

Weed & Seed Report

June 2008

The Weed and Seed Coordinator continues to facilitate the monthly Allied Stakeholders and South Neighborhood Resource team meetings. In addition to the monthly Stakeholders meetings, the Coordinator regularly attends Joining Forces for Families team and neighborhood association meetings in each of the neighborhoods, the monthly Allied Partners meetings, and several regular City staff meetings regarding Allied.

Leadership Training

The coordinator continues to work with the South Metropolitan Planning Council (SMPC), the South Police District and GLC-trained and other neighborhood leaders on various projects in South Madison. **Penn Park Partners** remains active and continues to be spearheaded by leaders in the neighborhood around the park. In addition to planning events in the Park, the group had a visioning session with a UW Landscape Architecture professor to identify their short and long-term goals for the park and they have been working toward those goals. Bram's Addition Neighborhood Association (BANA) held one of the neighborhood association meetings in Penn Park. They also collaborated with the new neighborhood association in the Monona Bay area on a successful event for more than 25 participants – the South Madison Ride & Dine – a progressive bike ride and picnic with stops in Vilas, Penn and Brittingham Parks. They hope to do the event again next spring and they have a corporate sponsor already identified. The GLC-trained leaders in Burr Oaks have been reaching out to their neighbors to encourage them to get more involved in the association and two of them are running for leadership positions in the neighborhood association. Their election of officers will happen later this month.

Truancy Initiative

The truancy project will finish with the end of the school year. Eleven students received truancy services from MY CRIB staff during the second semester. The MY CRIB truancy specialist, Toki staff and YWCA Girls, Inc. program staff have reported increasing concerns about truancy with girls, and they anticipate that this trend will continue next year. Several of the girls from the truancy program will be served this summer through the Y's Girls, Inc. program. Unfortunately, the truancy specialist from MY CRIB is relocating to Appleton – his wife has accepted a new job there.

Youth Court

Judge Dan Koval continues to have municipal court in Allied for area youth and automatically refers the defendants from Allied immediately to the Allied Community Youth Court. The TimeBank of Madison has plans to increase their presence in the Allied Drive area. They hope to open a TimeBank store where people can spend their Time dollars. The Allied Youth Court Steering Committee has approved having the youth and adult volunteers sign up for TimeBank to earn Time dollars for the hours they volunteer with our Youth Court. This will be a positive incentive for volunteers to continue to be involved with the Allied Youth Court. For example, youth volunteers could be able to earn items such as a refurbished computer or bicycle. Youth Services also submitted a successful proposal to the Emerging Neighborhoods fund to expand the Youth Court to Southwest Madison – Hammersley Road/Betty's Lane/Teresa Terrace/Russet.

Prostitution Initiative

The **Community Coordinated Response to Prostitution** (fka the prostitution workgroup) continues to meet and evaluate the success of their initiatives: the Badger Wellness Workshop and The JOHN (Joining and Organizing Healthy Neighborhoods) school. Badger Wellness Workshop subcommittee has planned an expansion of services with support from the Emerging Neighborhood funds, and they are working with neighborhood residents to identify high "traffic" areas so that they can more effectively target their outreach for the Saturday evening activities. The JOHN school was held on May 21st with 9 participants. They class included information about the health risks involved with soliciting prostitutes, personal statements of former prostitutes, and a session about male culture and the relationship between male identify and prostitution. Initial feedback from the participants looks promising.

Intergenerational project

South Madison Generations, an intergenerational Weed & Seed sponsored project, sponsored a gardening activity at the end of May at Quaker Housing for seniors living there and youth from the Boys & Girls Club. Pairs of seniors and youth planted six planters with colorful annuals and placed them at Quaker and CDI, and the neighborhood officer lead a team of youth in a weeding project around the perimeter of the Quaker property. The next event will be a mosaic/stepping stone craft project scheduled for the end of June. Staff from each of the collaborating organizations have met to plan their summer activities that have been funded through a *Hands Across South Madison* grant from the Town of Madison and SMPC.

South Side safety

The coordinator, in partnership with the South Police District Patrol Lieutenant Stephanie Bradley-Wilson, have been working with community leaders in reviving a group that was formed to deal with issues of youth violence at the South Transfer point. The **South Madison Peace Partners** has formed to promote peaceful relationships in South Madison. Volunteers represent area churches, neighborhood associations, community organizations and neighbors in collaboration with the Madison Police Department to promote a safe and violence-free community.

Allied

The coordinator supported the Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association members and other neighborhood stakeholders that planned a successful community festival earlier this month. They had more than 300 people attend, though the event had to end early due to threats of bad weather. The coordinator also worked with the Alder, the City staff/consultant team, and ADMNA members on the community meal and information table at the Allied Festival to solicit feedback from neighborhood residents about the plans for the first phase of the redevelopment of the City property.