

Allegany Franciscan Ministries Common Good Initiative – Overtown Community Dialogue Report

Allegany Franciscan Ministries launched the Common Good Initiative in the Overtown community in June 2014. The goal of the initiative is to work with residents and stakeholders in Overtown, to create opportunities, develop strategies and make investments that lead to positive health outcomes.

Over this past year, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has been engaging with community members and stakeholders in Overtown, listening and learning to gain a greater understanding of the community's needs, interests and appetite to engage in change. We worked with community residents, nonprofit groups, business owners, system leaders and youth to understand the challenges facing Overtown and their vision for the future. During this time, Allegany Franciscan Ministries also invested \$79,745 to support existing efforts and leverage opportunities in Overtown (a list of investments is available).

Allegany Franciscan Ministries summarized what it heard through the first year of the initiative into ten community priorities. On Thursday, August 20, 2015, over 130 community residents and stakeholders gathered at St. Agnes Episcopal Church for a three-hour facilitated community dialogue to identify the most important of the priorities, those which community members are most interested in working to address. A scoring system was utilized to rank the priorities; the dialogue also generated many ideas and solutions.



Three priorities - "Access to High Quality Employment", "Accessible, Affordable High Quality Youth Development Opportunities" and "Community Voices Inform Policies and Decisions" - clearly rose to the top. Access to high quality employment received more than twice as many top votes as any other issue; a second area related to youth (Safe and Fun Recreation Opportunities for Youth) also ranked high.

The ten priorities are listed below, with the total score received.

Priority Area	Score
Access to High Quality Employment	208
Accessible, Affordable High Quality Youth Development Opportunities (in school and out of school)	156
Community Voices Inform Policies and Decisions	130
Safe, Affordable and Decent Housing	114
Safe and Fun Recreation Opportunities for Youth	110
Community Violence	81
Access to Quality Health Care and Support Service Options for Everyone (especially Pregnant Mothers, Children & Youth)	78
Vibrant Community Arts & Culture Opportunities	65
Access to Healthy Foods and Wellness Supports	57
Police Abuse of Power (i.e. Police Brutality)	50

Additionally, there were a number of write-in's submitted during the community dialogue:

Submitted Community Priorities
Reconditioning of Community – Evidence-Based Research
Education
Culture of Love and Growth
Trauma Informed Care and Access to Counseling Services
Quality Childcare Centers (6)
Cleaner Community – Beautification
Small Business Supports (3)
Financial Literacy (5)
Safe and Fun Opportunities for Seniors
Retail Space for Businesses
Affordable Stores in the Local Community
Love

Participants then spent time brainstorming and sharing their ideas and potential solutions. A complete list of all comments, ideas and suggestions gathered will be available by mid-October 2015.

The next steps for the Overtown Common Good Initiative include working with community members and other key supporters to develop strategies and investments to address the top priorities. Through the fall of 2015, Allegany Franciscan Ministries and community partners will research best practices and opportunities related to these issues. Throughout the process, community members will have opportunities to share their thoughts and along with resident experts, thought-leaders and stakeholders, will be actively engaged in the Common Good Initiative.

For more information, please go to www.afmfl.org, or write to us at overtowncg@gmail.com.