Leadership in Building Communities
December 2013

Introduction to the Nineteenth Annual
Leadership in Building Communities Seminar

The seminar that resulted in this report is about the process of change. It is about learning together the art of leadership at the local community level. It is about working in teams to assure that the collective wisdom of the group exceeds individual insights and contributions. It is about learning to listen to people whose communities are served, to recognize their individual and organizational assets, and to structure actions that build on these assets.

Leadership in Building Communities is a University of Dayton seminar for graduate students offered by the Public Administration program and for undergraduate students offered by the departments of Political Science and Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. Several learning strategies are combined to provide a distinctive and connected seminar opportunity. Participants are introduced to asset-based community development and learn about a neighborhood directly from its citizens, businesses, and leaders. Participants also practice the art of working in teams to achieve shared objectives.

The participants in this seminar function as a learning organization with the neighborhood. A neighborhood tour, two evening meetings in the neighborhood and individual interviews bring citizen leaders and community partners together with seminar participants to identify and explain the community’s own analysis of the past, description or the present, and vision of the future. Additionally, each student participant keeps a journal of the experiences.

Learning about community is among the most important tasks facing our society in the 21st century. The University of Dayton has a long tradition of building community among ourselves and with the people of Dayton. This seminar is a serious attempt to transfer some of our learning to the process by which neighborhoods rebuild themselves. It is also an open admission that we have much to learn from the people and the neighborhoods among which we live and work and go to school.

Sincerely,

Dick Ferguson
Instructor

Bro. Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D.
Instructor

Bro. Brandon Paluch, S.M., Ph.D.
Instructor

Don Vermillion
Instructor
Notice to the Reader

This report is the work of University of Dayton students enrolled in a seminar entitled *Leadership in Building Communities* in the Fall 2013. Although the process that resulted in this report involved participation by neighborhood leaders, citizens, and community partners, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the student participants. The written descriptions, analyses, and recommendations should be understood to be those of the students, in consultation with interested individuals, associations, and institutions.
2013 LBC Seminar Participants

Undergraduate Students
Jessalyn Crossman
Psychology

Thomas DeCastra
Operations Management

Francis Flannelly
Operations Management

Emilie Fose
Human Rights, Spanish

Sara Giulani
Criminal Justice Studies

Jennifer Hodulik
English

Joanne Koehler
Sociology, Criminal Justice Studies

Shannon Lees
International Studies

Sarah Liming
Psychology

Taylor Lincoln
Sports Management

Ashley Ann Marshall
Psychology

Mary Catherine McDonald
Religious Studies

Lauren Mooney
International Studies

Dylan Moore
Political Science

Taylor Pair
Chemistry, Political Science

Danielle Pohlman
Human Rights, Spanish

Noel Ragland
Criminal Justice Studies

Jack Raisch
Psychology

Margret Reuter
International Studies

Graduate Students
Alexander Galluzzo
Master of Business Administration

Leslie King
Master of Public Administration

Elizabeth Montgomery
Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries

Sumeta Sachdeva
Master of Renewable and Sustainable Energy

Instructors
Dick Ferguson
Executive Director
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

Bro. Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D.
Ferree Professor of Social Justice
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

Bro. Brandon Paluch, S.M., Ph.D.
Coordinator of Community Outreach
Center for Social Concern

Don Vermillion
Director of Public Projects
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

Report Editor
Suzette Pico
Sr. Administrative Assistant
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community
Seminar Process

♦ Neighborhood toured by students (August 28)
♦ Individual citizen leaders interviewed (Aug-Sept)
♦ Neighborhood meeting and Nominal Group Technique employed to seek Desired Future (Outcomes) (October 2)
♦ Second neighborhood meeting to review proposed content, analysis and projects (November 6)
♦ Comprehensive neighborhood report completed and presented (December 11)

Four Seminar Teams

♦ Citizen Engagement and Development
  Taylor Lincoln, Lauren Mooney, Dylan Moore, Jack Raisch, Maggie Reuter, Sumeta Sachdeva

♦ Family Support and Engagement
  Frankie Flannelly, Emilie Fose, Leslie King, Shannon Lees, Danielle Pohlman

♦ Safe Neighborhoods
  Jessalyn Crossman, Thomas DeCastra, Sara Giuliani, Joanne Koehler, Mary Catherine McDonald, Noel Ragland

♦ Schools and After-School Programs
  Alex Galluzzo, Jen Hodulik, Sarah Liming, Ashley Ann Marshall, Elizabeth Montgomery, Taylor Pair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Neighborhoods and Partners Since 1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Edgemont and Twin Towers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Southern Dayton View</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>MacFarlane and Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Rubicon Park District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Huffman and South Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Edgemont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Dayton View</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Wright-Dunbar/Wolf Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Grafton Hill/Five Oaks/Riverdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Old North Dayton/ McCook Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Walnut Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Carillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Wright Dunbar/Wolf Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Comprehensive Neighborhood Redevel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Old North Dayton/ McCook Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Wolf Creek/So. Dayton View</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Walnut Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Westwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Edgement Nghbd. Assoc.
- M. L. King
- MacFarlane Nghbd.
- St. Mary’s Development
- Fairgrounds Nghbd. Assoc.
- Rubicon Park Master Plan
- Huffman NDC and Historic South Park, Inc.
- Edgemont Nghbd. Coalition East End Community Svcs.
- Dayton View CDC (multiple)
- Fairgrounds Nghbd. Assoc.
- Wright-Dunbar, Inc.
- Grandview Hospital/Renaissance Alliance
- Old North Dayton and McCook Field Neighborhood Associations
- Walnut Hills Nghbd. Assoc.
- Carillon Civic Council
- Wright-Dunbar, Inc. and the MacFarlane/West Third St.
- Phoenix Project, South Park and Twin Towers
- Old North Dayton and McCook Field Nghbd. Assoc.
- Helping Hands Southern Dayton View, Old Dayton View, Jane Reece, Dayton View Historic
- Walnut Hills Nghbd. Assoc.
- Westwood Collaborative Network
DEMOGRAPHICS
# Neighborhood Profile Westwood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>7,772</td>
<td>5,604</td>
<td>-27.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3,474</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>-26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,298</td>
<td>3,054</td>
<td>-28.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7,473</td>
<td>5,255</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 years</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34 years</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 64 years</td>
<td>2,694</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and older</td>
<td>1,431</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family households:</td>
<td>3,287</td>
<td>2,530</td>
<td>-28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married-couple family</td>
<td>1,989</td>
<td>1,427</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Family:</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder, no wife present</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder, no husband</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonfamily households:</td>
<td>1,298</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Average Household Size | 2.40 | 2.21 | -7.9% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Units</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>3,745</td>
<td>3,553</td>
<td>-5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied</td>
<td>3,287</td>
<td>2,530</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied</td>
<td>2,048</td>
<td>1,365</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>1,165</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For rent</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For sale</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vacant</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Median Housing Value - Owner Occupied 2009 | $ 54,896 | $ 44,823 | -18.3% |

Westwood: Census Tracts 38 and 39

Revised: 11/13/2013
## Neighborhood Profile Westwood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>ACS 2006-2010</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median Year Housing Built</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1939</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Attainment 25 and Older</strong></td>
<td>5,026</td>
<td>4,081</td>
<td>-18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>1,543</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>-24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>1,464</td>
<td>-26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>1,177</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional School degree</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate degree</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>School Dropout Rate for Population 16 to 19</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Population 16 to 19</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>-26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not high school graduate, not enrolled</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or enrolled (in school)</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>-34.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Poverty Status of Families</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td>1,945</td>
<td>1,404</td>
<td>-27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income below poverty level</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couples with children under 18</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-74.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couples with no children under 18</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Household, no wife present</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No related children under 18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Household, no husband present</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No related children under 18</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income at or above poverty</td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>-43.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ratio of Income to Poverty Level</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population for whom poverty status is determined</td>
<td>7,790</td>
<td>6,027</td>
<td>-22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1.00 (Doing Poorly)</td>
<td>2,001</td>
<td>2,521</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 to 2.00 (Struggling)</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>-37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2.00 (Poor or Struggling)</td>
<td>4,157</td>
<td>3,876</td>
<td>-6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 and over (Doing ok)</td>
<td>3,633</td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>-40.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Westwood: Census Tracts 38 and 39

Revised: 11/13/2013
### Neighborhood Profile Census Tracts 38 and 39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Census Tract 38</th>
<th>Census Tract 39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>2010 Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>3,231</td>
<td>2,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,452 (44.9%)</td>
<td>1,098 (46.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,779 (55.1%)</td>
<td>1,275 (53.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td>98 (3.0%)</td>
<td>51 (2.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3,028 (93.7%)</td>
<td>2,227 (93.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>11 (0.3%)</td>
<td>13 (0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td>2 (0.1%)</td>
<td>2 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>11 (0.3%)</td>
<td>8 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More</td>
<td>81 (2.5%)</td>
<td>72 (3.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>214 (6.6%)</td>
<td>140 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
<td>177 (5.5%)</td>
<td>152 (6.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>199 (6.2%)</td>
<td>195 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 years</td>
<td>155 (4.8%)</td>
<td>101 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34 years</td>
<td>612 (18.9%)</td>
<td>430 (18.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 64 years</td>
<td>1,274 (39.4%)</td>
<td>906 (38.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and older</td>
<td>600 (18.6%)</td>
<td>449 (18.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Households By Household Type</strong></td>
<td>1,457</td>
<td>1,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family households:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married-couple family</td>
<td>856 (58.8%)</td>
<td>571 (53.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Family:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder, no wife present</td>
<td>225 (15.4%)</td>
<td>163 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder, no husband</td>
<td>631 (43.3%)</td>
<td>408 (38.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonfamily households:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder</td>
<td>536 (36.8%)</td>
<td>455 (42.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder</td>
<td>65 (4.5%)</td>
<td>47 (4.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Household Size</strong></td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing Units</strong></td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>1,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>1,457 (74.0%)</td>
<td>1,073 (68.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied</td>
<td>741 (50.9%)</td>
<td>624 (58.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied</td>
<td>716 (49.1%)</td>
<td>449 (41.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>513 (26.0%)</td>
<td>495 (31.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For rent</td>
<td>114 (22.2%)</td>
<td>56 (11.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For sale</td>
<td>66 (12.9%)</td>
<td>67 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vacant</td>
<td>333 (64.9%)</td>
<td>372 (75.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median Housing Value - Owner Occupied 2009 $</strong></td>
<td>$ 44,400</td>
<td>$ 47,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Westwood: Census Tracts 38 and 39  
Revised: 11/13/2013
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment 25 and Older</th>
<th>ACS 2006--2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Census Tract 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional School degree</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate degree</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Dropout Rate for Population 16 to 19</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Population 16 to 19</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not high school graduate, not enrolled</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School graduate or enrolled (in school)</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Status of Families</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income below poverty level</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couples with children under 18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couples with no children under 18</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Household, no wife present</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No related children under 18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Household, no husband present</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No related children under 18</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income at or above poverty</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratio of Income to Poverty Level</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population for whom poverty status is determined</td>
<td>3,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1.00 (Doing Poorly)</td>
<td>1,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 to 2.00 (Struggling)</td>
<td>755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2.00 (Poor or Struggling)</td>
<td>2,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 and over (Doing ok)</td>
<td>1,164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Status of Children under 18</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living in Poverty</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or Above Poverty Level</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Census 2010 Highlights
◆ Changes from 2000 to 2010
  • 27.9% of population loss (7,772 to 5,604)
  • 33.3% decrease in owner occupied housing
  • 20.1% increase in vacancies between
  • 18.3% decrease in value of owner occupied housing
  • 26.1% increase in population with income below poverty level (22.1% to 38.5%)
  • 46.1% decrease in married couple families
◆ 33.7% of households in the neighborhood are female householders with no male present

Population Observations
◆ Four trends that we have noted:
  • Population Loss
  • Increase in Vacant Housing
  • Increase in Poverty
  • Increase in Percentage of Single Female Head of Households
NEIGHBORHOOD MAP
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Instructors......................................................................................................................i
Disclaimer........................................................................................................................................ii
Seminar Roster/Process/Teams/Partner History .................................................................iii
Demographics ...................................................................................................................................vii
Neighborhood Map..................................................................................................................xiii
Table of Contents........................................................................................................................xv

Issues................................................................................................................................................1
  Aging Population .................................................................................................................. 3
  Business Environment ..................................................................................................... 5
  Crime ................................................................................................................................. 6
  Educational Achievement ................................................................................................. 7
  Family Growth and Development .................................................................................... 8
  Health and Wellness .......................................................................................................... 9
  Housing Market .................................................................................................................. 12
  Kindergarten Readiness and Parent Involvement .......................................................... 13
  Library Relocation ............................................................................................................ 15
  Narcotics Sales .................................................................................................................... 16
  Perceptions of West Dayton and Marketing ..................................................................... 17
  Poverty ............................................................................................................................... 18
  Third Grade Reading ......................................................................................................... 18
  Transportation ..................................................................................................................... 20
  Vacant Housing and Vacant Land ....................................................................................... 21

Assets ..............................................................................................................................................25
  Adventure Central ............................................................................................................... 27
  Churches and Congregations ............................................................................................ 28
  Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School ............................................................................ 28
  Miami Valley Fair Housing Center .................................................................................. 31
  Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ....................................................................... 31
ISSUES
ISSUES

AGING POPULATION

As the graph below illustrates and as many of the residents in the neighborhood would agree, Westwood now consists of an aging and consequently shrinking population. This demographic shift has created various problems, not only for the elderly, but for the community as a whole. Several issues facing this population include elevated health concerns, increased lack of mobility, and the unavailability of social opportunities. For instance, there is a dire need for health care centers that older members could go to for blood pressure checks and other routine medical checks as mentioned by a member of the Westwood Collaborative Network.

However, even if such health centers were present, the elderly residents often lack the means to transport themselves. As brought forth during a neighborhood meeting, one factor that contributes to this issue of movement is the rather expensive nature of the already existing forms of transportation. Although the RTA is an option and has a program specifically aimed towards helping those with disabilities or those dealing with external conditions that inhibit travel, known as Project Mobility, the price of travel is still out of a considerable financial range for senior citizens who are more often than not solely supported by Social Security checks. One resident proposed the creation of a subsidized transportation program in order to make the RTA a more feasible opportunity for the elderly. Yet, the larger underlying contribution to this lack of mobility is the aging population’s loss of its support system. As indicated by an attendee at a neighborhood meeting, the elderly can no longer rely on regular help from family members who now live outside of the community.

This problem is only further inflated by a lack of appropriate lending opportunities and the unavailability of low cost mortgages as highlighted by yet another attendee of a neighborhood meeting. As this citizen related, these issues largely prohibit younger relatives from moving into Westwood in order to be geographically closer to their aging loved ones. Banks generally require potential homeowners to pay through credit cards including undesirable and often unaffordable interest. On the other hand, it costs approximately 50% more to rent than to buy and own a home in Westwood. This, along with safety issues, also deters former residents from returning to the neighborhood which they wish to see revitalized. Thus, real estate conditions are not conducive to integrating families into the community, leaving the elderly, in a major way, alone with neighbors who fail to fill this void by routinely checking on the senior citizens who reside in the area.

Such health concerns and lack of mobility in turn affect the ways in which the aging population can become involved in the community. Many are simply “whittling away” at home, as described by a resident, rather than engaging themselves as tax paying citizens who constitute a large part of the community. Therefore, more opportunities for senior involvement and ways to transport them are desperately needed.
The increasingly aging population and all of the concerns accompanied with this change, affect other institutions in the community, which in turn only further reinforce population loss. For example, the high number of senior citizens and the consequently decreasing number of local families and young people has affected the way in which churches and congregations are able to work with and directly engage Westwood. Since many families have moved out of the area and are unable or unwilling to return, the people who attend services are driving into the neighborhood solely for the purpose of attending weekend services. This makes it difficult for these institutions to offer community outreach programs to people beyond their doors and beyond their standard Sunday services.

Overall, it is clear that Westwood’s population is aging and that this demographic transformation has not only caused problems for the elderly residents themselves, but for the entire community. From other community members to possible community assets, such as churches and congregations, everyone is affected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Summarize by Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 64 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and Over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Under 18 Year: 26.0% (Tract 38), 21.4% (Tract 39), 24.3% (Westwood), 22.2% (Dayton), 23.1% (Montgomery Co.)
- 18 to 34 Years: 18.6% (Tract 38), 12.1% (Tract 39), 16.2% (Westwood), 30.0% (Dayton), 22.1% (Montgomery Co.)
- 35 to 64 Years: 37.9% (Tract 38), 49.5% (Tract 39), 42.3% (Westwood), 36.0% (Dayton), 39.7% (Montgomery Co.)
- 65 and Over: 17.5% (Tract 38), 17.0% (Tract 39), 17% (Westwood), 11.9% (Dayton), 15.1% (Montgomery Co.)
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

A central issue businesses must face is the surrounding community; this can be a benefit or hindrance for the business’s success. In the case of Westwood, the surrounding community displays concerns for businesses like the largest Westwood employers, Sugar Creek Packing Company. To remedy the situation, the executives of Sugar Creek Packing Company work with the surrounding area to make sure it looks presentable and business applicable, rather than rundown and rough. This includes the company’s sponsorship of the demolition of nearby buildings that were becoming “eyesores” to the community and their business. However, the lack of maintenance for these lots and buildings has consequences, Sugar Creek Packing Company was up for a plant expansion that would have added up to 1,000 new jobs just a few years ago; however, due to the surrounding immediate area and unaware of the community’s stability, corporate selected the Indianapolis plant that was located in a nice, well-groomed suburban setting community. Without stimulation to the job market or any business developments because of the condition of surrounding areas, Westwood is caught in a vicious cycle.

Recent developments in the banking industry in the Westwood area represent issues to the community as well. On August 16, 2013 the PNC branch located in Westown shopping center closed. This branch was the only financial institution in the Westwood neighborhood area. PNC has been going through a process of consolidating branches and will close 200 branches nationwide in 2013, some of which have already been closed and some which will be closed by the end of the year. Marcey Swiebel, Vice President and Senior Manager of PNC Financial Services Group has said that more of their customers are switching to online banking and they will continue to serve customers using that technology. Other reasons for bank closings include customer traffic and proximity to other branches.

There was a study done on the number of Home Refinancing Loans and Home Purchase Loans by the Business Research Group at the University of Dayton. The data was gathered for the 9 Census Tracts in the immediate surrounding area of the Westown Shopping Center. There were 10 major financial institutions that were looked at for the following information (including PNC). The total number of home refinancing loans in West Dayton was 49, whereas the total number of loans in Montgomery County was 11,225. West Dayton accounts for 0.0044% of the total loans given in the County. The total number of home purchase loans in West Dayton was 11, whereas the total number of loans in Montgomery County was 3,911. West Dayton accounts for 0.0028% of the total loans given in the County. In conclusion, the citizens of Westwood are either not taking out the loans, or financial institutions are not able to give the loans to the citizens.
In gathering information on Westwood, there is a plethora of viable resources within the neighborhood that provide information on the safety status of Westwood. Each person’s perception although immensely valuable, does not encompass the entirety of the interactions that those who serve come across on a day-to-day interaction. Westwood’s crime statistics for the past three years show a high rate of crime. To illustrate this please refer to the definitions below and the table to follow.

Part 1 Violent: Consists of Murder, Nonnegligent Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Armed Robbery, Unarmed Robbery, and Aggravated Assault.
Part 1 Property: Consists of Arson, Breaking and Entry, Burglary, Theft, and Larceny
Part 2 Violent: Consists of Kidnapping/Abduction, Forcible Fondling, Simple Assault, Menacing, Incest, and Statutory Rape
Part 2 Property: Consists of Counterfeiting/Forgery, Stolen Property, Vandalism, and Bad Checks

Westwood has the highest rate of criminal activity within West Dayton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Part 1 Prop</th>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>P2 Violent</th>
<th>P2 Prop</th>
<th>P1 Violent</th>
<th>Drugs/Nar</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disorder: Consists of Weapon Law Violations and Disorderly Conduct
Drug/Narcotics: Consists of Violations regarding the equipment or drugs

Top 3 Crimes within each category 2013 YTD (9/19/13) -not including ‘other’ category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P1 Prop</th>
<th>Weapon Law Violations 41</th>
<th>Simple Assault 125</th>
<th>Destruct/Vandalism/Damage 102</th>
<th>Aggravated Assault 25</th>
<th>Drug/Nar Violation 39</th>
<th>Traffic 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residen-tial Bur-glary 82</td>
<td>Breaking and Entry 39</td>
<td>Disorderly Conduct 8</td>
<td>Menacing 31</td>
<td>Stolen Prop (Receiving ETC) 7</td>
<td>Armed Robbery 23</td>
<td>Drug/Nar Equipment 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft 34</td>
<td>Trespassing 8</td>
<td>Forcible Fondling 2</td>
<td>Counterfeit/Forgery 1</td>
<td>Forcible Rape 8</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From these statistics, various observations can be made. For instance, property crimes and Part 1 violent offenses have increased immensely over the past two years within the Westwood neighborhood. All other crimes, however, have generally remained stable. Regardless, the volume of crime in the neighborhood is high. In fact, Westwood has the highest rate of criminal activity within West Dayton with almost double the volume of crime than its closest counterpart. This statistic is based on the Top 10 most criminal neighborhoods in West Dayton over the past six months. On an even larger scale, Westwood is ranked third highest in crime of Top 10 neighborhoods in Dayton over the past six months. Westwood accounts for 11.7% of all crime in Dayton.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
As the subsequent data exhibit, the neighborhood has significantly lower educational attainment levels than most neighborhood. The percent of those who have achieved less than a high school degree is more than double in Westwood than the Dayton average. Similarly, the percentage of young adults who drop out of high school is alarmingly high at over 20% compared to a mere 4.8 and 4.7 percent for the city of Dayton and Montgomery county, respectively.

These low educational achievement levels may be traced back to early unpreparedness, one of many factors that affect such academic success. This fault in preparation may be due to a lack of both parent involvement and education. During a tour of Westwood, a visit to one of the schools in the area, Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School, was made and the topic of parent involvement was briefly touched upon. It was mentioned that more parent involvement is indeed needed, yet also highlighted were some of the present, not always obvious, challenges in incorporating parents into school activities. For instance, it was explained how many of the parents in the neighborhood would like to become more involved, yet they are unable to directly do so because
they did not pass the background check. This presents a complicated dilemma for the school and the community as a whole in deciding how to use the ready, yet not entirely available, resource of parents. However, the larger issue may be found in the lack of parent education which could be a source of the shortage of fully engaged parents. As brought forth by a member of the Westwood Collaborative Network, parents themselves need to be educated both academically and in the area of childcare.

Therefore, more educational support for both children and parents is needed. Although Mary Queen of Peace already has implemented several programs to increase academic achievement including the E3 afterschool program, Go Math! Kindergarten through fifth grade mathematics program, and the Pre-K Happily Ever After reading readiness program, it has not proved to be enough (Mary Queen of Peace). More supportive programs, especially for parents, are crucial.

**FAMILY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Due to various factors, families in the Westwood community have been unable to reach their full potential. The demographics speak for themselves. With 11.8% of the residential population over the age of 65, the neighborhood is not currently a place where families choose to reside. The outflux, rather than influx of community members is further illustrated by the lack of homeowners that have moved into the neighborhood throughout the past decades. As of 2010, the median year that owners moved into Westwood is 1978 compared to 1995 for the city of Dayton ("Westwood Neighborhood"). This demographic information clearly shows that families are not the foundation of the Westwood neighborhood.

The low presence of families in the neighborhood is a result of not only present conditions that are unfavorable to raising a family, but the lack of resources available to adapt to such situations. From lack of educational resources to pervasive safety issues, families simply do not have the support they need in order to succeed as individual social units, let alone become further involved in the community and share their assets with the neighborhood. Therefore, the care of families is a central concern that needs to be addressed, especially within the contexts of health, education, and economic standing.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In the area of health and wellness, there are many glaring concerns. The majority of residents do not have good or satisfactory health as shown in the graph below. The data also highlight the link between health and economic status. As later discussed, poverty is prevalent in the neighborhood. Thus, an examination of the general overall health status of adults according to annual household income is appropriate for Westwood. Furthermore, the environment the community is living in has a direct effect on its health, which brings forth the debate between nature and nurture. In Montgomery County, Westwood neighborhood is at double the risk for diabetes, cancer, infant mortality, and depression, according to those working at the Wesley Community Center.

Apart from the overall negative effects on the health of residents, and consequently families, more specifically the unavailability of healthy food, particularly fresh produce hinders their well-being. This inaccessibility is largely due to the recent loss of the only Kroger grocery store in the area. This has consequently created a ‘food desert,’ as explained during a brief visit to the Wesley Community Center. Although Revival Center Ministries will be moving into the now vacant Kroger, the loss of a grocery store in the community greatly impacts the residents. The lack of fresh fruits and vegetables has become the major issue, which has even become apparent in local food pantries. The Montgomery County graph below, in which Westwood falls into the lowest bars under each category, clearly demonstrates this concern.
Although the Wesley Community Center does help to combat this by having a free farmer’s market every two weeks, corner convenience stores remain the only steady source of food, and the options they offer are less than healthy. Convenience stores are a “catch 22,” supplying unhealthy food options and selling alcohol, as mentioned by a member of the Planning and Community Development Department of the city of Dayton. It is easier and more convenient, therefore, for families to make unhealthy food choices, especially when, again, income is factored into the equation. These stores tend to harbor more problems in low income neighborhoods than anything else.

![Percent Adult Daily Fruits and Vegetables Consumption by Gender, Montgomery County, 2007](image)

Health concerns pertaining specifically to children are also prevalent. As illustrated by the following data, the infant mortality rate and the number of children born to teenagers are significantly greater in Westwood than in both the city of Dayton and Montgomery County as a whole. Additionally, children’s welfare and development is hindered by the lack of recreational activities available to them. This not only creates health concerns, but becomes especially problematic when teenagers have too much idle time and, as a result, turn to crime, violence, drugs, etc., thus, further contributing to an unsafe atmosphere for families. The lack of recreational activities is also compounded by the shortage of available jobs, which again highlights the economic correlation to poor health and wellness.
These prevalent issues suggest a need for greater support of families in the area of health care, including physical, mental, emotional, social, and economic help. Better access to hospitals and other medical clinics could help with the unfortunately high rate of infant mortality, as well as with the poor health of the elderly which is yet another concern. Specifically, for the elderly, a member of the Westwood Collaborative Network spoke of a dire need for health care centers that they could go to for blood pressure checks and other routine medical checks. In regard to the issues pertaining particularly to adolescents, again a member of the Westwood Collaborative Network suggested that more after-school activities and study groups would be incredibly beneficial in helping focus teenagers and keep them off the streets. The creation of a new neighborhood recreational center, as proposed by another member, could also provide a possible solution to increasing the overall well-being of youth in the neighborhood through a positive channeling of energy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births - Montgomery County, OH 2009-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT 39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOUSING MARKET

Currently, the housing market in Westwood can be considered weak. As noted by a 2010 Census, 28.5% of all housing is vacant, and this percentage of vacancy has increased from 12.2% in 2000. This should be compared to the vacancy rate of Montgomery County overall, which is 12.1%. This creates a negative cycle, in which people who are looking for new houses may be looking elsewhere where there is more population density, thus creating more vacancy. Moreover, homeownership has decreased 33% from 2000 to 2010, making homeownership about 50%. The homeownership rate in Montgomery County (from 2007-2011) has been 64%. With that, more people are turning to rentals, and there is not as much as an investment into these critical spaces. Many of the houses currently owned have fallen into disrepair. Much of this is because of the median age of a house, which is in the mid-70s. This makes the houses themselves more difficult to manage and more expensive to invest in. This has lead into the median housing value decreasing from $54,896 in 2000 to $44,823 in 2010. The median housing value of Montgomery County (from 2007 – 2011) has been $118,600.

A main appeal of any neighborhood is its housing stock. Housing is looked at for both design and quality. While Westwood does have pockets of housing that are considered desirable for both design and quality, there are areas of housing in Westwood that are no longer serving the needs of the community. Many of the houses in Westwood have two bedrooms and one bathroom, which is a configuration currently not in demand. In addition, many houses currently sit vacant. In the 2010 census, 28.5% of houses in the neighborhood remained vacant. The Median Housing Value for Westwood was around $45,000 during the 2010 census. Westwood’s housing needs are currently not being met.

According to the Greater West Dayton Development Study, redevelopment options are possible for Westwood, but many have different opinions. The Dayton Plan Board Chairman went so far as to imply that acres should be cleared in order to start from scratch. With this, he aimed to look beyond current residents in order to have hope for the future. After speaking with several community members and involved partners, it became clear that this vision of a razed community was not shared. Instead, there seems to be hope for working within the most depressed pockets of housing in Westwood to inspire change throughout the neighborhood.
KINDERGARTEN READINESS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Kindergarten readiness, as well as third grade reading, is largely impacted by where students attend preschool. Based upon which institutions students attend Pre-K, their abilities to learn the fundamentals are impacted. Preschool education is important because it provides care for children whose parents are at work as well as interactive activities that teach children to socialize and foster a love for learning. In the Dayton area, preschools that exist include facilities such as the Rainbow Child Care Center, Dayton Christian Center, Goddard School, Montgomery County’s Mini University, the Bombeck Family Learning Center, and the Miami Valley Hospital Child Care Center. According to the website savvysource.com, a website that makes researching preschool locations and costs convenient, Miami Valley Hospital Child Care Center is one of the most affordable preschools in the area, charging parents approximately $100 a month.

Another issue that hinders academic performance, in particular Kindergarten readiness, is that of time and money constraints placed on parents. Parents who are struggling to make ends meet and working multiple jobs may have less educational time to share with their children and less educational resources and opportunities to offer them. For example, students may not be able to read or recite their alphabet as easily as their peers or, if homelessness is an issue they may not be able to recite their address or telephone number, which the Ohio Department of Education checklist recommends to ensure a child’s safety. These constraints may also affect their children’s physical health and therefore school attendance. According to this checklist, parents are encouraged to help their children prepare for school by having their necessary shots, vaccinations, and physical exams, all of which require seeking a medical professional for proper documentation. Often, if money is an issue, this documentation may take a while to obtain because parents or guardians are unable to afford sending their child to the doctor. Overall, these poverty-related issues act as a major educational barrier.

Parent Involvement

Research has shown that when parents are actively involved in their child’s education, their child has a much greater chance at academic success. When parents are involved, students often receive higher grades and test scores, have better attendance rates, and lower rates of suspension.
Mary Queen of Peace is a Catholic School so it is required to follow the Virtus child protection protocol as stated by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This protocol requires all volunteers over the age of eighteen must be fingerprinted for a background check and have participated in the Virtus training session. After this has been accomplished, the Archdiocese will send a report back to the safe environment coordinator of the school to let the school know if the volunteer is cleared and able to serve in this capacity. The costs incurred by the school for fingerprinting, the fact that people must travel to get to the fingerprinting stations and the Virtus training make it difficult and sometimes impossible for parents at Mary Queen of Peace to become involved in their child’s education. As the principal, Alana Campion, stated, “Virtus is not urban friendly.” She and the counselors for Mary Queen of Peace feel that Virtus is almost an insurmountable hurdle to get parents cleared to volunteer. This acts as a main obstacle for parent involvement, which is proven to aid in the academic success of children.

*KRA-L Scores*

After preschool has been completed, children are then able to enter into kindergarten, where a greater focus is placed on school preparation. For children in the Westwood area, most attend Westwood PreK-8, a site-based, Title I School that offers balanced schedules, before and after school programs, and bilingual education (Movoto LLC, 2013). To get into kindergarten, certain criteria must be met. One of the most standardized ways of testing kindergarten readiness is the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Literacy (KRA-L) test. According to the KRA-L score interpretation workbook, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Literacy is a screening instrument used to assess a child’s reading capabilities; these include alliteration, letter identification, oral language, and rhyming.

KRA-L testing is done at the beginning of a child’s kindergarten so as to best assess each child’s literacy skills and limit achievement gaps. The highest score a kindergartener can achieve is a 29 and the lowest is a 0 (Ohio Department of Education, 2013). In order to accurately measure a student’s strengths and weaknesses, the KRA-L has three different score bands that separate students into different recommendation categories. The first band consists of scores from 0 – 13. The recommended action for students who test into this category is to, “Assess broadly for intense instruction,” meaning a greater focus will be placed on working with this student to help increase academic understanding (Ohio Department of Education, 2013). The second band consists of scores from 14- 23. The recommended action for students who test into this category is to, “Assess for targeted instruction,” meaning students will be tested in order to identify what specific areas students need help with (Ohio Department of Education, 2013). The third and
final test (score range is from 24-29. Students who test into this category are recommended to receive enriched instruction.

The KRA-L is composed of six activities that assess students’ specific skills in three areas. They include oral language, phonological awareness and print. Based upon a child’s skill set in these areas, the scores can become a major determinant of how successful one will be in learning to read. The activities students are required to complete to receive these scores are answering when and why questions (worth a total of three points), repeating sentences (worth a total of four points), identifying rhyming words (worth a total of 7 points), producing rhyming words (worth a total of five points), recognizing lowercase and capital letters (worth a total of 6 points), and recognizing initial sounds (worth a total of four points) (Ohio Department of Education, 2013). Based upon points student receives for each section, a total will be found on the 29 point scale. Unlike the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA), which determines if students can pass a certain grade, KRA-L scores are not meant to keep children from entering and advancing in school. The KRA-L scores provide teachers with the opportunity to better assess the needs and familiarities of a class in order to help them achieve their greatest academic potential.

LIBRARY RELOCATION

Currently, the Westwood Library is both an asset and an issue. The resource of a library itself, not only for the books, but for the technology and the classes associated, can have a major impact on a community. Yet, so can its location. The existing Westwood Library building will be closed in order to merge with another library, the Madden Hills branch of Dayton Metro Library. This would mean both more space and more equipment, especially in terms of highly sought after computers. The two locations being considered for the new library are classified as “The Armory” and “Third and Abbey,” a location right off of a major highway.

There are many assets around the Armory location, including a park. The city of Dayton could invest in the park, and use it to enhance some of the library programming. The library looks to other resources around it, including the Veteran’s Administration Hospital, for other informal partnerships. Organizations such as the Westwood Collaborative Network are pushing for the Armory as the location. However, the Armory is not close to much public transportation.

The push for the Third and Abbey Avenue location would be that it is closer to the Madden Hills residents, meaning that the merger would be easier for them to appreciate. It is in a fairly central location, with the RTA running on Third Street. Yet, there have been many concerns that the Third and Abbey location is not safe, logistically; a person
from the other side of SR35 would have to cross that highway and there are no pedestrian-friendly ways to do so. With either location, residents south of SR35 will have to cross the highway.

Thus, the future of the Westwood Library (as well as the neighborhood itself) is still hazy. It begs further questions such as “what other businesses or resources would fill the current location of the library after the move?” Although the move of the library would definitely be felt within the community, it could allow for a new flow of other needed resources at the present library site.

The move and the merger, which is expected to be completed in 2016, centers around the theme of efficiency. Either location will allow for more equipment and more facilities to help informal partners such as the Dayton Public Schools. For example, many Parent Teacher Association meetings could be held in multiple common rooms that the library could provide. Moreover, there would be more computers. At the current location, a typical wait time for a computer is more than fifteen to twenty minutes. With a consolidation of resources, there would be more computers, and thus less wait time. In addition, there would be more staff that could help with the consumers of the library’s resources. Thus, the library wants to remain a hub for residents, just a more sustainable and efficient one at whichever location.

NARCOTICS SALES

According the statistics obtained from the Dayton Police Department, drug and narcotic dealing is the fifth largest offense in Westwood with 39 crimes recorded in the past year. However, for one resident of 55 years of Westwood, it is a big problem. The resident sees several drug deals happening every day. She shared that there was one or two other home owners on her street and several vacant lots which may be why her street is used so often for drug deals. In her interview, she said that most of the customers were white and the dealers were black. She mentioned that a lot of transactions occurred on her street, some in cars and others on the street. It is common for drug deals to happen in cars, which make them more difficult to bust. She said she calls the cops and tries to see and report the license plate numbers to the police, but they are hard for her to see.

In order to deter these practices from happening, some other neighborhoods, such as Northern Hills, have started taking pictures of the drug deals and giving them to police. These areas even have signs stating that they will do this and are planning to install surveillance for the streets, however, the deals continue.
PERCEPTIONS OF WEST DAYTON AND MARKETING

Perception is a concept that is often hard to capture through research alone. As a first attempt to develop a concept of the perception of Westwood, online research was initiated. The website http://www.city-data.com displays quotes from people commenting on safety in Dayton. While the findings are surprising, they were also very consistent. One quote stated, “In Dayton, I would say west of 75 for the most part is the one area that isn’t exactly the best place to just hang out. However, there really isn’t all that much on the west side so you really shouldn’t have that much to worry about” (http://www.city-data.com). Another quote similarly suggested, “For the most part, stay off of West 3rd St. There is not really anything out on West 3rd, so there should not really be a reason to drive thru there” (http://www.city-data.com). To further emphasize the similarities among people’s perceptions regarding safety in Dayton, a final quote states, “Yes there are areas of ‘West Dayton’ that are rough, though none I’d worry about during the day. However, it isn’t fair to say that ALL of West Dayton is dangerous. Empty, yes - but dangerous, not necessarily.”

It is clear that these people generally believe that the main unsafe part of Dayton is West Dayton. Furthermore, each quote also suggests that there is nothing to do or see in West Dayton especially along West Third Street. The general perception represented in these comments is that West Dayton is the most dangerous part of Dayton, and it is relatively absent of attractions. This information is valuable and important because it reflects the perceptions of many Dayton residents regarding the area of Westwood neighborhood.

Based on comments made at the Westwood Collaborative Network meeting on September 19th, it has become evident that the community members view Westwood as less safe than it has been in the past. One resident explained that she has lived in Westwood for 51 years and has seen a great decline in safety in the area over that time. Similarly, many residents at the meeting voiced concerns about drug problems and violence in Westwood, especially on Clarkson and Burleigh. This shows that in accordance with outside perception, many residents share the perception that Westwood is dangerous.

It would be a misrepresentation if those with a positive perception of Dayton were not acknowledged. Although a lot of people see Dayton as dangerous or somewhat vacant, many others see Dayton as a normal urban area that is more than adequate to raise children in. One man stated, “I can say that I don’t find Dayton to be any more dangerous than any other city. And having lived in Downtown Dayton for almost 6 years, I’ve never experienced the supposed crime that keeps so many suburbanites scared to come downtown” (http://www.city-data.com).
POVERTY

The poor economic situation in the community greatly hinders family growth and development. As illustrated below, the median household income for Westwood is roughly half of that for Montgomery County. Also families’ incomes that are below the poverty level (as of 2010) are 38.5% for Westwood compared to 12% for Montgomery County. Another important observation to draw attention to is which type of family constitutes the majority of those living below the poverty line. In the case of Westwood, it is single mother households who are most suffering from poverty. Although this is also the case for other areas, the percentage of such families is significantly higher in Westwood with 24.9% of those living below the poverty level falling within the category of female households with related children under the age of 18 and no husband present compared to 6.8% in Montgomery County. Thus, mothers and children need added support as well.

Overall, this lack of economic stability only further contributes to health and educational concerns which in turn impede the steady, healthy growth of families in the Westwood community. Therefore, in order to make Westwood a desirable place to live, more support must be provided specifically to families.

THIRD GRADE READING

In the Dayton Public School system, there are over 14,000 students. Ohio has recently implemented a third-grade reading guarantee which is in effect during the 2013-2014 school year. The law requires that students achieve at least a “basic rating of reading competency as measured by the Ohio Achievement Test by the end of third grade,” (http://www.dps.k12.oh.us/school-meadowdale/news/archives/35/1143/). With new state regulations and requirements implemented in Dayton Public Schools, Westwood Pre K-8 has taken great initiative to ensure each student excels. According to the director of curriculum, the third grade reading guarantee has become a top priority. Those students in grades kindergarten through third grade who are not on track in reading will “receive an individual reading improvement and monitoring plan, along with additional reading instruction.”
Jill Moberly is the Public Information Officer for Dayton Public Schools. Moberly says that “kindergarten readiness and third graders reading on grade levels are two key areas of focus that remain central to our mission.” To increase students’ literacy skills, DPS is implementing a variety of strategies including, but not limited to, “teacher certification, reading groups, and testing and intervention” (Moberly, 2013). The schools are also trying to get as many volunteers as possible to help with this mission. To ensure improvement, much effort has been made to make classrooms more valuable to a student’s learning capabilities and increase awareness of the information being taught to them. Reading coaches are in every building, all of whom have fluency, awareness, phonics, and comprehension skills.

To ensure that third grade reading readiness scores exceed the minimum score of a 400, students read a minimum of 30 minutes a day in correspondence with the balance literacy program. Students are now required to engage in self-selective reading as well as reading in groups; they are also asked to write every day in each class, including art, music, and math. Teachers have also been selectively placed to work at particular schools in specific grades. Teachers use diagnostic tests to determine a student’s strong points and weaknesses. In a meeting at the Wesley Center on September 26, board officials met with parents of Westwood students to inform them about graduation requirements and the academic plan for third grade readiness, which is often a major concern for parents.

![Figure 4 State Report Cards 2002-03, 2007-08, 2012-13 indicating percentage of students ready for third grade](image-url)
The graph depicted in Figure 4 compares three Dayton Public Schools based on the report cards issued by the state of Ohio in regards to third grade readiness. At least 75% of the students must score “proficient” to get credit for the indicator. The grading scale is: 90-100%-A, 80-89.9%-B, 70-79.9%-C, 50-69.9%-D, below 50%-F. In regards to third grade reading, the score is determined by the reading diagnostic assessments given at the beginning of each year in grades kindergarten through third. Kiser (located in the NE Quadrant) and Fairview (located in the NW Quadrant) were selected due to the population of Westwood students enrolled in those areas, with Fairview having the second highest population and Kiser having the third highest population respectively.

TRANSPORTATION

The issue of transportation is one that affects the daily lives of many in Westwood, who often report the lack of convenient RTA routes. This issue is exacerbated by recent closings such as the Kroger and PNC Bank, which makes adequate transportation imperative for meeting one’s basic needs.

The average number of cars per household in the greater Dayton area is 1.7 and the average number in Westwood is 1.3 (Westwood Neighborhood). With having fewer vehicles per household in Westwood, efficient and convenient public transportation is necessary. The graph below depicts the amount of time that it takes for the citizens of Westwood to get to work each day, with many traveling upwards of 30 and 40 minutes. One interviewee described her frustration with RTA route 4, which she has found to be habitually late and inconvenient with her travels often exceeding an hour for one direction. This indicates a lack of efficiency in RTA routes, which makes travel difficult for those going to work, appointments, or errands.

![Travel Time to Work](source: Westwood Neighborhood City Data)
Transportation not only affects adults, but also children in Westwood. School officials, such as Deron Bell who is the transition coordinator at Westwood PreK-8, report that often when resources are recommended to children they are inaccessible due to transportation issues. For example, if he recommends a child to see a mental health professional, the child may not be able to afford transportation or there might be a lack of convenient RTA routes. With the school report card of Westwood PreK-8 reporting a 100% poverty rate, an RTA cash rate for children under 12 of .85 cents and for children 13 and older of $1.75 is not affordable (RTA Fares). This child not having these needs met may lead to them having behavior issues or poor attendance. These transportation issues also make it difficult for children to access enrichment opportunities such as after-school programs. One interviewee stated the troubling effects of this, describing that many children in the area have a worldview that is confined to three or four square-blocks because they rarely have the opportunity to leave the neighborhood. It is clear that transportation in Westwood has wide-ranging effects across age groups that make daily tasks such as going to school or work more difficult.

One citizen would like to see the City of Dayton provide better transportation within the Westwood community and Dayton primarily for the economic benefits. Westwood has recently closed important economic resources and has a large pool of trainable individuals, especially teen youth that can be hired out because he believes they are looking for something to do. However, because the centers where jobs would be easier to obtain have left, youth don’t have many affordable options to leave Westwood in search for obtainable jobs. He believes that there is money to be made with Westwood involvement.

**VACANT HOUSING AND VACANT LAND**

Vacancy is a problem throughout the city of Dayton, and the Westwood neighborhood is no exception. In the 2010 census, it was reported in census tracts 38 and 39, the tracts that comprise the Westwood neighborhood there were 1008 vacant houses. With 3,538 houses counted in the 2010 census for the two tracts means that Westwood has a vacancy rate of 28%.
Table 1 compares the Westwood neighborhood to surrounding neighbors housing data. Westwood is both tract 38 and tract 39. Tract 1651 is the Roosevelt, Macfarlane, and Five Point neighborhoods that are next to Westwood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tract 1651</th>
<th>Tract 38</th>
<th>Tract 39</th>
<th>Westwood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Housing</td>
<td>1658</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>1568</td>
<td>3538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>1457</td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>2530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-Occupied</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>1365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>1471</td>
<td>1288</td>
<td>2759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter-Occupied</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1634</td>
<td>1740</td>
<td>1085</td>
<td>2825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Housing</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>1008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Rent</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Sale</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.census.gov (2010 Census)

However, these numbers don’t tell the whole story or give an up-to-date picture. The city of Dayton also gathers and analyzes its own data on the situation of vacant houses and vacant land. For its Green to Gold discussions, the Department of Planning in the city of Dayton creates an index map of the neighborhoods in the city. The city has an index that adds the following occurrences per acre: vacant units, city maintained property, tax delinquent property, structural nuisances, and water shutoffs. All of these occurrences come from different departments that give the city planners an aggregated, up-to-date view of the neighborhood and the state of vacant properties.

Source: City of Dayton Department of Planning
For Westwood, the area is mostly yellow (3.2-5.7 total occurrences per acre). It is important to remember that a single house could have four or five of the occurrences attached to it. Most acres in Westwood are yellow because of a single vacant house. This map also can show the city and any other viewer if there are hot spots of occurrences. For Westwood, it is the southeast corner next to Roosevelt. Of course, it is important to understand the neighborhood to also understand what is green and what is red.

The impacts that vacant houses and vacant properties can have on an area include an appearance of decay which leads to a disregard to the respect of the area, the attraction of crime, and ultimately the lowering of the quality of life for residents. Westwood suffers from these impacts. Degradation of property is visible when traveling through the neighborhood.

One of the primary issues facing the Westwood neighborhood is the large amount of vacant houses. This is a serious issue for multiple reasons. For one, vacant houses represent unused assets in the community. This in turn results in nearby houses, and the rest of the neighborhood, being unvalued and viewed in a negative light. Empty houses also result in squatters, or people that use property illegally, along with trespassing and burglaries. Collectively this drives down price and demand which makes the neighborhood undesirable for current and possible future residents. This is particularly discouraging for parents considering the area because the illegal activities stemming from vacant properties presents a toxic environment to raise a family. In fact, according to a study done in Austin, Texas, “blocks with unsecured [vacant] buildings had 3.2 times as many drug calls to police, 1.8 times as many theft calls, and twice the number of violent calls as blocks without vacant buildings” (Spelman 481).

There is also a disconnect between the City of Dayton and residents in obtaining and improving the land. According to a leader within Dayton’s Planning and Community Development team, empty adjacent lots are available for a bargain, with only a $500 deposit required. However, when speaking with a community leader within Westwood, a different sentiment was expressed. Instead of viewing empty, adjacent lots as a current asset to utilize, the idea of obtaining unused land was considered more of a burden than anything. This is seen in some of the requirements needed to submit an application through the Ohio Lot Links Program. First, applicants are required to initial that they accept that “the $500 is only a deposit, and the final cost may be $2,000 or more.” Considering that, according to 2010 census data, 38.5% of families in Westwood are below the poverty level, this offering becomes a lot less feasible. Families who already struggle financially cannot simply sign off acknowledging that costs could exceed $2,000 without severe repercussions to their financial stability. Secondly, applicants are required to sign off and acknowledge that “all code violations on the
property will be my responsibility to abate once I take ownership.” Consider this from a family perspective. Nearly 40% of families are below the poverty level, which indicates distinct financial troubles within the neighborhood. The amount of discretionary money, if any, is very limited throughout the neighborhood. So, while residents could be interested in acquiring and bettering adjacent, vacant properties, it could very well be considered too expensive of an expenditure. This is especially true since the “final cost is not payable in installments.” This creates a vicious cycle for residents of the area who are unable to prevent people from leaving the neighborhood and also struggle to prevent houses and land from deteriorating. This all adds to a toxic environment for families who are witnessing the harsh implications of vacant properties existing in the neighborhood, but are discouraged by the financial burden and responsibility that come with acquiring such properties.

CONCLUSION

Although the Westwood community has been confronted with many barriers, this neighborhood has many assets that have the potential to build strong partnerships. In order to restore Westwood to its full potential, these institutions must commit themselves and formulate a common vision to best achieve their end goal and help make their dream become a reality. In the end, it is the commitment of the neighborhood and its partners that will make a true difference in the neighborhood and in the assets that it has to offer.
ASSETS
The community of Westwood has numerous assets readily available to families in the community. Some of these assets include Adventure Central, the Wesley Center, the Westwood Public Library, and over 49 churches in the area. In Westwood there are two major schools that educate students from PreK through eighth grade; they are Westwood PreK-8 and Mary Queen of Peace. Within these educational institutions, the role of the transition coordinator at Westwood PreK-8, kindergarten readiness preparation, the third-grade reading guarantee, and after school-programs have been researched in order to best assess the strengths and weaknesses of Westwood. In doing so, more accurate research has been compiled to assess how the neighborhood’s assets could best accommodate the needs of the community.

ADVENTURE CENTRAL

The existence of Adventure Central, a 4-H facility and partner of the Five Rivers Metroparks and The Ohio State University, provides the neighborhood with a great example of how student development can look. The after-school center offers children a chance to connect with nature in addition to the traditional after-school offerings such as outside play and homework help. Adventure Central also offers a free summer camp program. The program receives about a thousand applications each year; however, the program is only able to accept about a hundred students.

While at the Center, kids are exposed to a wide variety of place-based learning initiatives to try and get the students excited about where they live. In addition to the more traditional afterschool programs offered to students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, high school students are given the opportunity to learn leadership skills by assisting younger children. Adventure Central offers the JET (Job Experience and Training) program to high school students seeking to work towards a career.

According to Nate Arnett, the director of Adventure Central, a quarter of the students that attend Adventure Central are from the Westwood neighborhood with the remaining students coming from within a ten mile radius. To ensure parental involvement, Adventure Central has developed a report card for parents. The report card covers areas such as parental interaction with staff and volunteers. Parents who receive a passing grade earn preferential enrollment for their children in the summer camp.
CHURCHES AND CONGREGATIONS

While the Westwood neighborhood may struggle with some amenities and services, there are churches and congregations scattered throughout the community, dotting almost every corner. After online research and several in-person interviews, it seems there are approximately 50 churches and congregations in the Westwood neighborhood. The churches and congregations represent places where people come together and each one brings a unique culture or fills a specific role. These are examples of how and why the churches are assets in the neighborhood.

There is limitless potential for the churches and congregations in Westwood to be assets. If all fifty of them were able to come together and think strategically about serving the neighborhood, the opportunities will increase as well as their impact. By understanding the value of people commuting into the neighborhood for church on Sunday, the neighborhood may be able to build community and encourage economic development.

Some of the churches also hold some type of after-school program, often including food and tutoring help as well. Revival Ministries in particular also provides care on Saturdays, which gives parents a safe place to take their children and allows children to get help with homework. Assets such as these cannot be overlooked, and the most important asset of all are the people who make these after-school programs possible, whether they are in churches, at schools, or at people’s homes.

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mary Queen of Peace is a Catholic PreK-8 school in the Westwood neighborhood. In 2003, a Vision Task force made the decision to combine six urban parish schools (Corpus Christi, Holy Family, Our Lady of Mercy, Queen of Martyrs, Resurrection, and Dayton Catholic Elementary) into one diocesan school with two campuses. In 2012, Mary Queen of Peace was then further consolidated to become one school, the only Catholic school on the West Side of Dayton (www.maryqueenofpeace.us). Its mission statement is “Mary Queen of Peace is a Catholic, Christian, faith-filled school providing educational excellence in a diverse setting while being a resource in the urban community,” (www.maryqueenofpeace.us). Below in Figure 5 is a map of where Mary Queen of Peace students live in relation to the school.
Figure 5: Mary Queen of Peace Student Distribution

Source: Mary Queen of Peace
After-school Program

Mary Queen of Peace has been working to improve its after-school program. As Alana Campion, principal of Mary Queen of Peace, explained, the new E3 program is becoming more of a tutoring program and the school has begun to get sponsors for funding part of their new real after-care program (Campion, 2013). For instance, last year Boonshoft came to their after-school program. Currently, a new University of Dayton service club called MQPeacebuilders is getting involved and volunteering at Mary Queen of Peace School’s after-school program as well. They have three related goals in this endeavor which include mentoring, tutoring, and building community in the Westwood Neighborhood and in the schools. Along with these existing programs, in the future Mary Queen of Peace plans on participating in many more activities, such as Family Cafes in order to encourage parental involvement.

Family Café Program

Mary Queen of Peace views parent involvement as crucial to a child’s success. The school started a program called Family Café last spring after training was given to interested volunteers. Ronda Stinson, a parent of a Mary Queen of Peace student, is the school’s Family Café parent sponsor. She said the reason for starting this Family Café was to give parents the opportunity to share, bond and build community with other parents. Mrs. Stinson also said it allows for good communication between the school and the families and hopes that the Family Café could be offered multiple times through the school year. She expressed that parents are excited that the school has a Family Café and to learn about what it is, and that the interest in the program is encouraging.
MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center aims to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunities for all people in the Miami Valley. The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has recently been awarded a $1.4 million settlement from Wells Fargo Bank for housing improvements in historically underserved areas of the Miami Valley. MVFHC has chosen to focus on the 45417 zip code as one of the two primary areas in which to distribute the funds. After a meeting with its board on November 18th, MVFHC has clarified that the funds will be used for several purposes. A first use of the Inclusive Community Funds will be home repair grants for single family owner-occupied housing in order to avoid code violations. A second use will be accessibility modifications to homeowners to ensure that they can age in place. A third will be neighborhood stabilization grants to residents at risk of homelessness. This grant will ensure that homeowners experiencing foreclosure have somewhere to go. A forth use will be down payment assistance to homebuyers. MVFHC is has identified Wright-Patterson Credit Union as a lending partner and is open to other lending partners coming on board. Another use will be home improvement loans to be used for quality home improvements in owner-occupied single family homes. There will also be funding available for quality of life projects to assist with neighborhood projects. The final use of the funds will be for capacity building projects at the Wesley Center to both improve the ability to apply for federal grants and the physical space of the building. There will be a limit of one product per family. Final details, such as caps in spending, will be determined at a final meeting with the board on December 11.

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

On September 30, 2013, The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) convened a meeting to discuss future steps that could be taken to address the need for a financial institution in the immediate area. This meeting included representatives from various banks, credit unions, government officials, and Westwood neighborhood citizens. PNC will not be reopening its branch in Westown. US Bank representatives stated that they were interested in learning more about the need and working with the neighborhood. Speakers from the community pointed out that a financial institution is an asset in the community and its loss will impact local businesses, citizens, younger generation, and the neighborhood as a whole. With some help from the OCC, support from the City of Dayton, and community engagement, there is hope that a new financial institution will take PNC’s place.
During an interview, the Southwest Community Development Corporation chairwoman alluded to work being done with Commissioner Lovelace to resolve the issue. While the chairwoman was hesitant to share much detail, she did seem to be sure that a financial institution would be opening in the neighborhood. The Corporation’s chairwoman implied that negotiations of some kind were already under way, with news to be shared soon.

**PROJECT IMPACT AT REVIVAL CENTER MINISTRIES**

Project Impact and Revival Center Ministries are both community assets in the Westwood neighborhood. Revival Center Ministries currently has over 2000 members, filling three services each Saturday with families, young adults and seniors. Due to the energetic pastor, educational programming and community outreach, Revival Center Ministries has remained an active and vital part of the Westwood community. Although many of its members commute, Revival Center also attracts people within the local community. Project Impact Dayton is a non-profit and was started with the financial support of Revival Center in 1993. The focus of the program was to provide prevention, intervention and education services to youth and their families. Project Impact believes in focusing on the whole family and not just the children. Programs offered by Project Impact include The Family/School Success Program, The Families of Purpose Program, Family WORKS, STAND and The Twenty-First Century Program.

Last year, Project Impact was merged into Project Cure due to financial reasons. Project Cure is a comprehensive substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery center. While they will still offer some of the family programs Project Impact offered, including the Family School Success Program, the scope and focus of Project Cure is different than the one of Project Impact. Although, the two projects joining together was better than losing Project Impact altogether, transition time is still needed before determining how Project Cure will become a further asset to the Westwood neighborhood.

**PROJECT READ**

One partner that Westwood PreK-8 is working with to ensure academic excellence is Project Read, located at Sinclair Community College. According to the Project Read website, the purpose of the youth literacy services program is to “recruit, train, place and manage volunteers who tutor youth in reading or ESOL the Youth Literacy Services program,” (www.projectread.com). This organization has served approximately 469 children with the help of 277 volunteer tutors. Both the school and community members are eager to see this partnership between the Dayton Public Schools and Project Read bolster literacy rates of the DPS students.
READY.SET.SOAR.

Preschool education is important because it provides care for children whose parents are at work as well as interactive activities that teach children to socialize and foster a love for learning. In the Dayton area, preschools that exist include facilities such as the Rainbow Child Care Center, Dayton Christian Center, Goddard School, Montgomery County’s Mini University, the Bombeck Family Learning Center, and the Miami Valley Hospital Child Care Center. According to the website savvysource.com, a website that makes researching preschool locations and costs convenient, Miami Valley Hospital Child Care Center is one of the most affordable preschools in the area, charging parents approximately $100 a month.

For parents in Westwood that are unaware of how to prepare themselves and their child for kindergarten, many online resources are available, such as Ready. Set. Soar. This website is an informative support system for parents in need of counseling and advice. One of the most useful assets this website provides is an online readiness quiz. Those who take the quiz answer questions honestly about the social, physical and emotional achievements their child has made. Parents also answer questions pertaining to what level of achievement they believe their child should be at various ages, specifically ages three, four and five.

SAFETY PROGRAMS

Through various community and safety initiatives, there is a variety of programs available to the Westwood neighborhood. These programs target all ages and the region of Dayton, not just Westwood exclusively.

- **Anytown Youth Leadership** – “week-long residential experience for high school students, which challenges young people to learn, live, grow, and connect” with others from diverse backgrounds and communities. (NCCJ 2)
- **Police and Youth Together (PAYT)** – a program comprised of 10-13 year old students which builds leadership and “fosters respect and understanding between police officers and youth” (NCCJ 3).
- **Community Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence (CIRGV)** – a long term community based approach to reduce gun violence.
- **Neighborhood Assistance Officers (NAO)** – a volunteer program of regular citizens on the street in uniform to supplement the Dayton Police Department, enhancing public safety in our community.
- **Miami Valley Community Problem Oriented Policing Conference (MVCPOP)** – An annual event for all community members to learn safety tips and be more informed on issues such as bullying.
- **Bicycle Registration** – Registering your bike with the Dayton Police Department may help to recover it if stolen.
- Rise Sister Rise – “a research project exploring the ways urban adolescent black girls experience their world and the ways in which they are affected by those experiences”.
- Police and Clergy Together (PACT) – Partners faith-based community with Dayton Police Officers in order to provide support to the Dayton Police Department and the Dayton Community.
- United Against Violence – A collaboration of people and organizations committed to changing the culture of violence through the development of knowledge and skills to bring systemic change resulting in a safe community.
- Miami Valley Crime Stoppers – Showing an average of 95% conviction rate, this program works “in harmony with the community, media, and law enforcement to solve crimes and apprehend fugitives.
- Dayton Metro Police Athletic League (PAL) – Police Officers volunteer their time to coach and mentor children from our communities.

ST. MARY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
St. Mary Development Corporation is a faith-based non-profit organization that creates sustainable and affordable housing solutions. SMDC has experience working in senior and affordable housing, and they aid in foreclosure prevention. SMDC is currently working in the Roosevelt Neighborhood east of Westwood on housing redevelopment. SMDC can act as an expert in housing redevelopment in Westwood.

SOUTHWEST PRIORITY BOARD AND SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
The Southwest Priority Board and Southwest Community Development Corporation work in tandem on many projects in and around Westwood. Among the many projects, SWPB/CDC has created an innovative Street Tree Arboretum, which allows homeless men to work by planting trees to be purchased later by the city of Dayton. SWPB/CDC coordinates trash and debris removal. SWPB/CDC, in coordination with Citywide Development Corporation, is working to rehabilitate existing homes and construct new homes in Westwood as a part of the Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. SWPB/CDC also provides meaningful employment to youth in the summer.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
The University of Dayton is an asset to the Westwood community as well, with many programs in the neighborhood that it sponsors, both academically and service. For instance, the Leadership in Building Communities seminar is a class where students assess the assets of the community and have residents communicate concerns and expectations for the neighborhood. In return, students in the class use the feedback to suggest projects and ideas to be carried out by the neighborhoods. In addition, UD has
many academically-oriented service clubs participating in the schools as well. A new service club called MQPeacebuilders is getting involved and volunteering at Mary Queen of Peace School’s after-school program. They have three related goals in this endeavor which include mentoring, tutoring, and building community in the Westwood Neighborhood and in the schools.

There are many service programs that the University of Dayton sponsors as well. One such program hosted at Mary Queen of Peace School is a health fair that is sponsored by the University of Dayton’s Urban Childhood Development Resource Center. In addition, each semester there is a social work intern assigned to Mary Queen of Peace who works by supporting the families in the school as well as working with the family advocate.

**UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE**

While Westwood struggles with crime and violence, there are many efforts being made by the citizens of Westwood to lower this crime rate. Citizen involvement is paramount in the bettering of the Westwood community and, specifically, in working to reduce crime and violence.

One organization that has community members working to reduce violence and crime is United Against Violence. This organization is a “collaboration of people and organizations committed to changing the culture of violence through the development, knowledge and skills to bring systemic change resulting in a safe community” (United Against Violence of Greater Dayton). The goal of this project is reduce “group-member involved” gun violence by 10% over three years (United Against Violence of Greater Dayton). United Against Violence has several methods that they hope will help them achieve their goal. These methods include, strengthening violence prevention and intervention for youth, equipping parents and families to succeed, reinforcing community norms and standards of accountability, educating the community that violence can be prevented, providing and reinforcing positive outlets for self-discipline and public health, and developing a sustainability model (United Against Violence of Greater Dayton).

United Against Violence offers many resources for community members to educate themselves on the issue and the organization’s goals. There are informational pamphlets created by teenagers in the Dayton community educating their peers on their rights and how to interact with law enforcement. Parents can also access United Against Violence’s website to obtain information about issues such as cyber bullying. They also hold council meetings that address specific goals of United Against Violence and host family events for the communities. Violent crime has fluctuated over the years, but has gone down from 80 counts in 2012 to 39 counts in 2013 (United Against Violence of Greater Dayton). United Against
Violence is a great example of citizens involving themselves in the issues of their communities and working to solve these problems and make their community better.

**URBAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER**

The Urban Child Development Resource Center, or UCDRC, is a partnership between the University of Dayton’s Center for Catholic Education and local Dayton Catholic schools. UCDRC is focused on working with children from under-resourced neighborhoods and from diverse cultures, with a goal of establishing a healthy learning environment, with the vision of fostering the growth of children and their families. The mission of the Urban Child Development Resource Center is to enable students to achieve their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.

The Urban Child Development Resource Center is able to fulfill its vision and mission through the many services it offers, reaching more than 1400 children, at six local Dayton Catholic schools. Specifically, UCDRC is located at the Mary Queen of Peace School in the Westwood neighborhood of Dayton. The type of services that UCDRC offers fall under these categories: psycho-education, behavioral health consultation, counseling, behavioral health referral/follow-up, medical health education, and medical screening/referral/ follow-up. UCDRC also offers other services in the pursuit of its mission. The services include: Second Step (a violence prevention curriculum), Talking About Touching (a personal safety program), individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, faculty and administration consultations, crisis intervention, safety assessments (homicidal and/or suicidal risk), appeals process committee, clinical referrals and follow-up services, clinical observations and screenings, UCDRC Peacemakers Group-Leadership and Service Organization, peer mediation, family advocates-social workers to help families meet basic needs, In-service training for school staff.

UCDRC also offers the Peacemakers Program. The Peacemakers is a group of seventh and eighth graders selected from all of the six catholic schools with which UCDRC works with. The program aims to give the students leadership skills, that will make them into future leaders in, or outside of their communities. The students in the Peacemakers program are also mentored by University of Dayton students who are in the Marianist Leadership Scholars (MLS) program at the university.
WALGREENS
Through interviews at the local Walgreens, strong leadership and appreciation for the people in the community quickly shone through as an asset as well. The store manager of Walgreens believes that the people are Westwood’s biggest advantage, explaining that they help bring constant business to his store and provide a solid source for employment for Walgreens. The manager has worked in numerous “underserved areas,” and believes that Westwood is not even near as bad as its reputation. He believes Westwood is a great community where Walgreens can continue to help serve the people.

Demonstrating that people are Westwood’s greatest asset, the store manager is taking on a leadership role and not even recognizing it. Realizing Westwood is a food desert, the store manager has advocated for Walgreens corporate to establish a grocery section in the Westwood Walgreens. Although it is not a good business decision for corporate to send a truck from Chicago weekly only to this branch, and they continue to say no, the manager is persistent and will not give up on his efforts to get a grocery section to the food desert of Westwood. He is also a leader that understands his surrounding community and finds ways he can help assist them. The store manager saw that many couldn’t afford medical aids such as flu shots, so he advocated for a Walgreens voucher system to be sent to his store in Westwood. Because of his hard work, 1,500 Westwood residents can now get flu shots for free at Walgreens, even if they don’t have medical health insurance.

WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
Those at the Wesley Community Center believe in conducting a center without walls in order to welcome all by connecting all assets in the community. The director along with a staff of 20 and about 80 volunteers operate a full service community center that touches the family on all levels. The Westwood neighborhood experiences the traumas that come along with poverty such as increased negative health rates, depression, no snitching phenomenon, transportation, low education scores, and being in a food desert. In the midst of these traumas, lie many assets on which the Wesley Community Center draws upon the four W’s: Works, Wisdom, Wonder, and Wheels.

Works is the human assistance program that has a team of care managers that specialize in event programming and placing community members in locations, events, and activities best fit for them. Some examples are the food pantry, give-away clothing, job training, computer skills, free legal clinic, and a free farmer’s market in which 200 families take part.
The Male Awareness program teaches men how to garden through the Iams Foundation in conjunction with the Mathile Family Foundation sponsored community garden. Wisdom works with the seniors of the community, which greatly makes up Westwood neighborhood. The Center also offers bingo, hot meals, and care management. Wonder is youth programming which varies from tutoring to Boy and Girl Scouts to drill team practices. This summer was the first partnership in summer programming with Westwood PreK-8, called Freedom Schools, with the belief of parent involvement is a key importance in early education. Access is important to the assets of the community, therefore Wheels is the last component with five vehicles which transports community members to the pharmacy, doctors, local churches, and much more with handicap accessibility.

The focus on the whole person, the whole family unit, and the whole community is what is making this community center successful. By having programming for all ages, Wesley Community Center is inviting to all. The Center is in walking distance of most Westwood neighborhood residents and those who come from Montgomery County usually only visit for the fresh produce at the farmer’s market every two weeks. The variety offered fits a variety of interests and transportation is even offered. Although the community has many needs, Wesley Community Center seems to be addressing most of them through partnerships with other assets of the community such as churches and Westwood PreK-8.

**WESTWOOD COLLABORATIVE NETWORK**

The Westwood neighborhood is one of rich history and important developments. Yet the importance of Westwood and its development has fallen to the wayside for many years. To truly revitalize Westwood, one must analyze the current situation, as it is, both assets and issues. The development of citizen engagement has had its peaks and valleys within the community; this includes the lack of business and housing developments, but also the importance of people in the development of the community, and the question of a library’s site.

How can these difficult obstacles to success be overcome in Westwood? The leadership within Westwood is an incredible asset that has great potential to make huge improvements to the issues the community has been facing. Commitment and passion are two qualities that a neighborhood leader must possess, which the Leadership in Building Communities seminar has been able to clearly identify during our interviews. Community leaders are dedicated to increasing citizen involvement and finding assets in and around the community that can be used to improve the neighborhood.
The president and a particularly active member of the Westwood Collaborative Network work tirelessly to plan community events and urge people to become more involved in the neighborhood. Their belief is that members of the community should be concerned with neighborhood issues so that they can express their opinions. This relationship can develop a shared vision that the community will want to work towards in order to improve Westwood. Involvement would mean that the Westwood Collaborative Network could put on events that would excite and intrigue the neighborhood, ultimately forming a sense of ownership and passion within the community.

WESTWOOD PREK-8

The demographics of Westwood Pre K- 8 are 96.79% African American and 2.35% White (Movoto LLC, 2013). The IT department from Westwood school has created a scatter map depicting where students live in location to the school. As can be seen from Figure 1, the majority of students live in the SW Quadrant where the school is located. The second highest population of students live in the NW Quadrant. Very few students that attend Westwood school live in the NE and SE Quadrants.

![Figure 1 Location of Westwood Students](image-url)
Transition Coordinator

The transition coordinator at Westwood PRE K-8, Deron Bell, is an important resource for the community. His responsibilities entail connecting students and families to services within the school and the community to help maximize academic, social and emotional success. In doing so, the transition coordinator serves as a bridge between school and community involvement. In addition to facilitating partnerships for students and their families, Deron Bell also engages in interagency/business linkages, transition planning, family support and resource, public relations, program development, and program evaluation (Lillenstein, Levinson, Sylvester, & Brady, 2006). Deron Bell is able to increase academic success by providing students with individualized attention, identifying the problems students might face, and recommending services that exist either in the school or throughout the community.

In the past, many children who faced major life issues or disabilities were overlooked by the education system. At Westwood Pre K-8, there are 80 students enrolled with disabilities, which constitutes about 18.9% of the student population (School Details). Often, these children have poorer attendance records and higher dropout rates than their nondisabled peers. A study by the *Journal for Vocational Special Needs Education* found that students with disabilities are twice as likely to drop out of school and are three times more likely to experience poverty (Lillenstein, Levinson, Sylvester, & Brady, 2006). Based on these statistics, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act was created. This act made provisions that require additional aid from the school and community resources with the intended result of reducing the dropout rates of disabled children.

By having a transition coordinator in Westwood PreK-8, the school is able to better ensure that children with disabilities will have a greater chance for academic success and a greater resiliency to poverty. For example, if a teacher, counselor, principal, or parent notices that a child is having trouble in class or has poor attendance, Deron Bell will have a meeting with the student, strive to find the origin of the problem, and connect that student with services to help make school a more enjoyable place. If he finds that the child is experiencing a disability, he will recommend them to the school psychologist, the school occupational therapist, Samaritan Behavioral Health, or other resources in the community.

Transition coordinators also have new ways of approaching children with behavioral issues in that they immediately address an issue with a student rather than letting a problem continue to develop and worsen. Deron Bell states that in meetings with students who have behavioral issues, he tries to find the root of the cause for their misbehavior. In the past, students may have been suspended, which can lead to low academic
performance and disillusionment with schooling. However, Deron Bell strives to find other solutions. Rather than purposefully break the rules, a child may act out in reaction to an environmental stimuli or because of a disability. In addition to student disabilities, students may also misbehave if they are not receiving adequate educational support from the school; in instances like these, Deron Bell connects students to after school programs, such as Adventure Central and Revival Ministries. Dr. Robert Walker from the Dayton Public School Board also recommends Freedom Schools, a summer reading program that strives to keep children engaged and prevent their skills from regressing. Resources such as Adventure Central and Freedom Schools help students stay on the right track in order to help students become more confident, successful, high-achieving individuals.

Westwood is a Dayton Public School and is governed by the No Child Left Behind Act statutory definition of parental involvement. This definition states: Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning; that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in NCLB (http://www.dps.k12.oh.us/departments/OSIER/parent_involvement.html).

Each Dayton Public school has a Title 1 Parent Involvement Resource Center. The Parent Involvement Resource Center provides training for parents to become advocates for their children’s educations. These centers provide materials, games and other resources to help increase student achievement. In addition to the Title 1 Parent Involvement Resource Center, each Title I school is required to have a Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The principal of the school selects two parents to serve as chairman and co-chairman of the school's Title I PAC. The school’s principal and the Parent Advisory Council chair work with the Title I teachers to develop a Title I Parent Policy for the school. In addition, all Title I schools must hold an annual Title I meeting at the beginning of the school year to allow parents the opportunity to learn more about Title I and to foster a communication process between the parents, teachers and school administrators (http://www.dps.k12.oh.us/departments/OSIER/parent_involvement.html).

Toni Gillespie is director of the Office of Family and Community Involvement for Dayton Public Schools and is an important partner in helping to foster parent involvement at Westwood School. The Office of Family
and Community Involvement oversees the Parent Involvement Resource Centers and the Parent Advisory Councils for the Dayton City Schools.

In addition, the office also sponsors Parent University which is offered once or twice a month at various Dayton Public Schools and Dayton Public Family Days that are held on Saturdays at various Metro Parks. There are some parents that already volunteer in the school systems as well. Willie and Cynthia Porter have been volunteers at Westwood for many years and have seen how important it is for Westwood to have a Parent Resource Center. They feel it provides parents with much needed resources, such as books and curriculum support, which allow them the chance to help their children, do better in class and succeed in school.
WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

This Dayton Metro Library Branch has been a major asset for residents of Westwood. In the 1990s, the existing branch was given a Bill Gates-sponsored grant in which there was increased funding for education-based technology. This has allowed the employees of the library and other partners to come in and educate people on what Noland Lester, the library manager, calls “life-enriching” activities, which includes how to fill out applications for employment. This has been immensely vital to the community, seeing as major hubs for jobs, including the nearby McDonald’s, requires these applications to be done online. The library itself is also a place of employment, even with only five full-time employees; right now, they have thirteen high school and college aids. The library is also used as a vehicle to complete children’s and teen’s programming, which can vary from things such as planting a garden to planning for college.

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Wright State is a major asset of Westwood PreK-8 and the Westwood community. In particular, Wright State students are very involved in service learning, educational opportunities that enable students to learn while serving within their community. Within the Wright State service learning program, approximately 60 majors provide service learning opportunities for students. Some different majors that offer service learning courses include, but are not limited to, English, social work, urban affairs, earth and environmental science, chemistry, and education courses. The medical school has a 60 hour service learning requirement and the university’s Honors Program is also involved. According to Cathy Sayer, the director of service learning and civic engagement at Wright State, “Wright State wants to help students develop the skills they need to be informed and engaged citizens in a democratic society.”

Each semester, Early Childhood Education majors (which consist of class sizes of about 25 students) work with children in grades Prek through third to assist with their reading and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee initiative; education majors may also be placed in a teacher’s classroom to work individually with a student in need. Approximately 40-55 student volunteers are tutors from the Social Work Human Development course or are special education majors in their Introduction to Exceptionalities course. Additional courses that provide service learning opportunities include the annual Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Graduate seminar; the Women and the City undergraduate course (which is offered every two years and had done a philanthropy project that raised funds, wrote a grant proposal, and awarded the Wesley Community Center with a grant to improve their entrance way); the annual Community Development course (which requires students to do asset mapping of the
community, run focus groups and other types of community organizing); and Master of Public Administration courses (which allow students to do community based research projects for the center as requested).

In addition to tutoring, asset mapping and philanthropy projects, Wright State students also provide assistance to after-school programming. Student volunteers have supported Westwood PreK-8 by participating in events like Trunk or Treat, Family Fun Nights, Academic Literacy nights, and the Westwood community pride day. In regard to Westwood community pride day, Wright State had been approached by Westwood PreK-8 in 2008 to help facilitate the project. Cathy Sayer noted that Wright State initially facilitated the planning of the neighborhood clean-up day, a major endeavor that has brought Westwood PRE K-8, Wesley Community Center, the Southwest Priority Board, the Neighborhood Coalition and volunteers from Wright State and the University of Dayton together to support the neighborhood. Sayer stated, “The event is growing into what it was intended to be, an annual day to get community members out working together and talking to each other about community issues and cementing relationships between community members and the school.”
SHARED VISION OF A DESIRED FUTURE
Westwood Neighborhood
Shared Vision of a Desired Future

Relationships Among Desired Outcomes

Attractive Housing & Amenities → Great Schools → Improved Economic Climate & Development

Health and Wellness → Safe & Proactive Neighborhood → Supportive Family Growth & Development

Community Engagement

Communication & Networking
### Key Outcome: Westwood housing and amenities fit the needs and desires of current and future residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not all housing in Westwood is safe, sanitary or accessible.</td>
<td>Westwood housing stock is safe, sanitary, and accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,008 housing units out of 3,538 housing units in Westwood are vacant (28.5% of all housing units). Vacant housing has increased by 20.1% since the 2000 census.</td>
<td>Westwood has limited boarded up and vacant housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood has limited recreational amenities and well-utilized green spaces.</td>
<td>Westwood has green space and recreational amenities for all ages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home ownership in Westwood decreased 33.3% from the 2000 census to the 2010 census.</td>
<td>Westwood has a stable home ownership rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC) has allotted a portion of a $1.4 million settlement to be spent in the Westwood neighborhood</td>
<td>The Westwood neighborhood fully utilizes the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center funds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Resources and Assets within the Neighborhood

- The Wesley Center is an asset because it has the potential to act in a similar manner in Westwood as East End Community Services does in Twin Towers.
- The Westwood Collaborative Network has the ability to assist in assuring the best use of the MVFHC funds.
- Sugarcreek Packing Co., is an asset because it can provide jobs, which provide the income necessary to receive home ownership loans.
- The Veteran’s Administration Center is an asset because it can act as an economic anchor and partner for the Westwood neighborhood.

### Problems and Barriers inside the Neighborhood

- In general, there is a lack of funding for much work in the neighborhood.
- There are not many living wage jobs in the Westwood neighborhood.
- There is currently not a plan to utilize MVFHC funds.
- There is not diversity of economic opportunities.
- Many potential new residents are hesitant to choose Westwood because it is a food desert with high rates of violence and drug activity.
- The current style of housing in Westwood is 2 bedroom/1 bathroom, and many potential residents desire 3 or 4 bedroom/2 bathroom houses.

### Resources and Assets outside the Neighborhood

- St. Mary Development Corporation is an asset because it is working on housing redevelopment in the Roosevelt neighborhood of Dayton, just east of Westwood.
- The Southwest Community Development Corporation is an asset because it has experience and knowledge in housing development.
- Miami Valley Fair Housing Center is an asset because it advocates for underrepresented, largely African American neighborhoods in housing. It also receives settlement funds.
- Aaron Sorrell is an asset because he is a Dayton City Planner who is knowledgeable of this neighborhood.

### Problems and Barriers outside the Neighborhood

- Westwood has a negative reputation with many people.
- Westwood housing has a negative reputation with many outside the neighborhood.
- City funding does not equate with the need.
- County funding does not equate with the need.
PROPOSED PROJECT

Strategic Utilization of Wells Fargo Funds
Having attractive housing in Westwood is something that is important to their residents. The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has an inclusive community fund of $1.5 million available that will be used for Westwood and Trotwood. The fund is intended for housing improvement in owner-occupied housing, down payment assistance, and accessibility conversion in housing for people with disabilities. In addition, there will be $5,000 community improvement grants available for community groups. Those residents who apply for the funds must live in the house for 5 years after the work is completed, otherwise, will need to repay the loan. These funds will not pay for demolition. The plan will be finalized by MVFHC in regards to how to funds will be distributed on December 12th. The committee making the plan will be making announcements about fund availability for individuals and neighborhood groups soon after. The use of these funds will improve the quality of houses in Westwood and the neighborhood.

Suggested Action Steps:

- The Wesley Center leads a new committee that is representative of the Westwood Neighborhood.

- The committee creates a list of amenities and ways to make a more beautiful neighborhood (such as adding benches, more trash bins, etc).

- The committee also creates a marketing plan to spread the word to Westwood residents about fund availability and encourage residents to take advantage of the opportunity to improve their homes.

- The Wesley Center applies for the $5000 grant to start the most appropriate and feasible community project for Westwood.
**Key Outcome:** The Westwood neighborhood has a strong communication network inside the neighborhood and is able to successfully market the community to those outside the neighborhood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many Westwood citizens do not communicate effectively with each other.</td>
<td>Westwood citizens have a strong communication network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood issues are brushed aside at the city and county level.</td>
<td>Westwood citizens’ issues are adequately addressed by city and county officials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood is seen by many as a declining community without many resources.</td>
<td>Westwood is seen as a thriving, positive community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources and Assets within the Neighborhood**

- Wesley Community Center and leaders (Harris Tay) provide programs for all ages.
- The Westwood Collaborative Network meetings allow for there to be a time and place for residents to voice opinions, address issues, and discuss action plans for the neighborhood.
- Community leaders such as Simenola Meriner and Ruby Fairbanks who work to ignite energy and communication within the community.
- The Westwood Library is a hub for people to meet for important resources and is a positive marketing tool for the community.

**Problems and Barriers within the Neighborhood**

- Abandoned housing and unappealing surroundings (empty lots, underdeveloped parks, etc.) contribute to a negative image of Westwood.
- Lack of and abandonment of businesses have made Westwood a food desert and without other resources such as a bank, making it hard to attract new growth.
- Lack of communication between businesses and churches/ congregations has been a missed opportunity within the Westwood community.

**Resources and Assets outside the Neighborhood**

- The Veteran’s Administration Hospital is a key community employer and institutional anchor.
- University of Dayton and Wright State students in support of community projects and working with students at Westwood School and Mary Queen of Peace School.
- Landmarks just outside of Westwood such as the VA National Cemetery are attractions that can have spin-off benefit to the Westwood neighborhood.

**Problems and Barriers outside the Neighborhood**

- The Dayton Public Library’s pending new location could be outside the Westwood neighborhood.
- Perception about the Westwood neighborhood from people who are not familiar with the assets of the neighborhood.
PROPOSED PROJECT

The Anchor Institution Project
The objective of this project is to establish a strong relationship with the VA Medical Center. In doing so, both the neighborhood and the VA will benefit. In this situation, the VA will become a more welcoming and widely used facility because it will be surrounded by a stronger neighborhood. As a result of the collaboration, the Westwood neighborhood could receive support from the VA in the form of financial funds, staff involvement and resources.

Suggested Action Steps:

- The Westwood Collaborative Network chooses a community leader to be the primary contact between the neighborhood and the VA, preferably one with previous ties.

- The community leader will initialize communication with the VA for the first meeting between the two contacts. The Westwood community leader will bring a plan describing how each partner can add to this mutually beneficial relationship. The leader will also ask if, in the future, a VA staff member would be able to attend the Westwood Collaborative Network meetings.

- Communication will be maintained through attendance at the Westwood Collaborative Network meetings. The Network will effectively communicate with the VA about important updates in the meetings if the VA cannot attend.

- By becoming more familiar with each other and establishing a concrete relationship, the Network and VA can learn how to help one another through the exchange of programs, funding, communication, and planning.
**Key Outcome:** Citizens of Westwood are highly engaged in their community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wright State University has a service learning/tutoring program at Westwood school.</td>
<td>Westwood is engaged with higher education institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Dayton has a service club named Mary Queen of Peace Builders that works with Mary Queen of Peace school.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a limited number of active and engaged leaders who can implement and plan projects.</td>
<td>The residents of Westwood participate in and plan community events and projects. Westwood collaborates regionally on community events and programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A small group of older community leaders are the most civically engaged in Westwood.</td>
<td>Westwood leaders represent a vast age group of the neighborhood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The attendance at community meetings and other community events primarily consists with senior citizens and older community members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some churches are disconnected from the local community.</td>
<td>Churches are engaged with the local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs tend to be directed at youth. Westwood does not use its local talents and history to its full potential.</td>
<td>Westwood offers community programs for all ages celebrating their cultural heritage and diversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence is high with a fear of snitching and being blamed within the community. Westwood is fragmented into different sections.</td>
<td>A trust is built between all members of the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources and Assets within the Neighborhood**

- Westwood Collaborative Network
- Pride of elderly homeowners
- Wesley Community Center
- City of Dayton Gateway Project
- Higher Education institutions
- Local arts & entertainment
- Sugarcreek

**Problems and Barriers inside the Neighborhood**

- Younger citizens don’t seem to be stepping into leadership roles
- Not utilizing senior citizens wealth of knowledge
- Not utilizing talents of locals
- Mental and spiritual health are at a low

**Resources and Assets outside the Neighborhood**

- Wright State University
- University of Dayton
- other Higher Ed Institutions
- The Family Engagement Collaborative of the Miami Valley Region
- Regional arts & entertainment

**Problems and Barriers outside the Neighborhood**

- Westwood might not be fully represented in the City of Dayton at a municipal/government level
- Current economic situation impacts regional partnerships and non-profits abilities
- Dayton has several neighborhoods and communities struggling with similar challenges as Westwood.
PROPOSED PROJECT

Shalom Zones

“SHALOM Zones” which stands for self-sustaining, health/healing/harmony, organizing, love of neighbors, and multi-cultural and faith traditions is a new project at the Wesley Community Center. This project would boost the psyche and beauty of Westwood through asking the question of: What do we want our community to look like? “SHALOM Zones” would clean up vacant properties through urban gardening and art with a monthly maintenance team. Wesley Community Center has the vision of the program but would like move forward with community input to assure its success and sustainability. “SHALOM Zones” has the potential to greatly increase community engagement in the Westwood Neighborhood.

Suggested Action Steps:

- Identify key resources need for the implementation of the program and find appropriate partners.
  ◦ Higher Education Institutions – WSU, UD, CSU, Sinclair
  ◦ Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
  ◦ City of Dayton Gateway Project

- Partners identified will form a committee to help the Wesley Center implement the program.

- Inform Westwood Collaborative Network, Inner Southwest Priority Board and City of Dayton of the project.

- Market the project.

- Engage community through large kick-off event, which empowers ownership.
  ◦ Possibly bring in exciting keynote speaker or entertainer
  ◦ Possibly link this event to the free community/entertainments concept
### Key Outcome: The schools in the Westwood Neighborhood are thriving and academically successful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many parents find it difficult to engage in their children’s education because of past experiences or current barriers.</td>
<td>Parents who want to be engaged in their children’s education have many accessible opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently, 51.4% of third grade students are at the third grade reading level.</td>
<td>Over 75% of third grade students are at the third grade reading level, exceeding the Ohio state requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is not a strong connection between schools, after-school programs, and churches.</td>
<td>A strong connection has been developed between schools, after-school programs, and churches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a strong pre-existing relationship with Wright State University and a developing relationship with the University of Dayton.</td>
<td>University of Dayton has developed a stronger relationship with the Westwood Neighborhood and has collaborated with Wright State University to better serve the Westwood community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are non-academic barriers such as transportation and money constraints that hinder student learning.</td>
<td>Alternative transportation methods are in use and additional funding or support has been offered to enhance student learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The community feels a need for increased parent education opportunities.</td>
<td>Educational institutions in Westwood provide learning opportunities for both parents and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a loose framework of parent associations in Westwood Neighborhood.</td>
<td>A strong network exists to foster relationships and communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a lack of students enrolled in academically-focused after-school programs in Westwood Neighborhood.</td>
<td>Many students have access to and are enrolled in academically-focused after-school programs in Westwood Neighborhood.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Resources and Assets within the Neighborhood
- Mary Queen of Peace School is motivated to form a relationship with the Westwood Neighborhood.
- Westwood School is well-recognized in the Dayton Public School System.
- Adventure Central provides a model for academically-based after-school programs.
- Many of the churches in the neighborhood have children and parent program.
- The Wesley Center plays a part in the success of children in the Westwood Neighborhood.

### Problems and Barriers inside the Neighborhood
- Limited transportation inhibits access to enrichment activities.
- Time and money constraints hinder parental involvement.
- Requirements for parent volunteers deter significant parent involvement.
- There is a lack of communication between different educational programs.
- Lack of parental awareness about preexisting programs.
- Many transitions in school leadership in both Mary Queen of Peace and Westwood.

### Resources and Assets outside the Neighborhood
- Wright State has an existing relationship with Westwood School programs through student community service opportunities and undergraduate and graduate service learning.
- Project Read is a program focused on increasing literacy sponsored by Sinclair Community College.
- MQPeacebuilders is a student organization at the University of Dayton focused on supporting Mary Queen of Peace’s afterschool programs.
- The VA Hospital can have a role in partnering with the schools in the Westwood Neighborhood.

### Problems and Barriers outside the Neighborhood
- After-school programs pull students away from programs in the Westwood Neighborhood.
- Lack of communication between external and internal partners.
- Pre-existing perceptions of the Westwood neighborhood prevent positive change from being implemented in the schools.
- Limited federal and state funding.
PROPOSED PROJECT

Family Enrichment Cafes
The Family Enrichment Cafes encourage parents and children from Mary Queen of Peace and Westwood PreK-8 to gather around a meal to build community and form long-lasting relationships. These Family Enrichments Cafes are an opportunity for parents and children to meet, get to know one another, develop friendships and engage in an enriching activity. In addition to the meal, the parents would have an opportunity to discuss relevant matters around such topics as their children’s education, parenting skills or neighborhood issues. The children would have the opportunity for tutoring, reading workshops, athletic events, crafting, etc. To help fund the meals, local churches would be invited to partner with the Family Enrichment Cafes in order to foster stronger relationships among the churches, schools, and the neighborhood. University students from Wright State and the University of Dayton would be invited to provide tutoring services. These events could take place on evenings with dinner or Saturdays with breakfast or lunch.

Suggested Action Steps:
- Form a committee with representatives from each school, Westwood Collaborative Network, the Wesley Center, and churches.
- Develop a structure for the Family Enrichment Cafes.
- Recruit partners such as churches for resources for meals.
- Work with volunteers on programming.
- Advertise Family Enrichment Cafes with all constituencies.
- Assign point person to be in charge of tracking attendance.
- Implement first Family Enrichment Café.
- Evaluate first Family Enrichment Café and plan for future dinners.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**Key Outcome:** Westwood is a healthy neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westwood does not have a full option grocery, but has many small corner shops.</td>
<td>Westwood has education classes to inform resident about healthcare programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood does not have an extracurricular activities committee.</td>
<td>More residents are eating healthy, fresh food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood has many open green spaces but not much in terms of organized activities.</td>
<td>There are more organized outside physical activities especially for youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood has a large elderly population that requires easily accessible health-care options.</td>
<td>Westwood has a mutual beneficial partnership with a healthcare provider that benefits from the residents and the residents benefit from the partner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A committee organized outside activities.</td>
<td>Westwood has periodic health screenings available to residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources & Assets in Westwood**

- Many community spaces to hold classes
- Wesley Community Center
- Free Farmers Market every 2 weeks at Wesley Center
- Many open green spaces
- Westwood PreK-8 Elementary School
- Churches have food programs
- Mary Queen of Peace & Urban Child Development Resource Center (UD)

**Problems & Barriers in Westwood**

- Elderly community that lacks transportation
- No pro-active health initiative
- Residents don’t understand how to cook with fresh food

**Resources & Assets outside Westwood**

- Many strong health-care institutions in the vicinity (VA, Walgreens, Grandview, Elizabeth Place, Good Samaritan)
- Many local farms and farmers
- Five Rivers MetroParks throughout Montgomery County
- Food Market on Gettysburg
- Mobile Food Pantry
- Mobile Health Clinic (Public Health)

**Problems & Barriers outside Westwood**

- Changing health-care laws
- Less funding for social services
- City of Dayton does not provide outside recreation programs
PROPOSED PROJECT

Fresh Produce Peddler

A fresh produce peddler will be a farmer or food delivery entrepreneur who will come to the neighborhood once a week to sell fresh produce at various location within Westwood. It is important to note that there is already a free Farmer’s Market every two weeks at the Wesley Center, however, increasing the frequency and convenience of access to fresh produce will help address the food desert issue. A peddler throughout the neighborhood would also address the issue of the elderly standing outside in potentially long lines at the Free Farmers Market.

There are many farmers who participate in farmers’ markets who might be interested in doing this. There is also a produce seller on Gettysburg who can be reached out to. Walgreens has been a strong supporter of trying to get produce into its own store and is a possible corporate sponsor for the Fresh Produce Peddler Program.

Suggested Action Steps:

- Wesley Center will take the lead on organizing this Fresh Produce Peddler because of its connection through the free farmers market.

- Wesley Center can reach out to farmers and/or possible entrepreneurs (i.e. the produce seller on Gettysburg).

- Wesley Center will help the prospect peddler to do a market analysis to see if people would shop with the peddler and the potential business (aka revenue) for the peddler.

- Wesley Center will bring the prospect peddler into conversation with various people around the neighborhood to discover what places and times work for both parties.

- The peddler would need to acquire proper license (transient vendor license) if not already in possession.

- Have a Kickoff event with the prospect peddler and the neighborhood residents.

- The Kickoff event could include having a cook-off challenge involving fresh produce and instructional programs on how to cook with fresh food.

- This will give people ideas for how to cook vegetables and encourage the purchase of the fresh produce.

- Wesley Center will maintain the partnership because it will be the consistent coordinator.
**Key Outcome:** Westwood is a neighborhood with high employment and many small businesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small businesses have a difficult time succeeding in the Westwood Neighborhood.</td>
<td>There are several established small businesses in the Westwood neighborhood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The skills of many residents do not readily align with the job-specific skills needed in the current job market.</td>
<td>Westwood residents can easily access job-specific training, which has reduced overall unemployment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are few convenient RTA routes for Westwood residents.</td>
<td>Westwood residents can easily access Dayton RTA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nearest financial institution in Westwood Neighborhood was recently closed.</td>
<td>There is an established financial institution that is easily accessible in Westwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a perception that Westwood is not a profitable place for businesses.</td>
<td>There is a perception that Westwood is an attractive community in which to establish businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood does not have a strong relationship with any large institution in the area.</td>
<td>There is a mutually-beneficial relationship between Westwood Neighborhood and a large institution nearby.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources and Assets within the Neighborhood**

- Walgreens seems committed to being a stable business in the Westwood Neighborhood.
- The Gettysburg business corridor provides places for new and old businesses in the Westwood Neighborhood.
- The library in Westwood provides residents the opportunity and access to look and apply for jobs using the internet.
- Wesley Center provides some job training and assistance in finding jobs for the residents of Westwood.

**Problems and Barriers inside the Neighborhood**

- Some residents of Westwood lack job skills and educational requirements currently desired in the job market.
- Businesses continue to leave the Westwood Neighborhood.

**Resources and Assets outside the Neighborhood**

- Sugar Creek Packing Co. is a large employer of Westwood residents.
- VA brings lots of traffic through and near the neighborhood.
- Westown Shopping Center could act as a location in which to start small businesses.
- The Miami Valley Career Technology Center could be a partner for increasing job readiness.

**Problems and Barriers outside the Neighborhood**

- Some businesses have negative perceptions of employee lack of accountability.
- Public perception of Westwood Neighborhood is that it is not a positive business environment.
- Businesses are often unwilling to invest their time and money in the area.
- Many customers are not attracted to Westwood, but go elsewhere to shop.
PROPOSED PROJECT

Professional Development Workshops
This workshop would focus on teaching perspective employers the do’s and do not’s of the job market with a specific focus on how to dress, how to conduct oneself in an interview, how to develop a resume, etc. These workshops would feature guest speakers that give presentations on different subject matters in order to appeal to a wide variety of audience needs and interests. For example, classes may be offered that instruct residents on how to operate Microsoft Office, develop a LinkedIn account and offer resume critiques. This workshop would require collaboration on the part of the Westwood library, in order to use their computers, and participation of business professionals and university professional fraternities. This collaboration with professional fraternities is imperative because they frequently have free professional development workshops and need service hours; as a result, these organizations would be more than willing to provide free services to the Westwood community and offer child care services at these events as needed. By having these workshops offered frequently and continuously, more residents would have the opportunity to attend these events.

Suggested Action Steps:
- Wesley Center, Westwood Collaborative Network, possible representatives from higher education, Mary Queen of Peace and the Westwood PreK-8 School creates a committee to focus on job readiness in the neighborhood.
- Members of the committee hold one on one interviews with business leaders to discover what skills employers desire.
- Committee holds forum to hear what professional skills are desired from local business leaders.
- Committee recruits business leaders and volunteers to teach each module of the workshop.
- Volunteers design modules to align with skills discussed at forum with business leaders.
- Volunteers coordinate optional childcare offered during the module.
- Committee members use schools and after school programs to promote workshop to potential attendees.
- Partner with the library to hold the session.
- Issue an evaluation to participants for continuous improvement on workshops.
- Based on attendance and feedback, adapt program to best suit the Westwood neighborhood.
**Key Outcome:** Westwood is considered a Safe Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westwood currently has the highest criminal activity in West Dayton.</td>
<td>Westwood is not the highest criminally active neighborhood in West Dayton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking paths in the area are unlit.</td>
<td>Kids have safe walk routes to and from school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPD has not been present at recent community meetings.</td>
<td>Westwood is pedestrian friendly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkways do not feel secure to pedestrians.</td>
<td>Drug Dealing will not be prominent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood is perceived by others as unsafe.</td>
<td>DPD is a stable presence at the neighborhood meetings and foster a strong relationship with various community members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Resources & Assets in Westwood
- DPD
- Neighbors
- DPD Community Outreach Programs
- Porch lights
- Westwood Collaborative Network
- Wesley Center
- Dayton Public Schools
- City of Dayton RecPlex
- City of Dayton Public Works (Lighting)

### Problems & Barriers in Westwood
- Lack of community cohesiveness
- Weak relationship between community members and DPD
- Abandoned houses
- High drug activity
- DPD underutilized

### Resources & Assets outside Westwood
- United Against Violence
- Crime stoppers
- Lighting Companies

### Problems & Barriers outside Westwood
- Interstate system poses as drug/crime gateway in and out of the area
PROPOSED PROJECT

Creation of a Neighborhood Watch

Implementation
A Neighborhood Watch Program will bring a community together in solidarity against crime. Together with law enforcement, neighbors will help deter crimes that place unnecessary stigmas on the majority of good citizens who live there. Over time, neighbors will have built an extensive network amongst one another to help detect, prevent, and respond to crime to increase the livability of their neighborhood and restore order. These partnerships will help create a healthy living environment.

Suggested Action Steps:
- Discovery: recruit neighbors to form a committee.
- Leadership needs to be established by passionate members.
- Contact local Dayton police district headquarters to set a meeting.
- Hold a meeting to discuss amongst neighbors the main concerns they have.
- Have meetings on a regular basis with particular focus on learning and information sharing.
- Develop communication networks (social media, phone lists, etc) to share rapidly developing information quickly.
**Key Outcome:** Families in Westwood are engaged in their community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Desired Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High crime rates and drug dealings are a frequent occurrence that deters families from staying or coming to Westwood.</td>
<td>Westwood is a great place to start a family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to a lack of recreational activities, youth often turn to non-constructive outlets of expression.</td>
<td>There are a variety of recreational opportunities, which benefit child development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lack of trust fragments the community.</td>
<td>There are opportunities for community interaction and socialization in Westwood especially for families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood has the highest negative health rates in Montgomery County.</td>
<td>There are a variety of health care options in Westwood. Families have access to healthy foods. There are resources available to aid with mental health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families are not offered resources to educational and bonding opportunities.</td>
<td>Families have access quality education. There are a variety of family bonding resources available to parents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources and Assets within the Neighborhood**
- Adventure Central
- Westwood Pre K-8 School
- Mary Queen of Peace School
- Westwood Collaborative Network
- Wesley Community Center
- Library
- Revival Center Ministries
- Churches
- Local Senior Citizens
- Urban Child Development Resource Center
- Catholic Social Services Children's Center at VA
- Five River MetroParks
- United Against Violence

**Problems and Barriers inside the Neighborhood**
- recreational amenities
- Vacant properties
- Food desert
- Safety of the neighborhood/crime
- family bonding activities
- aging population
- lack of parental support

**Resources and Assets outside the Neighborhood**
- County services
- City services
- Higher Education Institutions
- City and Regional Recreation Initiatives (Bike Miami Valley)
- FRMP/Weselyn Metropark

**Problems and Barriers outside the Neighborhood**
- City of Dayton Lot Links Program
- Project C.U.R.E.
- VA not being used
PROPOSED PROJECT

Recreational Enhancements for Families and Children:
The Recreational Enhancements Program will focus on improving the existing play areas and green spaces in Westwood for families and children, as well as creating new ones. Existing play areas and green spaces can be improved with the increased lighting, the installation of safety and pet control signs, painting and cleaning existing equipment, and increased police and neighborhood watch patrolling. New recreational areas can be envisioned and built by utilizing the existing vacant lots and green spaces. New locations can be chosen based on the proximity to the areas of the neighborhood with the most children and families but the least services and amenities. The Recreational Enhancements Program can leverage Dayton’s recent status as one of the country’s best areas for kids nature play and the local organizations that helped spearhead this initiative. The program will not only aim to create spaces which encourage recreation and a healthy active lifestyle, but also connecting with nature. With these goals in mind, Adventure Central is the appropriate asset and organization to be the catalyst for the program, host the meetings, and facilitate the dialogue.

Suggested Action Steps:
- Form Recreational Enhancement committee in Westwood hosted by Adventure Central which include key players.
  - Five River Metroparks, City of Dayton Park and Recreation
- Recruit community member to get involved.
- Identify existing vacant lots, green spaces and current playgrounds which can be cleaned up and addressed through the first phase of the program.
- Identity funding to work on phase one.
  - Greater Dayton Conservation Fund, Clean Ohio Fund, Ohio Environmental Education Fund
- Install Pet Control and Safety Signage and lighting.
- Equipment cleaning, painting and improvements.
- Identify location, funding and concept for Phase Two, a new state of the art nature play area.
- Work on securing grants
Baines-Saundar, Daphene. Personal Interview. 17 September 2013.


Tay, Harris, Personal Interview. 9 September 2013. Wesley Community Center.


Acknowledgements

Nate Arnett .................................................................Adventure Central
Deron Bell ..............................................................Westwood PreK-8
Alana Campion .........................................................Mary Queen of Peace Principal
Anthony Comer .........................................................Westwood PreK-8 Principal
Kenora Davis ...........................................................Neighborhood citizen
Michelle Dilts-Gibson ...........................................United Against Violence
Meredith Ellington ..................................................Westwood Collaborative Network
Ruby Harris Fairbanks ............................................Westwood Collaborative Network
Kattie Gamble ..........................................................Neighborhood citizen
Becky Gaytko ..........................................................Dayton Police Department
Betty Henderson ......................................................Westwood Collaborative Network
Dan Hutcheson ........................................................Sugar Creek Packing Company
Noland Lester ..........................................................Westwood Public Library
Jim McCarthy ..........................................................Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
Rhonda Mercs ........................................................Urban Child Development Resource Center
Simenola Meriner ..................................................Westwood Collaborative Network
Jacqueline Moore-Falah .........................................Westwood Collaborative Network
Miracle Morete ........................................................Revival Ministries
Sheri Moss ..............................................................Westwood PreK-8
Willie & Cynthia Porter ............................................Westwood PreK-8 volunteers
Pat Rickman ..........................................................Southwest Priority Board/Southwest CDC
Nicholas Ringer, Jr ..................................................Westwood Collaborative Network
Bishop and Mrs. Roland .........................................Mary Queen of Peace parents
Cathy Sayer ..........................................................Wright State University
Pete Schlenker ........................................................Walgreens
John Smith ................................................................. Westwood Collaborative Network
Aaron Sorrell ......................................................... City of Dayton Department of Planning
Ronda Stinson .......................................................... Mary Queen of Peace Volunteer
Harris Tay .................................................................. Wesley Community Center
Dennise Trammell ...................................................... Westwood Collaborative Network
Dr. Robert Walker ....................................................... Dayton Public Schools
Larry Williams .......................................................... Westwood Collaborative Network
Shirley Williams ........................................................ Westwood Collaborative Network
Wes Young .............................................................. St. Mary Development Corporation
John Zimmerman ....................................................... Miami Valley Fair Housing Center