

St. Leo the Great Parish

January 2019 Newsletter



Great Things Happen

When Communities Work Together

After eight months of conversations, residents of five Beekman Avenue Corridor neighborhoods came together to decide their most important community priorities. Recognizing that there is power in numbers, neighbors of South Cumminsville, Millvale, English Woods, North Fairmount and South Fairmount have decided they are stronger together and want to tackle issues that are too big to fix on their own.

At the request of neighborhood leaders, Working in Neighborhoods (WIN) began listening sessions last January and sat down individually with over 100 residents from the neighborhoods to hear their concerns.

Residents told powerful stories of home values being so low that they can't get a loan to repair their houses. Others said they felt that police don't come when they are called unless there is a tragedy. Some talked about the dumping and trash that clogs streets, is dangerous, and creates eyesores. Still others worried about safety in parks and streets.

Mothers said they were worried about living in a food desert and the hardship of getting healthy food when there are no grocery stores nearby. They're grateful for the help available through St. Leo's food Pantry and healthy food they get there but would really like to have grocery store in the neighborhood.

Throughout October and November, residents from each neighborhood spent time knocking on doors and calling their neighbors to gather their concerns and tell them about this new coalition.

This work culminated in a historic meeting on December 6th with 50 residents present to vote for their neighborhood priorities. The three winners were: Housing, Lack of Investment, and Dumping & Trash.

A committee of residents will form around each of the three issues and meet in January to develop a strategy to achieve their goals. Each committee will conduct research and talk with experts to make their plans and will report back to the group at an assembly in April.

St. Leo's supports this endeavor, is excited to be a part of this initiative and is encouraging parishioners to get involved on the committees.

If you are a member of the Beekman Corridor community and would like to join a committee, contact Greer Aeschbury at 541-4109 ext. 101 or at g.aeschbury@wincincy.org.

