

EDUCATION MOBILIZATION PROJECT

December 2010 Report to the Board

EDUCATION

- We've recently met and reached an agreement with Toledo Public Schools (TPS) regarding the introduction of the Schools as Community Hubs model in TPS. We will focus the initiative in two of Toledo's middle schools, one in North Toledo and another in Central Toledo. This is a HUGE victory for our kids and our community!
- The Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) initiative is continuing to gain momentum. Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy for Boys recently approved implementation of SEL as their school-wide improvement strategy. TPS district leadership has also identified a number of schools in Academic Emergency that have shown interest in SEL, and is working to expand the initiative into some of these schools.
- Our Early Childhood Workgroup has mapped assets and neighborhoods surrounding Sherman Elementary and other North Toledo schools and is looking at ways they can work with the Head Start classrooms at Sherman Elementary and in-home childcare providers in the same neighborhoods to further early literacy and social & emotional development supports for young children and their caregivers.
- Michelle Brown, the new director of Head Start recently resigned. The EOPA Board Chair also stepped down. We continue to be concerned about our local Head Start program and are looking for ways to be a positive influence.
- There is a strong possibility the Stable Families Collaborative program will expand. This program helps reduce student mobility and keeps families in their homes. Expansion of this program would be great news for our community and aid both our work in education and income.

MOBILIZATION

- Several staff traveled to DC on December 7 - December 9 for the second in person meeting with the other mobilization United Ways.
- We have completed 10 community conversations and 1 follow-up conversation.
 - Our most recent conversation was at Adelante and done entirely in Spanish thanks to the help of several of our Spanish speaking staff.
 - While we confirmed what we heard and gleaned a few new pieces of information, our follow-up conversation reinforced we need to dive deeper. We are still reaching mostly only those already active individuals.

- Moving forward we will be doing a series of conversations in Central Toledo.
- Additionally, we will be beginning some education conversations in Wood County and health conversations in Lucas County beginning in 2011.
- To help keep staff up to speed on the progress of mobilization and to create a more relationship management culture we introduced a new staff portal this month.
- Given all the vast amount of facilitating, convening, and meeting United Way does, we felt it would be worthwhile to hold a Masterful Meetings Training. At least fifteen staff will have the opportunity to participate in the training, taking place on December 16 and 17.
- United Way Worldwide staff will be in Toledo February 1 and 2.