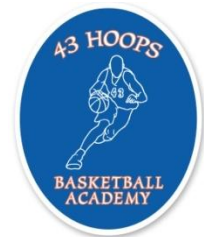


**BUILDING HOPE, BUILDING COMMUNITY:
A Community Action Plan for the Blake Road
Neighborhood
2010**



Knollwood Mall



INTRODUCTION

The Blake Road Corridor is a highly concentrated neighborhood in Hopkins, Minnesota. This one mile by one-half mile area is bound by busy roadways and contains approximately 1,350 housing units (primarily rental), but relatively few services or community facilities.

In the spring of 2005, the Blake Road area experienced a dramatic increase in crime. It was seeing 20 percent of the Hopkins's crime while comprising only 4 percent of the city's population.

Hopkins Chief of Police Craig Reid convened a task force of residents, city and school officials, Hennepin County (then called the Strategic Initiative and Community Engagement Department), and the faith community to find short- and long-term solutions. At the heart of his concern were the over 300 children in the area with no positive activities during the summer months.

The task force resulted in a number of initiatives undertaken to stabilize the community. Hopkins Public Schools provided learning and recreational activities in the summer and after school, including transportation to and from the neighborhood. The Hopkins Police Department implemented a variety of strategies including extra police patrols, targeted crime prevention outreach to businesses and increased Neighborhood Watch groups. The City of Hopkins developed a Small Area Development Plan to guide much-needed redevelopment of the area. In August 2009, sidewalks were built along the east side of Blake Road and the city continues to seek funding to improve lighting.

The task force that formed as a result of Chief Reid's call to action formally organized as the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative (BRCC). In 2005, the collaborative included the Hopkins Police Department, Hopkins Community Development, Hopkins Public Schools/Community Education, Hennepin County Strategic Initiative and Community Engagement Department, Shepherd of the Hills Church, 43 Hoops Basketball Academy and Community Action Partnerships of Suburban Hennepin.

Today the BRCC is a working group of governmental and community organizations that meets monthly and is co-lead by two area social service organizations. The membership to date includes:

- Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA): Co-lead Agency
- Resource West: Co-lead Agency
- Hopkins Police Department
- Hopkins Community Development
- Hopkins Public Schools/Community Education
- Hennepin County Community Services
- Community Action Partnerships of Suburban Hennepin
- 43 Hoops Basketball Academy
- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
- Knollwood Mall

- Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

As the collaborative shifted from short-term actions to a long-term focus, it consulted Wilder Research to conduct a survey of residents and businesses to clarify community members' concerns and inform a plan to address those concerns. At that time, Community Action Partnerships of Suburban Hennepin County (CAPSH) was the fiscal agent that assisted with handling Hennepin County contracts and other funding for the survey. Funders of the Wilder survey included CAPSH, Hennepin County, Hopkins Police Department, Family Housing Fund, Hopkins Crime Prevention, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Minneapolis Foundation.

The assessment was completed in April 2008 with a variety of recommendations submitted to the BRCC for consideration. The collaborative desired greater involvement by community members and in 2009, undertook a community planning process to:

- Stay connected to the interests and needs of the residents and businesses,
- Identify and support strategies to stabilize and improve the area, and
- Support local leadership development.

This Community Action Plan is the first step in that community planning process. Beginning in fall 2009, residents, businesses and community members met to discuss priorities and strategies for addressing issues most important to them. Based on meetings, informal conversations and the Wilder assessment, the plan focuses on three areas: Preventing Crime and Improving Safety; Neighborhood Improvement and Development; and Fostering and Empowering Youth. It also includes strategies for communicating and engaging with all residents.

The plan is a blueprint for action, but it is also a living document. Many activities depend on the involvement of residents. Others require raising funds. Those involved in the planning process expressed a desire to know their neighbors and many activities described provide those opportunities to meet and work with neighbors to improve the quality of life for all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Blake Road Corridor Collaborative would like to acknowledge the work and vision of Hopkins Chief of Police Craig Reid. It was Chief Reid who convened the task force in 2005 to improve the lives of residents in the Blake Road neighborhood, especially its youngest. We offer him our deep appreciation and thanks.

The following individuals also deserve a special thank you for the time and energy that they contributed to developing this plan:

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NEIGHBORHOOD VISION STATEMENT

A safe, healthy place to live, work and to raise children, with opportunities for adults, youth and business owners to interact, watch out for one another, and improve the environment for all residents.

I. PREVENTING CRIME AND IMPROVING SAFETY

Goal: A neighborhood that is a safe place for all residents and in which residents and businesses watch out for one another.

Objective A: Continued police presence in the Blake Road Corridor.

Activity A1: Seek additional funding to maintain enhanced police presence after August 2010.

Budget: \$12,000

Timeline: January through August: Seek funding sources
August: Secure funding to continue enhanced police presence through 2010

Partners: Hopkins Police Department

Desired Results: Maintain current police presence and capacity to respond to issues and monitor activity.

Activity A2: Seek resources for computer analysis of crime data in the Blake Road corridor to assist police in strategic crime prevention and to educate residents and businesses about trouble spots.

Budget: \$5,000 or in kind contribution from a university or college

Timeline: 1st Quarter 2010: Research for funding and in-kind contributions
Ongoing: Apply for funding

Partners: Hopkins Police Department

Desired Results: Strengthened ability to monitor crime trends and coordinate preventative/community safety strategies.

Objective B: Improve communication and social interactions among residents

Activity B1: Strengthen and expand Neighborhood Watch

- Recruit, train and support block leaders (including leaders at apartment complexes)
- Maintain list of block leaders

- Provide Block Leaders Tool Kit with ideas for organizing events, including but not limited to National Night Out, list of resources and contacts for organizing block club or apartment building events, templates for invitations and flyers
- Require block leaders to participate in Hopkins Citizens Academy to orient them to the array of city services and activities
- Assist block leaders with organizing and maintaining “tree-phone” so residents without computer access can still get up-to-date information
- Engage active Neighborhood Watch groups in an event with new block leaders to provide support, stories of past successes and failures and encouragement

Budget: \$2,500 annually

Timeline: January through March: Hold block events in the neighborhood
 April through June: Door knocking to meet and greet residents
 2010: Present to Hopkins Apartment Managers meeting
 May-August: Friday Night Lights at Cottageville Park (one Friday evening each month) [See YOUTH section]
 August 3: National Night Out

Partners: Hopkins Police Department, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, residents and businesses

Desired Results: Residents and businesses participate in Neighborhood Watch, getting to know one another and supporting crime prevention strategies to provide for a safer community.

Activity B2: Pilot Resident “Greeters” Program

- Conduct research on other metro and suburban area resident walker programs
- Draft guidelines for pilot “Neighborhood Greeters”
- Work with Hopkins Police Department to develop parameters of “Greeters;” develop message greeters can share with community members
- Conduct outreach to residents for pilot “Greeters” program
- Communicate with residents and businesses about walkers (in relevant languages)

Budget: \$750 (hats, name tags, notebooks, photocopying)
 In Kind: Restaurants will provide soda, bathrooms and occasionally meal coupons to volunteer walkers

Timeline: January 2010 through March: Develop guidelines, conduct outreach and education, work with Hopkins Police to develop pilot project. Recruit volunteers, draft manual and call book, work with Hopkins Police to develop training
 April: Training, community education about program
 May: Pilot one-week or weekend of “Greeters” using Friday Night Lights at Cottageville Park as kick-off event

June: Evaluate pilot program with Hopkins Police; Determine whether/when to pilot additional “Greeter” events summer 2010.

Partners: Hopkins Police Department, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, resident and business volunteers

Desired Results: Provide more “eyes on the street” to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Activity B3: Continue communication among businesses to improve safety and loss prevention

- Police provide weekly emails re: police calls in Grids 30, 33, 50, 51 to businesses that request them
- Maintain current list of neighborhood businesses and contacts
- Share community values with businesses
- Support events by neighborhood businesses
- Seek out neighborhood businesses for youth mentors
- Support communication to neighborhood businesses, including efforts by police, the city and the neighborhood
- Invite businesses to participate in neighborhood events, meetings
- Invite businesses to quarterly meetings for socializing and networking – Invite city officials and police to make special presentations on issues of concern/interest

Budget: \$200 (refreshments and materials)

Timeline: Quarterly meetings scheduled through 2010

Partners: Hopkins Police Department, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, businesses

Desired Result: Better transfer of information between businesses and police, and stronger working relationships to address safety and crime issues for the area.

Objective C: Improve the physical environment to create safe places

Activity C1: Increase lighting on Blake Road

[See NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT section]

Activity C2: Cameras and lighting at businesses

- Seek funding to provide small grants to businesses to upgrade lighting and security cameras
- Communicate with businesses when funding available
- Establish guidelines for businesses to apply

Budget: \$10,000 (One time expense)

Timeline: First quarter 2010: Research funding sources and other similar programs in metro area (such as NE Minneapolis Chamber)

Partners: City of Hopkins, Hopkins Police Department, Hopkins Business and Civic Association, businesses

Desired Result: Greater ability to resolve crime activity and monitor suspicious behavior.

Activity C3: Provide information to homeowners/property owners on environmental design, lighting and other strategies that improve safety and livability

Budget: \$1,000 (printing and mailing to property owners) annually

Timeline: Spring 2010

Partners: City of Hopkins, Hopkins Police Department

Desired Result: Residents are better able to access information to incorporate preventative safety measure on their property.

II. NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Goal: A neighborhood where residents and businesses work together to reduce litter, create a pleasing neighborhood aesthetic, and are actively engaged in development efforts to improve livability, green space and access to recreational space.

Objective A: Reduce litter along streets, sidewalks, residential yards and parking lots of apartment complexes and businesses.

Activity A1: Annual neighborhood-led Spring and Fall clean up for residents, local businesses and their employees, and youth.

- Schedule annual Spring and Fall clean up dates
- Publicize clean up through newspapers, Web sites, flyers, neighborhood newsletter, schools and churches
- Ask businesses to provide employee volunteers and small gifts for children
- Organize materials needed for clean up
- Coordinate with city staff for support
- Post-clean up social event

Budget: \$1000 (refreshments, equipment, publicity) annually

Timeline: Establish annual dates in April and September/October

Partners: Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, Hopkins Public Works Department, residents and businesses

Desired Result: A cleaner neighborhood and neighbors working together.

Activity A2: Increase the number of garbage and recycling bins available along Blake Road and in Cottageville Park

- Ask businesses to provide garbage cans
- Work with City of Hopkins Public Works to develop plan for placing garbage and recycling bins along Blake Road and in Cottageville Park
- Identify priority areas for garbage bins and convey information to Hopkins Public Works Department

Budget: \$1200 (two bins on Blake Road and one in Cottageville Park)
[NOTES: City of Hopkins Public Works Dept. might have appropriate garage bins available without new purchase]

Timeline: April (before Spring clean up day)
2nd Quarter: Explore grant opportunities through Hennepin County Environmental Services

Partners: Blake Road businesses, Hennepin County Environmental Services, City of Hopkins and Public Works Department

Desired Result: Maintain a cleaner neighborhood.

Activity A3: Create an Adopt-a-block program

- Work with residents, block clubs and businesses to adopt blocks or businesses for clean up and coordinate with annual Spring and Fall clean up
- Coordinate with Block Club leaders and Neighborhood Watch
- Develop simple “how to” packet for Adopt-a-Block
- Pick one day per month to check block for litter; notify city Public Works department of problems and coordinate with youth clean up efforts (See Youth section]
- Research costs and ideas for identifying businesses or groups that adopt blocks in the neighborhood

Budget: \$500 (refreshment costs, flyers costs) annually

Timeline: Summer: Draft “How to Packet” for Adopt-a-Block
Summer/Fall: Identify residents and businesses willing to adopt-a-block

Partners: Residents, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, Hopkins Public Works Department, residents and businesses

Desired Result: Stewardship of key areas to maintain litter-free zones, and better coordinate clean up efforts.

Objective B: Engage with the city of Hopkins and Hennepin County to ensure development and infrastructure needs of the Blake Road neighborhood are a priority.

Activity B1: Create a resident-led committee to engage with the City of Hopkins and Hennepin County for much-needed improvements to the Blake Road area

- Recruit residents for committee
- Ask residents to participate in Hopkins City Academy
- Introductory meeting with key Hopkins city staff
- Meeting with Hennepin County Commissioner
- Develop priority and strategy for neighborhood improvements
- Work with BRCC, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, City of Hopkins to identify funding sources
- One resident can monitor city calendar for opportunities for public input to city and county planning and budgeting (including public hearings, Community Improvement Planning, LRT hearings, city and county budget process); coordinate among residents attendance at these opportunities and report back process.
- Encourage residents to receive Hopkins Connections emails
- List of improvements (Lighting on Blake Road is top priority):

Blake Road

- ❖ Lights on Blake Road (For reference, lights on Excelsior Blvd. cost \$5,000 per light)
- ❖ Crosswalk safety: medians, signs
- ❖ Street improvements
- ❖ ADA accessibility (sidewalks, crosswalks, snow removal)

Cottageville Park

- ❖ Rain shelter \$25,000 (Priority for Summer 2011 for full-day summer programming at park)
- ❖ Playground equipment \$45,000
- ❖ Water fountain \$3,000
- ❖ Bathroom/Port-a-potty \$500
- ❖ Full basketball court need estimates
- ❖ Picnic tables & benches \$1000 (Boy Scouts working on this for summer 2010)
- ❖ Grills \$800.00 (Boy Scouts working on this for summer 2010)
- ❖ Trees/plantings \$1000
- ❖ Sign/s \$5,000

Neighborhood Improvements

- ❖ Kiosk/sign at Bike Trail (identifying area amenities)

Budget: \$500 (meeting costs, will seek funding for projects as identified by residents group)
Blake Road lighting improvements \$5,000 per light post
Capitol costs for Cottageville Park improvements: \$81,300

Timeline: Priority project is lighting on Blake Road

Partners: Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, City of Hopkins, Hopkins Public Works Department, Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Services, residents and businesses

Desired Results: Pedestrian scale lighting along Blake Road and major facility improvements to Cottageville Park to create a more family friendly environment to enjoy.

Objective C: Residents, including homeowners, landlords and renters, take personal responsibility for beautifying and reducing waste in their home, on their block and in the whole neighborhood.

Activity C1:

- Award businesses, apartment complexes, duplexes and private homes for efforts to maintain aesthetically pleasing properties
- Raise awareness of Hopkins Home Improvement grants/loans to Blake Road residents

- Educate homeowners/property owners on environmental design, lighting and other strategies that improve safety and livability
- Create opportunities for residents to share and learn from each other (i.e. produce swap, plant exchanges, garden clubs, master gardener event)

Budget: \$750 (printing, mailing, meeting costs) annually

Timeline: Fourth Quarter 2010: Mailing of Hopkins Home Improvement and create resident/business group to develop neighborhood awards for maintenance and opportunities for sharing and learning.

Partners: City of Hopkins, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, seek business partners, and residents

Desired Results: Raise awareness, recognize and reward efforts to make improvements to home and businesses in the area so that more people participate.

III. FOSTERING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH

Goal: A neighborhood where youth have safe, clean recreational space, activities that nurture mind and body, and where youth have opportunities to contribute to their community.

Objective A: Work with youth to develop a sense of community responsibility and ownership of Cottageville Park and their neighborhood.

Activity A1: Organize adult-supervised youth groups to walk through neighborhood to pick up litter (Once a month/alternate weekends, May through September)

- Work with schools to recruit middle- and high school youth
- Organize regular weekend walk-throughs with youth; document youth hours contributed to clean up
- Provide \$1 per hour stipend for each hour of clean up; each student receives check for hours contributed at the end of the summer
- Ask Blake businesses to contribute small items for students (i.e. ice cream at Dairy Queen; soda and fries from Arby's)
- Organize an Honoring Circle to recognize work of students; invite students' families, neighbors and city officials

Budget: \$1000 (stipend for students, equipment including gloves, bags) annually

Timeline: April/May recruit students
Late May through August: regular clean up days
Late August/Early September: Honoring Circle

Partners: Hopkins Public Works, Hopkins Public Schools, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, businesses, adult and youth volunteers

Desired Results: Youth participate in making the neighborhood a better place and they are recognized and rewarded for it.

Activity A2: Identify teens interested in assisting with Adopt A River clean up of Minnehaha Creek (Peter Boisclair)

- Work through Hopkins Public Schools to identify high school students interested in collaborating with Peter Boisclair (Hopkins HS senior who has adopted Minnehaha Creek from DNR) and other Blake residents on creek clean up
- Connect students with Peter and residents

Budget: \$100 (flyers to distribute through school)

Timeline: April/May recruit students through Hopkins HS

Partners: Hopkins Public Schools, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, Peter Boisclair, high school students

Desired Results: Youth leadership opportunities around environmental stewardship.

Objective B: Adult-supervised activities at Cottageville Park during the summer 2010

Activity B1: Recreation Services program on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at Cottageville Park

- Park and Rec will walk 6-12 year olds from Oakes Park to Cottageville on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Hopkins Police to assist with crossing Blake on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Hopkins Public Schools will explore possibility of providing meals at Cottageville on days youth are at that park
- Provide ideas for activities at Cottageville Park that will foster youth responsibility and ownership of the park. Ideas include:
- Create activities for Park and Rec programs at Oakes/Cottageville to work with kids and create sense of ownership for neighborhood and its well-being:
 - ❖ Ask kids to develop rules for the park and post those rules on a sign
 - ❖ Ask kids to help create a sign to mark the entrance to Cottageville Park from Blake Road
 - ❖ Ask kids to participate in a clean up and discussion about how litter impacts their neighborhood

Budget: Park and Rec will provide staff
\$5,000 sign at Cottageville (post sign with park hours and rules, using usage rules from kids such as, “The children of the Blake Road neighborhood ask you respect this park by following these rules....”

Timeline: Second week of June through July

Partners: Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Services, Hopkins Public Schools, youth

Desired Results: Positive youth activities that promote recreation, team skills, athletic skills and responsibility to the broader community.

Activity B2: Three-on-three Basketball at Cottageville Park Mondays and Wednesdays

- Park and Rec three-on-three Basketball at Cottageville Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for ages
- Explore whether former NBA player Chris Carr could speak to players during tournament week (last week of July) possibly on sportsmanship; use as incentive to those who sign up to continue playing.

Budget: \$100 for flyers to publicize
Recreation Services to provide staff

Timeline: Second week of June through July

Partners: Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Services, youth, adult volunteers

Desired Results: A “slam dunk” series of regular summer events that models positive role models, develops skills, and fun.

Activity B3: Friday Night Lights at Cottageville Park

- Friday Night Lights at Cottageville Park one Friday each month in May, June, July and August. Park and Rec will supply two staff to lead activities and crafts for children. BRCC staff will do outreach and encourage families to picnic in the park. BRCC will organize family-friendly activities (popsicles; fire truck; music, etc).

Budget: \$2,000 (does not include Park and Rec budget for staff and equipment)

Timeline: March: Develop theme for each night; planning and organize activities (i.e. music, schedule police, schedule Fire Truck, etc.)
April-May: Publicize to residents
Third Friday of May, June, July and August: Friday Night picnicking

Partners: Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Services, Hopkins Public Schools, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, adult volunteers, youth

Desired Results: Family activities available at Cottageville Park to help build a sense of community and connection.

Objective C: Afterschool activities

Activity C1: Afterschool Homework Help

- Seek additional funds to increase access to Eisenhower tutors (currently there is a waiting list).

Budget: Tutoring: Additional \$4,000 for staff and \$2,000 for transportation

Timeline: Ongoing: Seek funding sources and apply

Partners: Hopkins Public Schools/Community Education, Volunteers and staff, youth

Desired Results: Strengthen academic skills and provide parents for whom English is a second language with homework support for their children.

Activity C2 Monthly recreational activities at 43 Hoops for youth from 5th grade through 12th

- Once a month activity night open to neighborhood youth (based on grade level)
- Outreach with parents of youth who attend to identify chaperones
- Build capacity with chaperones to supervise activities nights
- Develop programming ideas to address needs and interests of girls and boys, and develop guidelines for events that are inclusive of different faith traditions for families
- Include youth in establishing rules for behavior and activities to set up and clean up; rotate youth volunteers

Budget: \$3,000 for various entertainment expenses (occasional music, dance/activity instructors, arcade games or jumpers)
\$2,400 In kind contribution of space from 43 Hoops (\$50 per court per hour; assumes each monthly activity night at 43 Hoops will use 2 courts for 2 hours once per month)
Food and beverages In kind contribution from ICA Food Shelf

Timeline: Jan. 10, Feb. 27, Mar. 20, Apr. 24 and May 8 or 22
First half 2010: Organize events, document “how to” for future events, build capacity for community members to chaperone, determine rotation of events to accommodate girls/boys and faith traditions
Second half 2010: Identify adult coordinator to organize volunteers at monthly events

Partners: 43 Hoops, Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, adult volunteers, youth

Desired Results: Fun social outings for youth to foster friendships and connections.

Activity C3: Afterschool and summer hours at Lindbergh Center for 4th through 9th graders

- Seek funding to hire staff to supervise afterschool activity at Lindbergh Center, as well as after summer school classes.
- Goal is to provide recreation activities at Lindbergh Center for Blake Road youth twice a week for two hours (such as Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. after school, and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the summer (after school summer programs).
- Youth may take afternoon bus from school home

Budget: \$3,000 (hire staff person to supervise recreation activity at Lindbergh Center) annually

Timeline: January: Coordinate available time with Lindbergh Center
Ongoing: Seek funding for staff

Partners: Hopkins Public Schools, Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Services, youth
Desired Results: Provide afterschool and summer programs to engage youth.

Activity C4: Create adult supervised organized sports activities for youth in the Blake Road Neighborhood

- The most commonly requested activities are organized sports, especially basketball with some requests for soccer, football and volleyball (for girls).
- Explore with the Minnesota Youth Athletic Services and 43 Hoops possible tournaments and involvement of Blake Road teams
- 43 Hoops options include:
 - √ Five to 10 kids could be included in 5-on-5 basketball teams to join in Sunday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - √ Eight girls in 4th-6th grade could form Volleyball team for house league, play Sunday afternoons April-May
 - √ Summer nights: organize youth activity nights (basketball, volleyball, jumpers for young kids
 - √ MYAS Tournaments: Spring, Summer and Fall tournaments, each team with 10 kids (between 5th -9th grade) (Require transportation to tournaments)
- Seek Blake Road businesses to sponsor team (by providing funds for uniforms)
- Publicize sporting events with community members to encourage attendance and build community support for youth involved in sports
- Seek out locations for youth to play sports (Cottageville Park, 43 Hoops, The Blake School and other area parks) such as basketball, soccer and volleyball
- Contact local civic groups such as Jaycees for assistance with organizing and coaching teams

Budget: \$7,000 (\$600 for uniforms per team of 10 kids; \$1,000 MYAS tournament fees; \$1,500 per coach per two-month season)
\$5,000 In kind contribution from 43 Hoops (includes court time and staff time)

Timeline: January-February work with 43 Hoops to identify potential tournaments youth can participate in
Establish at least one such tournament for Blake team in summer 2010

Partners: 43 Hoops, Hopkins Public Schools/Community Ed, adult volunteers, youth

Desired Results: Structured youth activities that provide recreational and team building opportunities.

Activity C5: Afterschool craft projects for middle- and high schoolers at Westside

Several families discussed a desire for craft projects for girls at Westside.
Explore interest among residents to share their skills with resident youth

Assist residents with setting up after school or summer workshops to learn craft projects
Provide start up assistance by locating donated craft supplies through businesses, community donations and funding.

Work with Highland Management to support use of community rooms for craft projects
Provide leadership training for adult residents to lead and coordinate among themselves craft projects for youth.

Budget: \$500 start up funding for flyers to publicize and craft materials
Seek donations of craft materials.

Timeline: Second quarter 2010: Identify adult residents interested in sharing craft skills and help them to organize a resident cooperative, provide leadership training and support through printed flyers and developing sources for donated craft material.
Summer 2010: Residents lead summer craft projects for youth.

Partners: Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, Westside residents and youth, Highland Management

Desired Results: Westside residents cooperative to address their interest in creating safe activities for youth, build leadership skills of residents to create activities they want for their youth.

Activity C6: Teen nights at Westside

- Teens at Westside Apartments describe the lack of places to hang out, girls mentioned feeling uneasy or unsafe outside in areas where men hang out. They discussed not being able to use the recreation room and that the basketball hoop was taken down.
- Create nights where youth can gather in a safe, adult-supervised space at Westside.
- Combine fun activities (pizza, movies, video games, music) with community building activities and teen-support activities
- Work with local organizations to gather input on putting together successful teen nights, including Teens Alone, Hopkins School staff, Youth Frontiers and other groups
- Organize groups by gender (girls and boys) to create a safe environment and one in which multicultural families will feel respects their values.

Budget: \$20,000 to pay staff to pilot two groups (one girls, one boys) during the summer months at Westside apartments.

Timeline: First Quarter 2010: Meet with Highland Management (which operates Westside Apartments) to share concerns of youth, identify parameters for creating teen-activities at Westside
Research and outreach to develop outline of teen nights
Seek Funding to staff teen nights, ideally by summer 2010

Partners: Westside management, community organizations, resident volunteers, youth

Desired Results: Supervised youth events for Westside residents.

Objective D: Understand existing programs and resources for children and families and work to remove any barriers to participation.

- Assist with informing residents about resources available
- Hold annual Spring (early March) and Fall information (early August) fairs to assist families with finding appropriate summer and school activities and assistance to participate (transportations, scholarships).
- Continuously work to understand barriers to participation and provide that information to service providers, schools, etc.
- Coordinate location for neighborhood information fair (43 Hoops, Shepherd of the Hills)
- Coordinate supervised activities for children/child care

Budget: \$750 to cover child care costs, any location costs, printing and publicity
Food and beverages In kind from ICA Food Shelf

Timeline: January through February: notify agencies about information fair (date, time, details) and confirm attendance
Early March: Summer program information fair
June-July: Notify agencies about information fair (date, time, details) and confirm attendance
Early August: School Information fair

Partners: Blake Road Corridor Collaborative members, community organizations, residents and youth.

Desired Results: Comprehensive information on programs and resources available to Blake Road neighborhood families and how to get involved.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS

Objective: Residents, businesses and property owners are informed of neighborhood activities

Activity 1: Develop effective communication tools to keep residents informed of activities, events and neighborhood news

- Neighborhood Web site and Facebook
- Neighborhood newsletter
- List serve to residents, landlords, property owners, businesses, city, etc.
- Translate materials to relevant neighborhood languages
- Use flyers, businesses and community event boards
- Engage youth and adult residents in contributing to Web and newsletter.

Budget: \$1,000 plus LISC funds for newsletter and Web site by Red Bird Media

Timeline: Web site: First quarter 2010
Newsletter: Second quarter 2010
Ongoing through various outreach efforts

Partners: Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Red Bird Media

Activity 4: Explore interest in a Neighborhood Diversity Committee

- Engage residents in discussion about creating a Create a neighborhood culture committee to represent the diversity of the neighborhood.
- Seek input on interest in how to focus such a group (on advising the BRCC or in creating events for residents to share cultures)
- Consult with Mariama Kpaka, North JH, on Restorative Justice Circles and incorporating them into community-based use

Budget: BRCC Staff/AmericCorps LISC volunteer time

Timeline: Ongoing
Use input for 2011 planning process

ADDENDUM

Wilder Research Executive Summary