Strategies for 2015-2016

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 worshiping 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