

Inside this issue:

Lansdowne Steering Committee 1

Director's Article 2

New State Initiative 2

Emerson Park Youthbuild 3

ESL CAN 4

Community Fund..... 5

Katherine Dumham Academy 8

2001 Supernofa 10

Coalition Against Violence..... 10

Police Dept.Liaison 10

CACO 11

Bride of Christ..... 12

Rush City Improvement Association 12

South End Development..... 12

Grantsmanship Training 13

Washington Park 13

Urban Seniors 13

Violence Prevention Center ... 14

Lovejoy Alumni Association ... 15

New Spirit 15

NTAC is a collaborative project of the University of Illinois, CDBG, the Enterprise Community and St. Clair County IGD.

Lansdowne Steering Committee Spearheads a Comprehensive Plan for the Lansdowne Neighborhood



The Lansdowne neighborhood is the largest neighborhood in East St. Louis. Like most of the city, it is faced with some very distressing problems: poor infrastructure (including streets, lighting and sidewalks), an abundance of derelict structures and over-grown lots, etc.

In 1999, a group of residents came together to develop, what is now known as, the Lansdowne Steering Committee. This group of concerned residents in Lansdowne has been meeting to strategize on ways that they can work toward addressing their concerns. This group was instrumental in securing the assistance of several organizations to get over-grown and trash-filled lots mowed and cleaned.

Now the Lansdowne Steering Committee is spearheading the development of a neighborhood development plan for the Lansdowne Neighborhood through the assistance of the University of Illinois East St. Louis Action Research Project. The plan will identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the neighborhood. Preliminary findings show that residents want to expand housing opportunities, enhance neighborhood open spaces, strengthen crime prevention efforts, and improve infrastructure. The plan will be the first for the neighborhood in a decade.

The plan is in its beginning stages. The Lansdowne Steering Committee has secured volunteers from the University of Illinois to go door-knocking in an effort to publicize the planning process and increase resident participation. In addition, students have worked along side residents to conduct resident and land condition surveys.

The organization is excited about all that is happening in the area, and would like to invite all residents to get involved in the process. The Lansdowne Steering Committee meets every third Tuesday at 7pm at the Pilgrim Green Missionary Baptist Church located at 3700 Caseyville Ave., East St. Louis, IL. For more information, contact Ruth Merritt, President at 274-1137. Childcare, refreshments and transportation to the meetings will be provided.



New State Initiative Comes to East St. Louis

In December, Governor George Ryan visited the beautiful Delta Child Development Center in the South End to introduce the State's new initiative called Illinois Workforce Advantage (IWA). The IWA is a new "place-based" community development initiative. Its goal is to intensify the positive human impacts of State of Illinois programs in six distressed, but resilient communities through co-location of programs, stronger coordination and expanded access for individuals and families to information and communication technology.

A group of residents and state and local agency representatives have been meeting since December to discuss priority issues and projects. The group has heard presentations from regional businesses, local economic development activities, and from community technology efforts.

The group meets monthly in East St. Louis. The meetings are open to the public. *If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Cathy or LaTonya at 618/271-9605.*

Emerson Park Youthbuild Best Practice



Are you unemployed or working a dead-end job? If you are between 18 and 24 years old and you live in Alorton, Brooklyn, Centreville, East St. Louis or Washington Park, Illinois, you should call the award-winning Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Program at (618) 874-1671. YouthBuild can help you earn your GED, develop leadership skills, obtain construction trades training and get job placement assistance in a career that could pay you up to \$70,000 per year.

This is a paid vocational/educational program and we are looking for motivated men and women who are interested in building their character, community and future. The Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild program is the start that you need. Make a decision today to change your life for the better!

Attention employers. If you are looking for well-trained, drug-free employees with leadership skills and a GED, call the Emerson Park Development Corporation's award-winning Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Program at (618)874-1671.

Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Program



Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Program of East St. Louis, Emerson Park Development Corp, received the HUD Best Practices Award for the design and implementation of the program. The program won the Focus St. Louis, "What's Right with the Region" Award. Recent training for Tomorrow's Builders included a ten-hour SOHA Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course, as well as, the Illinois Department of Transportation Highway Flagger Certification program. The recent accomplishments included program participants working with the Home Team (St. Louis Ram's players Michael Jones and DeMarco Farr, Target stores, Lowe's Home Improvement Store, Carol House Furniture and other local and regional organizations. The Home Team assisted the program with the total rehab of two low-income single-family houses. The Tomorrow's Builders Youth Build trainees participated in the construction of four Habitat for Humanity homes for low-income families. Four program trainees participated in the YouthBuild Ground Hog Day Job Shadowing activity. Program participants participated in grass-roots citizen protest against highway realignment proposed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Ten program participants passed their General Educational Development (GED) high school equivalency test. Two program participants attended the U.S. Department of Justice Weed and Seed program in Miami, Florida and the YouthBuild Multi-state gathering for the Midwest Region in Indianapolis. Two trainees visited the ISIS YouthBuild Charter School in Dayton Ohio. One student attended the Director's Seminar in Marina del Rey, California. The next class begins March 4, 2001.

ESL CAN Hosts City Council Candidate's Forum



ESL CAN

East St. Louis Community Action Network (ESL CAN) and the New Spirit Neighborhood Organizing Office, two non-partisan community organizations, sponsored a City Council Candidate's Forum on Saturday, February 3, 2001. The Forum was held at the East St. Louis Community College. All seven candidates were present, and approximately 70 residents were in attendance. The candidates running for two East St. Louis City Council seats include Hermon Betts, Alvin E. Bolden, Isadore Chambers, Eddie Lee Jackson (incumbent), Linda Jones, Alvin Parks, Jr. (incumbent), and Charles Powell, Jr. City councilpersons receive \$21,000 yearly for their service on the council.

The forum gave residents an opportunity to ask questions of the seven candidates. Candidates responded to questions on issues ranging from property taxes, to a comprehensive plan for land use, to plans for getting more police and fire personnel. In addition, all seven candidates completed questionnaires prepared by ESL CAN & New Spirit. Included in the questionnaire were a listing of candidates' five priority concerns for City government in order of importance; their evaluation of the current City administration, their methods for resolving problems of nepotism, conflicts of interests and personal grudges; and proposals for generating revenue, reducing criminal activity, making city service more efficient, stimulating economic development, and improving and enforcing the International Property Maintenance Code. These questionnaires and candidate profiles are available for public review at the ESL CAN office at 348R Collinsville Avenue, East St. Louis, IL 62201.

Residents will now be more equipped to make informed voting choices that are issue-based, rather than voting for a candidate merely on name recognition or because they owe a favor, for the primary election to be held on February 27, 2001. Polling places will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. The four candidates receiving the highest number of votes will go on to appear on the ballot at the April 3, 2001

election. Although the deadline has passed for registering to vote in the February 27, 2001 election, those not registered to vote still have an opportunity to register to vote for the April 3, 2001 election. For more information on voting procedures, residents should contact the Board of Elections Commissioners at 398-3778. Their office is located at 8740 State Street, Suite 200.



Special thanks goes to all those who made the forum a success especially Flossie Hunt, Sandra Reeves, Doris Jordan, Donald Caradine, Dorothy Vaughn, Mamie Bolden, LaDonna Singleton, Roderick Willis, Wade Wicks, Darlene Lasley, Emily Stewart, Marie Drake and Robert Jordan. We hope residents will exercise their democratic rights which so many died to implement.

The Greater East St. Louis Community Fund Is Not A REAL Community-oriented Fund.



ESL CAN

The East St. Louis Community Action Network (ESL CAN) wants to ensure that organizations affecting the community of East St. Louis are accountable. The Greater East St. Louis Community Fund (hereinafter Community Fund) is one such organization. The Community Fund is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation which administers public funds. It was established by a court order entered on January 31, 1991 by Judge William Donald Stiehl, of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

The initial dollars for the Fund came from a corporate defendant, Matthews & Wright, Inc. whom the judge ordered to pay \$7 million in community service for the general welfare of the citizens of East St. Louis.¹ **This amount was invested in securities. In addition, donors like the MacArthur Foundation, Reach for Dreams Foundation, and Tides Foundation have contributed to the Community Fund over the years. The Community Fund was to engage in projects involving community improvement, education, vocational training, infrastructure, health care and housing “with the specific purpose of benefiting residents of the City of East St. Louis, Illinois.”**



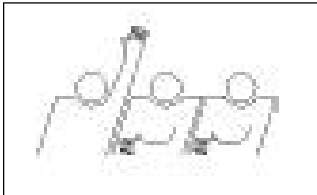
East St. Louis residents have benefited in the past, but this benefit has never been maximized due to the Board's failure to provide consistent reliable funding for East St. Louis-based groups, failure to hire East St. Louis vendors and employees, failure to provide opportunities for real community input, and Judge Stiehl's failure to appoint East St. Louis residents on the Community Fund Board.

Judge Stiehl's 1991 order gave Board members broad discretion in administering the Community Fund money. Early on, Board members decided that they would not hire staff to engage in community projects themselves but would disperse the public funds to groups who would engage in such projects. They also decided that they would not fund projects that would otherwise be funded by public taxes.

The Community Fund's record from 1994-1998 indicates that groups based outside of East St. Louis were more likely to receive consistent and greater funding than groups based in East St. Louis. Mathews-Dickey Boys Club, a St. Louis-based group, received \$798,412 from 1994 through 1998 averaging \$150,000 each of the four years. When one compares this to the East St. Louis Jackie Robinson Khoury League which received only \$20,000 the same period, it is not hard to notice the grave disparities in the Board's distribution of the public funds. Even the Edwardsville-based River Bluffs Girl Scouts Council and the Belleville-based Okaw Valley Council received over \$100,000 each in the same four year period compared with the East St. Louis Katherine Dunham Center which received \$58,000. While the Boys & Girls Scouts of America represent good prin-

principles, East St. Louis residents need a lot more than scouting to address our pressing needs.

Another way in which the Board has failed to maximize the benefit of the Fund for East St. Louis residents is in hiring outside vendors above East St. Louis vendors. For example, the O'Fallon, Illinois firm of Diel and Ferguson, P.C. has been the Community Fund's accountant over the years. The Learning Institute, a Madison, Wisconsin technical assistance provider was hired as a vendor to provide training to groups seeking funding. It is as though East St. Louis organizations are not qualified to perform the tasks associated with the Community Fund. Moreover, The current C.E.O. of the Community Fund, Alandra Byrd-Washington, who in 1999 posed a drain of approximately \$57,000 in salary on the funds limited amount, is not a resident of East St. Louis, but a resident of Fairview Heights, Illinois. ESL CAN recommended to the Community Fund Board that they issue Requests for Proposals and advertise positions so that East St. Louis vendors have opportunities to apply.



Perhaps the Board's failure to provide consistent funding for East St. Louis groups while providing funding to non-East St. Louis groups and its failure to hire East St. Louis vendors while favoring non-East St. Louis vendors stems from the lack of real community input solicited by the Board. Even though the order re-

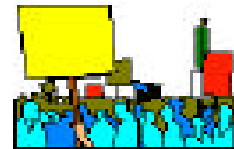
quires the Board to solicit community input from time to time, it seems the Board and Ms. Byrd are having trouble implementing what residents really want and need. Ms. Byrd indicated that in 1995-1996, a major needs assessment survey was conducted by Fleishman and Hillard. In 1998 a telephone survey of approximately only 100 individuals from an S.I.U.E. regional research group database was conducted, and in 1999, a focus group on education was held. ESL CAN recommended that the Community Fund Board hold bi-annual public hearings to get real input on what residents needs are for funding. In this way, the Board is held publicly accountable for its decisions in choosing the types of organizations and projects it will provide public funding to. This is especially important in light of the fact that there is little resident input on the Fund Board. East St. Louis residents have scarcely had a voice on the Community Fund Board. In the entire ten years since the Community Fund's inception, only two East St. Louis residents (Russell C. Hudlin and Herschel Garrett) have served on the Board. Currently, there are no East St. Louis residents on the Board. Judge Stiehl appointed the initial Board members and retains power to appoint and remove Board members. Louis Tiemann, a Belleville resident, was appointed by Judge Stiehl as the first president of the Board. Despite not being an East St. Louis resident, Tiemann is the only individual that has been on the Board since its inception, serving as various officers. Mr. Tiemann is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of the Community Fund. As an average East St. Louis resident, I could never serve on any Belleville board charged with administering public funds. Belleville residents would certainly be justified in questioning my interests, and motives for being on such a board. East St. Louis Community Action Network recommended that there be a 2 to 1 ratio of East St. Louis residents to

non-East St. Louis residents on the Community Fund Board.

Moreover, the Community Fund's capacity to benefit East St. Louis residents has been steadily diminished by the Board and C.E.O.'s decision to change the criteria for funding in its year 2000 funding cycle. Only five organizations are participating in the Community Fund's new funding cycle. Under the new criteria for funding, in order to even apply for these public funds, groups must be operational at least 3 full calendar years, have an annual operating budget of at least \$25,000, and at least one part-time agency director. These criteria either arbitrarily or deliberately eliminate most grassroots community organizations in East St. Louis. Therefore, East St. Louis Community Action Network has asked that Board Members change these criteria so that funding is open and need-based. Even for those East St. Louis groups that meet the current standards for public funding, the amount of time which must be invested with no guarantee of funding is so long that many groups simply cannot afford to invest it. Under, the Community Fund's new 2000 plan, organizations must first submit a training grant application to the Community Fund. If awarded training, organizations must participate in an eight month capacity building workshop. These trainings are offered by the Learning Institute. Each session is approximately two to three hours long and participants watch the trainings via satellite at KETC Channel 9 in St. Louis.

In month four of the training, consultants are provided to organizations for a six month period. At the end of ten months, agencies can submit a proposal for funding of their program. Even after investing 10 months, there is still no guarantee of funding. ESL CAN has asked that the training program be condensed so that organizations will not be hindered from their work.

Perhaps the only explanation for the Board's change in criteria in funding is to extend the life of the salaries of its staff persons. **The Greater East St. Louis Community Fund is not a real community-oriented fund.** ESL CAN encourages all residents of East St. Louis to get involved in taking action against this injustice towards us. **If you are interested, in working to change the injustices occurring through the Community Fund, please call Kim Hoble, Coordinator, at (618) 271-9605. We are especially interested in East St. Louis organizations who have received a denial letter from the Community Fund.**



.....

Written By : Kim Hoble, Coordinator ESL CAN

¹ The corporate defendant, H.L. Enterprises, Inc., was ordered as a condition of probation to pay 1 million dollars for the benefit of citizens of the Village of Brooklyn, Illinois in an order entered on January 13, 1995 by Judge Stiehl. Thus the Community Fund's name was amended from the East St. Louis Community Fund to the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund, Inc.

² The corporate defendant, H.L. Enterprises, Inc., was ordered as a condition of probation to pay 1 million dollars for the benefit of citizens of the Village of Brooklyn, Illinois in an order entered on January 13, 1995 by Judge Stiehl. Thus the Community Fund's name was amended from the East St. Louis Community Fund to the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund, Inc.

Katherine Dunham Academy of Performing, Visual and Cultural Arts



Miss Dunham, world re-known dance anthropologist, has always viewed the dance and the arts as vehicles to further learning for stimulating growth and strength. Dance is the physical discipline, which prepares the body to mentally receive the learning we want to impart. Today, there is reinforcement of this premise from the scientific research being made, which shows that doing something which is pleasing increases the endorphin to the brain which further stimulates the nerves and cells to increased alertness. Therefore, why not provide a quality education, which at the same time can be pleasing. It is for this reason that we would be enthusiastic in supporting an academy of the performing, visual and cultural arts, which would not only bear the name of an important pioneer in this form of education, but which would equally have that individual as a willing supporter and guide in its development.

Academy Profile

The Katherine Dunham Academy for Performing, Visual and Cultural Arts which would be a specialized school would provide young people, from early childhood to junior college level, with a rigorous conservatory-style training in the visual, performing or cultural arts, along with a comprehensive college preparatory program. These studies would take place in a state-of-the-art building, which would include a world-class theatre, concert hall, dance and arts studios and academic facilities. Because of the Academy's mission of developing the special talents of its students through its professional training and academic preparation, it could serve as a further model for other schools in the U.S. and the rest of the world.

The type of program available at the pre-school level would clearly interface with the prescribed learning objectives of those levels. Students in elementary, secondary, high school and junior college would complete a double program consisting of a studio major (Fine Art, Vocal and Instrumental Music, Dance or Drama) and a full academic curriculum. There would be some cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural courses inherent in the curriculum. In addition, the students would participate in performances for the school and for the Metropolitan public through art exhibitions, drama festivals, orchestral and vocal concerts, and dance programs.

The K. Dunham Academy would provide advanced placement classes and independent studies in the high school program for those students eligible to pursue them. Although the studio demands would limit the number of academic courses a student might take, above and beyond the required, the conservatory style program would steep the students in the literature and culture of the arts, resulting in uniquely accomplished and educated students, well prepared for the professional and university worlds.

Curriculum

In order to qualify for the high school diploma, students would have to meet all academic requirements set by the Illinois Board of Education as well as the special requirements of their arts discipline. Similarly, the requirements at the junior college level would be in keeping with requirements set by the Illinois Junior College Board. Depending on their studio area, students would have to pass either a comprehensive written examination or exhibit a satisfactory level of performance in their senior year. Students would complete fifteen (15) units of instruction in the arts and fifteen (15) units in required academics. (A unit represents one year of instruction meeting five times a week.) East St. Louis and the State of Illinois requirements consist of four years of language arts, three years of social studies, mathematics and science and seven elective units. The electives would be courses compatible to both the arts and academic curricula. The total requirements would therefore be thirty (30) units.



We feel confident that students receiving such training would be able to go on to attend conservatories, professional school and some of the most competitive colleges and universities, not only in the visual and performing arts, but in all academic areas as well. Equally, if they so choose, they could enter immediately into the world of work. The Katherine Dunham School of Arts and Research, established in the 40s in New York by Miss Katherine Dunham, and the LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, also in New York, and on which this Academy would be based, both serve as excellent examples of the effectiveness of such a program.

Space Needs

The state-of-the-art structure would be designed and built to house sprung wood floor dance studios, music and martial arts rooms, all sound-proofed, art and crafts studios, science labs with telescopes and microscopes, language labs with AV systems, computer labs, classrooms, a full-fledged legitimate theater with dressing rooms, green rooms, showers, etc., a gymnasium, and a display area for artifacts and instruments.

There have been two meetings of Dunham staff, supporters and community residents regarding the academy. Several committees were established focusing on the following topics:

-Arts	- Government (local, county, state, federal) Liaison
-Building Facilities	- Media
-Church/Religious Outreach	- Parents & Teachers Organization
-Consortium Information	- School Board
-Curriculum Development	- Student Outreach
-Funding	- Survey

Any one interested in becoming a part of the planning for the Dunham Academy, joining a committee, or submitting a letter of support can contact Jeanelle Stovall at 271-3367.

HUD has announced the 2001 Supernofa!

For the latest information on the 2001 SuperNOFA, or to immediately download your application kit, or to order your application kit online, see <http://www.hud.gov/grants>

Our Customer Service Representatives are standing by to take your orders and answer your questions.



Call:

1-800-HUD-8929 (1-800-483-8929)

TTY: 1-800-HUD-2209 (1-800-483-2209)

Hours: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Easter time

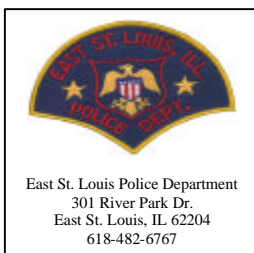
Thank you for your interest in HUD's 2001 SuperNOFA.



The Community Coalition Against Violence

The Community Coalition Against Violence will hold the 7th Annual Victims of Crime Week Vigil on April 23, 2001 in City Hall City Council Chambers at 301 River Park Drive in E. St. Louis, IL. The vigil is an opportunity for those whose lives have been impacted by crime and violence to come together both for support and to raise awareness of the issue of personal and community violence. The vigil begins at 5:30 and will include a brief ceremony commemorating those whose lives were lost to violent crime in the city of E. St. Louis in 2000. *For further information, please call Patti Bortko at 482-8309.*

ESL Police Dept. Liaison



Francella Jackson is back with the East St. Louis Police Department in the position of Director of Community Programs. In this capacity, she serves as the liaison between neighborhood groups and law enforcement agencies. *She can be reached at 482-6789.* She is looking forward to working with residents of East St. Louis.

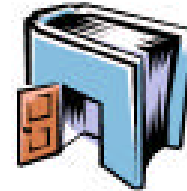
CACO

CACO has teamed up with Neighbors United For Progress and others to help fight childhood lead poisoning in the Metro East communities. We specifically helped to raise awareness of a new program that creates jobs for local residents through the lead-based program. Residents who participate in the program can attend a 6-week training program and be guaranteed employment up to a year after completion of the program. (See Neighbors United for Progress article in the Organization Update section of this newsletter.)

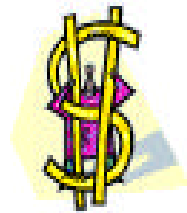


CACO is working with Halton Youth and Family Services to get parents to register their children aged 3-5 in the Early Childhood Development Program. In the program, Social workers come out and study with children and parents to help educate them. In addition, the program aims to promote positive interaction and relationships between parents and their children. For more information contact Barbara Echols 398-0900.

CACO has been assisting Illinois Power and the Department of Public Aid to get the word out about the Hands-Up program co-sponsored by these two organizations. CACO has been passing out flyers making the area aware of the program, which is growing fast. The program is designed to assist low-income families pay their electric and gas bills. CACO is proud to help promote this program because it leaves people with their pride and dignity because it is not a hand out. It allows participants to work at safe places in their own communities to pay off their bills. Washington Park Library is one of these safe places. For more information contact Debra at 583-2300.



In an effort to show its appreciation to local businesses for their support of community programs in Washington Park, CACO is giving back to the businesses. CACO is going to local agencies and businesses asking them if they have any literature that they would like the organization to pass out in the community, free of charge. CACO feels that they should not always be on the receiving end, that if businesses can support their organization, they can return the favor by supporting them. So, any business trying to get information out to the community can call Melissa Blanchard at 271-3618 and the organization will pass out the literature for free.



Bride of Christ Computer Center



The Bride of Christ Community Outreach Mission, located at 2642 Market Ave. in East St. Louis, is putting its new computer center to good use. This site has 14 computers, but is not yet connected to the internet. A training class is offered on Tues. and Thurs., 6-7 pm. The organization just completed two 6-week computer training classes for youth and adults, and currently has a waiting list for future classes.

.....
The site is open to youth and adults on Tues. and Thurs. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Wed. 7-9 p.m. Contact Lillie Prude at 618-274-1763 or 274-0596 for more information.

Rush City Improvement Association

The Rush City Improvement Association offers several educational and recreational programs for youth at their community center located at 1015 Liberty Street. Youth who attend the center can participate in an after school tutoring program or play on video games or the pool table. On Thursdays youth can watch movies on the big screen television that is in the center.



Rush City Improvement Association has conducted several other activities such as passing out blankets to senior citizens during the winter months. On Fridays, the organization sells dinners and on Saturday hotdogs and sandwiches are sold to raise funds.

Anyone interested in joining the Rush City Improvement Association is welcomed. Their monthly meetings are on the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon at the community center, 1015 Liberty.



South End New Development Organization News

State Representative Yvette Younger continues her quest to make East St Louis a better place to live. She recently made available a \$800,000 grant to rehab the Mary E. Brown Center, which has been sitting dormant for more than 13 years. We salute you Rep. Younger for your outstanding performance!

Please be reminded that the Mary E. Brown Center is located in the SENDO neighborhood. The SENDO meetings are held in the True Light Missionary Baptist Church, the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. For more information contact Fern Watts at 271-3392.

New Spirit Sponsors a Follow-up to Grantsmanship Training

The New Spirit Neighborhood Organizing Office will hold a follow-up to the Grantsmanship training, which it co-sponsored with the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center in September 2000. Members of organizations who attended that session are invited to attend and discuss any issues or problems that they have incurred in their grantsmanship efforts and to ask any questions that they might have.



A date and time has not been finalized as of yet, but further details will be in the mail to participants soon.

.....
Terrie Holder, New Spirit Program Director

News from Washington Park



Washington Park Library now has a complete library board of trustees, all Washington Park residents. Dr. Sheryl Clayton is serving as President, Malissa Blanchard is Vice-President, Clifford Brown is Treasurer and Ora Bethea is Secretary. Willis Jackson, LenRoy Johnson and Karen Palmer are serving as members of the Board. We would like to encourage Washington Park residents to call the library at 271-5103 after 12:00 noon to sign up for computer classes. The library is located at 5103 Bunkum Road upstairs. Become a library patron.

Urban Seniors

The Urban Seniors are Senior Citizens who would like to take trips with Dr. Cheryl Clayton. The next trip will be a visit to three or four Black businesses in St. Louis. If time permits the Urban Seniors will also visit a museum. The trip will take place on Friday, March 23, 2001. The Urban Seniors will leave from Schnuck's parking lot at 10:00 A.M, and will return at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch.

To participate in future trips please contact Dr. Clayton at 271-7890.



Violence Prevention Center

Formerly the Women's Crisis Center of Metro East

Although the Women's Crisis Center has changed its name to the Violence Prevention Center, it still provides many great programs for victims of violence. Its mission is to work for the elimination of domestic violence in individual lives and society as a whole. It offers Counseling and Advocacy services, The Charles T. and Joan Meyer Women's Shelter, The Children's Program, and Prevention and Education Services.

Counseling and Advocacy Services:

Individual Counseling, Group Education, Court Advocacy (assistance obtaining orders of protection), and Police Advocacy.

The Charles T. and Joan Meyer Women's Shelter
 Women and their dependent children who are fleeing abusive relationships may be accepted at the shelter to receive:
 -Crisis/Stabilization
 -Self-Esteem Building
 -Empowerment and Self Sufficiency Skills

While staying at the shelter, clients receive:
 -Individual counseling
 -Support Groups
 -Art Therapy
 -Court Advocacy
 -Medical Services
 -Educational Services

The Children's Program,
 The Peace Place, ages 5-17

Offers non-residential counseling services to children who have a parent participating in counseling at the Violence Prevention Center.

Shelter Services are provided to children accompanying their mothers to the Charles T. and Joan Meyer Women's Shelter.

Both programs use creative arts techniques such as Play therapy, Art therapy and Garden therapy to assist children in learning how to break the cycle of domestic violence.

Prevention and Education Services

The prevention program reaches out to provide services to:

- Professionals - domestic violence detection and response training.
- Schools - Violence prevention training for teachers and students.
- Communities - Basic domestic violence education

Lovejoy Alumni Association



The Lovejoy Alumni Association is continuing to demonstrate its commitment to the community of Lovejoy/Brooklyn through its recent attempt to acquire the old Fantasy Land building. The organization submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Justice, State's Attorney's Office to convert this building from its previous use, an adult entertainment club, to a more positive use, a community center. This center will house various educational, recreational and cultural arts activities and programs for youth, young adults and other residents of the community.

Currently, there are limited local opportunities for residents to engage in programs and activities that stimulate academic and social enhancement. A community center will provide a safe, structured environment for this purpose for years to come. The proposed program activities include an after-school tutoring program, computer lab, library, game room, movie theatre, arts and crafts, dance and music classes.

The organization is praying that their proposal is accepted by the State's Attorney's Office so that this local group can provide much needed services to the community. The Lovejoy Alumni Association is competing with two larger organizations for this space, but feels that it can best provide valuable services, because it knows and can identify with the needs of the community. It has the necessary knowledge and ability to implement the project through its members, as well as through the assistance of the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center.

In the past, the organization has been very involved with the Lovejoy schools. They have donated funds to the school to purchase a Marquee. They also donated a public announcement system to the school and are currently working on raising funds to purchase much needed band instruments and uniforms.



NEW SPIRIT IS ON THE WEB _____

Go online and check out New Spirit's website at
www.communities.postnet.com/stlouis/newspirit

Neighborhood
Technical
Assistance
Center

NTAC News

..... Volume 5, Issue 1 January/February/March 2001



A collaborative project of the University of Illinois, East St. Louis Community Development Block Grant Operations Corporation, East St. Louis Enterprise Community and St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department.

For additional information:
Call 271-9605 or visit the office at
348R Collinsville Ave.,
East St. Louis, IL
62201

Phone: 618-271-9605
Fax: 618-271-9651
Email: imburton@uiuc.edu

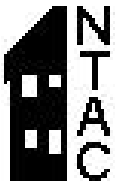
NTAC Staff:

Cathy Klump, Director
Craig A. Miller, Sr.,
Community Design Specialist
LaTonya Webb,
Community Planner

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Walk-ins Welcome

We're On The Web!
www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/ntac/



Neighborhood
Technical
Assistance
Center

348R Collinsville Ave.,
East St. Louis, IL 62201

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #75
Champaign, IL