Since Spring 2014, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has been working in and with the Lincoln Park community on the Common Good Initiative. The Common Good Initiative is designed to mobilize communities towards better health and wellness through community engagement, a long-term commitment of resources, and increased collaboration of residents and stakeholders. During this time, several community meetings have been held, new partnerships have been established and the Lincoln Park Council for the Common Good has been formed. To date, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has invested over $650,000 to support community activities. The Lincoln Park Council for the Common Good, based on the community’s input has confirmed the following Priorities and Strategies for investment:

**Quality Jobs and Livable Wages - All Lincoln Park residents will have access to quality jobs and livable wages.**

- **Strategy 1:** Strengthen and leverage existing job training resources to align with potential workforce opportunities for Lincoln Park residents
- **Strategy 2:** Promote small business creation in Lincoln Park community

**Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods - Lincoln Park residents will live in a safe and healthy community**

- **Strategy 1:** Facilitate opportunities for neighborhood clean ups
- **Strategy 2:** Create wellness opportunities for Lincoln Park residents
- **Strategy 3:** Endorsing positive images in the Lincoln Park community

On Thursday, October 27, 2016, the Lincoln Park Council for the Common Good facilitated a community meeting to garner more information for strategy implementation. Over 90 community residents and stakeholders attended and participated in a “live” poll survey. However, there were not enough participants from the community to inform the initiative’s next steps. In order to get additional feedback from the community, *In the Image of Christ*, a local nonprofit, was contracted to deploy paid surveyors in the Lincoln Park community to facilitate the survey. The survey was conducted between November 21 – December 12, 2016 at various community locations including: food pantries, bus stops, small businesses and local housing units. 1,528 surveys were completed. Survey participants included both male and female between the ages of 13 and 88 years old. This report summarizes the responses.

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There is almost equal participation among female and male survey respondents. This provides for ample comparative data for the survey questions. The breakdown between the age groups is revealing as the majority of survey respondents are from the 23-39 age demographic. This age cohort is most likely starting a career, prime for training and wants to increase their income. The latter information will most certainly come into play as the Council for the Common Good determines target populations for strategy implementation. Lastly, there is less than 2% “no response” rate regarding basic information. This is most likely attributed to surveyor error*. Overall, there was great response participation among Lincoln Park residents.

* some surveys were incomplete, i.e. some sections were not filled out completely.
Over 50% of survey respondents came from the 34950 zip code, whereas the 34947 zip code had 19%. Both zip codes overlay the Lincoln Park boundaries of 33rd Street (West) to U.S. 1 (East), Avenue Q (North) to Orange Avenue (South). The surveyors canvassed the “greater” Lincoln Park area which included as far North to Juanita Avenue and West to Angles Road. 20% of survey respondents came from 34946 zip code which borders the North end of the Lincoln Park area. Please note “Other” includes 11 different zip codes referenced once or multiple times. The latter is either attributed to zip codes written incorrectly or input error.
Lincoln Park residents have expressed their desire for jobs, development and access to healthy food. The City of Fort Pierce has identified opportunities for improvement in the Lincoln Park area including, but not limited to, provision for economic stimulation with an increase in private investment, the improvement of blighted conditions, supporting minority business development, and the acquisition of land in order to assemble sites sufficiently large enough to encourage redevelopment. A Grocery Store/Retail to be located on Avenue D corridor within the Lincoln Park area could help address all of these areas. The grocery store concept would potentially increase residents’ access to healthy food and create up to 40 jobs.

**Why yes to Store?**

“People in the neighborhood should have access to a grocery store and better health options”
The percentage of people over the age of 16 who are unemployed residing in census tracks 3802 and 3803, are 28% and 32% respectively**. These census tracks overlay the Lincoln Park community. The information garnered by this survey reinforces this data, confirms that the age group between 23-39 years old is the population that could most benefit from the strategies to address the priority of “Quality Jobs and Livable Wages”.

**American Community Survey 2010-2014 5-yr estimates
Allegany Franciscan Ministries facilitated a community dialogue in June 2015 with Lincoln Park residents and stakeholders. At this dialogue, Quality Jobs and Livable Wages was clearly identified as the #1 community priority for the Common Good Initiative and Lincoln Park. One of the solutions that was identified to address this priority was investing in small business, i.e. loans and small business creation. The “Yes” responses aligns with the community interests. 48% of all of “Yes” respondents are in the age group 23-39.
What are the community’s Job Training Interests

The Lincoln Park Council for the Common Good hosted a workshop in September 2016 with leaders from the St. Lucie County School District and Indian River State College to learn about the job training/technical career programs they offer to the community. The information collected from this workshop helped to formulate the survey questions. The overall responses suggest that the 23 - 39 years old age group would benefit from the initiative’s strategy: *Strengthen and leverage existing job training resources to align with potential workforce opportunities.* Please note this survey question allowed for multiple responses.
What are the Job Training Interests?

Survey data suggests that age group 23-39 would be the likely target population for any job training strategies for the Lincoln Park community. Among female respondents, training in the “Medical” field was the top interest, whereas for male respondents, the top interest was in the “Marine Trade”. Interestingly, over 412 individuals from all the age groups have an interest in Medical and Marine Trade.
What are the Job Training Barriers?

**Overall**

Perceived barriers that residents faced were discussed at the September 1st workshop. Based on this discussion, survey questions were created to confirm or dispel the perceptions. The survey results suggest the top three barriers no matter the age group are: cost, transportation and criminal background. These top three barriers become more noticeable within the 23-39 age group with criminal background as a more significant barrier than the other two. While anecdotally, “don’t have high school diploma/G.E.D” was an important barrier; however in the survey it rated 4th highest, significantly lower than the top two. The latter may explain the higher numbers among males then females with the barrier of not having a high school diploma/G.E.D. Please note this survey question allowed for multiple responses.
What are the Job Training Barriers?

The breakout of female and male responses aligns with the top three barriers: cost, transportation and criminal background. Criminal background is the biggest barrier identified by men, followed by cost. For women, cost is the biggest barrier followed by transportation. Surprisingly, the childcare barrier is not as pronounced among the female respondents as one might assume. The 23-39 age group responses are far more distinct than the other age group responses.
Recommendations

As mentioned earlier, Allegany Franciscan Ministries facilitated a “live” poll at the October 2016 community meeting utilizing the Poll Everywhere technology. There were 14 questions posed to 46 live participants with 87% engagement rate. Additionally, there were 24 written responses received. The feedback received from this poll aligns with the Lincoln Park community survey. This community survey is “real time” data that will help to inform the Common Good Initiative strategy implementation phase. The survey data substantiates earlier feedback about Lincoln Park demographics, as well as interests in local Grocery Store and small business creation. More importantly, the survey provides evidence about residents’ attitudes towards job training programs and the barriers that exist for them. 65% of survey respondents would like to start their own business in the Lincoln Park community. Over 412 individuals are interested in job training opportunities in the Medical and Marine Trade. 24% of male respondents identified having a criminal background as a barrier to access job training program. Overall, the feedback received by way of this survey supports the notion that the Lincoln Park community will partner with Allegany Franciscan Ministries on the Common Good Initiative, i.e. participating in opportunities that are presented by the initiative.

Recommendations based on survey findings:

1. Age group 23-39 would benefit the most from the identified strategies. This age cohort is most likely starting a career, prime for training and wants to increase their income.

2. The community would support a full-service grocery store and it would bring value to Lincoln Park.

3. Explore small business incubation opportunities for Lincoln Park residents.

4. There is a high-level of interest in the Medical and Marine Trade. Therefore, the initiative should consider investments and partnerships that create or promote opportunities in these areas.

5. There is a large percentage of Lincoln Park residents who have a criminal background which is a barrier to an individual’s economic/professional success. The Common Good Initiative should incorporate considerations related to this issue in its planning.

6. Barriers such as cost and transportation suggest that job training programs located in the community (close by) will be better utilized. Job training programs should be in the community for better accessibility.

7. Cost is a barrier in accessing traditional job training programs. The Council may consider ways to address this challenge.
Methodology

The survey was conducted by eight volunteers who live and/or work in the Lincoln Park community. The volunteers interviewed 1,528 individuals with 13 questions. Not all the questions received 100% response. The latter could be attributed to surveyor error in understanding the responder or responder not understanding the question.

Two of the thirteen questions provided for multiple responses. In addition, there were two open-ended questions that provided narrative type information*. Of all the questions asked, Would you like to see a full-service grocery store in Lincoln Park? received 98% response rate. The response rate to the questions about small business creation, job training and job barriers was between 60-70%.

* the narrative responses of the survey are available upon request
Lincoln Park Common Good Initiative  
Community Survey November 2016  

1. Do you consider yourself a part of the Lincoln Park community? Circle one.  
   Yes  No  I don’t know/maybe  

2. What is your age, gender, and zip code? (Put an “X” if they decline to answer).  
   Age:  
   Gender:  Zip  
   code:  

3. What is your current employment status? Check one.  
   □ Full time  
   □ Part time  
   □ Unemployed and would like full time work  
   □ Unemployed and would like part time work  
   □ Do not need/want/unable to work [skip to question 10]  
   □ Did not answer  

   Yes  No  

5. If you are employed or self-employed, what type of work do you do?  

6. The following types of jobs are growing. Which of these – if any - would you be interested in training for? Check all that apply.  
   □ Welding  
   □ Medical (CAN, LPN, BSN, RN, Medical Coding)  
   □ Marine Trade (Ship-Builder, Plumber, Mechanic, Carpentry)  
   □ I would not be interested in any of these.  
   □ I’m interested, but I don’t need training.  
   □ Other:  

Comments: Would you be interested in training to help you start your own business? Circle one.  
   Yes  No  I don’t know/maybe
7. What might keep you from participating in a job or small business training program? Check all that apply.

- [ ] n/a: don't want job or small business training
- [ ] Need childcare while I'm training
- [ ] Cost
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Criminal background
- [ ] Don't have a high school diploma/G.E.D.
- [ ] Other: ______________________________________

8. If the above were not a problem, would you participate in a job training program located in Lincoln Park? Circle one.

   Yes   No   I don't know

9. Do you want to tell us anything else about jobs or job training?

10. Would you like to see a full-service grocery store in Lincoln Park? Circle one.

    Yes  No  I don't know/maybe

11. If you said “Yes”, why?

12. If you said “No”, why?

13. Would you like us to send you the results of this survey or information about job training opportunities? If so, please give us your email address or mailing address

__________________________________________________________________________
The Common Good Initiative and Allegany Franciscan Ministries

Allegany Franciscan Ministries’ mission is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming, healing presence within our communities.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries is a Catholic organization, guided by the mission and rooted in the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, and a member of Trinity Health. Allegany is a catalyst for systemic change by committing resources and working collaboratively with others to promote physical, mental, spiritual, societal, and cultural well-being in communities served. Visit www.afmfl.org to learn more.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries created the Common Good Initiative to work with people in three Florida communities, including Lincoln Park, to build healthier, safer communities where everyone thrives. The initiative is committed to listening, and learning from members of the community. Local advisory councils consist of community members and stakeholders who listen to and learn from the community in order to guide the development, implementation and investment of the initiative.

For more information about the Common Good Initiative in Lincoln Park, go to www.afmfl.org, or contact Upendo Shabazz at ushabazz@afmfl.org or 561-802-9013.

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