



Partners in Positive 'Choice'

*Johnson Park Center (JPC) Lead Applicant
and the City of Utica, Co-Applicant working
together in partnership for the
JPC Green Community Project*



Agenda

A new way forward

1 Why Johnson Park Center?

2 Why this neighborhood?

3 A plan for our future.

4 What we can do together.

5 How it will work.



Why Johnson Park Center?

A history of making positive change

- ✓ 20 Years in the Cornhill-Johnson Park Neighborhood.
- ✓ Has attracted more than \$10 million in investments.
- ✓ CEO and COO live in Johnson Park and work as full-time volunteers.
- ✓ Already provides award-winning services to diverse groups in a neighborhood-based model.
- ✓ JPC's Master Plan is already included in the City of Utica's Master Plan.



Why this Neighborhood?

Proposal will involve the Johnson Park-Cornhill Neighborhood

Neighborhoods in Need

- ✓ The neighborhood has been identified as "in need" by Utica Mayor Robert M. Palmieri, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., the United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties and the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition (MVHHC)
- ✓ This neighborhood holds many "hot spots" on the Utica Police Department's (UPD) crime maps and is an area where a large amount of Part I crimes occur.
- ✓ 1-in-4 families receive Food Stamps in Utica.
- ✓ Almost 1-in-3 families live below the poverty line.

Areas to build on

- ✓ Thanks in large part to an influx of refugees, Utica's population grew from 2000 to 2010 after a sharp decline from 1990 to 2000.
- ✓ There are two community colleges, four 4-year and graduate schools, and one trade school within 25 miles.
- ✓ Utica's cost of living is well below the national average and salaries stretch a long way.
- ✓ Utica has waterways, abundant parks and green space and a large amount of Scenic and Historic sites.
- ✓ JPC has already created 33 safe and supportive housing units in the worst part of the city and has won awards and recognition for its turnaround. JPC built the area's first LEED Platinum homes.

A plan for our future

A step-by-step guide to the plan of action and innovation

1

Gut Rehabilitation of 6 homes at 1, 2-4, 14, 16, 18 Johnson Park (JP) & 201-203 Square Street to create 20 "Green LEED Certified" safe & supportive housing units for 14 chronically homeless single females & 6 chronically homeless mothers and children with special needs. Gut rehab of 623 & 616 Henry St. by Oneida Square Project to create 4 affordable housing units for college students/graduates who will be staff at JPC/OSQP.

2

"Green LEED Certified" energy upgrades to 4 homes at 15, 19 Johnson Park & 1414, 1420 West Street (WS) for 17 safe and supportive housing units for 9 chronically homeless mothers and children and 8 chronically homeless women with special needs.

3

New construction of one single family homeowner occupied home at 8 JP in partnership with Habitat for Humanity to launch a series of homeowner occupied houses for JPA Alumni. (Demolition of existing 8 JP, a vacant dilapidated building).

4

Establish education/workshops for neighborhood homeowners concerning opportunities to access green services so their homes and rental apartments can become "Green LEED Certified." Neighborhood Security & Connectivity (Broadband-WIFI) and Green Model Block Technology/Upgrades.

5

Gut Rehabilitation and Energy Upgrade "Green LEED Certified" of 5 Program Services Buildings at 5, 24 & 26 JP & 1402 & 1404 WS which serves as JPC Headquarters with offices, 4 staff units, JPA family unification units & the Family Emergency Shelter, workshops & storage facilities, exterior recreation improvements, 19 JP office renovations, supportive housing renovations & appliances.

6

New Green "LEED Certified" Multi-Purpose Non-Traditional Hours Childcare & Family Center for 111 children with 16 bed for infants, Family Counseling, Behavioral & Mental Health Services, Large Meeting/Gym-Basketball Court/Dining Area, Computer/Media Center, & STEM Education, etc... Demolition of one building once JPC becomes owner of property.

7

New "Green LEED Certified" Energy, Maintenance & Technology Center features certificate program to train a community driven workforce in green construction, maintenance & computer jobs of the future. Demolition of 1300, 1304 & 1306 WS vacant dilapidated buildings remove immense eyesores & make way for huge impact with the JPC Green Community Project.

What we can do together

What we mean by "Positive Change?"



Reduce crime and create a safe environment



→ Facilities will feature security cameras on a fiber-optic cable network to form a system that has the effect of a video cloud, covering the entire site and not just the structures.

→ A feedback loop between the partners and UPD of resource-sharing and information will be established.

→ Will work with UPD and City Codes to combat absentee landlords as well as to create a “zero tolerance” neighborhood for crime.

→ Social service aspects of the projects will address the root causes of crime in the community.

Improve Educational Outcomes



→ Area college students and professors will be encouraged to expand relationships with the community through internships and classes, as well as tutoring, mentoring and homework assistance in the Drop-In Youth Center in the areas of Science Technology Engineering and Math.

→ Work with SUNY Polytechnic Institute faculty (Dr. Joseph and Dr. Tichenor) to implement programs specific to the needs of at-risk, ADHD, Autistic, mental health disabled, children with behavioral problems, learning disabled, and ESL youth and families.

→ Expand upon programs at JPC's award winning Youth Drop Center and the new HHH Program designed to educate children and develop early childhood education.

Improve Health Outcomes throughout the lifespan



→ Providing stable, supportive housing and service coordination is a proven model, recommended by NYS's Medicaid Redesign Team.

Ensure access to safe and affordable housing



→ There have been several housing needs assessment tools made available by the HHAC and studied by the partners involved in this project and that kind of needs analysis was critical to the formation of this initiative.

→ The 'Habitat for Humanity Home' and Alumni Housing would provide opportunities for the most difficult population for our area to serve to move into non-supportive housing with the security blanket of a familiar and attentive neighborhood.

→ Providing this type of housing in a meaningful way is how JPC has received accolades, built its reputation, and transformed a formerly horrid neighborhood.

Robust Partnerships

SUNY POLYTECHNIC
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Hamilton

MVHHAC

This initiative is ambitious – but only in its scale to address the problem, not in its capacity to do so. The goals are achievable and the methods and solutions proposed are researched, tried, and have been proven effective. The potential partners involved in this have tried much of this before with success, and are asking for the resources to spread that success.

THANK YOU!

