



STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

better communities together

2013 - 2015

PROGRESS REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT SNI	1
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT	2
PROGRESS IN CTP	3
PROGRESS IN CNHP	4
PROGRESS IN CEH	5
SNI PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS	6
PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT	9
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT	10

ABOUT THE STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

In 2010, City leadership recognized the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to neighborhood revitalization. City leaders believed that struggling neighborhoods can be turned around with strategic interventions that support the physical revitalization of housing and infrastructure as well as the expansion of citizen opportunities to improve quality of life.

At the direction of the City Council's Neighborhood Conservation Committee, a new program framework, the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI), was developed that seeks to holistically improve neighborhoods through physical, social and economic investments that will tip neighborhoods toward self-sufficiency. In 2012, based on several indicators, three neighborhoods were chosen: Classen Ten Penn, Classen's North Highland Parked and Culbertson's East Highland.

All 3 neighborhoods were committed to the process and eager to get started. Staff began community outreach that included neighborhood-level meetings, as well as meetings with community stakeholders and organizations that serve the areas. Based on information gathered, the Revitalization Implementation Plan was developed with goals, specific strategies and timeframes to address the diverse needs of all 3 neighborhoods. With the help of partner agencies, existing community development programs were modified and new programs were developed. Program implementation began in early 2013.

This report describes what has been accomplished to date in all 3 neighborhoods. There are several projects in all phases of progress – planned, underway and completed. Based on our assessment of Intended Outcomes (p. 2) and Key Indicators (p. 3-5), we anticipate completing SNI work in Classen's North Highland Parked in June 2017. SNI work in Classen Ten Penn and Culbertson's East Highland will wrap up in June 2018.

“All it takes is a small group of leaders to have a vision and be proactive.”

CTP Resident, Jessica Thompson

“Neighbors are constantly telling me of plans to improve their property, many have already begun. New homes have been added and old ones rehabbed. What a beautiful sight! We are now awaiting the completion of a new park which will unite two neighborhoods even more.

The transformation of this community is transcendent.”

CNHP Resident, Shirley Denson



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

To date, all SNI programs and projects have been paid for with the City's federal allocation of Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds from the US Housing and Urban Development. More than 80% of the funds expended have benefitted low to moderate income households.

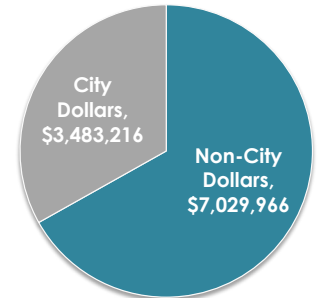
The remaining 20% is allocated to program administration and planning.



Sunbeam Family Services, a new facility in Classen Ten Penn and great example of private investment in an SNI neighborhood.

In addition to community outreach and engagement through traditional and social media, early projects were chosen and purposefully implemented in visible locations to garner neighborhood support and awareness of the SNI program. These projects are designed to catalyze market confidence and investment. Neighborhood residents, businesses, and prospective investors have noticed and as a result, we are seeing a steady increase in private investment in all 3 SNI areas. The City's overall goal is a 4 to 1 ratio of non-city to City dollars invested by 2018. We are well on our way to exceeding this goal.

The non-city investment data is derived from building permits issued by Development Services for remodels, new construction, storm shelters and demolitions. The City investment includes the actual expenditures for all SNI-related programs. This measure of new private dollars invested in the area reflects increasing market demand and confidence by both investors and financial institutions. This confidence relates to the increasing stability and desirability of the neighborhoods.



Source: City of OKC Permits & City of OKC Accounting

SNI INTENDED OUTCOMES

In February and March of 2016, each neighborhood association assessed their progress on SNI's Intended Outcomes. Their assessment scores are shown below. Based on needed improvements, the neighborhoods have prioritized actions for improvement which will be incorporated into upcoming SNI activities then reassessed next year.

Assessment			SNI Intended Outcomes
CTP	CNHP	CEH	
2	4	2	1 Improved amenities & placemaking - parks, public spaces & street trees
2	2	1	2 Increased interaction & engagement with youth, seniors, families, schools & services
3	4	2	3 Neighborhood association has capacity to successfully hold meetings, host events, raise funds & apply for grants.
1.5	4	2	4 Increased opportunities for homeownership
3	3	2	5 Market stabilizing with increased private investment
3	4	2	6 Improved property values & price per square foot
2	2	2	7 Reduced number of vacant lots w/new construction completed or planned
2	4	2.5	8 Improved infrastructure to access jobs, education, parks & services
1	2	1	9 Decreased incidences and perception of crime
0	0	0	10 Improved business façades & commercial corridors
1	2	2	11 Improved environment - less graffiti, blight, junk cars & code violations
2	2	2	12 Homeowners are utilizing programs to make their homes more energy efficient, attractive, handicap-accessible & safe
4	0	2	13 Improved academic performance by STEAM students
2.5	3	2	14 Effective communications through traditional methods (phone calls, flyers, email) and social media
1	3	1	15 Increased awareness of local resources for individuals & families such as workforce training, human services, etc.
30	39	25.5	Assessment Score

Not assessed/introduced yet 0 Area of Concern 1 Progressing 2 Meeting Expectations 3 Exceeding Expectations 4

2013 - 2015 PROGRESS IN CLASSEN TEN PENN



864
Residential Units
Source: US Census

33% Owner-Occupied
67% Non Owner-Occupied
Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor

\$72,520
Average Residential
"Actual" Value
Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor

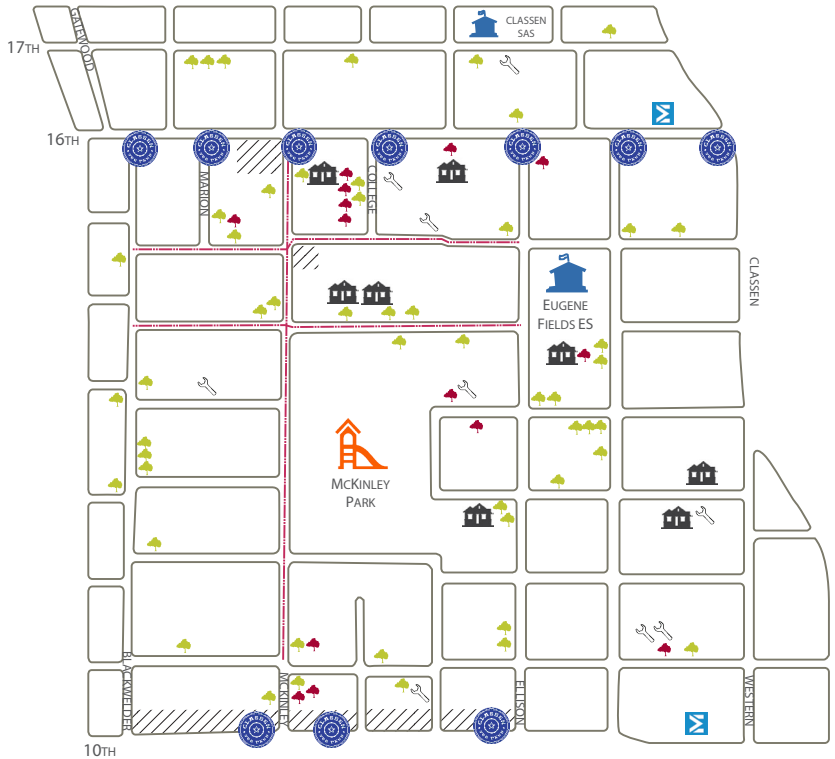
\$38,622
Median Household
Income
Source: US Census

40,941
Employees
within
1 mile radius
Source: Greater OKC Chamber of Commerce

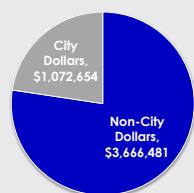
Accomplishments

Accomplishment	Number	Status
NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION SIGNS	10	C
STUDENTS ATTENDING STEAM ACADEMY	200	C
BLOCKS OF NEW SIDEWALKS	14	U
NEW TREES PLANTED	50	C
HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVALS	14	C
HOUSING REHABILITATIONS AND REPAIRS	9	C
NEW CONSTRUCTION INFILL HOUSING	8	C
NEW EMBARK BUS SHELTERS	2	U
PARK IMPROVEMENTS	yes	U

(C) Completed (U) Underway (P) Planned

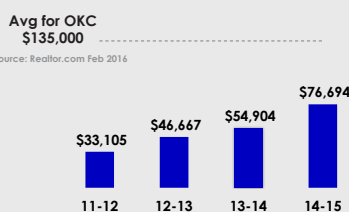


Key Indicators: Classen Ten Penn is meeting expectations in all four Key Indicators below. Most notable are the 3:1 private investment dollars and the 33% decrease in crime. Neighborhood engagement, proximity to downtown, a variety of housing prices, as well as the success of the Plaza District, have all contributed to progress made thus far.



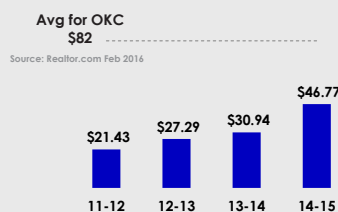
Investment Dollars
2013-2015

Source: City of OKC Permits & City of OKC Accounting



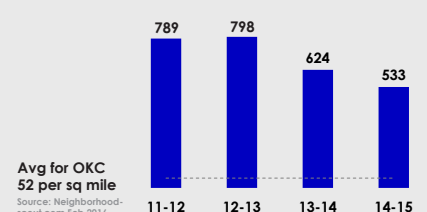
Avg Home Sales Price

Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor



Avg Price Per Sq Ft

Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor



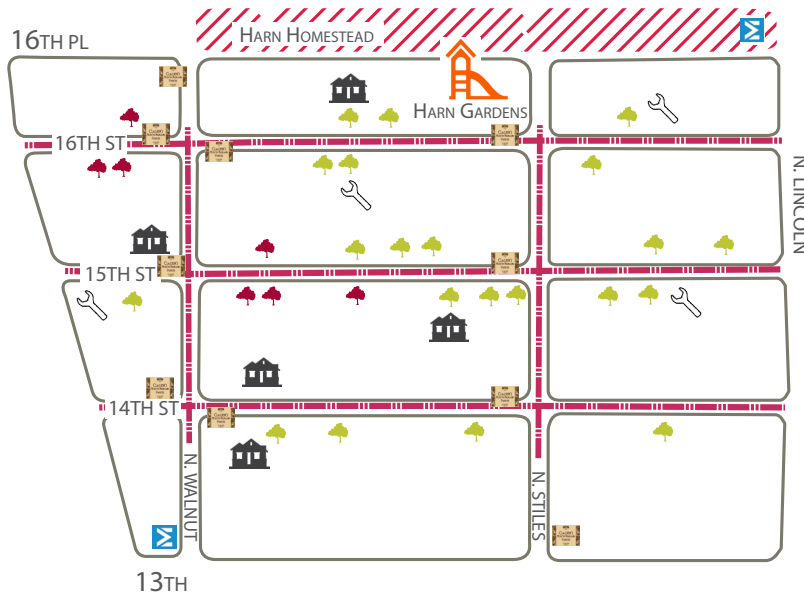
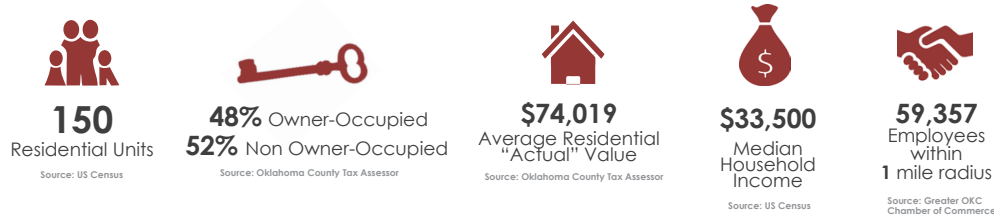
Avg for OKC
52 per sq mile

Source: Neighborhood-scout.com Feb 2016

Number of Crime Incidents

Source: Oklahoma City Police Department

2013 - 2015 PROGRESS IN CLASSEN'S N. HIGHLAND PARKED



Accomplishments

Accomplishments	Number	Status
NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION SIGNS	10	C
BLOCKS OF NEW SIDEWALKS	15	C
NEW TREES PLANTED	21	C
HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVALS	7	C
HOUSING REHABILITATIONS AND REPAIRS	4	C
NEW CONSTRUCTION INFILL HOUSING	5	U
PARK IMPROVEMENTS	yes	U

(C) Completed (U) Underway (P) Planned



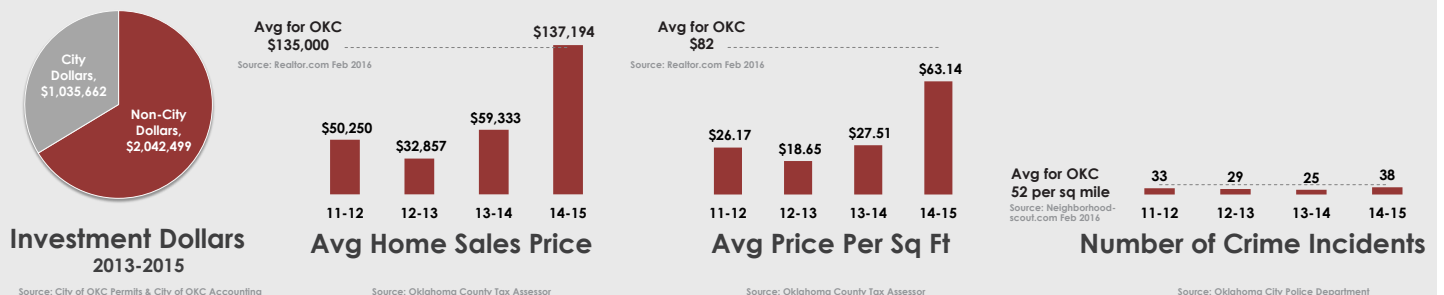
CNHP leaders received the Create Great Neighborhoods Energy Program Award from OG&E at the 2016 Good Neighbor Awards hosted by Neighborhood Alliance.

COMING IN 2016: FREMONT HARN GARDENS

One of the first improvements the neighborhood asked for was a local park. The closest playground was over a mile away. The new park includes a basketball goal, public art, and a playground that continues the theme of the neighboring Harn Homestead.



Key Indicators: Classen's North Highland Parked is meeting expectations in all four Key Indicators below. Proximity to major employers, as well as visible projects such as sidewalks, new home construction, signage and tree plantings have catalyzed interest and investment. Homeownership has increased and several vacant homes are now occupied. Home prices per square foot have increased more than 300%. Increases in incidences of crime can be attributed to increased reporting by neighbors.



2013 - 2015 PROGRESS IN CULBERTSON'S EAST HIGHLAND



1114
Residential Units
Source: US Census

17% Owner-Occupied
83% Non Owner-Occupied
Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor

\$27,041
Average Residential "Actual" Value
Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor

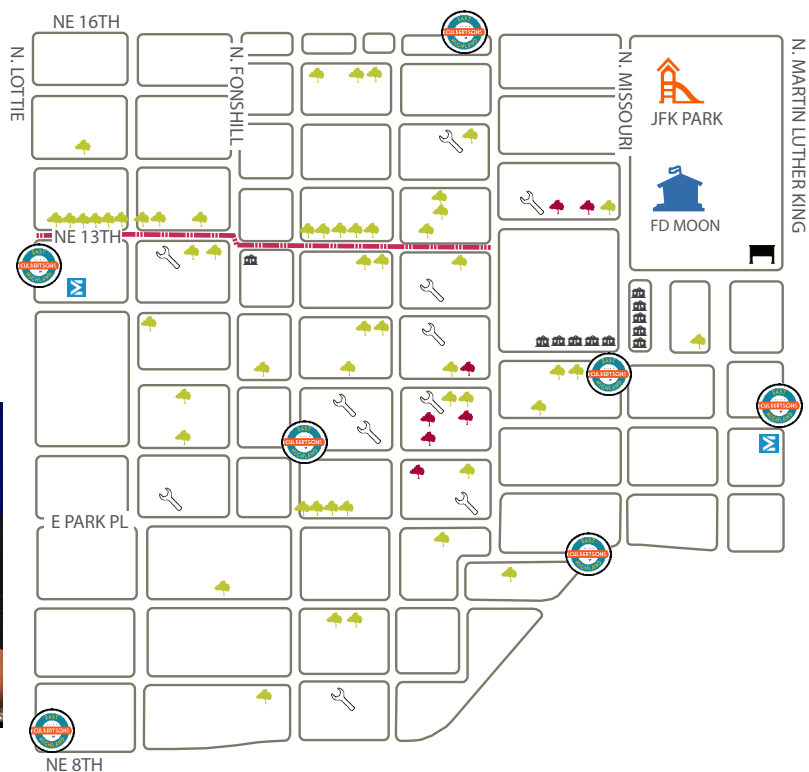
\$37,669
Median Household Income
Source: US Census

32,335
Employees within
1 mile radius
Source: Greater OKC Chamber of Commerce

Accomplishments

Accomplishment	Number	Status
NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION SIGNS	7	C
STUDENTS ATTENDING STEAM ACADEMY	200	C
BLOCKS OF NEW SIDEWALKS	5	C
NEW TREES PLANTED	55	C
HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVALS	7	C
HOUSING REHABILITATIONS AND REPAIRS	11	C
NEW CONSTRUCTION INFILL HOUSING	11	C
NEW EMBARK BUS SHELTERS	2	U
PARK IMPROVEMENTS	yes	P
NEW MARQUEE IN FRONT OF FD MOON ACADEMY	1	P

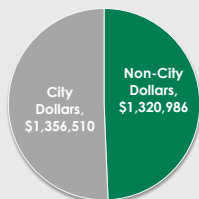
(C) Completed (U) Underway (P) Planned



Neighbors in CEH won two awards at the 2016 Good Neighbor Awards hosted by Neighborhood Alliance. Miss Ruthie Presswood won the Scout Finch Award, recognizing a Good Neighbor 18 or younger. George Kofa was the individual recognized as the 2016 Good Neighbor of the Year.

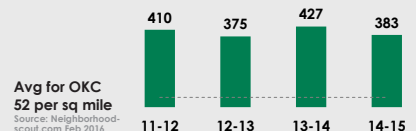
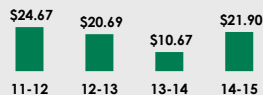
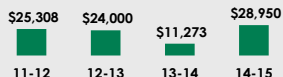


Key Indicators: Culbertson's East Highland is progressing in all four Key Indicators below. Significant private and public investments have been made in new home construction, housing rehabilitation, sidewalks, tree planting and afterschool programming at FD Moon. The average home sales prices have increased 14%. Moving forward, the neighborhood association is committed to addressing challenges such as abandoned homes, crime prevention and park improvements.



Avg for OKC
\$135,000
Source: Realtor.com Feb 2016

Avg for OKC
\$82
Source: Realtor.com Feb 2016



Avg for OKC
\$2 per sq mile
Source: Neighborhood-scout.com Feb 2016

Investment Dollars
2013-2015
Source: City of OKC Permits & City of OKC Accounting

Avg Home Sales Price
Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor

Avg Price Per Sq Ft
Source: Oklahoma County Tax Assessor

Number of Crime Incidents
Source: Oklahoma City Police Department

SNI PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The Small Business Loan program builds better communities through small business development. This program is for start-up, existing, and expanding businesses looking for business loans with low-interest rates. The program includes business counseling and small business training courses as well.

Contact: Community Action Agency (405) 232-0199



METROPOLITAN FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA CITY

This program assists individuals with Landlord/Tenant and housing discrimination questions and complaints.

Contact: Metro Fair Housing of Greater Oklahoma City (405) 232-3247



LEGAL AID SERVICES OF OKLAHOMA

The Homeownership Legal Assistance program assists residents who need to clear up title or deed issues with a home they are living in but do not have the funds to do so.

Contact: City of OKC sniokc@okc.gov or (405) 297-2911



HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL

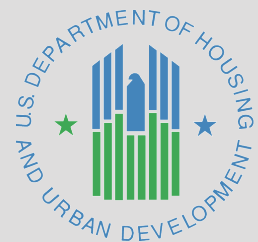
This program's objective is to maintain a healthy and safe urban forest. This is done by trimming and/or removing hazardous trees that pose a serious safety threat to people and homes.

Contact: City of OKC sniokc@okc.gov or (405) 297-2911



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

To qualify for most of the programs above, applicants must reside within the SNI boundaries AND income qualify. To income qualify, the combined annual taxable income of all individuals in the household must be at or below the following limits. For example, the taxable household income for a family of 4 must be below \$51,600. These limits are adjusted annually by the US Dept of HUD and are based on 80% of the median income of Oklahoma County.



Number of Individuals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gross Household Income Limit	\$36,050	\$41,200	\$46,350	\$51,500	\$55,650	\$59,750	\$63,900	\$68,000

SNI PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS (cont.)

NEIGHBORHOODS

The objective of this program is to plant trees twice a year along streets to beautify SNI neighborhoods, provide shade for our homes and sidewalks, and absorb air pollutants.

Neighborhood, school, church and corporate volunteers are encouraged to participate. Application information is announced in the spring and fall.

Contact: City of OKC
sniokc@okc.gov or (405)297-2911



HOUSING REHABILITATION

The City of OKC partners with Community Action of OKC to offer housing rehabilitation. These programs rehabilitate homes to meet basic HUD and City building codes, with emphasis placed on structural safety, exterior maintenance, accessibility, sanitary conditions and energy efficiency. We now offer storm shelters as part of the program.

Contact: City of OKC
housing.rehab@okc.gov or (405)297-2846

Contact: Community Action
(405)232-0199



NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT GRANT

SNI Neighborhood Associations are expected to collaborate and work as a team to create and carry out projects that address one or more neighborhood needs. This is an important component to the overall SNI objective, which is to tip neighborhoods toward vitality and self-sufficiency. Upcoming grant projects include additional bus shelters, a marquee at FD Moon, and a mural at McKinley Park.

Contact: City of OKC
sniokc@okc.gov or (405)297-2911



SNI PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS (cont.)

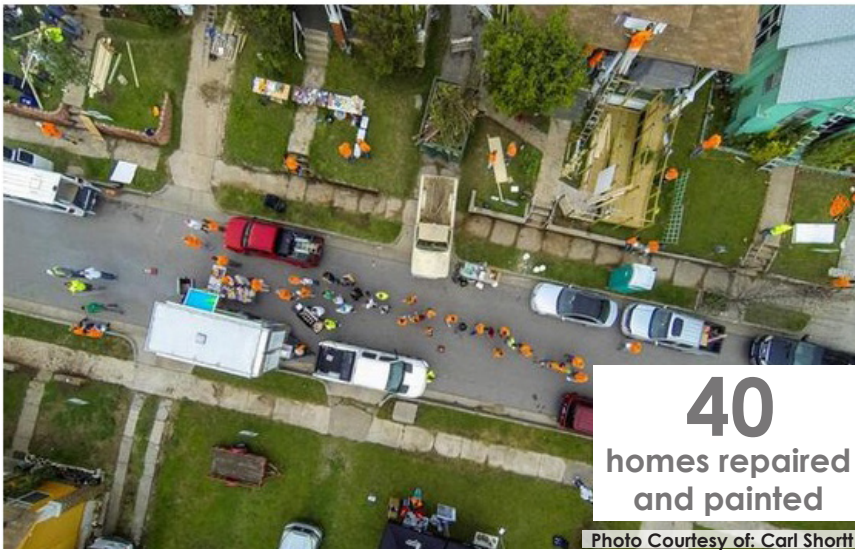


NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Neighborhood Housing Services of OKC is a non-profit community organization that offers downpayment assistance, homebuyer education and new home construction.

NHS is partnering with SNI to rehab and build affordable homes for buyers in Culbertson's East Highland and Classen's North Highland Parked.

www.nhsokc.org
405-231-4663



REBUILDING TOGETHER

Rebuilding Together is a leading, national non-profit in safe and healthy housing with more than 40 years of experience.

In one weekend in 2015, Rebuilding Together OKC volunteers painted and repaired 10 homes along 14th Street in Classen Ten Penn. On Rebuilding Day, April 9th, 2016, more than 1,000 volunteers repaired 30 homes in Culbertson's East Highland.

www.rebuildingtogetherokc.org
405-607-0464



NEW SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are important for creating a safe community where neighbors of all ages and mobilities can move freely between the schools, parks, commercial areas and other places of interest.

One of the strategies of SNI is to install sidewalks, ramps, crossings, bicycle facilities, signage, transit stops and shelters where needed.

Contact: City of OKC
sniokc@okc.gov or (405)297-2911

SNI PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

The key to SNI's success is neighborhood participation. The Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma has played a critical role in training, capacity building and facilitating neighborhood association meetings. They also work closely with residents, non-profits and corporate partners to educate and collaborate on specific projects that will improve the neighborhoods.

As a result, all 3 SNI areas have an engaged, empowered citizenry who are self-sufficient in handling obstacles and opportunities. They utilize several methods for communication that has resulted in increased attendance to events and meetings. In 2015, 237 neighbors attended neighborhood meetings.

300+ Volunteers
recruited for various projects

\$120,000
in corporate contributions of time and supplies

20+ Homes Painted
by Catholic Heart Work Camp

11 SNI Neighborhood Leaders
graduated from Neighborhood Leaders for Today

"The SNI Program has allowed Neighborhood Alliance the ability to delve into a neighborhood on a much deeper level than we are normally afforded. It has been an uplifting, at times emotional and very humbling experience to be on this journey with all the SNI neighbors and partners. Great things are happening in SNI!"

Executive Director, Georgie Rasco

"Through the SNI, not only have neighborhood residents overcome unique obstacles and challenges, they are now able to engage stakeholders, create community partnerships and strengthen the fiber of their neighborhood."

Community Organizer, Barbie Smalley



The 2014 SNI Annual Meeting was well attended thanks to outreach assistance from Neighborhood Alliance.

POSITIVELY PASEO



"Positively Paseo is pleased to partner with SNI in an effort to revitalize the CTP and CNHP neighborhoods by building new homes on long-vacant lots, and rehabilitating long-neglected historic homes."

Executive Director, Neila Crank-Clements





SNI PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

STEAM ACADEMY

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). The STEAM program is a unique partnership between community stakeholders, Oklahoma City Public Schools, the Oklahoma Afterschool Network and the City of Oklahoma City's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative. Find out more information on OKAN's website at okafterschool.org.

Why STEAM? So many reasons, here are our Top 5:

1. OKC neighborhood residents, parents, teachers, and students asked for STEAM. Kids are most vulnerable during out-of-school time. Providing quality, out-of-school programming keeps kids safe and healthy.
2. STEAM is a hands-on, engaging, FUN, career-focused, and creative way to learn STEAM subjects. Children learn in all kinds of ways and for those struggling, what better way to engage them than by making learning fun? Reading and/or math are at the heart of all STEAM exercises – yes, even art! Critical thinking and creative ideas can solve just about any challenge.
3. Proven results. After 4 weeks of Summer STEAM Academy in 2014 at FD Moon, reading and math scores increased as much as 20 points. Spring 2015 scores increased as much as 19 points!
4. STEAM field trips introduce students to their community and career possibilities. Knowing where you live builds a sense of pride and ownership. Meeting local professionals generates career interests and connects children with mentors.
5. OKC kids are worth investing in! OKC is a STEAM city with corporations and manufacturers that need skilled workers in the areas that STEAM training provides. Whether it is in aeronautics, medicine, construction, oil exploration or technology, corporations would rather fill these high-paying jobs with local talent instead of hiring from out of state.

Two elementary schools are within SNI boundaries:



FD Moon Elementary is in Culbertson's East Highland.



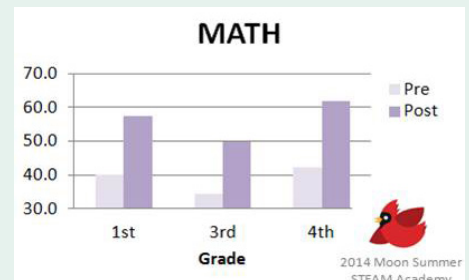
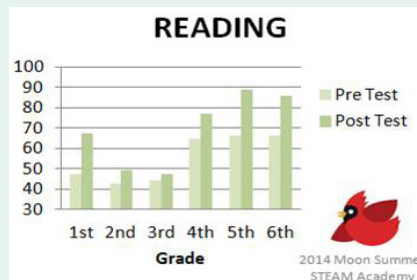
Eugene Field Elementary is in Classen Ten Penn.

"Each day the students look forward to attending, and are quick to tell anyone who asks exactly what they are doing." Eugene Field Principal, Paige Bressman

CASE STUDY: MOON E.S.

The 2014 Moon Summer STEAM Academy represented a new vision for summer school in Oklahoma City. Often seen as remedial in nature, summer school is not typically viewed by students-or parents- as a fun way to spend the summer. However, through the leadership of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative at the City of Oklahoma City and the collaborative work of numerous parents, teachers and community stakeholders, summer school was re-envisioned for students in Northeast Oklahoma City.

Strong outcomes for reading and math were realized at each grade level.



Curriculum: Oklahoma City Public Schools Intercession Reading and Math Packets. Testing: Oklahoma School Testing Program, Priority Academic Student Skills/Oklahoma Academic Standards (PASS/OAS).

