

Connecting Caring Communities Neighborhood Plan

Neighborhood: Amani

Geographic Boundaries:

North Ave. to Capitol; 15th to 35th Sts. (Encompasses the technical Amani boundaries, and its surrounding area.)

Approximate number of older adults in neighborhood & demographic characteristics:

3,000 older adults (just over 9% of the total neighborhood population.) Over 96% of the population is African American. Nearly 40% of the total neighborhood population is below the federal poverty level. (According to U.S. Census data for the 53206 zip code, which has borders similar to those set out for this project.)

Neighborhood Assets:

1. Large number of committed, concerned, community-based organizations.
2. History of successful grassroots organization by residents themselves (i.e., block watches.)
3. Many older adults are among the neighborhood's only home owners, providing a vital sense of stability to the area.
4. Strong faith-based community with a long history in the neighborhood.

Older Adult Concerns re: remaining in the neighborhood:

1. Crime/safety
2. Youth (both related to older adults' personal safety around them and feeling a lack of connection with them.)
3. Condition of neighborhood/home maintenance issues.
4. Sense of disconnect between homeowners and their neighborhood. (A lost sense of community & ownership.)

Lead Partner & Other Partners:

Leads: The Dominican Center for Women and C.O.A. Goldin Center

Other: Project Respect, Messmer Catholic Schools, Hephatha Lutheran Church, Greater St. Luke's Baptist Church, S.E.T. Ministry, Columbia St. Mary's, Dr. Wesley L. Scott Senior Living Community, Bethesda Senior Center, Alderman Willie

Wade, and the Fifth District Police Office.		
Partnership Priorities:		
1. Identify area older adults and interested organizations, with particular attention to reaching isolated, vulnerable older adults.		
2. Connect older adults and interested organizations with each other to foster a sense of community and collaboratively address issues.		
3. Address issues identified in initial focus groups, while continuing to foster a sustaining sense of community.		
Desired Outcomes:		
1. Strong sense of community between older adults and community-based organizations.		
2. Feeling of safety and community-ownership among older adults, including having a voice with agencies, public officials, and the greater community.		
3. Stronger intergenerational connections between older and younger generations in the community.		
4. Clean, safe, and well-maintained neighborhood and homes.		
Neighborhood Goals/Objectives/Activities	Responsible Person/organization	Start/end
Goal 1: Build a sense of community between older adults and organizations in the neighborhood		
<i>Objectives</i>		
1. Schedule monthly breakfast gatherings at the Goldin Center	Cliff-COA	February 12, 2009 - ongoing
2. Increase number of older adults involved in and committed to the project	All	Ongoing
3. Involve all organizations serving older adults in and around Amani	Carrie & Rob - ICHI	Beginning in August, 2008 & ongoing
<i>Activities</i>		
1. Invite existing groups of older adults to the monthly breakfast	Carrie & Rob - ICHI	Immediately

(e.g., Dominican Center for Women's home owners group, St. Luke's Baptist senior group, etc.)		
2. Invite police liaison officer to meet with residents on an ongoing basis, developing relationships and addressing needs	Carrie & Cliff – COA	February 12, 2009 & ongoing
3. Connect with older adult-serving organizations in and around Amani, introducing the project and inviting them to participate	Carrie & Rob – ICHI	Beginning in August, 2008 & ongoing
Goal 2: Foster an intergenerational connection between older adults and youth in the neighborhood		
<i>Objectives</i>		
1. Hold event/activity at least 3 times a year where youth are interacting directly with older adults	All	Beginning on February 12, 2009 & ongoing
2. Foster mutually beneficial intergenerational relationships (i.e., mentoring programs, youth helping with simple home maintenance tasks, etc.)	All	Spring/Summer 2009
3.		
<i>Activities</i>		
1. Breakfasts (see above)		
2. Develop opportunities to interact with Messmer & Auer Avenue School students	Messmer, COA & Auer Avenue School	In process
3. Connect with the Department on Aging's Intergenerational Council and St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care to understand successful models for similar programs	Carrie	Spring 2009
Goal 3: Provide access to resources that will assist older adults with household chore		

<i>Objectives</i>		
1. Secure volunteers	All	Spring/Summer 2009
2. Develop list of projects (ongoing and one-time) that older adults would like assistance with	Sr. Ann – Dominican Center	Ongoing
3.		
<i>Activities</i>		
1. Participate in the “Great American clean-up” in April	All	April 2009
2. Contact department of corrections to inquire about their community service projects	Messmer	January 2009 meeting
3. Contact Marquette to inquire about service learning volunteers	Project Respect	Spring 2009
Goal 4: Increase sense of ownership among residents of the neighborhood		
<i>Objectives</i>		
1. Reduce the amount of litter on neighborhood streets & in alleys	All	Spring & Summer 2009
2. Introduce residents to their neighbors & students at Auer Avenue & Messmer Schools through the activities above	COA & Messmer	?
3. Develop collaborative relationships with ongoing community efforts to address issues, i.e., block watches	COA & Police Liaison	Ongoing
<i>Activities</i>		
1. Identify a liaison with Auer Avenue School	Cliff-COA	February meeting
2. Prepare a flyer template with activity information	ICHI	February 12
3.		
Strategies to ensure sustainability in terms of resource development, leadership continuation:		
The COA Goldin Center (Cliff) has agreed to attempt to establish the Goldin Center as the gathering place in the neighborhood.		

Barbara Moore is a very active participant...and may be interested in taking on a leadership role.

Formal designation of a leader has not yet occurred.