



BUSINESS ACTION TEAM

Business Action Team cultivates community connections, beautifies 8twelve corridor

Starting a business is no small feat. That's why the 8twelve Business Action Team, one of the five Action Teams that make up the 8twelve Coalition, is set on creating a supportive environment for the business leaders of Thomas Park/Avondale and South Central. Led by Mary Beth Lambert, owner of Your Private Gardner, the Business Action Team helps business leaders network with one another through monthly meetings, alternating between breakfast and lunch meetings.

Breakfast meetings start at 7 a.m. at Rosebud Coffee House, while lunch meetings start at noon at local restaurants. At these meetings, local leaders connect, share advice, and find camaraderie with one another through their passion for making the 8twelve area a better place to be.

In the past year, the Business Action Team has been hard at work in the community. In collaboration with the Beautification Action Team, the team has been engaged in the Planter Project for the past year. The team has collaborated with Sparky's Greenhouse and Your Private Gardner, two local businesses, to help bring an array of decorative potted plants to the streets of 8twelve. Running down Walnut Street and Eighth Street, these potted plants were placed to create a cohesive, engaging look in the 8twelve business corridor.

Sparky's Greenhouse grows the plants, while Your Private Gardner provides soil, installation, as well as the administrative functions of the project. The project is currently funded in part by the Ziegler Foundation, though organizers are seeking \$500 in matching funds from local businesses to keep the project funded.

The Business Action Team is excited to keep the momentum going and build an even stronger network of 8twelve business leaders. If you are a small business owner or know one, get in contact with Mary Beth Lambert at mblambert64@gmail.com to get involved with the Business Action Team.

ART INSTALLATION UPDATE

Habitat Haven brings art, community gathering space

A new public art installation is giving the 8twelve neighborhood a permanent gathering place to call its own.

"Habitat Haven," a sculptural work by artist Greg Mueller, is located at Habitat for Humanity, 1424 S. Hoyt Ave. Funded through the City of Muncie's \$500,000 American Rescue Plan Act public art initiative and administered by MuncieArts, the piece was designed as a community third space — with areas for conversation, quiet reflection, performance and connection.

Residents can experience it together at the Corner Park Happy Hour on Friday, April 24, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The free, family-friendly event will feature live music, light bites and community celebration.

"Habitat Haven" is one of eight ARPA-funded artworks installed across Muncie as part of the broader "Art for the People" celebration weekend April 24-25. The 8twelve Coalition is proud to be a community partner in this effort. Come see it for yourself — and bring a neighbor.

To see the full list of events for the Public Art Celebration, visit: munciearts.org/artforthepeople



A BETTER PLACE TO BE!
8TWELVEMUNCIE.COM

IDEA CONFERENCE

South Central leader brings IDEA Conference insights back to 8twelve community

Leadership and community involvement groups across Muncie attended the 11th annual IDEA Conference, which brings community organizations together to discuss strategies to strengthen Muncie.

Lezlie McCrory, pastor of Urban Light Community Church and president of the South Central Neighborhood Association, attended the conference in early March. Even though it was her 10th IDEA Conference, there are always new ideas to discuss.

“Board members learned about everything from the history of expansion in Muncie to grant writing to what the tax sale does and does not accomplish in neighborhoods like ours,” McCrory said.

Learning about the history of expansion in Muncie was vital at this year’s conference because it allows for continuous reflection and growth within our community. Understanding how Muncie got to where it is now helps guide us to where we need to go.

For example, McCrory believes that using the infrastructure already in place instead of constant expansion will help preserve Muncie’s history and encourage infill into South Central and other neighborhoods that are part of the 8twelve Coalition.

“A presentation on the history of Muncie’s dramatically expanding footprint with stable population reinforces to me that investment in core neighborhoods like ours is good not just for our specific neighborhood, but for the sustainable growth of Muncie as a whole for generations to come,” McCrory said.

With her 10th IDEA Conference under her belt, McCrory’s dedication and innovation continue to pour into South Central and the broader 8twelve community.



YWCA – GARFIELD ELEMENTARY

Earlier this month, the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) of Central Indiana purchased the former Garfield Elementary building, located on the corner of Madison and Ninth Street. After the school closed in 2009, the building was purchased by the Muncie Housing Authority.

The YWCA’s purchase of the building represents the first phase of the organization’s “Yes, ME!” capital campaign. The campaign aims to fund the YWCA’s many programs, such as its emergency women’s shelter, educational services, and free clothing boutique. The Garfield Elementary building will act as an extension of the YWCA’s services, providing neighborhood resources, educational services for women and children, and programming for economic stability.

The 8twelve Coalition and YWCA of Central Indiana are dedicated to providing necessary resources and improving the quality of life for Muncie residents. From health to housing, we support you. To find out more about how you can take advantage of the resources the YWCA offers, visit the YWCA of Central Indiana website at ywcacentralindiana.org or visit its headquarters at 310 E. Charles St.



Curtisa Goodwin, chief executive officer of the Muncie Housing Authority (left), and WaTasha Barnes Griffin, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Central Indiana.

MUNCIE SANITARY DISTRICT



With summertime around the corner, it is a good idea to remember the Muncie Sanitary District guidelines and rules. MSD customers must use the provided 96-gallon toters. On trash day, the toters are to be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. with about a 2-foot clearance between mailboxes, fences, telephone poles, etc., and returned to your property by 7 p.m. that night.