



Allegany  
Franciscan  
Ministries



# LINCOLN PARK COMMON GOOD INITIATIVE

**Lincoln Park – Fort Pierce, Florida  
Community Dialogue Report  
June 27, 2015**

## ALLEGANY FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

# Lincoln Park Community Dialogue Report

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

Over this past year, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has been "*listening, learning and leading*" to gain a greater understanding of the community's needs, interests and appetite to engage in change. We *listened* to community residents, nonprofit groups, business owners, system leaders and youth discuss the challenges facing Lincoln Park and their vision for the future. Allegany Franciscan Ministries *learned* about connections, relationships and community norms, and provided *leadership* by investing over \$200,000 to support existing efforts and leverage opportunities in Lincoln Park. Allegany Franciscan Ministries summarized what we heard through the first year of the initiative into nine community priorities.

On Saturday, June 27, over 170 community residents and stakeholders participated in a three-hour facilitated community dialogue to identify the most important of the nine 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. Community members clearly demonstrated their readiness and engagement during the morning dialogue. Two priorities — "Quality Jobs and Livable Wages" and "Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods" clearly rose to the top. The nine priorities are listed below, with the total score received.

1. **Quality Jobs and Livable Wages - 23**
2. **Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods - 21**
3. **Healthier Residents with Lower Rates of Diseases such as Diabetes - 7**
4. **Mentoring Supports for Youth - 7**
5. **Effective, Engaged and Equipped Parents - 7**
6. **Quality, Accessible, Affordable Housing for All Residents - 4**
7. **Community Residents Actively Engaged in and Involved in Community - 4**
8. **Mutual Respect Between Local Residents and Local Law Enforcement - 3**
9. **Effective and Accessible Transportation System - 3**

## ALLEGANY FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

# Lincoln Park Community Dialogue Report

It is worth noting that youth representatives at the Dialogue identified the following four priorities as most important:

1. **Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods**
2. **Mentoring Supports for Youth**
3. **Effective, Engaged and Equipped Parents**
4. **Mutual Respect Between Local Residents and Local Law Enforcement**

This report will focus on the top two rated priorities from the community dialogue; the following pages list the ideas and suggestions generated for each of the top two priorities. A transcript of all comments and suggestions from the dialogue is also available.

## ALLEGANY FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

## Lincoln Park Community Dialogue Report

**PRIORITY:** Quality Jobs with a Livable Wage

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:** Lack of quality job opportunities, lack of accessible training for residents for quality jobs

**IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS:** *This is a summary list of all the comments received from the Dialogue.*

- ⇒ Incentives for employers to come to area/ solicit companies to come in/ Abatement
- ⇒ Improving schools
- ⇒ Look at other areas and how they did things
- ⇒ Promote and fund existing programs
- ⇒ Fund felony 2nd change programs/ Felony forgiveness
- ⇒ Mentorship and start-up funds for entrepreneurship programs
- ⇒ Free vocational schools/ Vocational training schools/ Apprenticeship programs
- ⇒ Loans for small business (investment)/ make funding available to create jobs in Fort Pierce
- ⇒ Establish micro-loans
- ⇒ Community Development funds
- ⇒ School District needs to provide non-college track curriculum/certification program
- ⇒ Police Explorers (mentorship)
- ⇒ Free workshops/ seminars to teach people/build capacity
- ⇒ Legal services (seal/expunge records)/ Lawyers to do Pro Bono work
- ⇒ Employability/ skills training workshops/ develop a skilled and educated workforce
- ⇒ Politicians need to be open-minded toward big businesses (airport-gone, Six Flags-gone)
- ⇒ Restoring tax base (Call city/ county commissioners to task)
- ⇒ Provide contract compliance for local vendors
- ⇒ Outside vendors to hire local workers (construction cleaning company)
- ⇒ Need Minority Banks to help with funding
- ⇒ Capacity Building
- ⇒ Investors
- ⇒ Stimulating and supporting small business and manufacturing
- ⇒ Contract with the local religious organizations and nonprofit organizations for the use of their facilities and transportation
- ⇒ Hire younger ages for jobs/ Stipends through youth programs to be come "job ready"
- ⇒ Re-invest capital in the communities

## ALLEGANY FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

## Lincoln Park Community Dialogue Report

**PRIORITY:** Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:** Violence, gangs, crime

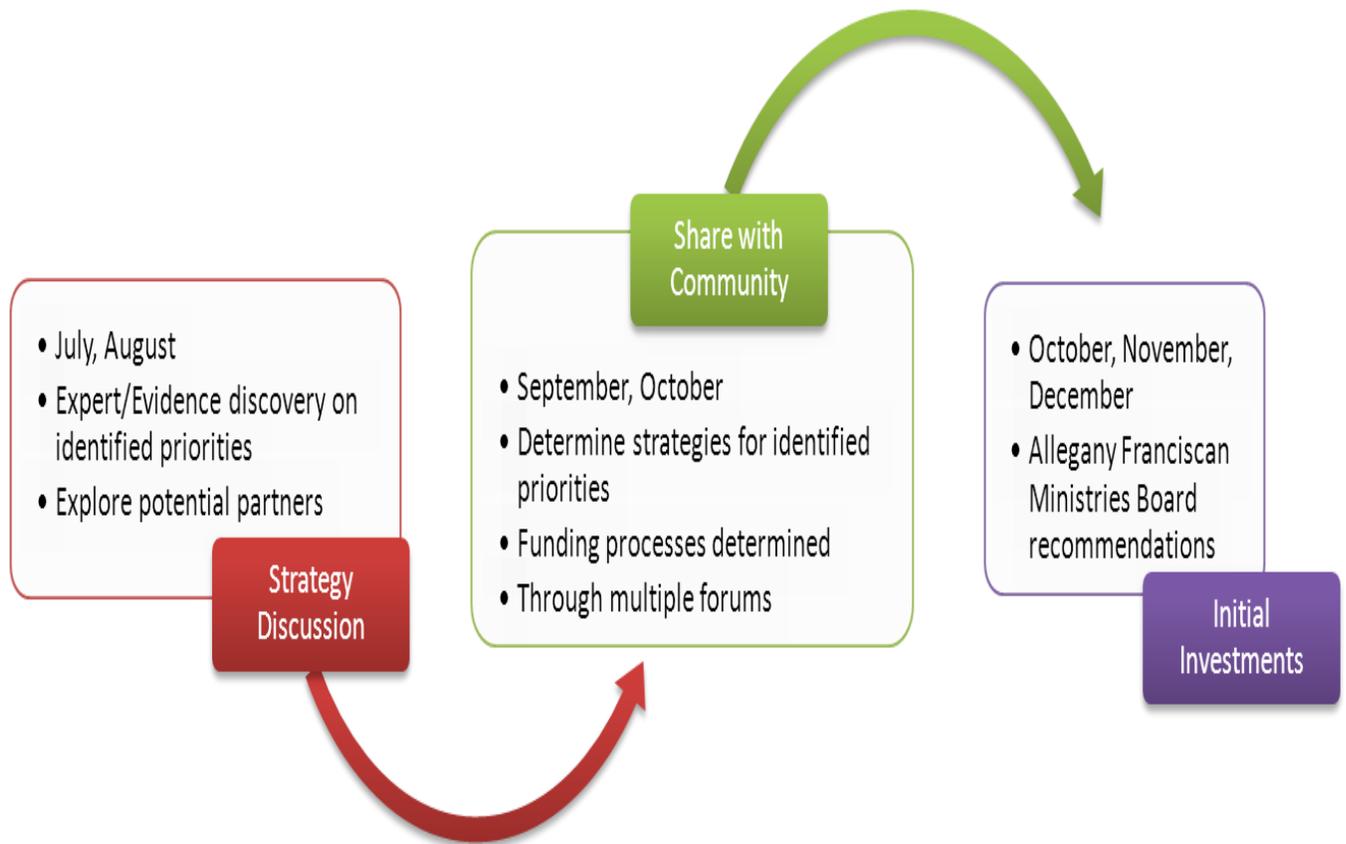
**IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS:** *This is a summary list of all the comments received from the Dialogue.*

- ⇒ Underground railroad– network of people that can help connect people with services, work with people who more scared to approach agencies
- ⇒ Public service announcements, churches, radio station, p.a. systems/ billboards, group forums, pamphlets, workshops etc.
- ⇒ Character development/mentoring
- ⇒ Community events /More youth activities
- ⇒ Taskforce-assessment group-monitor the community
- ⇒ Public relations-community
- ⇒ Re-educating the community on taking a stand for a safe community
- ⇒ Being able to use the facilities in your community (city substation, Lincoln Park Theater etc.)
- ⇒ City collaborations-recognizing communities for improvements
- ⇒ Police officer living in the community/ Community Police/ Resources to support law enforcement
- ⇒ Renovation of bad homes/ Take ownership of property/ Eminent domain control of house identified as “Menace to Society”- time limit enforced.
- ⇒ Mental Health Services
- ⇒ Restoration of Lincoln Park Theater/ Cultural support/ Bringing entertainment
- ⇒ Incentives to get community involved/ Provide funding for “Youth Clean-up Programs” /Clean up of community properties
- ⇒ Improvement of youth organizations to alleviate the desire to join a gang to “belong”
- ⇒ Enforce truancy
- ⇒ Develop food programs for students/ Nutrition & Dietary training-improve food choices-decrease in chronic disease/ Food demonstrations/ Healthy Food chain– healthier food items and knowledge of food preparation
- ⇒ Create grid leaders
- ⇒ Develop plan with St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce, IRSC and Economic Development Council
- ⇒ More knowledge in the community (health) / Being able to follow health instructions like eating habits
- ⇒ Clinic/Mobile health care-better health care (access to)-decrease in disease

# ALLEGANY FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

## Next Steps - 2015

Next steps for the Common Good Initiative include working with community members and other key supporters to develop strategies and investments to address the top two priorities. This fall, 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.



If you're interested in learning more about Lincoln Park's Common Good Initiative, or would like to be part of the solutions, please contact [lincolnparkcg@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnparkcg@gmail.com). More information is available on Allegany Franciscan Ministries' website, [www.afmfl.org](http://www.afmfl.org).