Opportunity Neighborhood
2016 Annual Report

PARTNERING TO BRING FRESH HEALTHY FOOD TO RESIDENTS

Food. We all know how important it is to our daily life. From eating breakfast to fuel up to having family and friends over for a summer picnic, food touches every facet of our lives. In fact, without access to fresh and healthy foods, we are at-risk for a variety of illnesses.



The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a retro-fitted city bus bringing fresh and healthy foods to people living in food deserts.

For many people, accessing fresh and healthy food at a fair price can be a challenge. This is especially true for people living on limited budgets in areas where grocery stores and supermarkets are not within walking distance. The United States Department of Agriculture, goes so far as to call these areas food deserts, meaning people must travel more than one mile to get to a grocery store. This may not seem like a big deal if you have access to a vehicle, but for many low-income residents, weekly trips to the grocery can become costly in bus or cab fares. According to Wilder Research and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minnesota is the seventh worst food desert based on population size and only 20% of Minnesotans get the recommended daily number of fruits and vegetables.

This is exactly the situation residents of Garden View Apartments in New Brighton found themselves. Smack dab in the middle of a food desert with no options for accessing fresh and healthy food within walking distance. In early 2016, the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation approached Opportunity Neighborhood to inquire if Garden View Apartments would host a stop for the Twin Cities Mobile Market (TCMM), a retrofitted Metro Transit bus full of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat, bread and canned goods at reduced prices. After hosting focus groups with residents and meetings with property management, Garden View Apartments gained a weekly Saturday stop from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

On July 9, 2016, the TCMM pulled into the main parking lot of Garden View Apartments for the first time and opened their doors to a line of excited residents. Since then, the TCMM has served over 446 customers, many weekly. Everyone is welcomed to shop the bus and payment is accepted in the form of cash, credit, electronic benefit transfer (EBT) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs.

In a recent survey, 89% of customers who shop the bus throughout the east metro, including Garden View Apartments residents, say they buy more fruits and vegetables because of the bus and 82% felt more connected to their neighborhood as the bus created a space to meet neighbors.

Garden View residents not only have access to fresh and healthy foods, but a unique way to build community with their neighbors while improving their health.

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT…

Our Mission
To support people and strengthen neighborhoods within affordable housing communities through cooperative partnerships.

Our Goals
- Increase community safety
- Increase housing stability
- Increase opportunities for family success

Strategy
To develop a service enriched environment that addresses residents' fundamental needs and builds community.

Values
- All people live in a safe environment.
- All people have access to food, shelter, clothing and health care.
- All people have their education, employment, recreation and transportation needs met.
- All people are connected to their community, feel a sense a belonging and ownership.

2016 Significant Accomplishments

- Began out-of-school time programming at a brand new 47-unit affordable housing complex in North Minneapolis called Commons at Penn.

- Received a third Allina Neighborhood Health Connection Grant to provide healthy community dinners and nutrition education session to residents. To date, the project has served over 190 households in 4 different affordable housing communities

- For the fourth year in a row, our agency was names a "Top Rated Nonprofit" by Greatnonprofits.org. (http://greatnonprofits.org/org/opportunity-neighborhood)

- Increased the number of board members to six by adding Siyad Warsame, the Founder and Executive Director of the Africa Reconciliation and Development Organization (ARDO). ARDO is a Twin Cities non-profit specializing in cultural resolution among the African community. Siyad's background working with Somali youth assists us in better serving the large number of Somali youth participating in our out-of-school time program at Ames Lake Neighborhood.

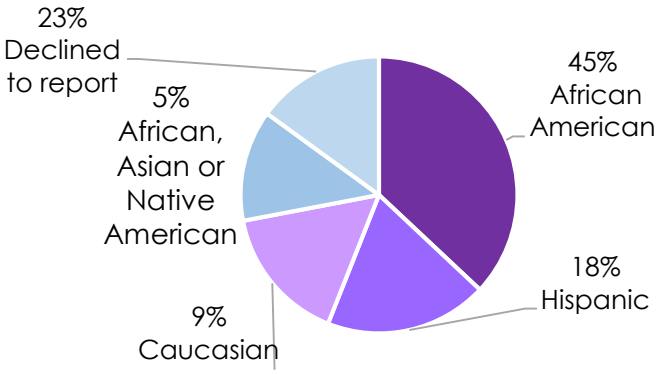
- For the fifth year in a row, our agency has met the Charities Review Council's Accountability Standards. (http://www.smartgivers.org/Charity/Review/opportunity_neighborhood)

RESIDENT SERVICES COMPONENTS

RESIDENT SERVICES COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2015 ACCOMPLISHMENT
Out-Of-School Time Programs/Youth Intervention	Free year-round out-of-school time activities for youth in K-8th grade.	140 K-8th grade youth served through 316 out-of-school time activities.
Early Childhood Education	Early childhood family education classes.	35 early childhood education classes serving 27 children from 17 unique families.
Safety Initiatives	Courtesy staff patrols the property building relationships and addressing nuisances.	7,300 hours of Courtesy services provided at 6 affordable housing communities.
Community Events	Free weekly events promoting social connectedness and building community.	261 community building events.
Information & Referral	Residents can call, email or drop in at the Resident Services office to obtain information about community resources.	210 referrals were made to community organizations.
Special Initiatives	Programs or services created to meet a specific community need or short-term enrichment program provided through a community partnership.	i.t.a. Literacy Program assisted struggling K-2nd grade readers at Ames Lake Neighborhood. Allina Neighborhood Health Connection Grant: Provided healthy community dinners and nutrition education session to residents.

SERVICE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

RESIDENT ETHNICITIES



3,550
Number of residents served

1,069
Number of apartments served

74%
Percentage of households earning an annual income of $30,000 or less

SERVICE LOCATIONS

- Ames Lake Neighborhood, St. Paul
- Commons at Penn, Minneapolis
- Garden View Apartments, New Brighton
- Hyde Park Apartments, New Brighton
- University Dale Apartments, St. Paul
- Wilder Square, St. Paul

STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Staff

Perry Lofquist, Executive Director
Kris Ziegler, Development Officer
Kacee Moua, Resident Services Coordinator - Ames Lake Neighborhood
Myron Green, Resident Services Coordinator - Commons at Penn
Deidra Jefferson, Resident Services Coordinator & Youth Program Staff - Garden View Apartments
Jennifer Mack, Resident Services Coordinator - University Dale Apartments
Charnaah Caldwell, Youth Program Staff
Barbara Curry, Youth Program Staff
Tonia Johnson, Youth Program Staff
Branica Xiong, Youth Program Staff
Gold Zong Lor, Youth Program Intern
Mai Yang Xiong, Youth Program Intern
Erby Delva, Summer Youth Intern
Josue Velasquez, Summer Youth Intern
Jermain Botsio, Courtesy Staff
Martin James, Courtesy Staff
Kirkland Johnson, Courtesy Staff
Tonia Johnson, Courtesy Staff
Joseph Lee, Courtesy Staff
Louis McCoy, Courtesy Staff
Phillip Nketia, Courtesy Staff
Tyrell Phillips, Courtesy Staff
Danny Ramos, Courtesy Staff
Daniel Smith, Courtesy Staff
Eric Wasson, Courtesy Staff

Board

Sue Willman, Chair
Keith Bluford, Treasurer
Tom Schirber, Secretary
Trevor Hamdorf
Karl Spilseth
Siyad Warsame

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Individuals

Anonymous
Dave & Joan Allen
Keith Bluford
John & Patti Burnett
Merrill Fischbein
Dan Flicek
Holly Hamdorf
Trevor Hamdorf
Jerry Hromatka
Beverlee Lofquist-Hinsa
Nancy Hodnefield
Tom Schriber
Karl Spilseth
Marilyn Stevens
Sue Willman
Gilbert Yi

Corporations, Foundations & Service Contracts

Allina Health
Building Blocks
Hardenbergh Foundation
Jarden Consumer Solutions Community Fund
Jerstad Family Foundation
Joseph A. & Lillian C. Duke Foundation
KJ Management
McNeely Foundation
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
MN Department of Public Safety
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Real Estate Equities
Richard M Schulze Family Foundation
Sheltering Arms Foundation
Smith Foundation
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Warren Foundation
Youthprise

Community Partners

ACES

Animal Humane Society

Appetite for Change

Boy Scouts of America

Building Blocks

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Century College – Upward Bound

Century College Service Learning

Community Partners with Youth

Cornerstone Montessori School

East Side Arts Council

East Side Network Café

East Side YMCA

Girl Scouts River Valleys

i.t.a. Foundation

KJ Management

Minneapolis Afterschool Network

MN Coalition of Battered Women

New Brighton Police Department

North High School Basketball Team

North Minneapolis Rotary Club

Police Activities League

Project Sweetie Pie

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf

Ramsey County Public Health

Real Estate Equities

Rondo Community Outreach Library

Sprockets

St. Paul Police Department – Western District

St. Paul Public Libraries

St. Paul Public Library Bookmobile

St. Paul Public Schools Community Education

SUNNY Lunches

The Good Arce

Twin Cities Mobile Market

University of Minnesota Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center

Wilder Square Co-op Board

Wilderness Inquiry

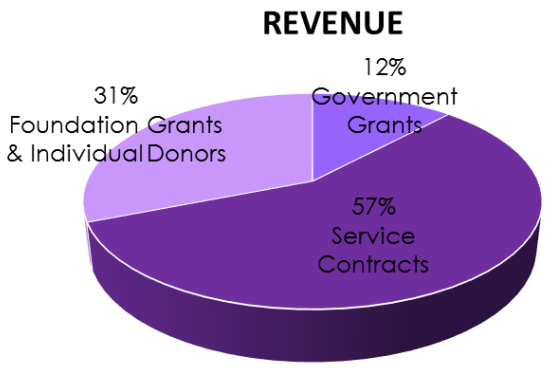
Youth Intervention Program Association

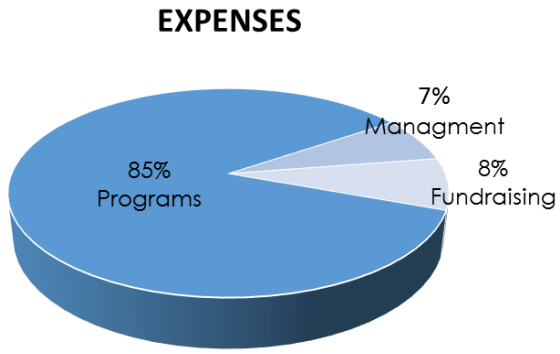
Youthprise Nutrition Program

FINANCIALS

Revenue: $497,544 **Expenses:** $462,094

Balance Sheet	Beginning of year	End of year
Cash	159,592	210,612
Pledges and grants receivable	0	0
Accounts receivable	13,356	11,740
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	3,106	3,106
Investments – program related	15,353	10,000
Other assets	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	**191,407**	**235,458**
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	723	9,324
Unrestricted net assets	175,684	206,134
Total net assets or fund balances	190,684	226,134
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**191,407**	**235,458**





CONTACT INFORMATION

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