

Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow Vision and Values

Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow is an intensive neighborhood-based initiative that works to ensure that children are safe, healthy, nurtured and prepared to succeed in kindergarten. Since a family's financial stability has a tremendous impact on how prepared children are for school, the initiative also works with families to set and achieve goals that lead to financial stability, and ultimately, financial independence.

This is an interdisciplinary collaborative, which has attracted strong service provider partners, generous corporate and private donors, committed volunteers and willing families to work together to achieve a new vision of success.

Every person involved—*including you!*—has a vital role to play. Welcome to an exciting partnership of community and family leaders. This short report will provide an overview of who is involved, our vision and values for the collaboration and some insights into early activities of the Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow partnership.

At the heart of this unique partnership is **Metro United Way**.

Since 1917, Metro United Way (www.metrounitedway.org) has forged partnerships between businesses, governments, foundations, neighborhoods and nonprofits to meet the needs and encourage the strengths of our community. Today, Metro United Way helps support **more than 90 health and human service agencies** serving residents of Bullitt, Jefferson, Oldham, and Shelby Counties in Kentucky and Clark, Floyd, and Harrison Counties in Indiana. Diverse groups of **leaders and volunteer experts study local needs, resources, and trends. Priorities are then set for funding agencies**, based on our four visions of success in making our community the most vital, caring community in America: helping kids succeed, building strong families, promoting health and independence, and strengthening neighborhoods.

The Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow Vision of Success

a) Families:

- Children are prepared to succeed in school
- Families value early childhood education and their role as first teachers
- Families increase income and build savings in order to gain and sustain assets
- Families value lifelong learning

b) Community:

- Learning is identified that can be shared with the community to increase the vision for success for the families
- Learning about the process and implementation are identified and shared with other stakeholders
- Scale and replication

c) Centers:

- Offer higher quality service
- Become centers of choice
- Greater outreach to families
- Centers become leaders in creating social change

Values

- Parents (or in families where parents are not present, the primary caregivers) are placed first; relationships are focused on the families
- Customer centered and driven; families will be active in the design and evaluation
- Collaborative
- Respect and strengthen community centers and providers
- Holistic approach
- Family self definition and self determination
- Mutual trust and respect
- Community focus
- Open to learning
- Culturally sensitive
- Consumer involvement is promoted and voluntary
- Belief in success, and understanding there are different ways of defining success
- Risk tolerant / right to fail
- Participation by invitation, though all children will benefit
- Entire centers benefit
- Trained volunteers are involved whenever appropriate – use and involvement is encouraged throughout community
- Alignment – Childhood development and financial stability are blended
- Ongoing training and access to resources for families, staff and agencies
- Recognition that centers are the critical front line providers (feet on the street) for families and children

The Service Provider Partners

The executive directors and boards of directors of **Americana Community Center**, **Louisville Central Community Center**, **Neighborhood House**, and **Presbyterian Community Center** have all expressed their commitment to the success of Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow, and agree that the families that they serve will receive enormous lasting benefits.

The following sections will provide you with an **overview** and additional information about the operational **approach** of the **Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow** partnership. Donors, family coaches, volunteers, agency staff and family leaders will work together to evaluate, shape, learn and produce the best environments and opportunities for children.

Also, you are being provided an informational snapshot of each of these four fine agencies that have stepped forward as Service Provider Partners, as well as other agencies and organizations involved with the initiative. You'll learn about the roles of **New Directions Housing Corporation**, **Community Coordinated Child Care**, **@Work Solutions**, **Louisville Asset Building Coalition** and its members, **The National Center for Family Literacy** and **Women-4-Women**, and donors including our initial funder, **The Gheens Foundation**, and other generous leaders like **PNC Bank**, **Humana Foundation** and its **Wellness Zone** program, and **Chase**.

Again, welcome!

Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow The Service Provider Partners

American Community Center

Executive Director: Edgardo Mansilla

Location: 4801 Southside Dr, Louisville, KY 40214, (502) 366-7813

Website: <http://www.amecomcen.org>

Primary Neighborhood Served: Louisville's Southside

Total Population: 5,934

Population by Race: White - 51.2%, Black - 14.3%, Hispanic - 14.3%, Other - 16.8%

Number of households: 2,398

Percentage of Persons with No High School diploma: 35.1%

Percentage of Households with Income below \$15,000: 26.6%

Mission: Americana Community Center is a 501(c) (3), private, non-profit community-based organization that seeks to provide a spectrum of services for the many diverse residents of Metro Louisville.

Programs: The Center provides an array of social services and referrals explicitly designed to respond to the specific and changing needs of our clients. The programs and services are constantly re-evaluated to determine the efficiency and appropriateness. Adult services and programs include: *English as a Second Language *Introduction to Computers *Basic Keyboarding *Open Computer Lab *Micro Enterprising Training *Asset Building Services (free tax preparation, money smart workshops etc.) *GED classes *ESL classes *Project Pride *Citizenship class. Children's programs and services include: *After-school program (homework help, JCPS ESL, Computer Lab, Art Programs) *Recreation Programs (girls club, music club, open gym) *KIDS Cafe *Latina Girl Scouts *Youth Leadership Committee *Summer Program Community Program & Services * Mobile Health Clinic *Liaison and Advocate *Community Rooms *Counseling and Referral Services *Internships

Louisville Central Community Centers (LCCC)

Executive Director: Sam Watkins, Jr.

Location: 1300 W Muhammad Ali Blvd; Louisville, KY 40203; (502) 583-8822

Website: <http://www.lcccnews.org/>

Primary Neighborhood Served: Russell

Total Population: 9,060

Population by Race: White - 4.3%, Black - 94.6%, Hispanic - .02%, Other - .09%

Number of households: 3,614

Percent of Persons with No High School diploma: 39.1%

Percentage of Households with Income below \$15,000: 56.5%

Mission: LCCC is a 501(c) (3), private, non-profit community-based organization that is governed by an independent, volunteer Board of Directors. Its mission is to advance self-reliance by increasing the competence and confidence among individuals and families in Russell and the larger community. LCCC offers a variety of programs and services in support of children and families. Early childhood education, youth development, arts education and other after school programs, employment services and job training for adults, small business training and home ownership are just some of the services provided. **Programs** Mini-Versity Downtown and Mini-Versity West offer accredited, full-day child care programs with a focus on reading and arts education. Youth services range in programming from homework assistance, to the Teen Leadership Academy, to the Kids Arts Academy (6-18 year olds) that uses fine arts as a vehicle to help young people develop personal skills. One of the key adult services programs at LCCC includes the Working Solutions program, which provides workforce development services, such as job readiness skills training, on-the-job training, and job search and placement support.

Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow The Service Provider Partners

Neighborhood House

Executive Director: Pam Rice

Location: 201 N. 25th Street, Louisville, KY 40212, 502.774.2322

Website: <http://www.nhky.org/index.html>

Primary Neighborhood Served: Portland

Total Population: 11,810

Population by Race: White - 71.7%, Black - 24.5%, Hispanic - 0.8%, Other - 3.1%

Number of households: 4,195

Percentage of Persons with No High School diploma: 46.3%

Percentage of Households with Income below \$15,000: 38.7%

Mission: Neighborhood House is a 501(c)(3), private, non-profit community-based organization that provides individuals with opportunities to enhance the quality of their lives. We are located in Portland, one of Louisville, Kentucky's most economically disadvantaged communities. Neighborhood House provides programs and services for all ages, focusing on educational enhancement, civic responsibilities, cultural enrichment health promotions, social skills development, employment opportunity and training. From our youngest six-week-old to our eldest senior citizen, we offer a variety of programs and services to accommodate the needs of a diverse group of people!

Programs: The following services are examples of the numerous offerings at the site: The Neighborhood House Child Development Center serves over 80 children per day, ages 6 weeks through 12 years old. The Youth Program is designed to engage at-risk youth and focuses on educational enhancement, arts and culture, life skills training and civic responsibility, as well as social and recreational activities. Neighborhood Houses offers a Food Bank Service for families in need of food along with a Kids Cafe', providing warm meals to children of all ages. The Four Seasons Seniors Programs benefit senior citizens through the provision of hot lunches five days each week, as well as health services, social, recreational and educational activities. Our Food Bank Service offers those in need with supplemental food boxes. Individuals also receive information and/or referrals to other resources for themselves or families members. The Food Bank Service is often the open door that brings individuals and families in to other services to help them move toward more stability and health. Neighborhood House also offers GED classes as well as Family Education.

Presbyterian Community Center (PCC)

Executive Director: Bill Gatewood

Location: 701 S. Hancock Street, Louisville, KY 40203, 502-584-0201

Website: <http://www.pccloouisville.com/>

Primary Neighborhood Served: Smoketown

Total Population: 2,116

Population by Race: White - 32.5%, Black - 59.7%, Hispanic - 2.6%, Other - 5.1%

Number of households: 746

Percentage of Persons with No High School diploma: 42.7%

Percentage of Households with Income below \$15,000: 52.1%

Mission: The Presbyterian Community Center is a 501(c)(3), private, non-profit community-based organization that serves as the comprehensive neighborhood center for the Smoketown and Shelby Park area, tending to the physical, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs of families. The center creates opportunities to support, release and strengthen each individual's gifts, so every person becomes a fully empowered citizen in the world of today and tomorrow.

Programs: The Presbyterian Community Center provides adult and after-school youth activities, a health clinic with nurse services, adult fitness and wellness programs, a full day child-care program, computer & work readiness classes, Free Tax preparation (VITA), Dare To Care food assistance and a host of other programs.