil, suitable for plantations, and its reputation as a former slave state. ~~Before and long after the Civil War, this region of the state was dominated by a few white elites, who consistently disenfranchised and created barriers to the black community still living there.~~ Many of the families have stayed in these areas because their economic status prevents them from moving somewhere else. As a

Commented [KC2]: This document, by far, is the most effective of the two. It does have some redundant information, and could elaborate more on the education programs, especially since that is the primary focus of this piece. I would take the last two paragraphs from the second version of this document (above) and combine them with what's already here

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Commented [KC3]: I think the reader needs to immediately understand what the C.H.O.I.C.E., organization is right from the start. This sentence does not make that clear to the reader.

The opening sentence should immediately establish what C.H.O.I.C.E. does, their history, and then launch into a deeper explanation of the resources they offer. This organization/flow would make the most logical sense

result, these rural areas are underdeveloped and have few resources for their struggling citizens. However, C.H.O.I.C.E. strives to create solutions to the long-lasting problems facing the Uniontown community.

One of the many programs rooted in the education-based programs to Uniontown: the Literacy Initiative Program, the Educate Through College Program, and the Youth Advisory Committee.

C.H.O.I.C.E.'s Literacy Initiative Program partners with Alabama Partnership for Children to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Uniontown. The Imagination Library program was designed by Dolly Parton program designed by Dolly Parton in 1996 in Sevierville, Tennessee herself. Beginning, Parton's hometown. The program's mission is to inspire a love of reading in youth; to accomplish this, they provide free books to children in need. Since its creation, the program has quickly expanded, reaching international heights in 2006. C.H.O.I.C.E. and Alabama Partnership for Children provide these books to children in Uniontown, ages zero to five, through their Literacy Initiative Program. in 1996, within the small Tennessee town Dolly Parton was from, it grew quickly from there. focus-area is



C.H.O.I.C.E.'s cooperation with Alabama Partnership for Children in order to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library into the Uniontown community. The Alabama Partnership for Children and C.H.O.I.C.E. are aligned on many goals. However, the population of impact in Alabama Partnership for Children ranges from birth to age five. This organization strives to ensure the healthy development of children in Alabama, a mission which pulled them together with C.H.O.I.C.E. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a program designed by Dolly Parton herself. Beginning in 1996, within the small Tennessee town Dolly Parton was from, it grew quickly from there. In fact, since 2006 this program has been expanding to different countries as it has reached international scales. Dolly explains that her mission is to inspire a love of reading in youth. In order to do this, Dolly's program aims to provide books free of charge to children in need. C.H.O.I.C.E., and Alabama Partnership for Children, then strive to bring these books to children from birth to five years of age, in Uniontown, through their Literacy Initiative Program.

The Educate Through College Program and Youth Advisory Committee are two programs created by C.H.O.I.C.E. Educate Through College assists first-year college students by pairing them with designated mentors. College can be daunting for students coming from rural, heavily impoverished areas and without encouragement, many drop out. By pairing these young adults with mentors, they can be helped and encouraged to succeed in their higher education dreams.

The Youth Advisory Committee is another mentorship program, comprised of ninth to twelfth grade Uniontown students with a desire to give back to their community. The committee plans and hosts an event often focused on community pride, time and money management.

character, and/or leadership skills. After students finish their term, they can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to kickstart their future in higher education.

Commented [KC4]: Query for the original writer and/or SME: I attempted to find this information on the C.H.O.I.C.E. website; however, I was unable to. Here, when you say "students" will receive scholarships, are you referring to the 9-12 grade students who serve as mentors, or the mentees (students that are being mentored)?

This needs to be clarified