Achieving the Promise

Poverty, Promise, and Possibility
COMMUNITY FORUM
Thursday, March 3, 2011
Woodlawn Children’s Promise Community: A Brief History

- Initiated in 2009 by Bishop Brazier through NCP Quality of Life Planning
- Cradle-to-Career continuum of supports via:
  - Expanded and realigned supports for youth and families in school and out
  - Rigorous instruction in Woodlawn’s schools
  - Community engagement
- Key partners:
  - Apostolic Church of God
  - University of Chicago
  - DLA Piper and Associates
  - Chicago Public Schools
- More than $2 million raised to date
Intro to Woodlawn
Woodlawn
Demographics

Family Structure
- A multi-system family (MSF) is one that has two or more of the following:
  - Foster care
  - Substance abuse treatment
  - Mental health service
  - Juvenile incarceration
  - Adult incarceration
- Chicago: 23% of all children live in MSFs
- Woodlawn: 32% of all children, ranging from 15% to 62%
- Over 20% of all births in Woodlawn are to teenage mothers, compared to 13.5% in the city

Health
- Infant mortality is twice as high in Woodlawn as in the city: 19.8 deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births in Woodlawn versus 8.4 for the city

Housing
- Over 80% of Woodlawn housing is rented, nearly half of these rentals are subsidized, affordable units
Woodlawn School Demographics

- Nine public elementary schools; UCW Charter High School
- Approximately, 7,000 in school, 0-18; 2,400 pre-school
- Percentage of low income students is over 94%
- A third of Woodlawn children live in “deep poverty” (less than half the Federal poverty standard)
- High levels of youth exposure to crime and violence
- 2007-08: 7 of 9 elementaries had ISAT “Exceeds” at or below 4%
- Student Population: 97.9 – 100% African American

WCPC Schools

Carnegie, Dulles, Dumas, Fermi, Fiske, Sexton, Till, Wadsworth, Woodlawn, University of Chicago Charter-Woodlawn Campus
Tiers of Development

Promise Child
- Youth Development

Promise Educator
- School Development

Promise Family
- Community Development
The Promise Child: Youth Development

The Promise Children are envisioned as individuals who:

► Will understand themselves as leaders, as social activists and community advocates
► Should be problem-solvers, possessed with competence in mathematics and literacy, at minimum, and responsible fluency in technology
► Will show unfailing courtesy and support for the people around them
► Will understand and appreciate diversity in both local and national contexts
► Are positioned for success in college, career and society
The Promise Child: Program Example

- [http://mindonline.uchicago.edu/media/ssa/wcpz/rough_4_768k.mov](http://mindonline.uchicago.edu/media/ssa/wcpz/rough_4_768k.mov)
- Promising Young Leaders and Readers
  - Developmental reading program
  - Began as a tutoring program with focus on adult tutors/readers
  - Older students (6\textsuperscript{th}-8\textsuperscript{th}) read to/with younger students (K-3\textsuperscript{rd})
  - 90 minutes, twice weekly
  - Youth trained in interactive read aloud, why reading aloud is important, guided reading, proficiency…fun!
  - Older youth provided leadership opportunities
  - Tracking STEP or DIBEL data
The Promise Educator: School Development

CCSR Five Essential Supports

1. Leadership Acting as a Catalyst For Change
2. Parent Community Ties
3. Professional Capacity
4. Student Centered Learning Climate
5. Ambitious Instruction

Core Organizational Elements

Test Score Growth
Promise Family: Community Development

- Family and Community Engagement Strategy
  - Parent-Community Organizing
    - 2 Parent Organizers
    - Safety patrols, community-wide event planning and support, council of churches, youth transportation…
  - Intra and Inter School-level Parent/Family Involvement
    - Community School Coordinators
    - Family Literacy Nights
  - Parent Leadership Initiative
    - Family Engagement Coordinators
    - Parent Leaders
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Contact Info

- Woodlawn Children’s Promise Community
  6320 S. Dorchester Avenue, Room FC-100
  Chicago, IL 60637
  773-256-6940

- Charles Payne, Interim Executive Director
  cmpayne@uchicago.edu

- Sam Dyson, Associate Director
  sdyson@woodlawnpromise.org