Highlights

introduction

Excitement continues to build in the Place Matters communities of Avondale, Covington, Madisonville, Price Hill, and Walnut Hills. Stories of how residents have been impacted by community events, teen programs, rehabbed housing, new businesses, residents connected with jobs, and more have been featured in Soapbox and other local media outlets.

This report is intended to highlight progress in the first half of 2014 and identify recommendations for Place Matters lead organizations to build on successes and keep the positive momentum moving.

partner with developers to get to scale

There will always be a role for lead organizations in taking risks and investing before others are willing to enter the market and leads must continue to demonstrate the market potential in community to make it attractive for developers to join them in completing larger scale projects. Some partnering has occurred with multi-family housing and commercial projects. The challenge will be in partnering to rehab single-family units, which is a large component of the housing stock in many of the Place Matters communities.

In 2015, lead organizations must develop stronger ties with large and small developers to achieve greater scale and impact in housing and commercial development.

accomplish the Bold Goals with community

In 2014, Place Matters communities are working with the Community Building Institute to further define place-based interventions around income, health, and education. The work will leverage community development resources and tools, partner to bring in new resources, build on existing assets, and customize solutions to accomplish the Bold Goals with place-based strategies. In 2014, Interact for Health supported the Place Matters communities work to accomplish the Bold Goals with grants to promote health.

In 2015, lead organizations should articulate the critical role they play in achieving the Bold Goals.
increase capacity by sharing best practices

There are a number of organizations or groups of residents focused on similar topics across the Place Matters communities. For example, each Place Matters community has a gardening group. Every group will benefit from learning what worked and what did not work; lessons that they can apply to their own work. This will ensure efforts are being maximized while still maintaining local responsiveness.

In 2015, leads need to encourage peer-to-peer meetings of groups with similar interests so that they can share experiences and best practices.

share the story with branding and marketing

As Place Matters communities experience momentum and achieve “wins,” there has been an emerging need for branding and marketing to share the story inside and outside of the community.

In 2015, leads should develop a brand statement and marketing campaign to help communicate their work and a desired image of their community to residents (internal) and people outside of the community (external).
In supporting resident-led efforts, leads are recognizing that engagement increasingly falls into two camps: traditional geographic engagement (like neighborhood associations, usually older residents) and engagement that coalesces around a special interest (like growing food locally or improving public spaces, usually younger residents).

While the number of volunteers attending community events and volunteers of geographically-based and special interest-based organizations is high, more leadership development is needed. While volunteers and are important, residents with leadership skills can develop, manage, and sustain efforts that support the work of the leads.

In 2015, lead organizations must increase their support of resident leadership capacity.

The arts, creative placemaking, and special events can all be methods for engaging residents and non-residents alike in community. They have the power to bring together diverse groups of audiences to just have fun or to tackle important community problems in an innovative way. In 2014, Place Matters communities benefited from $45,000 in ArtsWave grants that brought arts to the communities. Leads are hosting and supporting a growing number of events. These are increasingly part of defining an image and marketing the community.

In 2015, leads must identify how the arts, creative placemaking, and special events can be connected with existing work plan goals and outcomes.
Recommendations

More information on overall recommendations can be found on pages 2-4. More information on community recommendations can be found on pages 10-33. Recommendations will be addressed by intermediary and lead organizations in 2015. Actions of intermediaries to address overall recommendations are identified below. Actions of lead organizations will be identified in their 2015 Theories of Change and Work Plans.

**Overall recommendations**

**In 2015, lead organizations must develop stronger ties with large and small developers to achieve greater scale and impact in housing and commercial development.**

**In 2015, lead organizations should articulate the critical role they play in achieving the Bold Goals.**

**In 2015, leads need to encourage peer-to-peer meetings of groups with similar interests so that they can share experiences and best practices.**

**In 2015, leads should develop a brand statement and marketing campaign to help communicate their work and a desired image of their community to residents (internal) and people outside of the community (external).**

**In 2015, leads must identify how the arts, creative placemaking, and special events can be connected with existing work plan goals and outcomes.**

**In 2015, lead organizations must increase their support of resident leadership capacity.**

**Actions (LISC/CBI)**

LISC will help each lead agency implement the best practice of enlisting real estate developers and professionals as needed, along with resident and board involvement in a Real Estate Development Committee which will help to shape strategy and guide development decisions and identify resources.

LISC/CBI will work with leads to incorporate Bold Goals in their 2015 work plans and budgets.

LISC/CBI will help to expand both peer lunch topics and identified affinity groups around opportunities of interest and best practice.

LISC will work with lead organizations to help them create or refine their communications strategy.

LISC will explore different opportunities for trainings and national funding, as well as continue convening the affinity group with ArtsWave.

LISC will ask Center for Great Neighborhoods to conduct a peer training around resident leadership for the other communities.
### Avondale recommendations

- **Maintain and develop new partnerships to expand ACDC’s housing development capacity while maintaining a focus on the Town Center district.**
- **Meet with health and community partners to understand why the health status of residents has improved over the last three years. Support the expansion of successful health interventions in collaboration with institutions and partners.**
- **Drive resident engagement in community-building events and increase support of leadership training for residents.**

### Covington recommendations

- **Work with the Catalytic Fund to collectively increase the overall number of units rehabbed and overall impact.**
- **Evaluate whether the financial education classes and workshops currently offered at no cost by CGN could become a paid line of service (and relationship to the Brighton Center).**
- **Continue to expand support for capacity building of residents and resident-led efforts.**

### Madisonville recommendations

- **Work with the Port and other partners to convert vacant lots to appropriate uses, including housing.**
- **Ensure new development is walkable, pedestrian-friendly, has a mix of uses, and that residents and neighborhood stakeholders are engaged throughout the development process.**
- **Push for, and support the creation of actionable Madisonville Pipeline strategies.**
- **Convene community stakeholders and partners to discuss the health status survey and develop shared strategies and interventions to improve health in Madisonville.**
- **Seek a dedicated full-time community organizer staff position at MCURC to advance MCURC’s mission by maintaining, deepening, and expanding relationships needed to work collaboratively towards the Quality-of-Life Plan goals.**
**Price Hill recommendations**

- Identify opportunities to increase the supply of quality affordable rental units in Price Hill.

- Expand connections between ESOL and Coffee Hour adults to existing programs and community events and activities like the Financial Opportunity Center, early childcare programming, and Community Action Teams.

- Ensure all early childhood efforts are connected, approaches are scaled to increase impact, and mothers are connected with the community and resources outside of the targeted program.

- Engage community residents, stakeholders, and partners in implementation of the Price Hill Plan recommendations in 2015 and beyond.

**Walnut Hills recommendations**

- Continue the Youth Ambassador Program and consider the expansion of the program to extend throughout the school year.

- Develop a local jobs plan with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Easter Seals, and others to ensure a pipeline of Walnut Hills residents are work-ready and connected with local job opportunities.

- Work with the Walnut Hills Area Council, elevate, the Walnut Hills Business Group, and other neighborhood groups to establish clear organizational roles and relationships to each other and to community development efforts in Walnut Hills.

- Continue to use events and programming to bring community members together and build community.

- Identify action steps and work plan objectives based on feedback from the 2014 listening sessions.
Evaluation Process

Mid-year: Qualitative Analysis

This mid-year report will be the first of two reports analyzing 2014 activities. This report includes a qualitative analysis and findings for continuous improvement while the end-of-year report will include a quantitative analysis of shared measures and individual lead outcomes based on full-year achievements.

This evaluation is based on the following:

- an update on progress against measures and activities,
- interviews with key stakeholders in each community, and
- interviews with leads.

Evaluation Method: Theory of Change

The Theory of Change (TOC) model was first used to evaluate Place Matters lead organizations (leads) in 2013.

The TOC was selected as the preferred evaluation tool for a number of reasons. The model has been proven effective in explaining complex approaches such as comprehensive community development. It forces leads to first answer the question, “What does success look like?” It then walks through what it takes to achieve intermediate and early outcomes, the indicators to show when outcomes have been achieved, and finally the activities needed to achieve outcomes. It is also consistent with the collective impact model of backbones.

Most importantly, the TOC establishes a clear storyline of how community change is happening through the work of Place Matters by identifying the relationships between the ultimate outcome, lower level outcomes, measures, and the work of the lead organizations.
Interviews

An important component of the mid-year evaluation is stakeholder interviews. The Community Building Institute (CBI) conducted 39 stakeholder interviews (between 6 and 9 for each community). Areas of interest were identified by CBI based on an initial review of each lead’s theory of change. Leads were then asked to identify stakeholders for each area of interest. Interviews were conducted in August and September of 2014. Interview feedback was used to inform overall recommendations for Place Matters and for each individual community.

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<th>Avondale Stakeholder Interviews</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cinnamon Pelly, The Community Builders</td>
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<td>Brian Harris, Urban League</td>
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<td>Tori Ames, Children’s Hospital</td>
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<td>Renee Mahaffey Harris, Healthy Corner Store/Center for Closing the Health Gap</td>
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<td>Myrita Craig, Gabriel’s Place</td>
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<td>Dr. Johnson, Garden Collaborative</td>
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<td>Judith Van Ginkel, Start Strong</td>
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<td>Moses Johnson, Brothers Gonna Work it Out</td>
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<td>Franz Stansbury, Uptown Consortium</td>
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<td>Dan Bower, City of Cincinnati</td>
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<td>Deborah Tolliver, Madisonville Business Committee</td>
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<td>Steve Rock, 500 Gardens</td>
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<td>Robyn White, Madisonville Education and Assistance Center</td>
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<td>Luke Brockmeier, Madisonville Community Council</td>
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<td>Lisa Garafalo, 4C for Children</td>
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<th>Price Hill Stakeholder Interviews</th>
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<td>Chellie McLellan, Financial Opportunity Center/Workforce Development</td>
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<td>Tracy Power, Roberts Academy</td>
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<td>Linda Holterhoff, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful</td>
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<td>Ethel Cogen, Neighborhood Enhancement Program/City of Cincinnati</td>
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<td>Megan Cavanaugh, Price Hill homeowner</td>
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<td>Susan Conrad, Promoting Our Preschoolers</td>
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<td>Rhett Harkins, East Price Hill Business Alliance</td>
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<td>Luz Elena Schemmel, International Welcome Center</td>
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<td>Dwight Young, BLOC</td>
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<td>Natalie Gardner and Larisa Sims, City of Covington</td>
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<td>J.T. Spence, Covington Neighborhood Collaborative</td>
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<td>Joan Lee, Westside Action Coalition</td>
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<td>Chief Spike Jones and Lieutenant Colonel Bryan Carter, Covington Police Department</td>
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<td>Jeanne Schroer, Catalytic Development Fund Corp. of Northern Kentucky</td>
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<td>Michelle Baker, Gateway Community and Technical College</td>
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<td>Denise Govan, Lifelong Learning Center</td>
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<td>Lydia Gook, Grow the Cov</td>
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<td>Tammy Weidinger, Brighton Center</td>
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<td>Mike Marschman, Fireside Pizza</td>
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<td>Chris Davis, Walnut Hills Business Group</td>
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<td>Dan Bower, City of Cincinnati</td>
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<td>Renacha Murrell, parent of Youth Ambassador</td>
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<td>Officer Kandice Roper-Issa, Safety Committee</td>
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<td>Gary Dangel, elevate walnut hills</td>
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Avondale: Highlights

- housing development support
- 431 youth in enrichment activities
- 272 connected with employment
- 12% improvement in adult health
- 26,043 newsletters distributed
- 1,491 residents engaged

ACDC = Avondale Comprehensive Development Corporation
rec = recommendation
Avondale Comprehensive Development Corporation’s (ACDC) role in redevelopment has been partner, broker, planner, and strategic thinker. They’ve been described as a central convening force, a catalyst, and the glue to improving Avondale’s reputation and restoring hope in the community. While ACDC’s ability to produce rehabbed units has been limited (one single-family rehab in 2014), its role in connecting small- and large-scale developers to redevelopment opportunities in the neighborhood is more impactful than direct development. A lead does not need to have capacity to renovate units in order to help move the housing market.

ACDC is providing support to 5 developers, including The Community Builders and Habitat for Humanity, which will result in hundreds of rehabbed units. ACDC is also promoting and connecting residents to a home improvement loan funded by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and administered by Uptown Consortium.

ACDC’s role in development is also to sell the neighborhood through neighborhood tours with realtors and pushing a positive Avondale narrative in local media.

Maintain and develop new partnerships to expand ACDC’s housing development capacity while maintaining a focus on the Town Center district.
368 Avondale youths are connected with enrichment activities including Avondale Moves!, H3Cincy, Hirsch Recreation Center, Gabriel’s Place Junior Chef Program, and the Boys and Girls Club. The Avondale Youth Council had 42 members while YouthBuild had 21 members. ACDC is looking to expand AYC’s reach once youth get to college and to host open sessions that would reach beyond AYC members. These activities help ensure Avondale teens are prepared to succeed in school and life.

ACDC excels at connecting residents to workforce development opportunities because they feel they have a trusted partner in ACDC. ACDC helps these residents gain confidence in institutions and resources that can help them gain self-sufficiency. 272 residents have connected with workforce development opportunities, including 22 Avondale Youth connected with summer employment.

On the latest Health Status Survey, Avondale’s numbers improved in a number of areas tracked between 2010 and 2013. For example, the number of adults reporting excellent or very good health increased from 31% in 2010 to 44% in 2013. ACDC is supporting a number of healthy eating and active living activities including the Avondale Garden Collaborative, Gabriel’s Place Share-a-Meal and Farmers Market, the two corner stores providing fresh produce through the Center for Closing the Health Gap’s Corner Store initiative, the Avondale Community Council’s Fresh Produce program, the Choice Health Committee, and neighborhood health fairs.

Meet with health and community partners to understand why the health status of residents has improved over the last three years. Support the expansion of successful health interventions in collaboration with institutions and partners.
ACDC distributed 25 newsletters to more than 1,000 recipients in the first half of 2014. Newsletters help get out news and information about ACDC and connect residents and stakeholders with partner organizations’ work in development, community engagement, education, safety, and workforce development. ACDC is also using social media successfully and working with media outlets to tell a positive Avondale story.

ACDC has given a platform for critical efforts in the neighborhood like Brothers Gonna Work it Out. 334 residents were involved in Avondale safety, education, and health efforts while 1,157 were directly involved in improving Avondale quality-of-life by participating and being active in one-time or short-term community events and forums.

While nearly 1,500 residents have been engaged, only 15 resident leaders were trained in the first half of 2014. With a 2014 goal of 70 leaders trained, at mid-year ACDC is behind in meeting this goal.

Overall the sense is that residents feel the neighborhood is getting better, that ACDC has brought people together, worked with everyone, and helped people see the potential and the appearance of Avondale as improving.

Drive resident engagement in community-building events and increase support of leadership training for residents.
Covington: Highlights

- housing and neighborhood improvement
- expanded partnerships changing image
- 174+ youth connected to community
- 300+ receive financial education
- parks and urban farming/gardens
- $1.45 million Kresge grant
- 2,600 residents active building community

CGN = Center for Great Neighborhoods of Covington
rec = recommendation
The Center for Great Neighborhoods of Covington’s (CGN) success at Jackson Square demonstrates how individual housing rehabs can collectively improve the entire neighborhood. CGN’s impact goes beyond selling homes to building community.

Initial housing leverage numbers for Shotgun Row show that $5.86 private dollars were leveraged for each dollar of public funds. Housing redevelopment has also been tied to improved safety, police-community relationships, and image of Covington.

CGN may lead the way in neighborhoods where other developers would not, while the Catalytic Fund can work at scale to develop a larger number of units. Both types of interventions in the housing market are needed.

**Work with the Catalytic Fund to collectively increase the overall number of units reh abb ed and overall impact.**
CGN, the Catalytic Fund, and other partners collaborated to bring UpTech, Northern Kentucky’s informatics startup accelerator, to Pike Street. A CGN LLC is acquiring a vacant building next to Pike Star to expand entrepreneurial opportunities in the next phase of the project. CGN is also helping to change the perception of Covington for those visiting Gateway Community and Technical College by hosting tours to get acquainted with assets in Covington neighborhoods.

Collectively these partnership efforts are changing the image of Covington by providing more opportunities for local entrepreneurs, investment, and exposure to positive impressions of Covington.

CGN’s BLOCK program connects youth with community and academic success. BLOCK had 77 youth participate during the school year and 97 participate in the summer. **95% of BLOCK youth reported feeling a stronger connection to their community.** BLOCK will be expanding to the Notre Dame Urban Education Academy during the 2014-15 school year.

CGN began the Mayor’s Service Challenge to recognize high-quality service-learning projects in the 2012-13 school year and has been working with Children, Inc., Covington Partners Service-Learning Collaborative, Covington schools and neighborhood residents to integrate service-learning into the school day and out-of-school time programming.
CGN is providing financial education to high school students and adults at Holmes High School, Gateway, and Lifelong Learning Center (new in 2014). CGN provides education on goal setting, budgeting, and managing credit and referrals to Catholic Charities, Brighton Center, and others for information about credit, homeownership counseling, foreclosure, and other topics. In many cases, CGN is providing financial education to individuals who have relatively clean financial histories when they are making important financial decisions. CGN provided financial education to more than 300 individuals in the first half of 2014.

Evaluate whether the financial education classes and workshops currently offered at no cost by CGN could become a paid line of service (and relationship to the Brighton Center).

CGN coordinated the planning, fundraising, and community involvement during planning and implementation of the Latonia Cardinals Park at Latonia Elementary to combat obesity to encourage higher levels of physical activity for community residents of all ages. The project received a $50,000 Interact for Health grant and $20,000 from the City of Covington.

CGN is also working with Grow the Cov to develop urban farming and continues to support gardening at five community gardens.

CGN was awarded a $1.45 million grant from the Kresge Foundation to support creative placemaking. The grant will be used to support redevelopment of the Hellmann Lumber Mill into a makers’ space with community gathering spaces, housing rehabs, and mini-grants that support creative placemaking.

CGN is using creative placemaking to find creative solutions and ways to involve community members in addressing community problems.
CGN continues to support resident-led organizations that focus on quality-of-life issues through mini-grants, mentorship, and skill and leadership development to increase the effectiveness and capacity of resident-led groups. CGN now supports 32 organizations and provided support for 16 mini-grants totaling $34,000 in 2014. More than 2,600 residents participated in community-building events.

In 2014, CGN began support for Grow the Cov (urban farming connected to Covington Farmers’ Market), Cov10 (seed funding to support innovative community projects), Make Goebel Great (reclaiming an urban park), and Cov200 (bicentennial citywide celebration). CGN is coordinating volunteer impact events and maintaining an online database for Cov200 which can be used to galvanize volunteers for future projects.

The most effective way to build and maintain resident-led change is to engage people in things they care about, whether that be their neighborhood or an interest. People increasingly choose to live in places where they can be connected and where they can make their mark. CGN is supporting this engagement and sustainability of efforts by building individual leadership and resident-led organizational capacity for new and old organizations alike.

Continue to expand support for capacity building of residents and resident-led efforts.
Madisonville: Highlights

- keeping residents in Madisonville
- 6.25 acres with developer selected
- focus on early childhood
- supporting local business development
- healthy eating and active lifestyles
- quality-of-life enhances safety
- sustaining community momentum

MCURC = Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation

$rec = recommendation
Madisonville:
Mid-Year Findings

**keeping residents in Madisonville**

The Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (MCURC) is pursuing two ways to keep Madisonville residents in the community: supporting seniors with home repairs to keep them in their homes and looking for opportunities to develop a housing stock that is attractive to growing families.

The senior home repair program is being developed through a partnership with Lutheran Benevolent Society, St. Paul Lutheran Church, City of Cincinnati, People Working Cooperatively, and YouthBuild. $30,000 for the program has been secured with additional fundraising underway before program launch.

To maintain or attract families looking for a home to accommodate a larger family, MCURC worked with the Port to secure a vacant lot and then partnered with a private home builder for construction with MCURC collecting a development fee. With a relatively strong market for existing housing, MCURC’s strategy of developing new, larger houses would provide additional product attractive to larger families.

**6.25 acres with developer selected**

MCURC is focusing redevelopment in the heart of Madisonville at Madison and Whetsel. More than 6.25 acres have been acquired and a developer has been selected to complete a large-scale mixed-use development project while additional funding has been secured to rehab the Fifth Third Building. MCURC has also developed Madisonville marketing materials and supports efforts to recruit additional businesses and artisans to the Madisonville business district.

**rec**

Ensure new development is walkable, pedestrian-friendly, has a mix of uses, and that residents and neighborhood stakeholders are engaged throughout the development process.

**rec**

Work with the Port and other partners to convert vacant lots to appropriate uses, including housing.
MCURC is working with partners to ensure children are prepared for school and increasingly choose John P. Parker as their school of choice. The Early Childhood Network, led by 4C for Children, meets monthly and works to ensure that there is an active and connected network of early childcare providers. The Madisonville Pipeline to Children’s Success includes the Children’s Home, Parker, MCURC, 4C, MEAC, and Beech Acres. It works to ensure all children in Madisonville are enrolled in a high-quality preschool or home visitation program. In an effort to increase enrollment and diversify the student body to be reflective of the neighborhood, MCURC and other partners also advocated for an additional preschool classroom with the Cincinnati Public Schools board and Preschool Promise.

Push for, and support the creation of actionable Madisonville Pipeline strategies.

In an effort to assist Madisonville entrepreneurs with business development, Madisonville hosted Xavier University’s “Launch Cincy” 3-class series. 22 participants learned how to identify a problem, create a business plan, and marketing and fundraising basics.
MCURC partnered with the Sidestreams Foundation to launch 500 Gardens in 2014. By mid-2014 the program had connected more than 250 gardeners. The second annual Madisonville 5K promoted active lifestyles for residents while work to implement the Little Duck Creek Plan is ongoing and gaining momentum. Madisonville also hosted an 8-day bicycle repair and safety event for youth in partnership with Holiday Bike Drive’s “Earn a Bicycle” program.

2013 was the first year health status survey oversampling data was available for Madisonville. Madisonville had the lowest percent of adults reporting excellent or very good health: 36% (compared with 52% in the Greater Cincinnati Region; 70% is United Way Bold Goal).

Convene community stakeholders and partners to discuss the health status survey and develop shared strategies and interventions to improve health in Madisonville.
With such tremendous community support in creating the Quality-of-Life Plan, the challenge to Madisonville is to keep the momentum going. Madisonville has demonstrated success on driving Plan recommendations in several areas: established Madisonville Pipeline, Madison/Whetsel developer selected, and 500 Gardens. The Plan also provides a common ground for decision-making for both MCURC and the Madisonville Community Council.

There are an increasing number of ways for Madisonville residents to connect with one another and with issues they care about: 16 block clubs (up from 5 known block clubs in 2013), regular newsletters (20,000 distributed in 2013), cleanups (5 in the first half of 2014 with 271 volunteers), and community events.

Engagement, communications, events, and pushing important agendas requires dedicated staff with a range of skills. The engagement position at MCURC is currently funded by AmeriCorps.

Seek a dedicated full-time community organizer staff position at MCURC to advance MCURC’s mission by maintaining, deepening, and expanding relationships needed to work collaboratively towards the Quality-of-Life Plan goals.

Madisonville was part of a 90-day Police-initiated pilot Quality-of-Life Enhancement Team (QLET) initiative to focus police attention on community-identified issues and preventing crime by being more visible in the community. The initiative brought together Hamilton County Probation officers, the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV), the Madisonville Community Council, MCURC, QLET officers, and Weed and Seed. MCC also hosted a safety forum in the spring. Madisonville’s experience with the QLET shows how increasing the connection between community and police can be an effective way to increase overall safety.
Price Hill: Highlights

- expanded development focus
- supporting immigrant families
- 42 placed in jobs through FOC
- growing local jobs for residents
- Gardening creates healthy food and community
- 5,600+ connected with health care
- focus on early childhood
- hundreds (re)engaged in community
- bringing people together with arts

PHW = Price Hill Will  SM = Santa Maria Community Services  rec = recommendation
Price Hill: Mid-Year Findings

**expanded development focus**

Price Hill Will (PHW) has expanded its development priorities to include commercial and public spaces in addition to single-family housing rehabs. In West Price Hill, PHW is in the early planning stages of **redeveloping several properties along Glenway Avenue**. In East Price Hill, PHW is developing a **public park at St. Lawrence Square**, completing renovations of the **Purcell Townhomes**, and has just purchased the **Masonic Temple Lodge** (potential future arts and entertainment venue). Work is also underway on the **$5.6 million Warsaw Federal Incline Theater** in the Incline District.

The need for quality affordable rental housing has been expressed in education, health, and employment conversations throughout Price Hill over the last several months. Creating quality rental housing in Price Hill is a special challenge because most of the units are in one- and two-unit buildings (65% of all units; 78% of all units are in buildings with four or fewer units).

**Identify opportunities to increase the supply of quality affordable rental units in Price Hill.**
109 adults attended ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes at the International Welcome Center (IWC) while 88 children of ESOL adults participated in youth enrichment programming. IWC served 84 unduplicated adults and 109 unduplicated children through Spanish and English Coffee Hours held once a week. Coffee Hour topics are responsive to attendee requests and have included the following topics: bike safety, legal issues, nutrition, physical activity, parenting, asthma, and an introduction to business.

Expand connections between ESOL and Coffee Hour adults to existing programs and community events and activities like the Financial Opportunity Center, early childcare programming, and Community Action Teams.

By June of 2014, the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) had helped 42 individuals find employment, well on its way to its goal of 50 for the year. The FOC is finding success with its new approach of in-house employment workshops. A total of 206 individuals received at least two of three core FOC services.

Santa Maria is now convening workforce development partners working in Price Hill to develop a targeted plan to increase the impact of workforce development activity in Price Hill.

With the loss of the Urban Appalachian Council, Price Hill lost a primary source of emergency assistance. The FOC model demonstrates a shift towards providing career and personal financial services to support of self-sufficiency initiatives (and not emergency support). Community Matters in Lower Price Hill may help to fill this gap by connecting residents with housing and food assistance.
Price Hill is supporting new and existing local businesses through a number of initiatives. Following the Xavier University “Launch Cincy” program in Price Hill, BLOC Ministries is working with Xavier to create the **Incline Business Incubator in Lower Price Hill** near the corner of 8th and State streets. The incubator will begin to support businesses in the fall of 2014.

**BLOC** also provides employment opportunities at BLOC Coffee and BLOChed Pizza. BLOC and other community stakeholders are exploring additional ventures to provide employment opportunities to residents.

**Gardening creates healthy food and community**

Sustainability and gardening continue to grow in Price Hill. Community groups are taking ownership of the **Gardens at Roberts Academy**. The gardens will soon produce plans that will be ready to divide and start new gardens as early as 2015. Two gardens in Lower Price Hill are back in production while the **Grow it Forward** program continues to increase participants.

**Price Hill Will** is developing a **Community Gardening Manual** to guide organizations interacting with the gardens so that PHW can limit their involvement and encourage community ownership of gardens.

**Imago** continues to be a committed neighborhood partner by supporting sustainability education, youth programming, and community events.
Santa Maria helps residents connect with health care services in a number of ways.

In two years, the Good Samaritan Free Health Center of Price Hill has grown ten-fold to 5,528 patients in the fiscal year ending June 2014. Wellness/Bienestar Community Health Workers work with clients to find the resources needed to meet basic needs and find solutions to barriers (housing, employment, language) so that they are able to take steps to control their health. 55 individuals set small health goals. The Wellness/Bienestar Team also hosts monthly classes “Healthy Cooking on a Budget.”

95 residents were screened for high risk diseases at the Spring Health Fair in April and at monthly Senior Wellness sites.

Price Hill is home to an ever growing number of programs that support moms, babies, and healthy early childhood development: Best Babies Zone, TECCS, Start Strong, Healthy Start, Promoting our Preschoolers (POP), Every Child Succeeds (ECS), and lead hazard education and prevention.

By mid-2014, there were 684 births identified on the registry over the past 3 1/2 years. Nearly all children aged 3-5 enrolled in home visitation programs are assessed age-appropriate in social/emotional and cognitive/language development. An increasing number of infants are up to date on preventative services (48%, up from 33% in 2013). The Best Babies Zone, supported by a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant with Children’s Hospital taking the lead, is working to support pregnant moms and healthy births in partnership with Santa Maria and ECS. Price Hill was selected by BBZ due to high rates of prematurity, poverty, its diverse racial composition, and strong community partners. As part of BBZ’s Block-by-Block Initiative, parent block captains are being recruited to support 25 pregnant moms. Healthy Start will create a neighborhood-based resource team to connect women to existing services to reduce infant mortality. Start Strong is focused on reducing preterm births.

Ensure all early childhood efforts are connected, approaches are scaled to increase impact, and mothers are connected with the community and resources outside of the targeted program.
Price Hill Will is working with the City of Cincinnati and the Community Building Institute on a community plan for Lower, East, and West Price Hill to engage residents and develop a common vision. More than 250 residents attended the initial Price Hill Plan kick-off meeting with dozens of residents engaged in follow-up large and small meetings to develop Plan priorities and recommendations. The final Price Hill Plan will be complete by the end of 2014.

By teaming up with the City Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) in a portion of East Price Hill, residents saw more than 400 volunteers at clean-ups and a resulting decrease in blight during the start of the Plan process (down 6.35% over 90 days).

Engage community residents, stakeholders, and partners in implementation of the Price Hill Plan recommendations in 2015 and beyond.

Arts, especially performing arts, is increasingly being used by Price Hill Will as a vehicle for community building by bringing residents together at events. Price Hill Will hosted 11 events in the first half of 2014 and had 7+ planned for the second half of the year. Instead of having a Cultural Heritage Fest in 2014, the Committee created the Cultural Event Opportunity Grant Program to grow cultural events around Price Hill by providing monetary support, coordinating promotion, volunteer recruitment and making new connections among event organizers. Events have included the East Price Hill Jazz Fest, the Warsaw Arts Festival, and MYCincinnati performances.
Walnut Hills: Highlights

- setting stage for new units and storefronts
- 12 youth connected as Ambassadors
- opportunities for local employment
- expanded access to fresh, local food
- volunteers and leadership
- events that bring people together
- expanding beyond bricks and mortar

WHRF = Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation

rec = recommendation
Walnut Hills: Mid-Year Findings

setting stage for new units and storefronts

The Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation (WHRF) has successfully partnered with small and large developers on commercial and residential projects in and adjacent to the business district. Firehouse Row Phase 1, including Fireside Pizza and a residential unit, have been completed while Firehouse Row Phase 2 (12 housing units, 2 commercial spaces), Trevarren Flats (30 housing units, 5 commercial units), the Windsor School (44 housing units) are in development. Most of the development will be market rate housing units, with 7+ commercial units, and some affordable housing units.

WHRF is also supporting the attraction of new businesses to Walnut Hills through the THRIVE grant ($3,000 - $15,000) and improvement of existing storefront through an ongoing facade improvement program (4 completed, 4 planned). The THRIVE grant was a response to the 2013 social capital survey with the first award going to Angst Coffee. The Business Group is stepping up to take responsibility for the aesthetics of the business corridor with support and guidance from WHRF.
WHRF launched the Youth Ambassador Program in 2014. Twelve youth were connected with local businesses and community stakeholders. The program served not only as a way to develop youth but to further the business district improvement efforts.

Continue the Youth Ambassador Program and consider the expansion of the program to extend throughout the school year.

WHRF partnered with Findlay Market to open the Findlay Market Farmstand and with the Civic Garden Center on the Concord Street Garden. A community garden committee was established to serve as a referral and resource to area gardeners.

WHRF connected Fireside Pizza with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries to encourage employment of neighborhood residents. As redevelopment and attraction of higher income residents occurs, it is especially important that current residents are able to benefit from the opportunities that this activity presents.

There will be many opportunities for employment with the upcoming residential and commercial redevelopment and new businesses.

Develop a local jobs plan with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Easter Seals, and others to ensure a pipeline of Walnut Hills residents are work-ready and connected with local job opportunities.
During the summer the WHRF hosted five listening sessions to ask residents, business owners, and stakeholders for input on their vision of the community. Gentrification and how to include new and old leadership in community development were identified as issues prior to the sessions. Feedback from the listening sessions showed residents were most concerned with safety, vacant buildings, and wanting to ensure that new development benefits long-time residents. More information on the listening sessions will be available in the Place Matters Year-End report.

Identify action steps and work plan objectives based on feedback from the 2014 listening sessions.

Events and programming serve as ways to both connect with local residents and engage people outside of the neighborhood with a positive perception of Walnut Hills.

Continue to use events and programming to bring community members together and build community.

Expanding beyond bricks and mortar

During the summer the WHRF held the We Are Walnut Hills Festival, monthly biergartens during the summer, and programming in the Five Points Alley and at the Findlay Market Farmstand.

Events and programming serve as ways to both connect with local residents and engage people outside of the neighborhood with a positive perception of Walnut Hills.

Work with the Walnut Hills Area Council, elevate, the Walnut Hills Business Group, and other neighborhood groups to establish clear organizational roles and relationships to each other and to community development efforts in Walnut Hills.

Volunteers and leadership

There are now three cleanup teams doing monthly clean-ups in Walnut Hills: Five Points, the Walnut Hills Area Council, and Elevate.

In the area of clean-ups and broader community work, WHRF should work with the Walnut Hills Area Council, elevate, and other stakeholders to ensure that efforts aren’t duplicated and that they complement one another. Each organization should have a defined and understood role in the community in relation to other organizations.

Continue to use events and programming to bring community members together and build community.

Walnut Hills