

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

I ♥ MY
NEIGHBORHOOD

8twelve
COALITION



I am not sure, nearly 10 years ago when we first started discussing neighborhood revitalization, if I really knew what collective impact meant. Today, I do. The 8twelve Coalition brings people together in a structured way to achieve change — that is collective impact. Today we can see many completed activities and projects. However, the process is every bit as important, or perhaps more so, than the completed visible projects. The 8twelve Coalition focuses on the gifts, dreams, and concerns of residents to create and implement our work.

Coalitions that foster collaboration benefit from long-term intentional partnerships that leverage an organization's strengths and experienced leadership. In looking at our partner list located on the back cover, I am reminded that they share not just how working together improves quality of life in South Central & Thomas Park/Avondale neighborhoods, but also how it impacts their organization's work and their employees' personal and professional lives.

Fostering collaboration is one of the principles of neighborhood revitalization. There are two other principles important to note. Build power — we build power by placing those closest to the impact of this work, the residents, at the tables where decision-making occurs. Learn, improve, innovate — we create space and opportunities for residents, partners, and staff to learn. We then use that learning to improve what we are doing and to be creative in trying new things.

Collective impact takes time and lots of hard work. There could not be a better group with whom to spend time and work hard.

Jena Ashby
8twelve Coalition Convener



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SMALL SPARKS

Small Sparks is an opportunity for 8twelve residents and local community organizations to apply for small grants up to \$500 to plan a neighborhood improvement project. A team of residents review all the applications. 3 youth projects and 10 adult projects were awarded in 2021.

YOUTH PROJECTS AWARDED:

- Cynthia Gipson — Storybook Fairy Garden
- Magnolia Gipson — New Books for Kids
- Linus Gipson — Cookout for neighbors

ADULT PROJECTS AWARDED:

- Casey Eichenlaub — Fence Posts
- Debra Simmons — Swing Set Expansion and Solar Lighting
- Common Market — Music Series
- Malia Sandberg — After School Arts Program
- Tiara Hicks — Rosebud Mural
- Joe Youngs — Lawn Care
- Mike Martin — Disc Golf Course
- Christina Dunsmore — Indoor/Outdoor Game Set
- Nichole Smith — Movie and Reading Club
- Shameka Gordon — Dance Uniforms

A special thank you to Ball Brothers Foundation, whose generous financial support to the 8twelve Coalition makes this program possible. Thank you to the residents and organizations who engaged with Small Sparks to create and complete neighborhood improvements.



13
projects awarded
in 2021

SOUTH CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

South Central is getting out there! Literally.

With the pandemic still looming large, we made the most of every opportunity to be together outdoors. At the request of our resident youth, we partnered with Habitat for Humanity to add a half-court basketball court to the Jefferson Street Pocket Park. To celebrate, 50 South Central basketballs were handed out at an **Ice Cream in the Park** event. The park is a wonderful place to share our life together. Our neighbor Debra stepped up to host a hot dog night at the park. Our neighbor Shameka used the park to encourage kids to trick-or-treat.

We got out there, carrying daffodils to neighbors in the spring and passing out mums in the fall – perennials that should keep our streets beautiful for years to come. With support from the Zeigler Foundation and heavy lifting from CenterPoint Energy, we installed fourteen more planters at neighborhood businesses.

We got out there when we partnered with city churches to make Thanksgiving deliveries to neighbors who wanted to celebrate. We even got out there by caroling to neighbors again, after having to cancel in 2020. Neighbors enjoyed being gifted with custom-made South Central ornaments.

At Muncie's IDEA (virtual) Conference in March, we received the Neighborhood Project of the Year award.

Our neighborhood president's presentation on **Embracing Chaos and Finding the Fun** showed how we pivoted activities quickly to continue to reach out to neighbors in a COVID world.

We got out there with youth initiatives. In February, neighborhood youth gathered with community leaders by zoom for a Black History Month Movie Party in partnership with Urban Light Community Church. In June, youth went canoeing courtesy of our City Councilperson, Anitra Davis, and other community leaders. We believe when our youth feel supported and connected to community leaders, they are empowered to lead themselves. And they do! You can find kids and teens planting in the community garden, volunteering at neighborhood clean-ups, and adding their voices to community meetings.

Finally, South Central is getting out with officials to push for streets that are safe to walk, businesses who can be good neighbors, and new housing developments that are accessible, affordable, attractive, and functional. We speak up for the best outcomes for all residents. South Central can only be what it is because of the diversity of people who call this place home. **We advocate so we can welcome everyone to a vibrant, fun life here together for years to come.**



THOMAS PARK/AVONDALE NEIGHBORHOOD



In the Thomas Park/Avondale Neighborhood, we worked to become an official registered neighborhood association. For the first time in years, we held an election and have officers who serve as an executive team guiding the neighborhood association.

Neighbors continue to engage in conversations about positive initiatives in our community. We have neighborhood cleanups and work at the community gardens on the corner of Tenth and Sampson Streets and at the Ross Community Center.

We give away hot meals and connect with community members at the Thursday evening meal at Avondale Church. We have brought accessible resources to those in need, which has led to more than just eating a meal together. We encouraged over 75 people to get vaccinated against COVID-19. We have also held funeral and memorial services for those who overdosed this year.

We started to serve children's lunch during school breaks, and now a core group of 10-15 kids come regularly to church on Sunday and help with the Thursday evening meals. Out of those connections, we have continued running a kids' bike shop and

hosted a neighborhood party that connected youth in meaningful and positive ways to our community.

A new group called Activate Avondale emerged as a group of neighbors organizing around bringing addiction services to the south side. We have been working and advocating for a crisis intervention center that would help residents who are in the middle of a mental health and addiction crisis.

Businesses like the Common Market, the Rosebud Coffee House, and Sparky's Corner have continued to grow to become places for community engagement. Other neighbors have begun strategizing ways of bringing neighbors together through car shows and showcasing the things we have to offer through an upcoming walking market.

When we organize around what is good, and the gifts, talents, and dreams of neighbors, we make positive steps toward making our community a better, more connected place to live. Thomas Park/Avondale is making great steps toward becoming a more beautiful, healthy, and connected place to live.

HOUSING



Before



After



Before

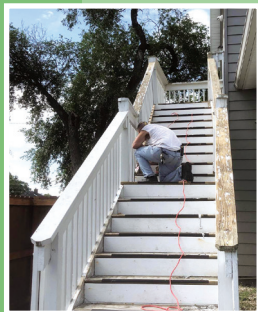


After

While 2021 continued to see swings within the construction industry, **the 8twelve helped secure \$50,000** that our housing partners braided with other funding sources and hundreds of hours of volunteer support. Together 6 new home constructions filled empty lots and 6 rehabs transformed blighted properties. Hope now fills these homes.

Two graduates from the Muncie Mission's recovery program gained confidence in their sobriety and progress towards financial independence. A single mother worked incredibly hard for four years to find recovery from addiction, create stability with employment, and now homeownership with the help of Urban Light Community Development. ecoREHAB used funds to put a furnace into a house that was going to be used as a training site to help at-risk individuals learn skills in the construction industry. Muncie Habitat built new homes on empty lots which are now filled with families that are helping transform the 8twelve neighborhoods.

As new homeowner, Brandie, states, **"I'm looking forward to making friends with the neighbors and having a yard. This home will improve the health of my family and me."** Cassie, after 22 moves, now is a new homeowner, and is looking forward to painting, having family dinners, and inviting friends and family over. **"This house is ours and I am just so excited to make it feel like home for my family."**



BEAUTIFICATION

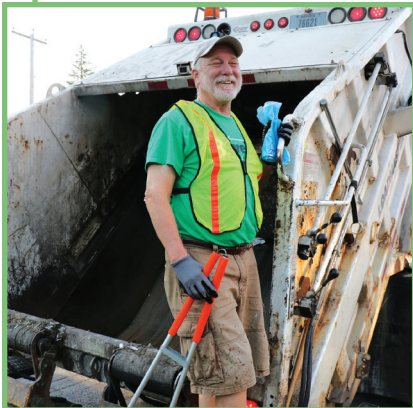
The Beautification Action Team was busy this year replicating successful projects from years past. Once again, vacant abandoned lots were adopted by neighborhoods and voluntarily mowed. This is a huge win for the neighborhood — keeping down weeds, bugs, rodents, and keeping up the appearance of the neighborhood. The Avondale Community Garden got some sprucing up by Jeff Brubaker and Brian Carless. They added solar charging stations so neighbors visiting could charge cell phones and much more!

Free dumpsters were placed strategically in order to enhance the community clean-up efforts by both Thomas Park/Avondale and South Central neighborhood associations.

More metal sculptures were created and placed inside planters across the South Central Neighborhood. Over 12 new planters and businesses were engaged in this special beautification effort.

Finally, Habitat for Humanity installed a half-court basketball court adjacent to the pocket park on South Jefferson Street. This was the one item that teen residents requested as an addition to the neighborhood.

While this was a busy year, the impact is truly felt as residents begin to enjoy the beauty of their neighborhood in new ways together.



EDUCATION & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

In 2021, the Education and Family Engagement action team funded training opportunities for South View Elementary teachers and staff around trauma informed care and mental health first aid. This training provides a better understanding of how trauma impacts a child's development and learning. Trauma informed strategies help teachers and staff effectively address problem behaviors in the school. The action team also supported scholarships so more families could take part in the preschool program at South View Elementary.

This team was also excited to launch the Small Sparks Education Grant, up to \$500, to support education needs for residents. This included tuition help, childcare costs, book fees, transportation costs, supplies, and more. One awardee stated, **"I am so excited to be starting school, and I was in need of a computer. My classes were online, and being able to apply for this money has allowed me to do what is needed for me to complete class and get my degree."**

The team continues to explore creative options in educating and spreading awareness to residents about the value of education and family engagement within the neighborhood and community.



\$3,500
was distributed in 2021 for
Education Small Sparks grants

BUSINESS & WELLNESS

The Business Action Team supported local businesses and community needs in a few new ways in 2021. Quarterly meetings for business leaders focused on networking and learning skills like employee retention and recruitment. Rosebud Coffee House and the Common Market are newer businesses which are providing places for neighbors and the community to gather and also participate in commerce within the Coalition. We were able to support improvements at each business to help them further their goals serving the community.



This action team has played a vital role in the Coalition, where lots of listening to residents and then working with organizational partners to create transformational changes occur. These often focus on system changes, and therefore take longer to see tangible outcomes. **However, one outcome of this work was the creation of a Wellness Action Team. This new action team will focus on areas connected to health.** Community outreach worker models, access to healthcare, innovative food security strategies, and substance use disorder care are all topics explored with exciting movements planned on 2022.

2021 FUNDING AWARDED

IU HEALTH BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & IU HEALTH FOUNDATION - \$342,000

\$185,000 Ross Center Recreation & Wellness Projects

\$100,000 Rock the Block Habitat Home Repair & Beautification

\$50,000 Hoyt & Memorial Development

\$7,000 Food Insecurity

CENTERPOINT ENERGY - \$75,000

Part of a \$225,000 pledge over three years

\$32,727 8twelve Management Costs

\$11,025 Resident Leader Stipends

\$10,186 Training

\$9,621 Beautification Projects

\$4,200 Neighborhood Activities

\$3,250 Wellness Action Team-
Peer Recovery Coach Training

\$2,196 Coalition Meetings

\$1,795 Communications

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON - \$60,000

\$15,000 Housing Projects: Muncie Habitat for Humanity, ecoREHAB, Muncie Mission, Urban Light Community Development

\$13,148 Beautification Projects

\$10,000 Data Collection & Evaluation Process

\$7,152 Training

\$5,700 Neighborhood Activities

\$6,000 8twelve Management Costs

\$3,000 Small Sparks Education Grants to Post-Secondary Students

BALL BROTHERS FOUNDATION - \$50,000

\$35,000 8twelve Management Costs

\$10,000 Communications

\$5,000 Small Sparks Resident Grants

GEORGE & FRANCES BALL FOUNDATION - \$30,000

\$11,200 Education Action Team Projects

\$10,000 8twelve Management Costs

\$8,800 Resident Leader Stipends



LOWE'S 2021 - \$50,000

\$35,000 Housing Projects: Muncie Habitat for Humanity, ecoREHAB, Muncie Mission, Urban Light Community Development

\$10,000 Beautification Action Team

\$5,000 Stwelve Management Costs

CITY OF MUNCIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - \$25,000

\$25,000 Sidewalks (matching funds)

MUNCIE ARP - \$19,000

\$13,400 Stwelve Management Costs

\$2,600 Avondale UMC Community Meals

\$2,500 Coalition & Action Team Meetings

\$500 Meeting local businesses in Coalition

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT - \$13,000

\$8,500 Stwelve Management Costs

\$4,000 Neighborhood Activities

\$500 Resident Advisory Group

MILLER ADVISED FUND - \$10,000

\$10,000 Resident Leader Stipends

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSIONAL OUTREACH - \$4,750

\$619.50 AmeriCorps Service Member

\$2,150 Neighborhood Activities

\$1980.50 Training

BALL STATE'S OFFICE OF IMMERSIVE LEARNING - \$3,000

\$3,000 Building Better Neighborhoods Grant

KAKATU FOUNDATION - \$2,500

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL - \$2,100

\$2,100 Training Scholarship



Coalition Partners	Steering Committee	Resource Development Committee	Governance Committee	Housing	Education & Family Engagement	Business Development & Employment	Beautification	Wellness
Avondale UMC	☑							
Ball State PBS					☑			
BSU - Building Better Neighborhoods	☑	☑		☑				
Boys & Girls Club of Muncie	☑	☑	☑			☑		
Bridges Community Services				☑				
BYS Early Childhood Initiative	☑				☑			
CenterPoint Energy							☑	
City of Muncie				☑				☑
Common Market	☑					☑		
ecoREHAB	☑	☑		☑				
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	☑				☑			
Muncie Habitat for Humanity	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Muncie Mission	☑	☑		☑		☑		
Muncie Public Library	☑	☑			☑	☑		
Muncie Community Schools					☑			
Open Door Health Services						☑		☑
Pathstone Corporation				☑				
Purdue Extension Office					☑			
Residents	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Rosebud Coffee House						☑		
Ross Community Center	☑	☑			☑		☑	
South Central Neighborhood Association	☑						☑	
South View Elementary					☑			
Thomas Park Avondale	☑					☑	☑	☑
Urban Light Community Church								☑
Urban Light CDC	☑	☑		☑				