

## **8.0 Neighborhood Based Services**

Among the issues that the Lansdowne neighborhood faces is the lack of services provided specifically for and by the people of the Lansdowne neighborhood. Such services would better the lives and improve the conditions of the people of the Lansdowne community. This chapter describes various neighborhood-based services designed for the Lansdowne neighborhood based on the needs expressed by residents. They are relatively inexpensive and are to be implemented by the people of the community. The people of the Lansdowne community are to be the major administrators, role players, and beneficiaries of these programs. These programs are to be implemented and run by a Neighborhood Based Services Subcommittee of the Lansdowne Steering Committee. The gradual implementation of all these programs over time would be recommended. In order to successfully implement these programs, strong support from the Lansdowne Steering Committee as well as from a Neighborhood Based Services Subcommittee would be essential. This strong neighborhood organization is needed to help the programs to run smoothly and timely and monitor the development.

### **Programs**

The Lansdowne Steering Committee, along with students and staff from the University of Illinois and with the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center, has gone through a collaborative planning process of residential feedback, monthly meetings, and presentations in order to create neighborhood-based services. Through this process, the following programs were identified to provide new services in the Lansdowne community.

- 1. Loving Arms**
- 2. Helping Hands**
- 3. Bright Minds**
- 4. Building Skills, Building Lives**
- 5. Farmers' Market**

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## *8.1 Loving Arms*

### **Program Description:**

This program will provide a way for parents who would otherwise find it hard to pay for childcare to get childcare services. Loving Arms would implement a work or pay program. Those who can and choose to will pay for having their children in the day care facility. Those who are not able to or choose not to pay can work in the facility as payment for the service received. During the non-paying parent's off hours, he or she can work as a childcare giver in return for the care given to his or her own child during work hours. This would make childcare affordable more parents. This program should also provide childcare for those with non-traditional working schedules such as the graveyard shift.

### **Rationale:**

This program provides childcare to those in need. It expands childcare for working families. This program benefits parents who cannot work due to the lack of childcare. Parents can leave children at the childcare center while they first look for work and eventually go to work. This program will help the unemployed find jobs. Many single parents cannot work because there is no one available or they cannot afford to pay anyone to care for the children. Many people in Lansdowne find themselves in a helpless position and cannot work due to the lack of childcare. This program will help to eliminate the problem.

### **Model Programs:**

The Lutheran Social Services of Miami<sup>1</sup> provide a similar program. They provide a childcare program that gives single mothers the opportunity to go out to find jobs. This program focuses on single mothers, but the program in Lansdowne will focus on all parents who need the childcare.

### **Potential Participating Agencies:**

- ?? Lansdowne Steering Committee
- ?? Neighborhood Based Services Subcommittee
- ?? Residents of Lansdowne with childcare needs
- ?? Current caregivers in the area
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### **Technical Assistance Providers:**

- ?? NTAC
- ?? ESLARP
- ?? Active members of the Lansdowne Steering Committee

### **Activities:**

1. Create a Neighborhood Based Services Subcommittee
2. Create flyers announcing possibility of starting the program if enough families are interested in participating and collect contact information on all that express interest by having volunteers to distribute flyers.
3. Use contact information collected to invite interested residents to a planning meeting with the purpose of establishing a more accurate count of the number of families interested in participating. This meeting will serve to get more parents to volunteer to be members of the subcommittee for neighborhood based services to ensure that the planning of the loving arms program will best serve the users.
4. Location for childcare must be secured. Based on the number of children in need of childcare an appropriate location must be found. NTAC can be of assistance with the logistics of securing this location. Funding must be secured with the assistance of NTAC and ESLARP students and staff. Needed parents and students volunteers can do rehab etc.
5. Apply for donation of toys, furniture etc. from local retailers
6. Determine which families will pay for care and which families will work in the program in exchange for childcare
7. It must be determined how many professional caregivers must be hired full time in addition to the parents working in the facility on part-time basis.
8. Establish criteria for choosing caregivers, and secure funding for their pay.
9. Conduct search and hire personnel.
10. Create a schedule for the parents who will work in the program.
11. Establish what the cost for paying parent will be
12. Offer parent volunteers training relevant to a childcare facility
13. Modify schedule as more children, caregivers, and parents are added to the program.

**Required Resources:**

- ?? Care givers
- ?? Childcare center
- ?? Childcare training

**Funding Needs:**

Funding is required to secure a proper location and utilities for this location. Funding for childcare training may be necessary. Payment of the professional caretakers will require funding as well.

**Potential Funding Sources:**

The sources of payment of the childcare givers are the parents who prefer to pay for childcare instead of working in the childcare center. Other funding sources must be researched to determine funding for a possible childcare center.

**Timeline:**

This can only be implemented once a neighborhood based services subcommittee has been established in the Lansdowne Steering Committee. Private homes can initially be used as childcare centers, but when more children are added to the program, a childcare center may be necessary.

## *8.2 Helping Hands*

**Program Description:**

The main idea behind this program is for people to volunteer to help the elderly. The program will include a system of volunteers who could provide in-home day-care for the elderly, when the usual caregiver needs a break. For more regular care a system of paid caregivers must be established. That could be in a center that function by the same principle as for the “loving arms” program above and possible in the same facility. The program would also include volunteers to help transport the elderly to places such as the hospital, doctor’s office, or even the

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grocery store. This program provides neighborhood-based care to the elderly and promotes a “neighbors helping neighbors” culture in Lansdowne.

### **Rationale:**

This program should be implemented to help the elderly in Lansdowne and their relatives who might help assistance but cannot afford institutionalized assistance in taking care of their elderly relatives. The community has a number of elderly people as well as some who may be disabled. The elderly need help in their daily lives. They may need someone to care for them or to drive them to run errands. The ride will solve their problem of not being able to transport themselves. In addition, those who work may find it difficult because they must care for the elderly. This program will help to free the breadwinner to go out and work.

### **Model Programs:**

The Lutheran Social Services of the Miami Valley (<http://www.lssmv.org/index.stm#body>) have a similar volunteer based, neighborhood-based service. In that program, elderly who are not disabled go into the homes of other disabled elderly to give them company, help around the house, and to give the incapacitated elderly person a ride to the doctor, hospital, or grocery store.

### **Potential Participating Agencies:**

- ?? Lansdowne Steering Committee
- ?? Neighborhood Based Services Subcommittee
- ?? Volunteers

### **Activities:**

1. The NBS subcommittee must initiate working on this program
2. Designate a contact person for the Helping Hands program
3. Create flyers that announce the program idea to get volunteers to show interest in working with NBS on establishing this program in the neighborhood
4. Designate volunteers to distribute the flyers
5. Find out who are those that need the elderly care

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6. Determine criteria for designating the volunteers as helpers
7. Determine criteria for designating those who need help
8. Create a database of those who need the elderly help and those who have volunteered to be the helpers and connect these two groups based on needs of the elderly and skills of the volunteers
9. Implement the program by contacting the volunteers when elderly help is needed
10. Expand this program to include daycare in addition to volunteer services parallel with the “loving arms” program to make better use of resources.

### **Required Resources:**

- ?? Volunteers to work as helpers for the elderly
- ?? Long term: same resources as “loving arms”.

### **Funding Needs:**

Long term this program may need funding to run the elderly care center and addition to the childcare facility from the “loving arms” program.

### **Potential Funding Sources:**

Funding may come from citizens of Lansdowne and donations. Other funding sources must be researched with assistance from NTAC and ESLARP staff.

### **Timeline:**

This program can be implemented as soon as the Neighborhood Based Services Subcommittee is established. This program can be implemented quickly depending on the priorities of the LSC, NBS committee, and the people of Lansdowne. The volunteers part of the program can be started without much further planning but the daycare center is a more long-term project that should be accomplished within 3-4 year.

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### *8.3 Bright Minds*

#### **Program Description:**

This program provides an after school study center at local schools for the students of the Lansdowne community. It keeps parts of the local schools open after hours to provide a location for children who need tutoring. It is based on volunteers from the community (senior citizens, older students and others) who would help the students with their homework.

#### **Rationale:**

This type of program is not found in Lansdowne. With this program students will have a place to go after school. Classes are dismissed at around 3pm. Most parents work until around 5pm. This program will give students a safe place to go after school. In addition, students will benefit from the tutoring that will be offered by the volunteers that work there and potentially become tutors them self.

#### **Potential Participating Agencies:**

- ?? Local elementary schools
- ?? Lansdowne Junior High School
- ?? Local School District
- ?? Lansdowne Steering Committee
- ?? Neighborhood Based Services subcommittee

#### **Technical Assistance Providers:**

- ?? Local School District
- ?? Local teachers
- ?? Volunteers
- ?? NTAC

#### **Activities:**

1. Use the Neighborhood Based Services subcommittee to plan and start this program
2. Designate a contact person for the Bright Minds program

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3. Contact NTAC and ask them to call the local schools or have the contact person call the local schools and survey teachers and administrators for interest in the program
4. Contact the local school district and ask for permission to run the program out of local schools
5. In cooperation with local schools and the school district, determine the hours the school will stay open after classes are dismissed
6. Create flyers that describe the program, asks for volunteers, and tells contact information
7. Designate people to distribute flyers at the local schools and around the neighborhood
8. Distribute the flyers at the schools and the neighborhood
9. Find volunteer teachers, other professionals, and people of the community who want to help tutor students
10. Choose tutors and create a database containing tutors' contact information
11. Create a schedule telling the days and times when volunteer tutors are to work at the Bright Minds program
12. Use this schedule to implement the program

### **Required Resources:**

- ?? Local schools
- ?? Study rooms at the schools
- ?? Volunteer teachers
- ?? Volunteer community members

### **Timeline:**

This program can be implemented as soon as possible depending on priority, determined by the Lansdowne Steering Committee and the Neighborhood Based Services subcommittee. Once the program is started, it should only take a few months to implement. It may require more time than indicated to obtain permission from the local school district and schools.

### *8.4 Building Skills, Building Lives*

#### **Program Description:**

Building Skills will be program that focus on developing skills in young residents and accomplishing physical improvements of the neighborhood at the same time. It will use the same principle as the Youthbuild program sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is a tool for creating new skills and new opportunities for at-risk young people. Youthbuild is a federally-sponsored program which “provides grants on a competitive basis to non-profit organizations to assist high-risk youth between the ages of 16-24 to learn housing construction job skills and to complete their high school education. Lansdowne will not start its own Youthbuild program since the neighbor community of Emerson Park is already running such a program, but will encourage youth from Lansdowne to participate in the Emerson Park program. In addition Lansdowne would like to start a smaller scale program that involves using the skills of current residents in the neighborhood to teach youth construction skills. By getting more volunteers to work together on renovation projects in the neighborhood young people can learn from the more experienced and get inspired to pursue education in the construction field. This will also build a workforce in the community to attract employers, and skilled people to address such needs as rehabilitation of housing.

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## **Rationale:**

Residents of Lansdowne have expressed great concern about offering opportunity to young people in the neighborhood. Another concern is the condition of local housing stock. Program participants enhance their skills as they construct and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons.”<sup>1</sup>

## **Model Programs:**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides grant support to Youthbuild projects across the country. One existing program is based in the Emerson Park neighborhood in East St. Louis. Consultation with the program management in Emerson Park would provide the Lansdowne Steering Committee with the tools for encouraging young people from the neighborhood to participate in the program in Emerson park .

## **Potential Participating Agencies:**

- ?? Lansdowne Steering Committee
- ?? Emerson Park Development Corporation (EPDC)
- ?? U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development

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<sup>1</sup> Youthbuild grants are available to public or private nonprofit agencies, public housing authorities, State and local governments, Indian tribes, or any organization eligible to provide education and employment training under Federal employment training programs.

Youthbuild participants are very low-income high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24. Up to 25 percent of participants may have higher incomes or a high school education, but must have educational needs that justify their inclusion in the program.

Youthbuild programs offer educational and job training services, leadership training, counseling and other support activities, as well as on-site training in housing rehabilitation or construction work (which accounts for at least half of each participant's time). Specifically, Youthbuild pays for the costs of:

- ✂ ongoing training, technical assistance, education, job training, counseling, employment and leadership development services and activities.
- ✂ wages, benefits and need-based stipends for participants.
- ✂ entrepreneurial training, drivers' education, internships, programs for those with learning disabilities.
- ✂ in-house staff training.
- ✂ the acquisition, rehabilitation or construction of the housing and related facilities used in the program.
- ✂ necessary relocation payments for residents of such housing.
- ✂ administrative costs, which generally cannot exceed 15 percent of the Youthbuild grant. When this proves insufficient to support capacity development by a private nonprofit, the Secretary can set the percentage higher.

This program is administered by the Office of Economic Development in the Office of Community Planning and Development

The above information is taken from the HUD website at <http://www.hud.gov/progdesc/youthb.cfm>

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## **Technical Assistance Providers:**

?? Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center

?? EPDC

## **Activities:**

1. Consult with Emerson Park program director; determine if Lansdowne can work in concert with Emerson Park to refer youth to the existing Youthbuild program.
2. Do outreach to youth in the neighborhood to get them to apply to the Youthbuild program and provide them with needed assistance to complete this process.
3. Identify skilled people in the neighborhood that will volunteer time to projects working with youth to get them interested in the line of work. This should be combined with the "Housing rehabilitation" Program in the housing section of this plan (see chapter10).

## **Required Resources:**

?? EPDC Youthbuild program cooperation

?? Volunteers and materials for home rehabilitation

## **Funding Needs:**

As in chapter 10 program "Housing rehabilitation"

## **Timeline:**

Initiate planning work immediately contacting EPDC to plan for more students from Lansdowne in the existing program. Also immediately start identifying skilled people, youth volunteers and projects to be completed in the neighborhood.

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### *8.5 Farmers' Market*

#### **Program Description:**

This program will provide Lansdowne with a neighborhood resource comparable to the Farmers' Market in the Winstanley Industry Park neighborhood. It can be combined with community gardens and will not only be a service to the community but also a way of generating income for individual vendors and for LSC

#### **Rationale:**

A local Farmers' Market will provide an excellent source of fresh produce for the neighborhood, and may also be an outlet for output from a future community garden project.

#### **Model Programs:**

As noted above, a Farmers' Market has been operated in the Winstanley Industry Park neighborhood.

#### **Potential Participating Agencies:**

?? Lansdowne Steering Committee

#### **Technical Assistance Providers:**

?? NTAC

?? Winstanley Industry Park Neighborhood Organization

?? U.S. Department of Agriculture, through USDA sponsored program  
(<http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/guidelines.htm>)

#### **Activities:**

1. Work with ESLARP students and staff on planning and designing a Farmers market
2. Consult with Winstanley Industry Park Neighborhood Organization regarding Farmers' Market "Lessons learned" to gather valuable information
3. Determine appropriate site
4. Negotiate for use of site; finalize agreement with NTAC aid

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5. Solicit vendors to participate, including local community gardens
6. Construction of farmers market with assistance of ESLARP volunteers and donated materials from hardware stores in the region.
7. Schedule market opening
8. Plan for festive opening event with entertainment and food to advertise the new service
9. The LSC subcommittee on Neighborhood based services must continue to monitor and manage the farmers market with assistance from NTAC staff.

### **Required Resources:**

- ?? Permanent location for market
- ?? Participating Vendors
- ?? Organizational and Management from the subcommittee for neighborhood based services

### **Funding Needs:**

Dependent on site and construction of the farmers market funding must be secured for establishing the physical surroundings necessary to have a Farmers market.

### **Timeline:**

Planning and research can start immediately, depending on funding needs etc. the completion of implementation might be on a timeline of 1-2 years. Scheduling should be coordinated with vendor availability.

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