

Summit County, Ohio

James B. McCarthy, Executive



Summit 2010 Project:

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIC PLANS

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
the Barberton, Buchtel, and Lakemore neighborhoods
by Robert DeJournett, Rocky Kurchak, Sharon E. Milligan and Donna Skoda,
Consultants for the Neighborhood Project

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**Summit County 2010
Neighborhood Project Final Report
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**Social Services Advisory Board
Neighborhood Planning Project
Barberton, Buchtel and Lakemore
Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide the planning information that was gathered during the neighborhood project meetings in the three areas of Barberton, Buchtel and Lakemore. Within each of these communities, a series of meetings (7-9 meetings in each of the areas) occurred as the first phase from January 2004, through June of 2004. During these six months, goals and areas of concern were identified, assets both internal and external were inventoried, data was collected and geographical boundaries set to further define the neighborhood area. All of which are included in this report.

In September 2002, Summit County Executive, James B. McCarthy with oversight by the Social Services Advisory Board, the Summit 2010 Project was initiated to develop a comprehensive health and social service plan to improve the living conditions of Summit County Residents. As the Environmental Scan was completed and areas of concern were identified, the neighborhood planning teams were organized to further identify the neighborhood issues, validate concerns within these areas, organize the assets that exist and determine gaps in service. These neighborhood projects were the final initiative under the larger Summit 2010 project that had been on-going previous to beginning the neighborhood work.

The final phase for the planning process was to begin identifying the solutions that may best address the problems. This report includes the work group's thoughts in their own words, the goals to best improve the neighborhood in which they reside and possible action steps.

Barberton Goals and that were identified:

- Increase resident awareness of services
- Improve school attendance and graduation
- Reduce under-employment
- Improve public transportation
- Neighborhood revitalization

Buchtel Goals that were identified:

- Retain the services of a facilitator for the continued coordination of the Buchtel Cluster 2010 goals.
- Identify the existing support systems and resources to promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life for the targeted populations.
- Develop a partnership with the local schools and community centers to support educational initiatives that benefits the youth and families of the Buchtel Cluster.
- Expand on financial and economic literacy programs in the targeted community.

- Work with individuals re-entering society from the criminal justice system.
- Increase the self-sufficiency and quality of life of the seniors, particularly those living alone.

Lakemore Goals that were identified:

- Develop youth and family programs within the Village of Lakemore to support increased family involvement and stability.
- Develop a partnership with the local schools to support educational initiatives to benefit the youth and families of Lakemore.
- Investigate and create new economic development initiatives to benefit the residents of Lakemore.
- Address the needs of the senior residents within Lakemore on an on-going basis.
- Develop the community planning and implementation capacity to carry out these goals and objective as outlined.

Acknowledgements

With special thanks to the three neighborhoods planning committees that spent many evening hours contributing the information contained in this neighborhood report. Community members included representatives from local government, agencies and service providers, residents, the faith-based community, schools, hospitals and business too numerous to list in this acknowledgements. The work that each of these groups accomplished, speaks to the dedication and commitment that these individuals have to making their communities better places to live.

Summit 2010 staff/consultants who contributed to the neighborhood planning process and the summary for the final report:

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EAST BARBERTON NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT

HISTORY

When the City of Barberton was laid out around Lake Anna in 1890, the land to the east, across the Tuscarawas River, the Ohio and Erie Canal and the railroad tracks, was not part of the plan. Barberton was planned as an industrial city, with industry mostly on the south side, residential areas on the north and west, and a business district in the center. The land across the river did not have easy access to the city until the first Tuscarawas St. viaduct was built in 1919. The growth of industry – the Diamond Match Company, Babcock and Wilcox, Columbia Chemical Company, several rubber companies, and the services necessary for them to operate – drew many people to Barberton. The neighborhood of East Barberton grew quickly and was annexed to the City of Barberton in parcels in 1917, 1918, and 1929. East Barberton remained largely residential, with the accompanying schools, parks, churches, and small grocery stores. Among the people arriving in the city to take advantage of the growing number of opportunities were many eastern Europeans. These people maintained some of their heritage through ethnic organizations and churches. In the 1920s, the automobile began to have an important effect on the development of the East Barberton neighborhood. People were no longer forced to live within walking distance of their place of employment, or along the streetcar line (which followed Wooster Rd., and missed the East Barberton neighborhood). This fostered the growth of outlying residential neighborhoods. The depression of the 1930s hit Barberton hard: nearly half of the workers were unemployed at the peak. Since some of the city's employers were among the largest companies in the country, however, most stayed in business and boomed again during World War II and grew steadily in the two decades thereafter. Barberton Citizen's Hospital opened in its current location on 5th Street in 1957. The neighborhood changed somewhat in the 1960s and 1970s, as government subsidized housing for the poor and elderly joined the standing residential housing. Since the 1980s, most of the growth has occurred even further to the east. The East Barberton neighborhood has changed little physically, remaining largely residential.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The East Barberton neighborhood is dominated by single-family homes. Over 90% are owner occupied, but an increasing number are now rented. North of Robinson Ave. the population is older, stable, and predominantly white. South of Robinson Ave. the population is younger, poorer, racially mixed, and more transient. This is largely due to the large number of government subsidized housing units (700) in that area. A 25% annual turnover of residents has been noted in these units. There are also a substantial number of recent immigrants, as 300 Bosnian refugees have settled in the area. *(Based on the 2000 U.S. Census)*

EAST BARBERTON NEIGHBORHOOD

Total Population	11,032
Number of families	2,980
Number of households	4,614
Families (2 parent) with children	808
Families (father only) with children	86
Families (mother only) with children	717
% of grandparents who are living with and responsible for their grandchildren	1.4%
Children less than 5 years old	820
Children 5 to 14 years old	1,390
Adolescents 15-17 years old	379
Young adults 18-24 years old	776
Seniors 65-74 years old	1,112
Older seniors 75 years and older	1,261
Percent White (alone or in combination)	87.5%
Percent Black / African-American (alone or in combination)	10.6%
All others	1.9%
Hispanic	<1%
% of population over 25 with less than a high school diploma (or GED)	18%
% of population over 25 with a college degree (2 or 4 year) or a graduate or professional degree	18%
% of civilian labor force that is unemployed	5.6%
Percent of children living below 100% poverty	27%
Percent of population below 50% poverty	6.5%
Percent of population below 100% poverty	15.9%
Percent of population below 200% poverty	31.7%
Percent of households receiving government assistance	7.4%
Percent of housing units which are vacant	4%
Percent of housing units occupied by renters	35%

PROCESS

The Summit County Social Services Advisory Board identified the East Barberton neighborhood as a target neighborhood based on criteria in the Summit County Summit 2010 Project survey. A facilitator was appointed in January 2004 to conduct public meetings and establish a task force to address neighborhood issues. The first meeting was held on January 21, 2004. At this meeting the process was explained and the identification of issues and resources was begun, which continued over the next two meetings. Although these meetings were well attended by professionals and agency representatives, they lacked the input of neighborhood residents. An

effort was made to include those voices. This consisted of two meetings, one in the northern part of the neighborhood and one in the southern part of the neighborhood, to elicit feedback from residents and to bring residents into the process. This effort was largely successful, as neighborhood residents were present at two of the following four meetings, including the meetings at which the goals were established. The meetings provided opportunities for people from the community to express concerns and offer suggestions. There were also opportunities, especially at the April and May meetings, for learning about services available and programs that had been initiated in other communities. Among those in attendance at the meetings were City Council members, city government administrators, human services administrators, library administrator, and school administrators. In the last three meetings, participants set goals and action steps for the neighborhood.

GOALS

Issue: Health and Human Services

Goal 1

Increase resident awareness of services

- Create a Barberton resource guide on the model of the *Akron Street Card*. The Barberton Public Library has offered to help coordinate this, and has already created a draft. Request small grant from Barberton Community Foundation to pay for printing.
- Create a Public Advocate to help residents identify needs and connect them with resources. Acquire funding or add the new position to an existing agency.
- Establish a central location where residents can access information about services. This would, preferably, be located in the East Barberton neighborhood, but could be housed at the Barberton Public Library. This center would be staffed by an individual who could answer questions about services. The library already maintains some of this information and is working to update its data. Informational centers where information could be accessed could also be housed at churches, Barberton Citizens' Hospital, and schools.
- Organize a "service fair" where residents could meet providers and learn about services available.
- Provide ongoing "meet the provider" events (e.g., lunches, "first Tuesday" lectures, etc.).

Lead Agency/Person: Barberton Public Library/Barbara Kirbawy (330) 745-1194.
Partners: Richard Wood, Barberton Citizen's Hospital; Dee Williams, New Millennium Community Development Corp.; Joe Harrison, Barberton Health Department.

Issue: Employment/Under-employment

Goal 2

Improve school attendance and graduation. (Focus on middle school)

- Work with schools to identify barriers and develop action plans. Develop objectives based on school data.
- Conduct focus groups to identify barriers to school attendance (PTA, parents, students, and school staff).
- Explore funding for identified programmatic needs.
- Organize a coalition groups (YMCA, PTA, AMHA, police diversion, etc.) and individuals to provide services identified by school and in focus groups.
- Promote vocational education opportunities in the schools.
- Consider programs to promote good parenting.

Lead Agency/Person: Diane Touschner, Child Guidance and Family Solutions.

Goal 3

Reduce under-employment

- Identify skills needed by Barberton employers. Ask Goodwill Industries to assist in this process.
- Work with businesses, Four Cities Compact (joint vocational school), the University of Akron, and Goodwill Industries to provide identified training. Barberton Community Development Corporation already provides grants to Barberton businesses to provide training for Barberton residents.
- Organize a business and job fair. This would include Joint Vocational School District for both secondary school opportunities and adult offerings. Include Community Development Corporation for support for start-up businesses. Offer opportunity for the Goodwill program to talk to businesses about what services Goodwill can offer to them.
- Facilitate Barberton residents accessing Goodwill services by providing transportation to Goodwill, or providing Goodwill services in the neighborhood.
- Work with Barberton Community Development Corporation to create new opportunities for small businesses.

Lead Agency/Person: Paul Suboticki, Barberton City Council

Goal 4
Improve public transportation

- Create a committee of interested parties (city government, Metro Transit Authority, residents, social service agencies) to identify transportation needs and negotiate services.

Lead Agency/Person: Paul Suboticki, Barberton City Council

Issue: Neighborhood Revitalization

Goal 5
Neighborhood revitalization

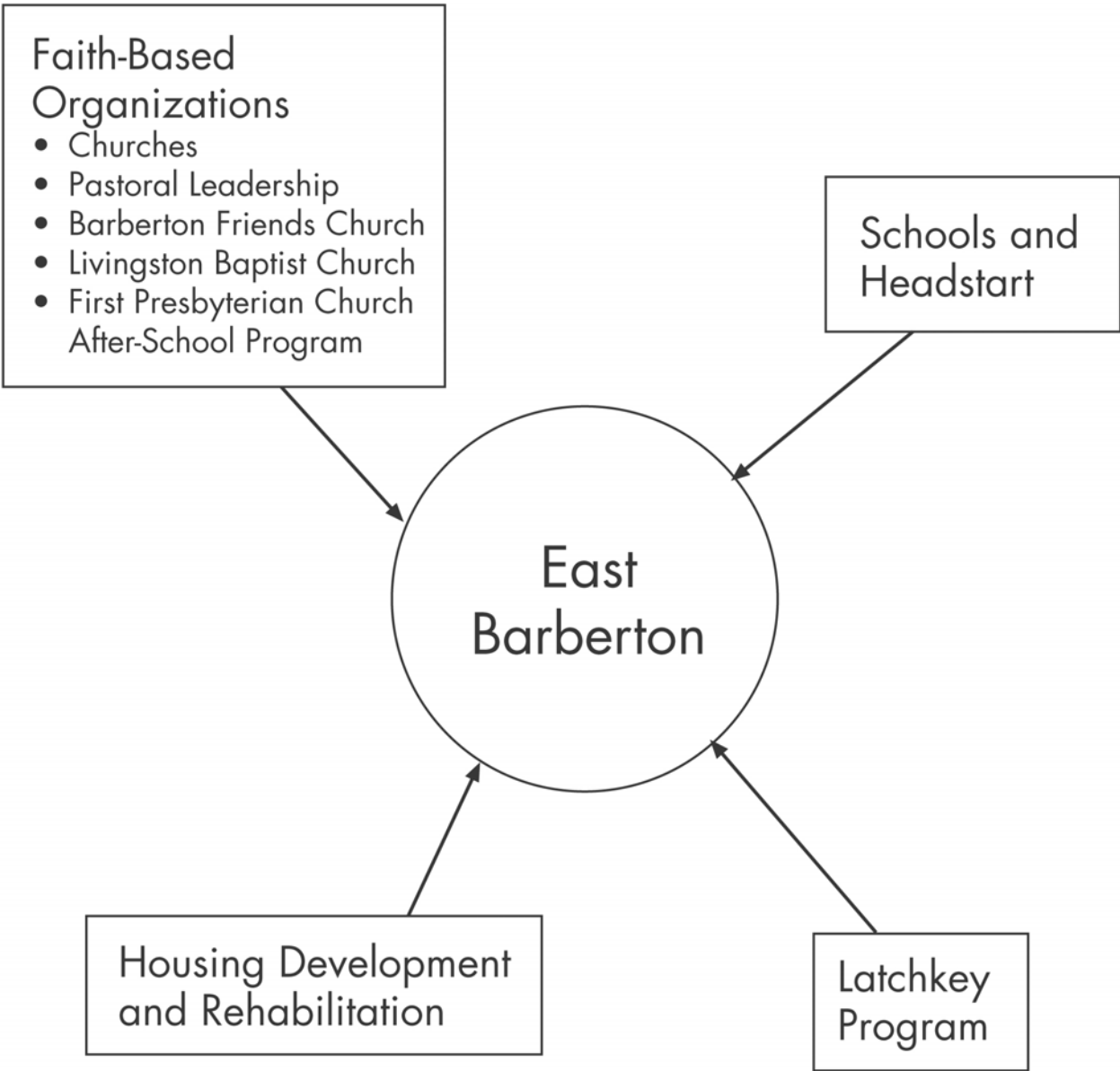
- Work with Neighborhood Conservation Service to help residents fix up and maintain homes.
- Promote Neighborhood Watch groups.

Lead Agency/Person: None assigned at this time.

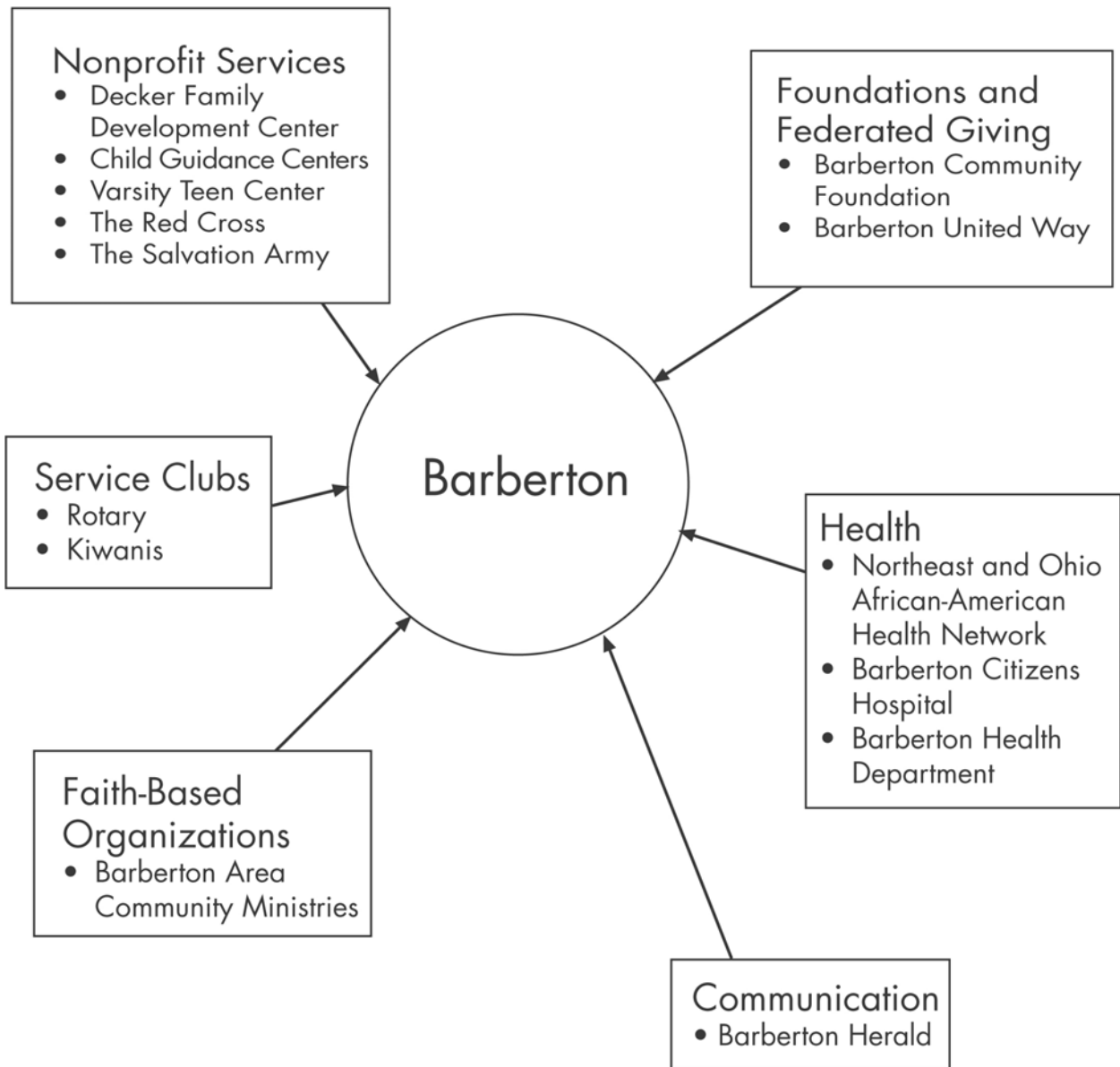
SUMMARY

Initially, there was a notable disconnect between the service providers and residents in the East Barberton neighborhood. Efforts to reach out to the residents revealed that residents had concerns, but did not know how to address them. It became apparent that the primary goal of the group would be to make that information readily available to the residents and help connect them to services. The primary concerns of the residents, elected officials, and professionals uniformly centered around employment. Educational concerns, family problems, and crime were all seen as directly related to employment difficulties. The loss of jobs in the city, education not matching employment opportunities, and difficulties with transportation to employment and training opportunities were cited as areas needing intervention. The group focused on increasing employment opportunities, training opportunities, and improving connections between business and human services and government to facilitate getting residents into jobs. In general, most participants remained concerned that funding would be available for the group's initiatives.

Community Improvement Resources Inside East Barberton, Ohio



Community Improvement Resources Outside East Barberton, Ohio



BUCHTEL NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT

HISTORY

Akron's development to the west began soon after General Simon Perkins founded the town in 1825. General Perkins, a Warren businessman, never lived in Akron, but his son, Colonel Simon Perkins, bought 115 acres west of Akron in 1832, a year before he married Grace Ingensoll Tod.

The newlyweds lived in Warren until 1835, then moved into a farm house at what now is Diagonal and Copley roads, and built a stone mansion nearby on a hill overlooking Akron. The Perkins Stone Mansion today is the home of the Summit County Historical Society and is a museum, as is the farmhouse, once the residence of abolitionist John Brown.

Perkins Hill, as the area was once called, became a magnet for the city's top executives, who built mansions of their own around the turn of the century. "These early West Siders founded Akron's first golf club...on Perkins Hill and used the old John Brown home as a clubhouse," historian Karl H. Grismer wrote in *Akron and Summit County*. When the colonel's son, George Perkins, sold the golf course property in 1904, the golfers bought a farm at Portage Path and what is now Twin Oaks Road and organized the Portage Country Club in 1905.

West Akron today is a racially diverse neighborhood with a thriving business district on Copley Road. The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority's Saferstein Towers stand on the original Perkins Hill golf club site, and below, to the east and south, Perkins Park and the Akron Zoo were developed on land given to the city by the Perkins family.

In addition, today, much of the near west side is known as the Buchtel Cluster, as established by the Akron Public Schools. The cluster was named after the prominent high school, which is at the center of the area. John R. Buchtel, whom the school is named after, was one of Akron's leading industrialists and philanthropists. He helped organize and finance a number of Akron firms and was also one of the early investors in the rubber company of Dr. Benjamin F. Goodrich. The schools which make up the Buchtel Cluster include Perkins Technology Middle School, Crouse Magnet School for Math and Applied Science, Erie Island School, Portage Path School of Technology, Rankin School for Technology, Schumacher Academy, and Stewart Africentric School.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Buchtel Neighborhood Planning committee defined the area of concentration within the Buchtel Cluster to include the following schools and community organizations: Buchtel High School, Lawton Community Center, Kandy Kane Child Care, Weed N Seed, Caring Communities of Summit County, Mustard Seed Development Center, area churches, and three elementary schools (Crouse, Erie Island, Schumacher). The boundaries are I-77 on the west, Stoner Ave. on the south to Diagonal Rd, Wildwood Ave on the east, and Orrin St. on the north. Buchtel High School was used as the center focal point.

Buchtel Neighborhood Project Data
(Based upon 2000 Census Data)

Total Population	6,396
Number of families	1,705
Number of households	2,423
Families (2 parent) with children	315
Families (father only) with children	54
Families (mother only) with children	395
% of grandparents who are living with and responsible for their grandchildren	9%
Children less than 5 years old	387
Children 5-14 years old	1,156
Adolescents 15-17 years old	310
Young adults 18-24 years old	509
Seniors 65-74 years old	557
Older seniors 75 years and older	360
Percent White (alone or in combination)	5.6%
Percent Black / African American (alone or in combination)	93.2%
All others	1.2%
Hispanic	< 1%
% of population over 25 with less than a high school diploma (or GED)	25%
% of population over 25 with a college degree (2 or 4 year) or a graduate or professional degree	15%
% of civilian labor force that is unemployed	9.5%
Percent of children living below 100% poverty	13.4%
Percent of population below 50% poverty	7.7%
Percent of population below 100% poverty	11.9%
Percent of population below 200% poverty	35.9%
Percent of households receiving government assistance	7.3%
Percent of housing units which are vacant	6.9%
Percent of housing units occupied by renters	28.7%

PROCESS

The Summit County Social Services Advisory Board identified the Buchtel neighborhood as a target neighborhood based on the Summit County 2010 Project survey. A facilitator was appointed in January 2004 to conduct public meetings and establish a project team to address neighborhood issues. The appointed facilitator was unable to complete the assignment, thus a second facilitator was appointed in February 2004 to complete the assignment.

The first neighborhood meeting was held February 24, 2004. Approximately 60 invitations were sent to residents, community-based organizations, community leaders, and students, inviting them to participate in the neighborhood meetings. Approximately 20-25 individuals were present at the first meeting. The individuals present were from various organizations and entities within the community such as: Weed N Seed, Mustard Seed Development Center, Summit County Council, Caring Communities of Summit County, Akron Black Firefighters, Buchtel PTA, Perkins Middle School, African American Festival Committee, Charisma Community Connection, Akron City Council, Buchtel Alumni Association, Urban Ounce of Prevention, Akron African American Education Reform Coalition (3AERC), Perkins Activities Committee, Project Grad, The House of the Lord Youth Group, neighborhood residents, Akron Urban League, Community Policing, and Fair Housing Contact Services, just to name a few. The project was explained to the attendees at the first meeting, thus the process began. There was a consensus from the group that many individuals present had been involved in similar projects in the past where the results from those projects did not yield anything that was quantifiable. Needless to say, the group was quite apprehensive going into this project.

During the ensuing meetings there was much dialogue on what areas were going to be targeted since the Buchtel Cluster was very broad. After narrowing down the targeted areas of concentration, the next steps were to begin dialogue on what particular population should be targeted. Youth was overwhelmingly a top priority for this group to focus on because youths are the area's future. The group concluded that the focused population would have to include the family unit support system as a whole in order to make the greatest impact on the area's young people. Therefore, the defined targeted population would be the:

- youth – 0-18 years of age and their support systems
- family and parenting – young adults 18-26 years of age
- Senior citizens

There was an influx of students from the Project Grad program at the third meeting who outnumbered the adults in attendance. There was great dialogue from the young people which helped to provide a different perspective and enhance the meeting. After the first two meetings, the group decided that it needed to meet more than once per month in order to accomplish the tasks at hand. The group's next steps were to formulate goals that could be easily implemented with the existing available resources and with help from Summit County, since this is a county initiative with full support from the Summit County Executive.

It was a cumbersome process to establish goals that everyone could agree on. At every meeting, new members would attend, which enhanced as well as slowed the goal-setting process. After a number of brainstorming sessions regarding goals, the facilitator compiled a set of three goals for the committee to review based on past brainstorming sessions. The group divided itself into three separate groups for the next few meetings, with each group working on refining and attaching action steps to each goal. The three groups worked independently of each other, following up with other group members outside of the normal meeting time and reporting their progress at the end of each meeting. The end result was the establishment of six goals that are recommended for implementation.

GOALS

Goal 1

Retain services of facilitator for the continued coordination of Buchtel Cluster 2010 goals and to work in conjunction with community and Summit County 2010 liaison.

- Create a memorandum of understanding to be entered into for all participating organizations outlining involvement with the Buchtel Cluster 2010 project. In addition, non-participating organizations will be invited to participate.
- Find a person to recruit paid and volunteer staff to assist with the design and implementation of the goals.

Goal 2

Identify the existing support systems and resources to promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life for the targeted populations.

- Prepare a Resource Guide (similar to the Akron Street Card) and data of information identifying the various resources.
- Compile and organize a list of existing resources.
- Create a screening tool for resources to be added to guide.
- Create a marketing plan for dissemination of resource guide.
- Identify a support center to place resource materials (i.e., Charisma Community Connection, Weed N Seed, Crouse Caring Communities).

Goal 3

Develop a partnership with the local schools and community centers to support educational initiatives that benefits the youth and families of the Buchtel Cluster.

- Develop a parent involvement strategy which would include a marketing campaign to raise awareness, partnering with existing organizations dedicated to educating individuals on parenting issues, and creating and/or utilizing assessment and evaluation tools.
- Organizations will partner to expand parent involvement and educational support for Buchtel cluster students (i.e., Caring Communities of Summit County, Kiwanis, 3AREC, PTAs, etc.)
- Recruit parents, students, community-based organizations, block clubs, and other volunteers to increase parental involvement.
- Implement/enhance after-school programs at Buchtel Cluster schools.
- Work on the site improvement plans at Buchtel Cluster schools.

- Train Buchtel High School students to mentor/ tutor younger students.
- Encourage school community service involvement and utilize existing peer mediation program for training.
- Collaborate with existing programs (i.e., the Project GRAD/ Project Learn/ Project Agape/ Caring Communities parent component).

Goal 4

Expand on financial and economic literacy programs in the targeted community.

- Educate the community on predatory lending and its negative impact on the community.
- Develop after-school summer enrichment programs for youth.
- Develop programs for addressing such topics as home ownership; budgeting; credit and debt management; insurance, estate, and retirement planning; and long-term investments.

Goal 5

Work with individuals re-entering society from the criminal justice system.

- Promote Urban League Transitions program.
- Encourage participation in educational programs such as GED, Project Learn, evening school, job training, skill development, and computer literacy.

Goal 6

To increase self-sufficiency and quality of life of seniors, particularly those living alone.

- Prepare and maintain an electronic file of individuals, businesses, and organizations in order to disseminate information about events, activities, and other relevant information.
- Disseminate the Resource Guide and database of information to targeted areas and persons in the community (i.e., newsletters, street guides, public service announcements or PSAs, church bulletins, and websites and/or electronic communication).
- Work with existing organizations to refurbish and repair homes of seniors to make their homes safer and energy efficient, and allow them to become more self-sufficient.

- Conduct forums and programs for our targeted populations (i.e., Senior Forums, Senior Health Fairs, Youth Forums, Employment Fairs, and Educational/Computer Training programs) to address the identified quality of life goals. (Sample of topics: predatory lending, legal services, health issues, financial issues, parenting and educational topics).
- Work with Metro Transit Authority to address transportation needs of seniors and to assist in the scheduling of additional specialty routes for seniors.
- Work with existing organizations to support and/or enhance programs and services versus creating new organizations.

SUMMARY

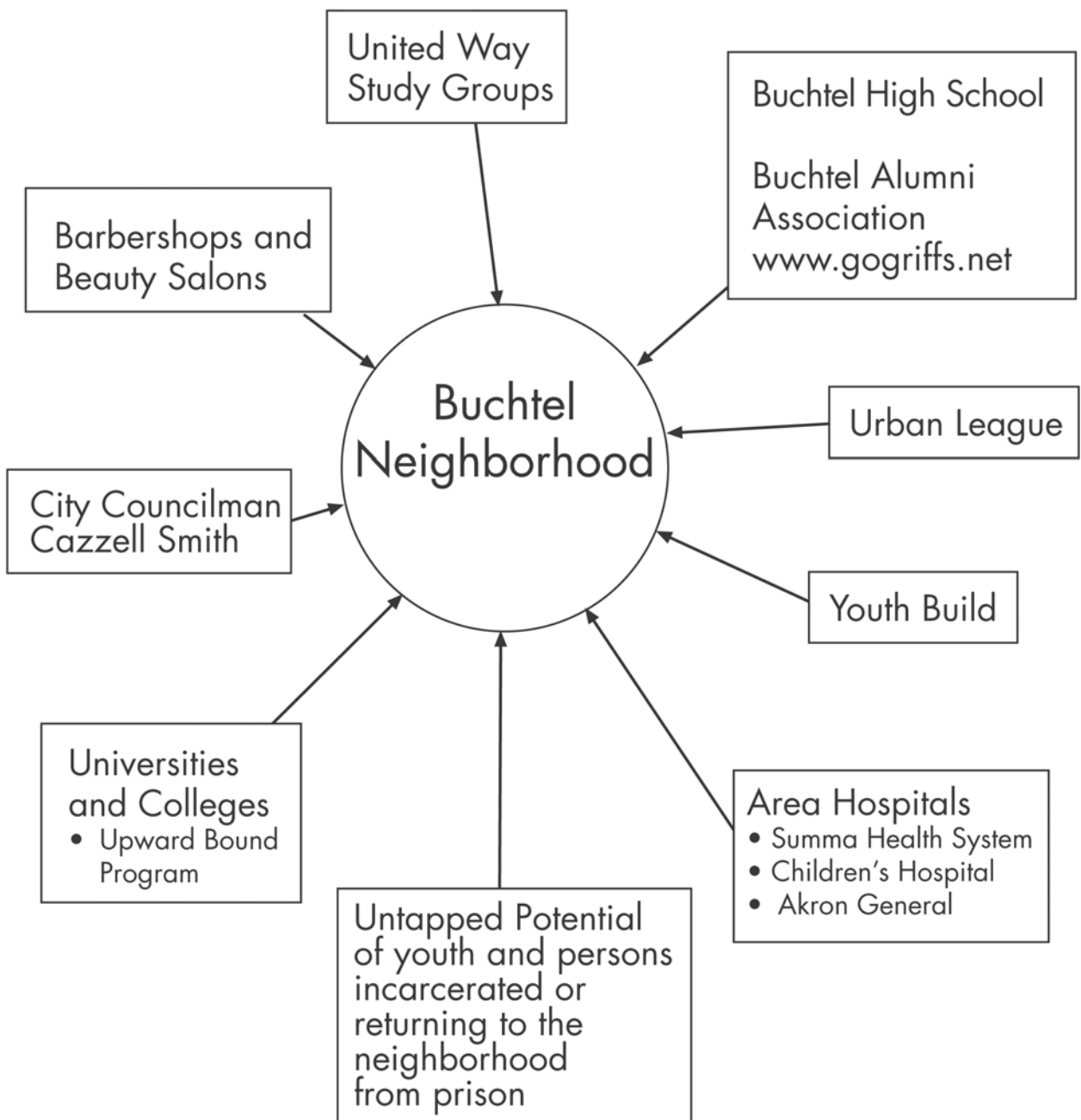
The Buchtel Cluster is full of resources and energetic people and organizations that have many endeavors going on throughout the community. The area is described as “Resource Rich – Coordination Poor.” Although there is a lot going on throughout the community, it seems as if “the right hand doesn’t always know what the left hand is doing.”

The group began to realize what valuable resources were right at their fingertips among the individuals attending the meetings. Many within the planning team did not realize what type(s) of initiatives other members of this same group were involved in. This proved to be an asset that enhanced the latter part of the planning process. The group began to realize that they needed to organize themselves in a way that would leverage the existing resources and to partner with the county to make a significant impact on their community.

Though the attendees were apprehensive in the beginning, near the end of the meeting process they were enthusiastic about the future. The group began to embrace the Summit 2010 project as more involvement from the county, particularly the SSAB, was beginning to surface. Bob Pfaff attended one of the planning meetings, and this step alone gave more encouragement to the group that this project was more than just talk. But the group did take a realistic approach by realizing that this process would have to be a community-wide effort of pooling resources in order to make this a successful endeavor.

The main issues which need to be addressed to successfully further this process are funding, namely how much and where it will come from in order to make this process the success it was envisioned to be, and how the Buchtel Neighborhood project will be sustained from this point forward.

Community Improvement Resources Outside & Inside Buchtel Neighborhood Akron, Ohio



LAKEMORE VILLAGE PROJECT

HISTORY

In 1662, King Charles II of England granted Connecticut a charter, giving them title to land across our country.

After the War of Independence, Connecticut gave up most of its land to the new United States government. Connecticut kept three-and-one-half million acres along Lake Erie, known as the Western Reserve. The present Village of Lakemore was just inside the southward boundary of this territory, which was the forty-first parallel. (Forty-first parallel lies just five miles south of what is now known as Pontius Road) The Western Reserve at this time was inhabited entirely by American Indians.

By the latter half of the 19th century, the Indians had been driven further west by European settlers. Part of the Reserve was purchased by the Connecticut Land Company and surveyed into 129, five-square-mile townships. In the center of one of these townships was a beautiful spring-fed lake, which was appropriately, named Springfield. Large tracts of land were soon purchased by settlers and speculators around the lake. The City of Akron by 1890 was rapidly becoming a thriving industrial community. Workers from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and other nearby states began moving to the area seeking new well-paying jobs.

Around 1914, Springfield Lake became a popular summer attraction with the establishment of the Springfield Lake Amusement Park. The park was located on the Southeast shore and had two roller coasters, a merry-go-round, swimming, boating, fishing, and more. Soon after the park opened, a double decker steamboat was added which cruised the lake waters, complete with an orchestra and dancing. The dance pavilion on shore also hosted the most famous big bands of the era. The merry makers of the day were provided almost hourly transportation to the park by the Northern Ohio Traction and Light Company. This inter-urban streetcar line, which ran between Akron and Canton, made regular stops in Lakemore.

The popularity of the area encouraged construction of summer cottages around the amusement park. Ice was cut from the lake in winter and stored in sawdust until summer, when it was delivered door to door along with milk, by horse and wagon.

In 1914, the present Edwin Shaw Hospital began operating as the Springfield Lake Sanitarium. At the same time developers began surveying allotments and laying out streets. By 1915, electricity was made available and there were three telephones in the village.

In 1916, a one-room elementary school house was built on Sunnyside Ave., and later a two-room addition was completed.

In August 1917, the Lakemore Civic League was formed by a small group of people who moved into the summer cottages year round. The civic organization was active in taking care of streets and keeping the peace, and purchased the communities first soda-pressured fire truck. The first

officers of the League were M. E. Cole; president; G. A. Faucett; vice president; H. C. Baker, secretary; and Elmer E. Akers, treasurer. The first meetings were held at Lutz Grocery and Peggs Pool Room. In 1921, the Village of Lakemore was formed and was incorporated.

The Village continued to grow and in 1924, Lakemore Elementary School was built on Wilson Ave. By 1931, the first area high school was built on the corner of Canton Rd. and Sanitarium Rd. This is known as the Central building at the high school.

When the depression hit in 1929, the Springfield Lake Amusement Park hit hard times. However, the real demise of the park was due to an accident. In 1930, the Blue Streak, the largest roller coaster in the park, crashed and eleven people were injured. The park was sued for \$40,000. In 1932, the Blue Streak was dismantled under a bankruptcy court order. The famed Blue Streak roller coaster was sold for \$100.00 and all other equipment for \$2,000.00.

Even though the depression was not kind to the area, the Village continued to progress. Early in the 1930s the first two story Lakemore Municipal Building was constructed to house the Village government and the fire department. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed sewer lines in part of the Village, for which residents paid \$60,000 with a \$100,000 grant from the federal government for the project. Due to engineering problems, the lines were not put into service for several years. In 1948, the Village developed a plan for making the WPA sewers workable and extending the sewers throughout the Village at a cost of \$700,000. By the early 1970's, the entire village had sewer service. Then, during this same time period, the Village installed its own Municipal Water System, one of the few in the county, not dependent on Akron or Cleveland.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Lakemore Neighborhood Planning Group, together with residents, consisted of the following community organizations: Lakemore City Council and the mayor, superintendent from the local school district, Metro Transit Authority, Springfield School Board members, Springfield Senior Center, police and safety forces, Diversion Program for Youth, Lakemore United Community Council, Akron Summit Community Action, Family and Children First Council, Partnerships for Success, and Youth Athletics.

Lakemore Village Data (Based Upon 2000 U.S. Census)

Total Population	2,561	
Number of families	704	
Number of households	969	
Number of housing units	1,018	
Percent of housing units which are vacant	4.80%	
Percent of housing units which are occupied	95.20%	
Percent of housing units occupied by renters	21.50%	
Children less than 5 years old	156	
Children 5 to 17 years old	482	
Adolescents 18-49 years old	1,208	
Young adults 50-64 years old	424	
Seniors 65-74 years old	164	
Older seniors 75 years and older	127	
Percent White (alone or in combination)	97.80%	
Percent Black / African American (alone or in combination)	0.60%	
All others	1.10%	
Hispanic	0.50%	
65+ years old and living alone	8.90%	
75+ years old and living alone	5.40%	
Social Security income in 1999 for households with Social Security income	30.50%	
Social Security income in 1999 for households with no Social Security income	69.50%	
Percent with public assistance income	4.30%	
Percent with no public assistance income	95.70%	
Median Family Income in 1999	\$37,174	
Per Capita Income in 1999	\$14,837	
Year Structure Built Housing Units Total	1,039	100.00%
Year Structure Built Housing Units Built 1990 to March 2000	65	6.30%
Year Structure Built Housing Units Built 1970 to 1989	171	16.50%
Year Structure Built Housing Units Built 1950 to 1969	353	34.00%
Year Structure Built Housing Units Built 1940 to 1949	132	12.70%
Year Structure Built Housing Units Built 1939 or earlier	318	30.60%

Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-Did not work at home	98.80%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over- less than 5 minutes	3.30%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-5 to 14 minutes	26.60%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-15 to 29 minutes	42.40%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-30 to 44 minutes	17.10%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-45 to 59 minutes	5.30%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-60 or more minutes	4.20%	
Travel Time to work for workers 16 years and over-worked at home	1.20%	
Family Income total	704	100.00%
Family Income less than \$10,000	20	2.80%
Family Income \$10,000 to \$24,999	178	25.30%
Family Income \$25,000 to 34,999	134	19.00%
Family Income \$35,000 to 49,999	141	20.00%
Family Income \$50,000 to \$74,999	153	21.70%
Family Income \$75,000 or more	78	11.10%
Mortgage Status total	732	100.00%
Housing units with a mortgage, contract to purchase, or similar debt:	535	73.10%
With either a second mortgage or home equity loan, but not both:	86	11.70%
Second mortgage only	39	5.30%
Home equity loan only	47	6.40%
Both second mortgage and home equity loan	0	0.00%
No second mortgage and no home equity loan	449	61.30%
Housing unit without a mortgage	197	26.90%
Value for all owner-occupied housing units less than \$40,000	58	7.40%
Value for all owner-occupied housing units \$40,000 to \$59,999	100	12.80%
Value for all owner-occupied housing units \$60,000 to \$79,999	228	29.20%
Value for all owner-occupied housing units \$80,000 to \$99,999	234	30.00%
Value for all owner-occupied housing units \$100,000 or more	161	20.60%

PROCESS

The Summit County Social Services Board identified the Village of Lakemore as a target neighborhood for the continued development of the Summit 2010 Project. A facilitator was appointed in January 2004 with the charge of conducting a series of community meetings to establish priorities and identify issues within this area. On January 7, 2004, the first meeting was held with a small number of service providers and residents in attendance. At this meeting, John Begala, executive director of The Center for Community Solutions, presented an overview, and there appeared to be interest among those attending. Within Lakemore, the Lakemore United Community Council and the Akron Summit Community Action were two social service agencies attending the meeting that were well aware of the needs within the community. Attendance continued to grow at the subsequent meetings held on February 14, 2004, and March 10, 2004, and the main focus of these meetings was to identify the needs of the community as well as the assets. It was established that the focus was to be the entire Village of Lakemore. Residents began to attend on a regular basis, very much interested in the Village of Lakemore and Springfield Township securing a library. Identified early on were the issues related to family involvement and stability, school success and educational initiatives, economic development, senior resources, and the development of the community's capacity to carry out the goals and objectives as outlined.

The subsequent meetings held on April 7, April 19, May 4, May 26, and June 22 were centered around finalizing the goals and objectives as well as investigating issues to bring back to the group for continued discussion. Within the Village of Lakemore, there was consensus as to the goals and objectives that needed to be established. It was clear from many conversations that there was a great need for youth programs and "a place for kids to hang." The library issue was foremost in the minds of residents as they want their children to benefit from the taxes that are paid to support libraries within Summit County. Also, there was much concern over the future of Edwin Shaw Hospital and what would result from the closure. There was much concern over the loss of the tax revenue for the Village that was generated by the facility. Springfield Lake as of now is a great resource but one that is not fully utilized for a number of reasons. The end result of the series of meetings was to establish the goals and action steps as outlined for implementation.

GOALS

Goal 1

Develop youth and family programs within the Village of Lakemore to support increased family involvement and stability.

- Survey Lakemore residents to see what they would like to have in a community center/services as well as what they could contribute
 - Develop survey.
 - Develop marketing plan and media and marketing campaign for programs: Payroll stuffer for Edwin Shaw Hospital employees, a sign in front of the municipal building, community channel 15, water bill insert, and website.
 - Use the schools as a means to distribute the survey.
 - Include a question in the survey with transportation routes reorganized to meet the needs of clients/partnership with Metro.

- Organize a Community Showcase for Social Service Agencies and Services.
- Explore partnerships with existing agencies/organizations to identify the potential for expansion in Lakemore/ YWCA/AGMC/Summa.
 - Contact Firestone Park Y.
 - Investigate the faith-based community as a possible resource.
- Investigate space availability for a community center/gathering area for youth.
 - Include in survey.
 - Youth focus groups.
 - Retail space.
 - Karla’s church or other faith-based facility.
 - Skating rink.
- Investigate the possibilities for a grant writer/help with proposals.
 - Identify a lead agency to help with grants and determine a fiscal agent.
 - Identify costs that are associated with implementing this plan.
- Door-to-door canvassing with resource information for programs that serve all age groups.
 - Compile resource materials for distribution to the residents of Lakemore for existing available services.
 - Use the cable station to relay information.
 - Develop central location to house resources.
 - Welcome Wagon established.

Goal 2

Develop a partnership with the local schools to support educational initiatives to benefit the youth and families of Lakemore.

- Regular meetings and communication with schools.
 - Partnerships for Success involvement.
 - Parent support groups for each building.
 - Cable shows.
- “Cops in the School Programs.”
 - Investigate the possibility of cooperating with the Partnership for Success Goals.
 - Investigate what other communities have done and available resources.
- Head Start site located in Lakemore.
 - Investigate early childhood ASCA .
 - Discuss with Bill Alford and the schools establishing a Head Start site.

Library needed in the area – \$2.15 million to build.

- \$500,000 yearly to operate.

- Discuss space with Mayor Carter and other property owners in Lakemore.
- Establish long term approach for a new library building and sustainability plan.
- Investigate the intended use of the county-owned buildings at Edwin Shaw and also the private property that is currently vacant.
- Volunteer opportunities for youths.
 - Discuss potential with Lakemore United Methodist or other churches for recruitment.
 - Establish a community service requirement for youth attending school.
 - Develop a mentoring program for youth and adults (i.e., Kiwanis or other service organizations).

Goal 3

Investigate and create new economic development initiatives that would benefit the residents of Lakemore.

- Plaza development and the use of green space.
 - Continue to work with county planning officials to evaluate the use of green space.
- Attract new businesses to the area and employment.
 - Goodwill Industries and job development.
 - Facilitate Lakemore residents' access to job services and Joint Vocational Services.
 - Develop a business owner showcase for local businesses.
- Potential business development around the lake.
 - New partnerships among Akron, Springfield, and Lakemore.

Goal 4

Address the needs of senior residents within Lakemore on an on-going basis.

- Continue to develop the community policing for the elderly.
- Diversion program for youth that incorporates senior needs.
- Develop the availability of special Metro buses.

Goal 5

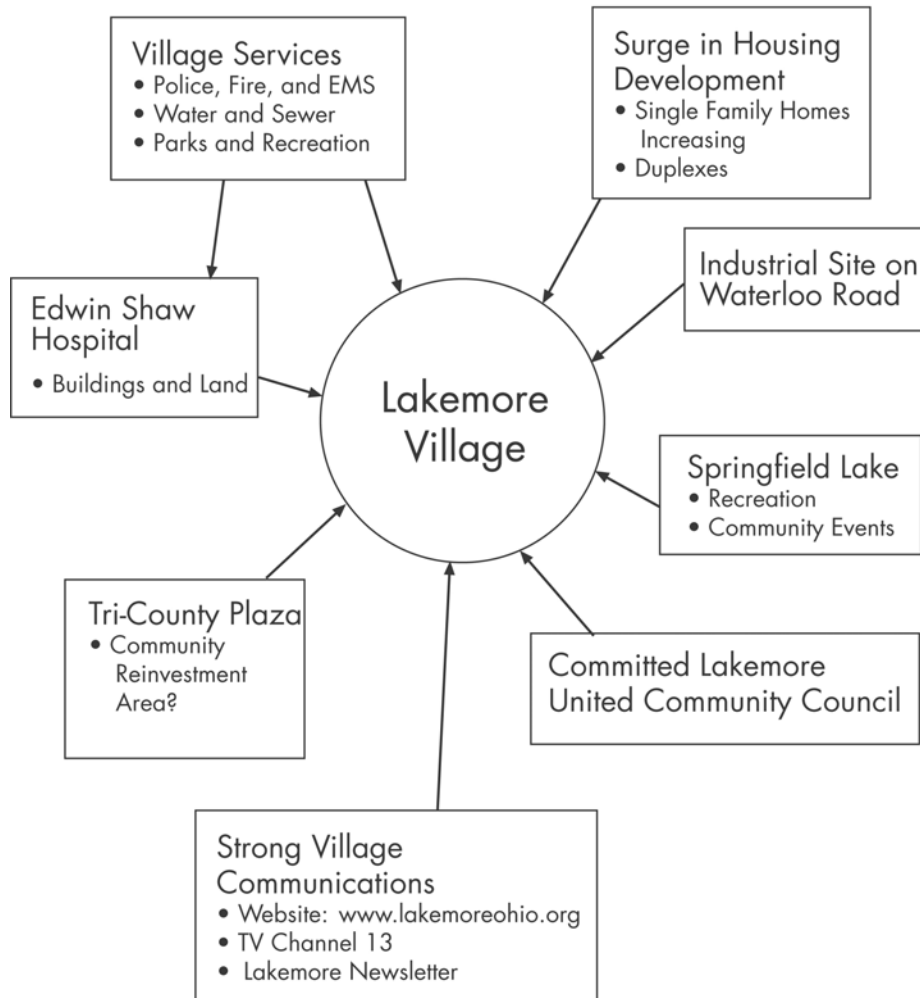
To develop the community planning and implementation capacity to carry out these goals and objectives as outlined.

- Organizational structure for continued progress towards community improvements.

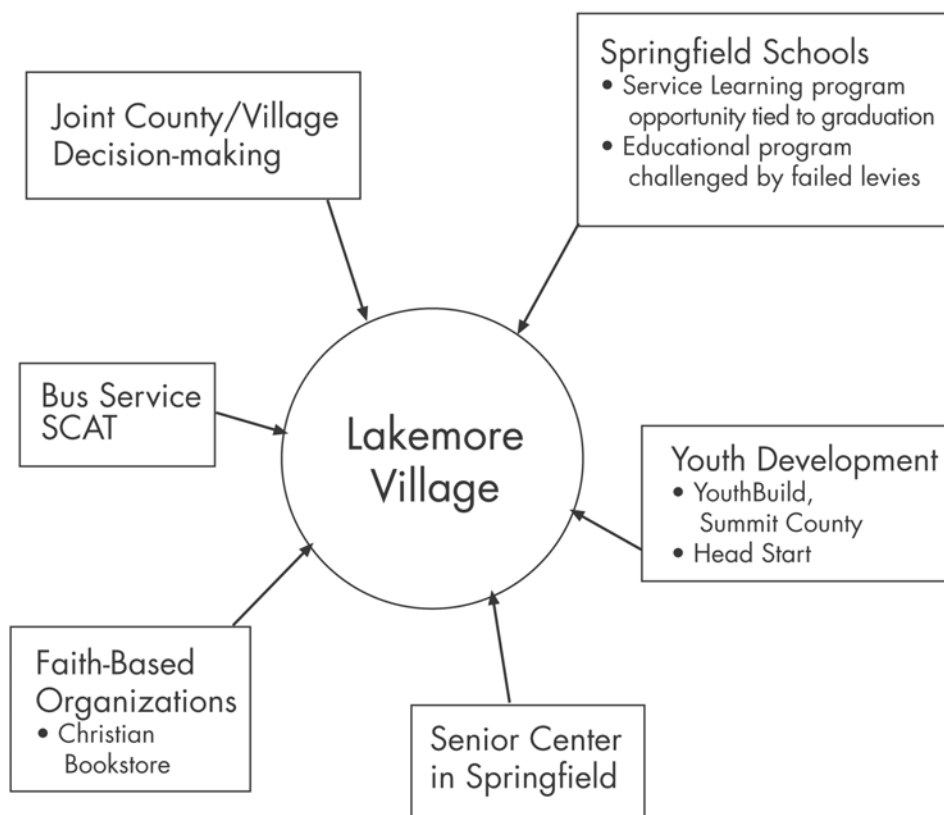
SUMMARY

From the very first meeting, the residents of Lakemore, together with service providers, could well identify the needs of the residents. Many expressed the need to overcome the negative image of Lakemore. Many remembered a time when the community had more human service programs and expressed a need to get back to those programs. The changing family structure and the lack of employment has many of the residents in need of social services. However, it also was quickly revealed that there are many services that do exist within the Village. (For a small village, they have many public services that can assist residents.) This group is committed to continuing to better the community and work towards the goals that have been outlined.

Community Improvement Resources Inside Lakemore Village, Ohio



Community Improvement Resources Outside Lakemore Village, Ohio



APPENDIX A: NEIGHBORHOOD ROSTERS

Barberton Neighborhood Planning Participants

Joe Harrison	Barberton Health District
Ms. Mary Frances Ahern	Decker Center
Mr. Terry Avant	Barberton City Council
Ms. Mya Burroughs	NEO African American Health Network
Ms. Peggy Wiley	Barberton City Schools
Ms. Debra Parmer	NEO African American Health Network
Ms. Grace Duncan	Barberton Board of Health
Rev. Brian Cowan	Barberton Evangelical Friends Church
Mr. Tim Crawford	Summit County Executive's office
Rocky Kurchak	Center for Community Solutions
Mark A. Watson	Decker Center
Mr. Thomas Harnden	Barberton Community Foundation
Mayor Randy Hart	City of Barberton
Mr. Leon Ricks	City of Barberton
Mr. Paul Suboticki	Barberton City Council
Mr. Brian Pendleton	University of Akron
Ms. Bonnie Pitzer	Family & Children First Council
Ms. Fran Rice	Tuscora Park Health & Wellness Center
Mr. Terry Riffer	Barberton Citizens Hospital
Mr. Tim Riley	Decker Center
Mr. Walt Ritzman	Community Health Clinic
Ms. Cathie Finn, Director	Barberton Community Ministries
Ms. Julie Seeley	Summit Co. Job & Family Services
Ms. Donna Skoda	Summit Co. Health Department
Mr. Richard Wood	Barberton Citizens Hospital
Ms. Diane Touschner	Child Guidance Centers
Barbara Kirbawy	Barberton Public Library
William Judge	2nd Ward Council
Goran Debelnogich	International Institute of Akron
Mr. Leon T. Ricks	City of Barberton
Ms Erma Miller	
Ms Diane Robingate	
Mr. Glenn Miller	
Mr. Fred Maurer	3rd Ward Councilman
Marland Briggs	Charlotte Briggs
Ms Ann Goode	
Ms Martha Jamison	
Tammy Thur	
Ms Mary Sigley	
Mr. Alcee Butler, Sr.	
Mr. Scotty Snowden	
Rev. Carr	Livingstone Baptist Church
Anita Miller	
Kirt W. Conrad	Metro Regional Transit Authority
Sharon Weitzenhof	
Darrin Eaton	Green Family YMCA
Dee Williams	

Buchtel Neighborhood Planning Participants

Angelo Anderson		Gloria Rookard	Universal Nursing Service
Abe Bartley	Plisken Center	Valerie McGruder	Akron Summit Community Action Agency
Mark Bradley		Janice Mercier	UMADAOP
Darryl Brake	Community Partnership	Russell Neal Jr.	Grafitti Print Shop
David Brown	Perkins Middle School	Javan & Jessica Shaw	
Virgil Brown		Jackie Silas Butler	Caring Communities, Summit Cty
Evaughn Cagle	Urban Ounce of Prevention	Elaine Small	
Deborah Calhoun	824 Storer Ave	Glenn Nevels	Dominion East Ohio
Byron Calhoun	Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home	Eugene Norris	Mountain of the Lord Fellowship
Ethel Chambers		Yvonne Oliver	
Marcus Clark		Lisa Patterson	
Jr. & Sr. Class Officers	Buchtel High School	JC Patterson	Charisma Community Connection
Wanda Coleman		Allan Pickett	
Malcolm Costa	Akron Summit Community Action Agency	Shela Smith	
Carron Curry		Cazzell Smith	Summit County Council
Janice Davis		Effie Stewart	
Carla Davis	Summit County Library	Dawn Stiggers	Lawton Street Community Center
Mrs. Eaton		Torrie Stokes	Mustard Seed Development Center
Camielle & Curtis Eaton		Jimmy Taylor	The House of the Lord
Bill Ellis		Raymond Thomas	
Steve Evans		Darryl Truitt	NAACP Youth President
Lloyd Ford	Weed & Seed	Carrie Tucker	
John Fuller		Ashley & Tiffany Tucker	
Mammie Gardner	Kandy Kane Christian Day Care, Inc.	William Wade	
Sharea Gooden		Nabeeh Waheed	Tax Management Shelter
Cherry Gore		Shirley Washington	
Renee Greene	Akron City Council	Curtis Williams	African American Counseling Team
Michael Grimes, M.D.	Family Practice	Oscar Williams	
Peggie Holmes	Weed & Seed	Darron Wright	Success Through Economic Development
Nina Houston		Robert DeJournett	Summa Health System
Crystal Jones		Sharon Weitzenhof	
Marian Kea		Carla Sibley	Akron Public Schools
Linda Lanier	The Black Pages	Darryl Gard	
Myron Lewis	Juvenile Detention	Dorain Davis	
Mark Lewis	Urban League	Kenji Favors	
Preston Lewis		Bobbie Crawford	
Lanonya Lewis	Children's Hospital Medical Center	Willie Iverson	
Tanya Lundy		Shawn Morris	
Autley McGill	Summit Lake Community Ctr.	Tammy Skipper	Fair Housing Contact Services
Todd Reddin		Judy Hill	Akron Public Schools
Deanna Rice	Betpin & Assoc.		

Lakemore Neighborhood Planning Participants

Jerry Sanner	Lakemore United Community Council
Virginia Felder	Akron Summit Community Action
Kirt W. Conrad	Director of Planning and Development
Bill Bookman	Lakemore Village
Roy Smith	Lakemore Village
Walter Ross	Lakemore Council
Gwynn Davis	Lakemore United Community Council
Darrin Eaton	Associate Executive Director
Mr.and Mrs. Carl Carter	Youth Athletics
Ms. Julie Miller	Senior Center
Mr. Dawson Wise	Lakemore PD Youth Officer Juv. Court
Mrs. Bonnie Pitzer	FCFC/Summit County Health Department
Mrs. Cathy Ceccio	Chief Executive Officer/Edwin Shaw Hospital
Ms. Tammy Taubert	Girl Scouts of America
Mr. Chris Walls	Boy Scouts of America
David Carter	Lakemore Mayor
Todd Kutzers	Summit County Children Services Board
Administrative Council	Lakemore Methodist Church
Community Baptist	2783 Ithaca Avenue
Chuck Sincere	Lakemore Elementary
Cynthia Frola	Springfield High School
Nina Handhold	PTA
William Alford	Akron Summit Community Action
Gary Schifeld	ADM Board
Rev. Jeff Gindlesberger	Lakemore United Methodist Church
Karla Schackelford	Springfield/Library Project
Mary Lou Dodson	Springfield School Board
Ann M. Phillips	Curriculum Director- Springfield Local Schools
Scott Taylor	Firestone Park YMCA
Charles W. Ross	
Ronald & Grace Joseph	
Larry Kovach	
Janet Morris	
Rich Kisel	
Charles A. Carr	
Tom & Debbie Parrish	
Ellen Decker	
Sharon Weitzenhof	

APPENDIX B: NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ASSET MAPS: