



Sunnyside Neighborhood Challenge

Sunnyside

- ❖ Southside Houston neighborhood; is *generally* bordered by Hwy 288 on the west, 610 South Loop on the north, Martin Luther King Boulevard on the east and Almeda Genoa on the South
- ❖ Most residents are native Texans and have lived in the Sunnyside community five or more years
- ❖ 93% of residents are Black
- ❖ 40% of the population lives below poverty level
- ❖ One fourth of the total population is between the age of 5-19.
- ❖ 1,595 children from birth to five years old

Source: City of Houston

A child born in Sunnyside



- ❖ 1 in 4 has a chance of being born to a young mother between the age 10-19
- ❖ Approximately 14.7% of live births are low birth weight infants
- ❖ Approximately one-third of children under 12 years of age live below the poverty level
- ❖ A growing number of children are living with grandparents

Neighborhood Engagement

- ❖ Leadership team emerged from of the College Bound-Beginning at Birth (CB-BB) Neighborhood Advisory Committee
- ❖ Recruited church leaders, members of different CDCs, residents, civic club members
- ❖ Methods of communication included:
 - *Email*
 - *Phone calls*
 - *Word of Mouth*

Process Challenges

- ❖ Identification of meeting days that worked for all participants
- ❖ New participants attended each meeting
- ❖ Community members hesitant to change

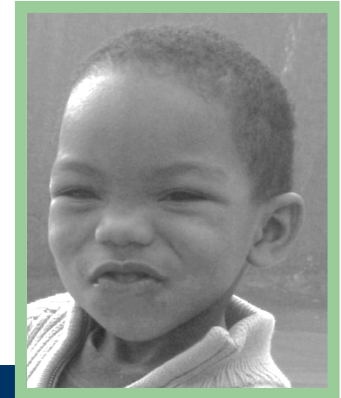
Process Challenges (cont.)

- ❖ Participants understanding of the community collaboration process
- ❖ Final project selection was difficult as new participants were given opportunities to share ideas.

Final Project Selection

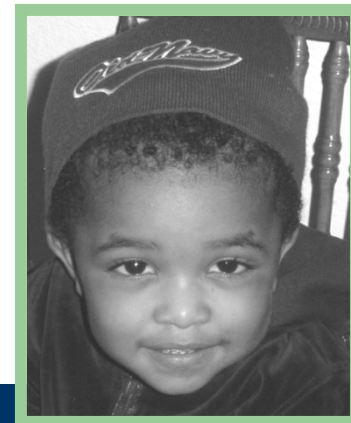
- ❖ A leadership team was developed
- ❖ Group discussed the pros and cons of each proposed idea
- ❖ Each participant received a ballot of community concerns to prioritize.
- ❖ Ballots collected and tallied by Leadership Team
- ❖ Most votes received for:
 - Support to Teen Parents
 - Support for Elderly Caregivers

Improving the Quality of Life for Our Future



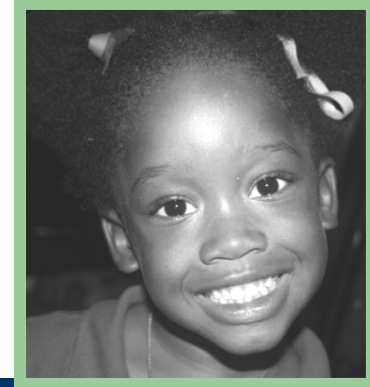
- ❖ Create programs that strengthen Sunnyside's most vulnerable residents and address current adverse trends
- ❖ Partnered with many different organizations in the community (government sponsored, nonprofit organizations, civic clubs, CDC's, faith-based organizations)

Potential Project Challenges



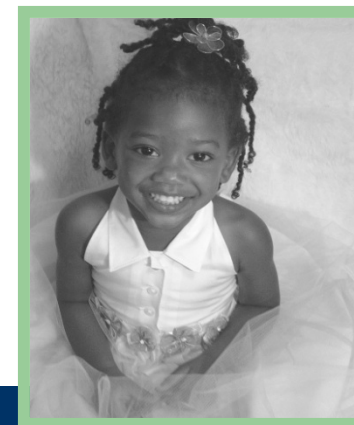
- ❖ Maintaining teen participation
- ❖ Engaging Grandparents who are often overwhelmed with health problems and busy schedules
- ❖ Managing new projects as the community's scope widens and additional issues are addressed.
- ❖ Keeping community leaders, residents and partners fully engaged in this new initiative/ process

Projected Outcome



- ❖ Empowered community voice
- ❖ Stronger collaborative ties between community partners (i.e. schools, faith-based organizations, civic associations and non-profits)
- ❖ Economic and educational development plan to improve opportunities for residents

Measuring Success



- ❖ School ready pre-school age children
- ❖ More teens receiving prenatal care
- ❖ Elderly Caregiver network of support
- ❖ Elderly caregivers receiving more resources to care for children

Initial Budget

- ❖ Funding (\$2,000) will be used to support:
 - Focus groups (separate for Teen and Grandparents)
 - Resource Materials
 - Curriculum and other informational trainings
 - Children's Books

Where Do We Go?

❖ Next Steps:

- Meeting scheduled 2/19/09 @ 6pm
- Continue to engage leaders and residents to keep the dialogue open on how to create a much needed Sustainable Community
- Continue preparation for project implementation

Where Do We Go? (cont.)

- ❖ Define program based on results from focus groups
- ❖ Work with committee on creating a budget
- ❖ Work with partners to raise additional funds for implementation.

Why We're Here

- I am interested in the Sunnyside area receiving funding that will enhance current services and allow for development of other services that will meet needs. -DL
- I found out about the community project from a friend who thought I'd be interested. I live in a community where I see an abundance of potential. The thought of sitting around a table with a number of people who focus on creating solutions, was way more productive than sitting around complaining about problems. -Kimberly Bratton
- I was invited to the Challenge by Brandi Brown. I came out because the teens have two schools in Sunnyside, Worthing and Jones. Those schools make student referrals to Teen Court. And, I can witness in detail regard grandparents raising children and not receiving any services. -Glen Kelso, Community Service Coordinator

Why We're Here (cont.)

- Our organization has worked with LISC and Amanda Timms in the past to help prepare our non-profit for community work, i.e. housing, grants, board preparation. I attended this meeting to find out what type of community collaboration you were speaking of and to see how our organization could help.
-Versie Green, Sunnyside Place CDC
- I live and work in the neighborhood and have been aware of the broad needs and potential of the citizens in our community. This invitation to participate in the LISC challenge is an opportunity to bring our community together with a unity committed to self improvement and being active in the dynamic growth of our city. -Robert F. Austin, M.D.

Why We're Here (cont.)

- My purpose for coming is to be educated on what is LISC preparing to do for the community that will help in getting our people funding if any to train our children, teaching them skills, further their education and to make our citizens that live here the importance we all play in making the community safer and cleaner.
-Rev. James Nash
- Collaboration is absolutely crucial to providing the support a community needs to lift itself up. Most often, community members have multiple barriers to financial success, and by coming together, concerned citizens and dedicated agencies can pool their resources to effect change. I am here because I believe that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and if there are people dedicated to bettering themselves and their communities. I want to provide whatever support I can. I do not want to do something for the community; I want to give the community the tools to do something for itself.
-Tammy Wilsker, JD, MSW Skills For Living

Why We're Here (cont.)

- I was invited by Ms. Jenkins to attend this meeting. I know that Ms. Jenkins is always involved in programs to benefit the community and I wanted to offer my support in this endeavor. I, as a Houston Police Officer am concerned with our youth in all aspects of their development. LISC appears to be sponsoring a project that will definitely offer assistance to not only our youth but also a community who desperately needs a helping hand. -Sgt. Chris Baltazar
- I am committed to the sustainable community project because I was raised in the Sunnyside community & worked in the area as well. I now direct a literacy program in the area & have always been interested in seeing a major collaboration from community leaders, businesses, churches, and agencies to better the children, families & community. -Brandi Brown