



Summary Report

2009 - 2011



NeighborhoodsNOW is a multi-year initiative to rebuild targeted urban core neighborhoods into sustainable communities – clean and safe neighborhoods where engaged citizens have an enhanced quality of life due to better access to jobs, child care, health care, education, green space, transportation, social services and affordable housing.





Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

In the Phase I NeighborhoodsNOW Summary Report, we were able to report significant progress being made as outlined in the Quality of Life Plans. Thanks to your support, I'm pleased to report we've continued to build on our momentum and achieved positive results in Phase II.

From 2009 to the present, during the peak of the economic downturn, we managed to weather the storm. Not only that, but Greater Kansas City LISC's investments have made a strong impact on NeighborhoodsNOW communities. Today, many of our neighborhoods are showing statistical signs of improvement, with increased home-ownership, stable housing values, better financial futures for residents, economic growth for businesses, more quality education for children, and healthier living environments for families.

Producing results under even the most challenging circumstances only reinforces our belief that NeighborhoodsNOW is the right strategy at the right time. Of course, we still have work to do in each community. We can't ease up on our momentum. Which is why your future investment is more important than ever.

When Greater Kansas City LISC is successful at raising local dollars, we also garner grants, loans and equity investments from National LISC. This leverage - generated by your private donation - can be seen in projects such as the Upper Room, the Children's Campus in Kansas City, Kan., and the expansion of DeLaSalle High School.

Your investment in LISC is helping Kansas City area neighborhoods rebuild physically, economically and socially. Since 1981, we have leveraged nearly \$26 million in local contributions into an additional \$125 million in national funding. In all, \$609 million in physical redevelopment has resulted through combined local and national efforts.

The numbers don't lie. Contributing to LISC is not only a smart investment – it's a smart investment that pays off. For everyone.

As we progress into the future, we hope to continue earning your much-needed support. Because without your investment, we can only do so much. But with it, we can do so much more.

Warmest regards,



Julie A. Porter
Executive Director

Since 2009, Greater Kansas City LISC and our local partners have seen our Quality of Plans put into action. We've continued to build on the momentum established in the first three years (2006-2008) of our NeighborhoodsNOW program. And today, tangible results are being produced and making an impact in all six of our NeighborhoodsNOW target communities across Kansas and Missouri.

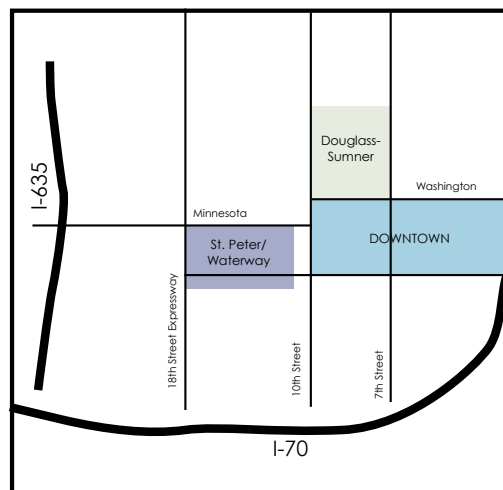
We've come a long way in just a short time. However, we won't stop until we've completed our goal of establishing *sustainable communities* for individuals and families who call these neighborhoods home.

NeighborhoodsNOW has **five** program goals that define the larger vision of comprehensive community health.

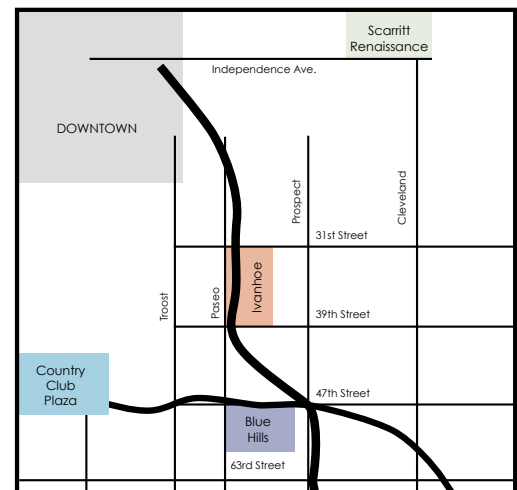
- 1 Expanding investment in the physical development of low-income neighborhoods.
- 2 Building family assets and income, including improving residents' skills and access to living wage jobs.
- 3 Stimulating economic activity, including connecting our targeted neighborhoods to the regional economy.
- 4 Improving residents' access to quality education.
- 5 Developing healthy environments and lifestyles in these communities.

Our vision of creating sustainable communities is fully achieved when these five goals come together as an integrated whole in a defined neighborhood.

Kansas



Missouri



The target neighborhoods where Greater Kansas City LISC is investing in resident-led, planning-based projects and programs include:

In Kansas:

Downtown KCK | Douglass-Summer | St. Peter/Waterway

In Missouri:

Blue Hills | Ivanhoe Northwest | Scarritt Renaissance

Expanding investment in housing and other real estate

NeighborhoodsNOW has endured through the housing crisis that began in 2008, and continues to increase available high-quality housing options among our six target neighborhoods.



Douglass-Sumner

Douglass-Sumner residents, Greater Kansas City LISC and our partner organizations committed to restore hope and sustainability, and to attract new residents to one of our city's most storied neighborhoods. The first new homes in over 50 years have been built and sold – the first step in repopulating and restoring this once-vibrant community. Since 2010, a two-block infrastructure repair project has been underway, including the demolition of eight blighted structures. Four additional homes are undergoing construction in 2012.

[pictured above]

Vacant Properties Efforts

Since 2010, Greater Kansas City LISC has worked to help educate civic and community leaders on how to address the number of vacant properties in their respective neighborhoods. Four Vacant Properties symposiums featuring national experts were held, to help solve this growing problem throughout the urban core. Fortunately, through LISC's efforts, 109 vacant properties have been acquired, as well as the passage of 2012 legislation that is enabling the City of Kansas City, Missouri to establish a Land Bank to help return thousands of vacant and abandoned properties back to productive use.



Downtown KCK – Artist Live-Work Space

Visionaries in Downtown KCK were inspired by the presence of local artists to help grow the entire community. With support of a grant from NeighborhoodsNOW, "The Studio at Strawberry Hill" was the first of several affordable live-work spaces created to help people see the area in a whole new light. Located in a former corner grocery store built in 1916, the studio features a storefront commercial workspace and a loft apartment space directly above the studio. Thanks to the impact of the artistic community, the concept of live-work spaces is serving as the blueprint for making Downtown KCK a destination where people choose to both live and work. [pictured above]

Improving financial stability for urban residents



NeighborhoodsNOW continues to empower low income families to build their net worth and achieve their dreams of homeownership and increased job opportunities.

Re-entry Employment Program

In 2010, LISC provided funding for administrative and program costs to launch a re-entry employment program in Downtown KCK. This partnership between Greater Kansas City LISC, Downtown Shareholders, the Wyandotte County Re-Entry Program and the U.S. District Court of Kansas' Probation and Parole office was put in place to provide residents a chance at employment in the Downtown Improvement District. Gabriel Antelope is one of those individuals who has completed the training program and was placed in a job to help him achieve better financial security. [\[pictured top\]](#)



Green Works Summer Internship Program

It's never too early to impart important business skills and real life lessons on today's urban youth. Thanks to two NeighborhoodsNOW grants totaling \$11,856, high school students in the Ivanhoe and Blue Hills communities benefited from paid internships where they received valuable job training experience in the green and environmental industries. Initiated in 2010, the program is going strong as it continues to not only mentor today's youth, but also help rebuild the neighborhoods where they live. [\[picture bottom\]](#)



Front Porch Alliance

The Academy of Opportunity, sponsored by the Front Porch Alliance in the Ivanhoe neighborhood, continues to mentor area youth and beautify the historic neighborhood. This six-week entrepreneurial training program provides young adults with academic, business-planning and recreational opportunities, which included the recent creation of a community garden in Ivanhoe. Since 2009, over 182 students have participated in the program, many achieving leadership positions at their schools and over 350 have taken initiative in community-related activities. It's evident the neighborhood is a better place to live thanks to the Academy of Opportunity.

Generating New Economic Activity

NeighborhoodsNOW is leveraging new tax revenues to help urban communities stand on their own by connecting them to our entire city's economy.

GOAL

3

Children's Campus of Kansas City

Supported by \$14 million in LISC New Markets Tax Credits, the Children's Campus of Kansas City kicked off its official grand opening on June 8, 2010. In addition to offering comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income families, the campus has resulted in an economic boon for Downtown KCK by providing 120 jobs on a highly visible corner of the community. The New Markets program is another example of how Greater Kansas City LISC is able to leverage funds to implement individual projects, while directing precious private-sector capital to help in the recovery of urban neighborhoods. [pictured left]



Independence Avenue Revitalization

Independence Avenue businesses began working together to integrate diversity, implement façade and street improvements, attract new businesses, and improve safety and security to improve the shopping experience along the historic business corridor. To celebrate the initial signs of their revitalization, a 40-foot mural entitled "Soccer Around the Globe" was unveiled on October 2, 2010 as part of an International Outdoor Marketplace that featured 14 small businesses and community groups. The event served as a "taste of things to come" as an entire community came together to not only build on the event's momentum, but to rebuild the neighborhood where they live and work. [pictured right]



Downtown KCK Ambassador Program

Local business owners in Downtown KCK believed that a cleaner, safer downtown commercial corridor would lead to more foot traffic, and in turn, more revenue for the community. In 2009, the Downtown Shareholders implemented an Ambassadors Program by agreeing to a self-tax to fund their own security team and cleaning crew to help change the face and reputation of the neighborhood. Thanks to their presence, the program has yielded remarkable results, with the removal of several hundred tons of trash and a significant reduction in crimes and disturbances, just to name a few.

Improving Access to Quality Education



NeighborhoodsNOW has remained a positive, educational influence on today's urban youth to get them better involved and engaged in their communities.

Upper Room

The Upper Room Summer Academic Camp was created to prevent summer learning loss in low-income students in grades first through eighth, and to help them make significant gains in their reading abilities before the next school year. From 2009 to 2011, LISC has funded nearly \$6 million to Upper Room, with student participation reaching 2,500 and sites increasing from 15 to 30. In fact, many of the sites are now located in the NeighborhoodsNOW target areas. Without the continued financial support of Greater Kansas City LISC, this vital program would not exist. Fortunately for urban youth, interest in the Upper Room continues to grow. [pictured right]



Kids for a Change

In 2011, eight youth development programs debuted among the six NeighborhoodsNOW communities, engaging an impressive total of 600 young adults. One of the programs, a youth summit called "Kids for a Change," attracted 150 urban teens on a Saturday in late May to participate in a variety of workshops involving job training and readiness, peer mediation, and conflict resolution. Improvisational theater was used to help them put the concepts into practice. One of the program's many highlights included a Q&A panel discussion with Kansas City, Missouri police officers where students learned ways to help make their neighborhood a more positive place to live. [pictured left]

Art Energizes a Community

In St. Peter/Waterway, area youth are drawing inspiration from their neighborhood through LISC-funded local art programs. These programs, which include mural paintings, a summer youth art club and a Community Alley Renovation program, provide young adults with a much-needed forum in which to express their emotions in positive and creative ways. To date, over 100 youth have participated with popularity continuing to grow.

Enhancing the Living Experience for NeighborhoodsNOW Residents

Greater Kansas City LISC is working with NeighborhoodsNOW residents to make their communities a safer, healthier and more positive place to call home.



Community Gardens

Since 2009, Blue Hills, Ivanhoe and St. Peter/Waterway have seen significant lifestyle improvements due to garden projects initiated by both residents and volunteers. Community gardens have sprouted in each neighborhood to provide access to locally grown healthy food, as well as provide a welcoming gathering place. The gardens continue to be maintained by residents to ensure that healthy food and recreational options remain readily available to families living in these low-income neighborhoods. [pictured left]

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Raising crime prevention efforts can also lead to a raised community spirit. Greater Kansas City LISC put this safety and security initiative into action, providing funding for two police officers to attend Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) train-the-trainer seminars. The officers then conducted multiple CPTED training sessions for Blue Hills and Scarritt-Renaissance residents and business owners. The training was taken a step further with police conducting home safety evaluations, and NeighborhoodsNOW granting funds to enable necessary safety improvements for low-income families.

Capitalizing on a Neighborhood's Diversity

Greater Kansas City LISC continues to partner with residents of Scarritt-Renaissance to create a more positive perception of this diverse, historic Kansas City neighborhood. To that end, community members led an initiative to deter graffiti by transforming a wall on the highly visible corner of Askew & St. John Avenue. The result: an uplifting mural depicting people who represent the many different nationalities of the community. This is just one of several community outreach initiatives aimed at creating a more attractive atmosphere and increasing the perception of safety in their neighborhood. [pictured right]



Summary Outcomes

Project Type	Specifics January 1, 2009 thru December 31, 2011	Combined Phase 1 & 2
Single-Family Housing	13 New homes constructed and sold	42
	150 Minor home repairs completed	219
	20 Acquisition/rehab projects completed	31
Housing Pipeline	109 Vacant parcels purchased and "banked"	265
	17 Dilapidated structures demolished	26
Infrastructure	4 Square blocks of improvements completed and 4 additional blocks underway	4
	4 Additional square blocks of improvements planned	4
Economic Development	20 New businesses opened	26
	4 Facade improvements completed	7
	1 Business Improvement District initiated	2
	10 Previously empty buildings purchased	19
	6 Previously empty buildings converted to new use	8
	31 New permanent jobs	344
Parks	1 Park renovations completed	2
	3 Master plans completed	4
Family Wealth & Income	8 First-time homebuyers down-payment assistance grants made	41
	11 Mortgages made to low-income families	17
	3 Neighborhood-based adult workforce development programs initiated with 20 participants	5
Health Care	4 Neighborhood health projects implemented	5
Education	1 Major initiative completed	3
Youth Development	33 Programs initiated with 1,288 youth participants	37
Community Organizing/ Crime & Safety	23 Neighborhood-wide clean ups completed	74
	2 Neighborhood trails completed	3
	6 Community gardens developed	6
	20 Resident-led crime abatement programs in place	20
	112 Newly organized blocks	149
Arts & Culture	42 Art Walks or other neighborhood art activities completed	58
	5 Art projects installed in neighborhoods	8



Youth Programs
Initiated



Workforce Development
Programs Implemented



New Homes
Constructed and Sold



NeighborhoodsNOW Investments

The sources of capital invested through NeighborhoodsNOW can originate from National LISC, local donors, or local and national government contracts. Greater Kansas City LISC then makes investments in neighborhoods in the form of direct costs for programs, grants and contracts issued to service and program providers, and loans and equity investments for community projects. LISC supports projects and programs that, in most cases, would not happen without NeighborhoodsNOW investment.



Thanks to our Funding Partners

Greater Kansas City LISC thanks all of our community partners for their valuable input, support and donations. The results highlighted in this report are a dramatic example of what can happen when the goals and resources of the public, private and nonprofit sectors align.

Gifts received between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2011.

- American Century Foundation
- Bank of America
- Bank of America Foundation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
- Board of Public Utilities
- Capital One Services, Inc.
- Central Bank of Kansas City
- Citi Cards of Kansas City
- Citigroup Foundation
- DST Systems, Inc.
- Dunn Family Foundation
- Edward F. Swinney Foundation, Bank of America trustee
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
- Hall Family Foundation
- Kevin Harris
- Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
- H&R Block Foundation
- Humana

LISC is a Financial Catalyst

The civic community relies on LISC lending to make challenging projects a reality. NeighborhoodsNOW Phase I saw **\$7.9 million** in loans approved.

NeighborhoodsNOW - Phase II (2009-2011)	Program Actual (12/31/2011)
REVENUE	
National LISC Grants	\$ 1,211,864
National LISC Equity	\$ 2,100,000
National LISC Loan Funds	\$ 7,963,250
Local Government	\$ 1,589,392
Local Private Funding	\$ 3,089,330
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,953,836
EXPENSE	
Rebuilding the Physical Environment	\$ 3,774,439
Building Individual Net Worth	\$ 430,198
Stimulating Economic Conditions	\$ 1,403,703
Supporting Access to Quality Education	\$ 7,165,836
Creating Safe, Livable and Healthy Environments	\$ 2,020,496
Neighborhood Change Reporting	\$ 45,562
SUBTOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS	\$14,840,234
Fund Development and Advocacy	\$ 319,407
Administration and Overhead	\$ 463,737
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$15,623,378

Local Funders Maximize Their Investment

National LISC Funding Match Expands **\$4.6 Million** in Local Donations into a **\$15.6 Million** Investment.

- Inter-State Federal Savings
- KCP&L
- Gretchen Kunkel
- Lockton
- M&I Bank
- Security Bank of Kansas City
- Sosland Foundation
- Sunderland Foundation
- Target
- UMB Financial Corporation & UMBFC Charitable Foundation
- US Bancorp
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Justice

REVENUE

\$4,678,722

Total Local Contributions

\$11,275,114

National LISC Match



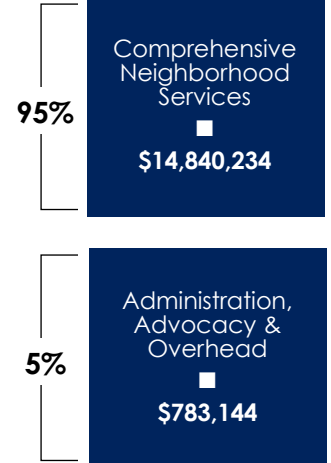
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INVESTMENT

\$15,623,378*

Total Local Expenditure



*\$15,953,836 total revenue less expense of \$15,623,378 leaves a balance of \$330,458 carried forward to Phase III.

LISC is More Than Money

It takes more than financial resources to get things done. Greater Kansas City LISC mobilizes the community to tackle tough issues and implement smart solutions. We provide leadership for regional policy networks in both Kansas and Missouri that focus on gaining political support for housing and community development. The results are improved conditions and much-needed resources.

In addition to securing over \$1.5 million in state and federal funding to support neighborhood initiatives, Greater Kansas City LISC initiated and helped pass eight pieces of legislation in Kansas and Missouri.

A Great Return on Investment

LISC investments are what enrich community development to prosper. Since 1981, local companies have donated over \$25 million to Greater Kansas City LISC. That investment has yielded a return of \$23.59 on every local dollar by funding over \$609 million in total physical development.

\$24
RETURN



Kansas City Development

Projects that come to life due to local funding.
\$609 Million

National LISC

Adding strength to local funding. \$125 Million since 1981

Our Local Donors

The root of our organization. \$25 Million since 1981

Our Mission

To attract, coordinate and provide resources to assist in transforming targeted neighborhoods into healthy, sustainable communities in partnership with their residents.

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with neighborhood residents to create and implement Quality of Life Plans to meet their economic, safety, housing and educational needs.
- Establishing partnerships, collaborations and strategic alliances to bring financial resources, policies and programs to achieve community improvement objectives.
- Measuring progress and communicating results so that stakeholders can benchmark and share successful strategies and tactics.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES BLOCK BY BLOCK



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