

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



8twelve
COALITION



The 8twelve Coalition continues to work towards improving quality of life in South Central and Thomas Park/Avondale neighborhoods. The Coalition, convened by Muncie Habitat for Humanity, holds residents' gifts, dreams, and concerns at the core of this neighborhood revitalization work. Please enjoy this compilation of success stories gathered by our partners and residents about 2019! You will learn about projects that residents helped lead and about the work of each of our action teams-housing, business development, beautification, and education & family engagement.

This year brought us new partners to help accomplish residents' goals, new residents engaged in dreaming and realizing those dreams, and new information to inform our work. Over 200 households allowed their voice to be heard to help us know the current state of the neighborhood and where they want to see change. Through our inclusion with the Habitat for Humanity Learning Cohort, we have learned alongside 9 other Habitat affiliates working in this theory of change for neighborhood revitalization. Partnerships with Lowes, Vectren-a Center Point Energy Company, and Ball State University and others have flourished. Funders have positively responded to our collaborative fundraising model to support collective impact. We continue to strive to increase residents' sense of community, social cohesion, and collective impact.

Jena Ashby
8twelve Coalition Convener
Director of Impact & Programs, Muncie Habitat for Humanity



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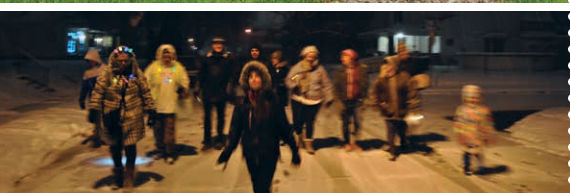


Small Sparks

A wide variety of residents applied for Small Spark Grants. This is the 2nd year for this program funded by Ball Brothers Foundation. This year included focusing half of the resident-driven grants on youth. The projects for 2019 included: two lending libraries, a movie night program, sunrise yoga program, bike donations, swing set installation, funding for dance uniforms, streetscaping, plywood art project, a bike club, fruit tree planting, a cookout, and a kids club.

Each project, though very different from one another, cause small positive changes in the community's daily life. The projects provided neighbors with small wins, which in total, help the community grow in healthy ways.





South Central Neighborhood



We hosted a City Election Cram Session at our regular meeting time in November, which was the day before elections. All but three candidates on our ballot were present. We were delighted to make personal contact with so many of the candidates and to know better the people who will work within our city government starting in 2020. It was helpful to hear the varying degrees to which candidates are already familiar with our neighborhood.

We held three parties this year in place of our regular meeting:

- A beginning of summer pizza party in June, about 50 in attendance
- An ice cream party in August, about 70 in attendance
- December Caroling event, 20 in attendance

The parties succeeded in bringing both more and different neighbors than our regular meetings. It is a good space in which to make connections that strengthen the fabric of South Central. Neighbors are coming to anticipate these events each year, which indicates a sense of community is being established.

We held two neighborhood clean-ups in partnership with the city – one in May and another in September. After what must be a decade of clean-ups (which started before the association), we are starting to see a noticeable decrease in the amount of dumping to be cleaned each season. They increase pride in our neighborhood and in our ability to make a difference.

Lezlie McCrory
Resident Leader



Thomas Park Avondale Neighborhood

Thomas Park Avondale has a regular neighborhood gathering on the third Wednesday of every month, at 6 pm at the Ross Community Center. Residents have been meeting for almost a year, hosting nonprofits, organizations, and elected officials as well as those running for office. The group assembles and invites policy makers to discuss and try to brainstorm solutions to systemic obstacles and problems faced in our neighborhood. Through meeting and talking with these entities, we believe that we can create the neighborhood we dream of!

We are continuing to grow as a group and welcome any Thomas Park Avondale neighbors to join our gathering! Every neighbor has special gifts and talents that they can bring to our discussion as we explore the future of our neighborhood.

Brian Carless
Resident Leader



thomas park
avondale



SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Scarecrow Festival

The Second Annual Scarecrow Festival was held in the Gateway to Gardening Pavilions at Maring-Hunt Library on Saturday, September 7 from 4-7pm. More than 180 residents and families enjoyed the festivities. The Festival boasted a Scarecrow Contest, and a fantastic performance by actor Danny Russel portraying James Whitcomb Riley. Music was provided by two local groups; the Muncie Singalong Society performed with ukuleles and also a jam session with local bluegrass/country musicians.

Attendees enjoyed popcorn, snow cones, the Muncie Symphony Orchestra Petting Zoo, story times, games, a scarecrow walk, and good, old-fashioned fun.



Avondale Thursday Dinners

On Thursday evenings, the smell of meat on the grill and the sound of laughter fill the Avondale neighborhood, specifically on the corner of 10th Street and Sampson Ave. The sight of volunteers setting up tables, cutting fruit and vegetables, and walking the streets provokes questions and interest. Yet, for over three years now, the folks at Avondale United Methodist Church have opened up their doors and prepared a hot, nutritious meal that is served to over 75 residents each week. The simple act of sharing food has led to neighbors trusting each other, openly sharing their thoughts and ideas, building new relationships, and serving together in the neighborhood.



Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat took place the day after Halloween. It was a lovely, very festive event with many cars, trunks open and filled with goodies. The cars lined 10th Street from Avondale United Methodist Church to the Ross Community Center. Kids and adults, dressed in a wide variety of Halloween costumes, went from trunk to trunk for their trick or treating. Families also came into the Ross Community Center to play games and parents enjoyed coffee and cider. Avondale served hotdogs, chips and hot chocolate. Families also ventured to Urban Light Community Church to the east for even more fun. It was a joyful event which brought out over 400 people to the neighborhood.



ACTION TEAMS



Housing

Several housing partners work together to create and improve housing in the Coalition area. In 2019, 16 housing projects were created or improved. The action team also focused on advocacy issues related to housing, like educating renters and landlords on their rights.

1215 S Jefferson - Urban Light CDC

This 3br, 2ba single-family house will be available in the South Central Neighborhood for homeownership without income limit. The home was funded through The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware Co. - both a quarterly grant award and a donor-advised fund, MutualBank Charitable Foundation, Vectren Foundation, and 8twelve funding through Lowe's Corporation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

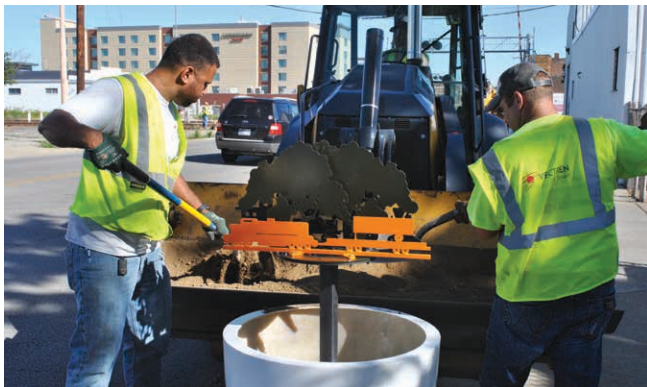


ecoREHAB completed its third 8twelve rehabilitation in December and held an Open House event. This project was funded by the Lowe's Foundation and the City of Muncie's Community Development Office through the federal Housing and Urban Development HOME program. This once abandoned property will be purchased by an income-qualified buyer and will contribute to the overall improvement of the neighborhood.

Beautification

South Central residents have said that until now crossing the tracks into the neighborhood was visually depressing. In late summer 2019, South Central completed a second phase of Walnut Street beautification. With much help from Vectren employees, they installed twenty-two planters bearing the South Central logo. The planters were made locally by Palmetto Planters- owned locally by Anita Kishel. Versatile Metal Works custom-made unique sculptures for each planter, celebrating life and uniqueness of their neighborhood. Nye's Wrecker Service provided transportation of the planters. The local businesses will maintain their planters seasonally.

For years, residents would leave the beautifully redeveloped downtown and cross the tracks to businesses and homes feeling abandoned. Now they remark that it makes them happy to drive down Walnut Street!





Education & Family Engagement

The highlighted activity for 2019 in the Education & Family Engagement Action Team is our partnership with WIPB.

WIPB and its partners in the 8twelve area on the south side of Muncie, including Ross Community Center and Maring-Hunt Library, completed the first year of workshops and camps funded by a Ready to Learn grant. All of the activities were based on popular PBS Kids programs and focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

More than 85 kids participated in one of three camps held during spring, summer, and fall breaks.

“We were blown away by the level of engagement our families displayed during the sessions,” said Michelle Kinsey, Community Engagement and Grants Manager for WIPB. “They were all in. The parents – and grandparents - were excited about the material, participated fully in the activities and, most importantly, had fun with their kids.”

Families went home after each session with books to read and activities to do together and, at the completion of the final workshop, each family went home with a PBS Kids Playtime Pad (tablet), packed with educational PBS Kids videos and games.

The station is now gearing up for year two of this two-year grant project.



Business

Reimagining the corner of Hoyt and Memorial continues to be the focus of the Business Action Team.

With the closing of the Marsh store at Hoyt and Memorial, the Business Action Team has been exploring a number of options for reestablishing a food store in the neighborhood. Additionally, Open Door Health Services saw a need to establish a satellite clinic somewhere in the 8twelve area. Also, through numerous input sessions with residents, the idea of an informal gathering space has arisen. This thinking has coalesced into a vision of a neighborhood coffee shop. Of all the ideas, the grocery store is the one most favored by residents.

With these ideas in mind the team began looking at possible physical locations. The northwest corner of Hoyt and Memorial presented itself as a good location for a number of reasons. There were already buildings that were available and could meet the requirements of the project ideas being considered. Also, the intersection is very busy and could enhance the economic success of the businesses as well as improving the perception of the neighborhood.

The Business action Team has contracted with IFF, a community development financial institution, to support our efforts. They have provided analysis of the buildings and uses we have for them and given us rough estimates of costs for rehabbing those structures. This information has provided us with a baseline for looking at our funding needs.

We are confident that significant progress will be made on many of these projects in the upcoming year, and are grateful for the ongoing support of Ball State University's Immersive Learning Classes work in this area.





Volunteers

Committed volunteers working alongside residents continued to help us reach so many goals! We have three groups that have been long standing support: Ball State University, Lowe's, and Vectren-a CenterPoint Energy Company. Lowe's partnered with the Coalition for Lowe's Days again this year. Ball State University's College of Communication, Information and Media brought over 100 volunteers to the neighborhood in March completing several projects and kicking off our data collection process for the year. Vectren helped in so many ways this year, the most visible being their help installing planters along Walnut Street.



AWARDS



NUSA (2nd place - BNP)

The Small Sparks program won second place in the Best Neighborhood Program category at the 2019 Neighborhoods USA conference in Palm Springs, CA. Small Sparks was recognized not only for the impact it makes within the 8twelve neighborhoods, but for its resident-led design.

Habitat International

Every other year, Habitat for Humanity International hosts a global conference. In March, Jena Ashby and Lindsey Arthur served as presenters in the Neighborhood Revitalization track at this conference.

2019 FUNDING AWARDS

Ball Brothers Foundation \$50,000

- \$30,000 – 8twelve management costs
- \$10,000 – Marketing
- \$5,000 – Small Sparks
- \$5,000 – Study Coalition Management Models

Community Foundation Grant \$20,000

- \$14,500 8twelve management costs
- \$2,000 Support for resident, steering committee, etc. meetings
- \$3,500 Child Care Study

General Motors Funds \$25,000

- \$5,000 – Dumpster Days
- \$2,100 – South Central Garden Playground
- \$1,000 – Mowing and Care of Streetscapes and Land around Ross Community Center
- \$500 – South Central Neighborhood Association Activities
- \$800 – Thomas Park/Avondale Neighborhood Association Activities
- \$3,200 – Avondale Church Weekly Dinners
- \$2,000 – Coalition Resident & Planning Meetings
- \$3,200 – Neighbor Helping Neighbor Programs
- \$1,500 – Weatherization of Muncie Mission Transitional Home (1712 S. Liberty)
- \$4,000 – Maring-Hunt Library/Garden Sign
- \$1,500 – Maring-Hunt Garden Upkeep
- \$200 – Maring-Hunt Garden Programming

Vectren \$225,000 for three years

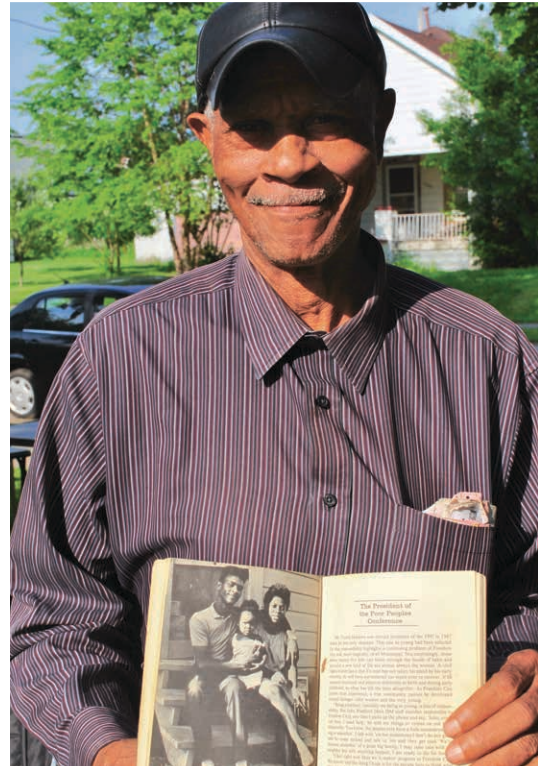
- 8twelve management costs
- Marketing
- Leadership training
- Sense of community activities
- Beautification

IU Health – Community Impact Investment Initiative \$1M for three years

This collaborative grant was written by Ball Brothers Foundation, Muncie Habitat, 8twelve Coalition, and Ross Community Center and submitted by IU Health/BMH. Together, we have been awarded \$1,000,000 over three years.

2019 Lowe's Grant \$100,000

- \$20,000 ecoREHAB
- \$30,000 Habitat for Humanity
- \$20,000 Muncie Mission
- \$20,000 Urban Light
- \$10,000 Overhead



8twelve Coalition Partner Involvement	8twelve Coalition Partner Involvement								
	Coalition Partners	Foundational Outcomes	Steering Committee	Resource Development Committee	Governance Committee	Housing	Education & Family Engagement	Business Development & Employment	Beautification
	Avondale UMC	☑	☑				☑		
	Building Better Neighborhoods-BSU	☑	☑	☑		☑			
	Boys & Girls Club of Muncie	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		
	Bridges Community Services					☑			
	BY5		☑				☑		
	City of Muncie					☑			
	ecoREHAB	☑	☑	☑		☑			
	Huffer Child Care Resource and Referral		☑	☑			☑		
	Muncie Habitat for Humanity	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
	Muncie Mission		☑	☑		☑		☑	
	Muncie Public Library	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	
	Open Door Health Services							☑	
	Pathstone Corporation					☑			
	Purdue Extension						☑		
	Residents	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
	Ross Community Center	☑	☑	☑			☑		☑
	South Central Neighborhood Association	☑	☑						☑
	South View Elementary						☑		
	Thomas Park Avondale	☑	☑					☑	
	Urban Light CDC	☑	☑	☑		☑			
	Urban Light Community Church		☑						
	WIPB						☑		