

EDCI Community Conversation, October 15, 2009

WHAT'S WORKING

(Items circled as "most challenging" from each group)

MOST OFTEN MENTIONED: Support for change; Leaders and groups are organizing and supporting improvements; More programs and services (like Holton); More faith and business involvement

Group A

- Community involvement strengthening
- NCCU is working
- Holton Center
- Work of PEACH
- Attention- listening
- Resources coming into community
- Desire to do something
- Recognition of past not working and willingness to change
- More organized effort
- Churches getting involved in education again
- Clean energy Durham- energy efficiency, neighborhood organizing
- A relief to save money
- Rediscovered/rebuilding
- Proximity to other city development
- Putting money where their mouth is/was - people more willing

Group B

- Curiosity to get involved
- Ability to pull together from different/diverse organizations and backgrounds
- Institutional response to solve problems
- More individuals to be part of solution
- Change in landscape, structures, etc.
- Ripening of opportunity for change
- Youth support- Duke- social entrepreneurship
- Light has "come on" area that was once neglected is being visibly changed
- "Powers that be" are engaging and listening to residents

Group C

- The present elected officials- creating a positive living environment for our children's outcome/future
- Holton School curriculum and certifications available to high school students
- Citizen participation
- NECD leadership council
- Students equipped with their tools (books, computers, etc.)
- Neighborhood improvement and safety (speed bumps in their community)

Group D

- Hope 6/Franklin Gardens Housing
- Park and Community Center
- Acknowledgment of need for help
- Garnering resources/maximizing local resources
- Lots of good programming going on
- Dynamic principals at Eastway and YE Smith
- Engaged parents (YE Smith)
- Faith-based organization support (and diverse)

Group E

- City council and investment to community
- Community began to blossom and organization
- Being more involved
- Push to have/be involved... homeowners
- Facility (Holton school space)
- Services (healthcare) in the community
- Sidewalks/trees
- Increased businesses
- Partnership in building (Duke, City, Parks and Recreation- training)
- “This is a walking community”
- Community does have hope and vision
- The number of intergenerations in the community
- Diversity (age, background, “best hodgepodge ever”)
- People are getting positive image of community
- People feeling safer
- Bullseye Initiative “awesome”
- Historic districts

Group F

- Grassroots programs
- Lots of activities provided that are affordable for kids
- Salvation Army boys and girls clubs
- Churches- tutoring programs
- Schools
- TROSA grocery store opening in November

Group G

- Art sign company- community involvement
- “Incredible Years” program
- Police involvement (Bulls Eye)

Group H

- Growth and development
- SEEDS community garden
- Presence (involvement) of churches
- Change in infrastructure, got rid of 5 blocks of vacant houses

- The EDCI
- Kitchen table talks
- History of making contributions
- Historical district (architecture)
- People want to stay
- People interest in fixing it up

Group I

- Eastway Elementary School additional support
- Housing stock
- Community awareness
- Golden Belt magnet
- Bushfan
- Holton Center, after-school trade education and transportation
- Redevelopment in Eastway, Ind. Park
- Long Meadow Park improvement
- Neighborhood improvement services
- Substation
- Bus station, improved transportation
- Franklin Village playground area
- Community activists
- PTA at YE Smith
- Greater Emmanuel Family Life Center
- Police targeting area for violent crime
- TROSA good neighbor
- Durham Rescue Mission
- Boys' and Girls' club
- Salvation Army

Group J

- NPs working under the radar- grassroots level- to effect change
- Long-time residents/new residents/volunteers committed to community
- Community groups recognized by city (ex: PAC, NECO leadership council)
- Durham police department commitment to Bulls Eye- has made huge change in crime rate over past 2 years
- Use of committee resources and expertise done effectively

Group K

- Commitment to success
- Angel Dr. Corridor economic development initiative
- Active efforts to assist repeating offenders as they return to area
- Boys and Girls club on Alston Avenue
- Organizations working with teens and pre-teens focused on best practices
- Holton Resource Center

Group L

- Faith community
- Holton Center, other places to go, with gyms
- Collaboration: number of organizations represented
- Police department: giving youths alternatives to incarceration (STARS, DMI)
- Food bank
- Business community: biotech, bowling alley, lots of resources
- Hardy Street Apt: computers for homework, long distance communication, ESL classes
- Liberty Street apt: literacy classes, afterschool program
- Nonprofit sector: Boys and Girls clubs, Salvation Army
- Institutions and universities: NCCU, Durham Tech

Group M

- Building neighborhood organizations
- Buy in from residents
- Collaboration from many groups
- More police support
- Like the tutoring
- Child and family team at YE Smith

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Challenges

(Items circled as “most challenging” from each group)

MOST OFTEN MENTIONED: Lack of jobs/Poverty, Gangs/crime, Dropouts/education skills, Housing

COMMUNITY

- Children disconnected from community
- Level of distrust with city government
- Gangs
- Fear/perception of the community
- Crime
- Abandoned/neglected property
- Transportation
- Lack of investment in parks
- Safety
- Lack of community involvement
- Lots of community groups – not one voice
- Getting folks to take advantage of services offered
- People don’t think their “voice and vote” make a difference- lack of hope that changes can be sustainable
- Sustainable grocery stores at affordable prices

- Outside interests change the community- people get displaced and people become marginalized
- People in the community have value but they don't know it, feel inadequate, don't take ownership
- People who want to help don't have a vested interest in the community

FAMILY

- Single parent families faced with associated challenges- many don't have capacity to assist their children with work
- Disconnect of kids/parents
- Transportation- barrier to family participation
- Engaging families: how the people running the programs relate to families, there's a disconnect, need communication
- Children with disabilities need services and activities

POVERTY

- Lack of opportunity
- Lack of home ownership
- Poverty levels
- Unemployment

EDUCATION

- Education rate of parents
- Job/Skill training
- Citizen access to technology
- Literacy/education of adults and children

SCHOOL

- Disconnect from education
- Distrust of school
- Dropout rates
- Not enough social workers in schools

HEALTH

- Lack of mental healthcare
- Lack of health services
- Home environment (lead paint, air quality, mold) important for children, healthcare, environmental healthcare

OTHER

- Overall material resources: we're all doing more with less
- Lack of "user-friendly" systems

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Solutions

(Items circled as Solutions from each group)

Most Often Mentioned: More education programs; More services and improve awareness of services; Affordable housing; Improve relationships/communications

SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

- Use Holton School
- More education programs that are skills-based and age appropriate
- School board/teachers visit homes
- Keep schools in the community: have educators visit homes; elementary, middle and high schools close together; affordable activities to keep kids excited about school
- Must address illiteracy
- Encouraging students to stay in school (parent/adult involvement and boundaries, teachers listening to and respecting students, transportation to participate in good afterschool programs, parent network, address busing with school board)
- Make schools community learning/gathering/resource centers
- Hire more experienced EC, tutors
- Consider re-districting of school populations

POVERTY/EMPLOYMENT

- Heat/food/home basics
- Pre-employment training for youth and parents
- Homesteading program
- Pre-employment training for youth and parents
- Home ownership a priority
- Education on home buying
- Jobs that fit with the workforce, prepare kids for real world computer, more vocational programs
- Jobs, employment opportunities in this area
- Deal with absent landlords, affordable housing

COMMUNITY

- Infrastructure: parks, jobs, employment opportunities in this area
- Community empowerment/ownership/enlightenment
- High expectations (across whole neighborhood)
- Empower people and organizations in the community
- Deal with absent landlords
- Community ownership of programming/success
- Find ways to involve Latino community- find ambassadors, more interpreters

MARKETING/PUBLICITY/AWARENESS

- Publicize good news of students, not just sports
- Youth programs working with police department
- Expand conversation, surveys, go out to community
- Expand the conversation—surveys in larger community, door to door canvas
- Awareness of resources--people out in community- have jobs to do this, establish a community agency to do this

PARENTS/FAMILY

- Education to parents
- Parent education at all levels

- Parenting support
- More parental involvement
- Building relationships with parents/community/children, this builds trust
- Support for kids/directly to kids if parents are unable to participate
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YOUTH

- Early intervention (high quality daycare, etc.)
- Building relationships with parents/community/children, this builds trust

NON-PROFIT /BUSINESS

- Convene all NE Central Durham nonprofits to share work/collaborate/impact sustainability/leverage resources
- Engage business community

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Ask city to be more accountable at department level
- Integrate city resources, need referrals within city and to nonprofits

SERVICES

- Create a “one stop shop” to focus on all challenges- a “triage nurse”- Durham one call does this, but need for East Durham, not just a number and not automated
- A way for systems to prove themselves trustworthy—be consistent. Don’t use families/kids as guinea pigs

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Hire more experienced social workers