

STRATEGIES FOR 2015-2016 FROM VISION AND LONG RANGE PLAN 2011-2016

MISSION

Parker Street Ministries is a non-profit 501c3 organization committed to Gospel-centered community development beginning in Lakeland's Parker Street neighborhood.

VISION

We desire that our residents are:

- financially healthy and generous through dependence on God and responsible stewardship;
- living in a beautiful, mixed-income neighborhood with housing considered among the best;
- influential lifetime learners who reach their full potential;
- faithfully and joyfully showing off the glory of God as they increase their dependence on Christ;
- celebrating all people as created in God's image;
- redeemed to biblical standards for family life; and
- benefiting from exceptional neighborhood businesses.

GOAL 1

Parker Street residents are financially healthy and generous through dependence on God and responsible stewardship.

- Objective 1.1: Increase knowledge of our dependence on God who owns everything and is pleased with responsible, grateful and generous stewards.
- Objective 1.2: Identify and combat external forces that contribute to poverty.
- Objective 1.3: Offer a jobs preparedness ministry that addresses brokenness, both in systems and in individuals that serves high school aged youth and adults.
- Objective 1.4: Provide money management instruction that serves children through adults and includes budgeting, record keeping, planning, and understanding financial transactions.
- Objective 1.5: Encourage building of resources for all ages through savings from earned income, equity, and education.
- Objective 1.6: Identify and coach residents in need of debt reduction and credit repair.

Goal 1 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Participated in Financial Prosperity Partnership
- ✓ Hosted Free Income Tax preparation onsite and promoted after
- ✓ Received funding restricted for financial fitness
- ✓ Staff member trained on *Money Smart* curriculum
- ✓ Purchased supplies for financial fitness activities – cards, books
- ✓ Continued mercy ministry that is less emergency driven involving staff input
- ✓ Staff served on *SummerWerx* neighborhood youth employment committee
- ✓ Advocated to City Commission and in presentations concerning external and internal forces contributing to poverty
- ✓ Gathered Digital Divide info to increase employability of residents
- ✓ Began neighborhood office volunteer position which included training in specific skill sets
- ✓ Hosted career round-table with Leadership Lakeland Alumni and high school students

Goal 1 Strategies for 2015-2016

- Continue attending Financial Prosperity Partnership meetings
- Under umbrella of *Make [My] Money Last* financial fitness program:
 - AEP students in K-8 will have twelve sessions of financial fitness instruction that incorporates parent involvement—to be led by Explorations V
 - A library of financial literacy games and books will be purchased and made available to AEP classrooms
 - A group savings project benefiting a local non-profit will be organized
 - Young adults will participate in four Financial Fitness Boot Camps to be led by Florida Prosperity Partnership
 - Four Family Financial Fitness workshops for parents and children will be facilitated by Explorations V
- Host one free income tax preparation onsite

- Utilize volunteers to deliver *Money Smart* curriculum as a one-on-one tool
- Staff member trained as Master Money Mentor
- Collaborate with Catholic Charities and Explorations V to offer free credit counseling as needed
- Continue to advocate regarding external and internal forces contributing to poverty
- Continue mercy ministry qualification process
- Continue mentoring of neighborhood resident(s) in office skills
- Provide funding for one neighborhood youth for *SummerWerx* intern program

GOAL 2

The Parker Street neighborhood is a beautiful, mixed-income neighborhood with housing considered among the best.

- Objective 2.1: Advocate standards for the city's overall plan for neighborhood to include lights, roads, landscaping, and architecture.
- Objective 2.2: Partner with outside agencies to increase number of owner-occupied homes.
- Objective 2.3: Recruit Christians as intentional residents.
- Objective 2.4: Enhance program for identifying projects and recruiting and utilizing volunteers who, alongside residents, work to beautify the neighborhood.
- Objective 2.5: Collaborate with landlords, residents, and outside agencies for the highest quality rental experience.

Goal 2 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Advocated for standards for the neighborhood including lighting, roads, landscaping, retention ponds, and architecture
- ✓ Worked with code enforcement and LPD on neighborhood concerns including crime, homelessness, and illegally occupied dwellings
- ✓ Advocated for residents for better rental experiences
- ✓ Utilized volunteers for neighborhood cleanups
- ✓ Worked with volunteer groups to maintain PSM rentals and make minor home repairs
- ✓ Completed renovation of Magnolia house.
- ✓ Received in-kind donations from many vendors through renovation work
- ✓ Finalized sale of one Vermont house
- ✓ Worked with resident and bank toward purchase of second Vermont house
- ✓ Completed renovation of Peachtree house
- ✓ Collaborated with Keystone and others to bring in new intentional residents (Arthur & Birdie Southward, Alejandro DeLabastide)
- ✓ Continued collaborations with Habitat, CRA, Keystone

Goal 2 Strategies for 2015-2016

- Complete sale of second Vermont home
- Sale of Magnolia home
- Sale of Peachtree home
- Formalize and begin implementation of strategies to increase availability of three-bedroom dwellings to stabilize housing for AEP families
- Welcome two new intentional residents into neighborhood
- Provide three community workdays for neighborhood beautification
- Continue boarding houses and calling police, reducing number of illegally occupied dwellings
- Continue advocacy for renters and education of renters
- Continue service on Neighborhood Association Coalition
- Continue service on Homeless Coalition of Polk County
- Continue collaborations with housing organizations (CRA, Keystone, Habitat)

GOAL 3

*Parker Street residents are influential lifetime learners
who reach their full potential.*

Objective 3.1: Provide academic support for students, pre-K through young adult.

Objective 3.2: Provide learning opportunities for all ages for a variety of topics and purposes.

Objective 3.3: Enhance indigenous leadership to share skills in all areas of learning.

Objective 3.4: Cultivate partnerships with outside agencies and volunteers to improve learning.

Goal 3 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Continuously served K-young adults through academic enrichment program
- ✓ Made individual tutoring room a year-round program
- ✓ Continued to cultivate partnerships with volunteers, PMoA, other agencies and individuals to improve academic help and extracurricular activities
- ✓ Actively recruited and quantified STEM, My Brother's Keeper, and indigenous volunteers
- ✓ Developed transition plan for new young adult program
- ✓ Provided two college site visits and one medical vocation talk for high school students
- ✓ Re-designed intake forms and data reports
- ✓ Developed new outcome for AEP students: intervention level benchmark improvement
- ✓ Continued listening to parents, volunteers, staff, and students regarding program
- ✓ Moms managed Summer Bridge Camp lunch hour
- ✓ Acquired new training and formed partnerships (on curriculum-side) to bring AEP closer in alignment with changing trends in education

Goal 3 Strategies for 2015-2016

- Continuously serve K-young adults through year-round academic enrichment program
- Continue to cultivate partnerships with volunteers, PMoA, colleges, universities, other agencies and individuals to improve academic help and extracurricular activities
- Continue to update intake forms and data reports
- Continue listening to parents, volunteers, staff, and students regarding program
- Continue recruitment of STEM and My Brother's Keeper volunteers
- Under umbrella of Young Adult Programs
 - Build knowledge of educational resources for young adults
 - Deliver four financial fitness bootcamps
 - Meet with existing students regarding education paths
 - Lead students in 9th grade and up to form individual goals
 - Provide minimum of three college experiences per year for high school students
- Over-enroll Summer Bridge Camp to account for absenteeism
- Form AEP program advisory committee
- Staff serve on Community Awareness Committee of New Beginnings Charter School

GOAL 4

Parker Street residents faithfully and joyfully show off the glory of God as they increase their dependence on Christ.

- Objective 4.1: Cultivate a Gospel-centered worshipping community through a weekly large group Bible Study.
- Objective 4.2: Encourage a joyful love for God through constant practice of the ordinary means of God's grace: prayer, the Bible, and the sacraments.
- Objective 4.3: Develop small discipleship groups that promote deep relationship and encourage residents in dependent obedience to Christ.
- Objective 4.4: Propel residents to sacrifice resources, time, and energy in bringing mercy and justice to others.

Goal 4 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Bible study and opportunities for prayer were offered through AEP
- ✓ *The Peacemaker* was used as a strategy in AEP for Biblical conflict resolution
- ✓ Infused Gospel in PSM programs, in one-on-one relationships, and in small groups
- ✓ AEP students memorized verse each week of Summer-Bridge Camp
- ✓ Residents brought mercy and justice to others organically through relationships and neighborhood services
- ✓ Invited participation in prayer through bookmarks
- ✓ PSM champion created email for those wanting to engage more in prayer
- ✓ Communications began being "cause-related" rather than "need" or "worth" based
- ✓ Board of Trustees added mission and vision to head of their meeting agenda and incorporate into their personal prayers

Goal 4 Strategies for 2015-2016

- Residents are encouraged to practice the ordinary means of God's grace through a local church
- Bible study and opportunities for prayer are offered through AEP
- *The Peacemaker* is used as a strategy in AEP for Biblical conflict resolution
- PSM will continue to infuse Gospel in programs and in one-on-one relationships
- Seek opportunities for discipleship with high school students
- Full-time staff reconnecting to larger work of urban ministry through attendance at CCDA in Los Angeles
- Full-time staff and spouses encouraged to Gospel-centric nature of work through quarterly dinners/discussions facilitated by Executive Director.

GOAL 5

Parker Street residents celebrate all people as created in God's image

- Objective 5.1: Residents intentionally engage in authentic relationships with diverse people.
- Objective 5.2: Encourage a life of listening and learning where all people are valued.
- Objective 5.3: Provide formal and informal education for people about all races, cultures, and life experiences.
- Objective 5.4: Develop and implement shared leadership among diverse people.

Goal 5 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Hosted four neighborhood gatherings: Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Splash, National Night Out & Fall Festival
- ✓ Fostered dignity through neighborhood event planning
- ✓ Developed dignity in residents through Neighborhood Christmas Store
- ✓ Used listening and learning when planning programs
- ✓ Hosted group from Taiwan
- ✓ Themed annual fundraiser around reconciliation
- ✓ Utilized diversity of residents for shared leadership as classroom assistants and in kitchen
- ✓ Enforced photography and video policy
- ✓ Began quantifying indigenous volunteers

Goal 5 Strategies for 2015-2016

- Continue to celebrate all people through four neighborhood gatherings
- Continue to foster dignity through event planning and annual Neighborhood Christmas Store
- Continue to educate through photography and video policy
- Continue to utilize listening and shared leadership in programs
- Foster authentic relationships with diverse people organically through friendships
- Encourage a Biblical view of people as being created in image of God – focusing on observations about prostitutes, homeless, drug dealers, teachers, parents, etc.

GOAL 6

Parker Street residents are redeemed to Biblical standards for family life.

Objective 6.1: Demonstrate Godly examples of family life, teaching Biblical principles for family and marriage.

Objective 6.2: Provide training support that encourages parents to discipline lovingly, appropriately and consistently.

Objective 6.3: Promote good nutrition and healthy living.

Objective 6.4: Infuse reconciliation as a way of life for all relationships including marriage, family, extended family, neighbors, and friends.

Goal 6 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Demonstrated Godly examples of family life through presence of staff and intentional residents in neighborhood and in programs
- ✓ Counseled reconciliation, wherever possible, in broken relationships with family, friends, and neighbors
- ✓ Promoted healthy living through Ladies Fitness Nights
- ✓ Promoted fitness through extracurricular activities in AEP
- ✓ Promoted good nutrition through snacks and meals served in programs
- ✓ Hosted a *Meet Up at the Market* to promote health through walking, fresh produce, and cooking together. Also promotes special benefits for people receiving SNAP/EBT

Goal 6 Strategies for 2015-2016

- Continue to demonstrate Godly examples of family life through staff and intentional residents
- Continue to pursue ladies fitness
- Continue to offer healthy snacks and meals during AEP
- Organize up to six *Meet Up at the Markets* to instill healthy habits
- Partner with other organizations to provide healthy living education and/or activities
- Offer a parenting and/or loving discipline class for AEP parents
- Transition eighteen-year-olds to Lakeland Regional Health's Clinic
- Continue to pursue collaborations with Lakeland Regional Health
- In partnership with external groups, incorporate healthy eating enrichment into AEP so there is a regular rotation art (PMoA), financial fitness (Explorations V), and healthy eating.

GOAL 7

*Parker Street neighborhood contains exceptional businesses
that benefit its residents and Lakeland.*

Objective 7.1: Increase number of desirable businesses in the neighborhood.

Objective 7.2: Decrease number of undesirable businesses.

Objective 7.3: Encourage on the job training and employment of residents in neighborhood businesses.

Objective 7.4: Promote indigenous business ownership.

Goal 7 Strategies in 2015

- ✓ Maintenance and improvement projects at PSM included: landscaping and irrigation improvements, building retention wall, addition of gutters, grading on south side of FLC, back up of server plan, new roof, AED purchase, roof leaks resolved
- ✓ Renewed lease with Strong Tower Church
- ✓ Renewed lease with city for additional parking and recreation space on Myrtle Street
- ✓ Participated in LPD community meetings and on Homeless Coalition
- ✓ Participated in ad hoc community effort to address lot overtaken by homeless and house overtaken by homeless and prostitutes
- ✓ Collaborated with Polk Museum of Art to provide small business experiences to youth

Goal 7 Strategies for 2015-2016

- New surface for parking lot
- Help bring in new business partnerships with neighborhood
- Tim to continue service on Homeless Coalition of Polk County
- Form ad hoc external community effort to address crime in private residences and in and around businesses
- Welcome new businesses
- Research successful strategies for addressing prostitution through many means: church, commission, neighborhood, LPD, etc.
- Cultivate relationships with other businesses through Leadership Polk and Lakeland Chamber