



BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL for CHILDREN and YOUTH An Interim Report to the TCYC Social Capital Task Force December 2006

From June through September 2005, members of the TCYC Social Capital Task Force generously offered TCYC considerable advice on how TCYC should move forward in 2006 to **Build Social Capital for Children and Youth**. TCYC's work over the past twelve months has been based almost entirely on the feedback provided by members of this Task Force. As you recall, your input helped us generate the following *Guiding Principles* that ultimately shaped our 2006-2008 Strategic Goals:

If TCYC is going to make life better for Tarrant County children and youth there must be a consistent and long-term focus on:

- working with other entities to build shared social norms/values, whether that be through youth, parents, or the natural community partners that support parents & children,
- better connecting adults to young people as genuine partners in generating both shared social norms/values and sustainable community change,
- encouraging natural community partners to work independently and/or together to support parents/families and build community. These three natural community partners are: Public Education, the Faith Community and Municipal/County government,
- building sustainable neighborhood level efforts that leverage the existing resources of the three natural community partners, and,
- whatever road TCYC decides to take, funders, influencers, and the media must see our efforts as concrete, not abstract.

When reviewing our 2006-2008 Strategic Goals you will see that we have very closely adhered to these *Guiding Principles*.

2006-2008 STRATEGIC GOALS:

Building Neighborhood:

If we believe that things are not as positive for children and youth as they should be, then TCYC should concentrate on the natural community systems that could, and should, be the framework within which children and youth can flourish. It is clear that the community primary partners – Public Education, the Faith Community, and local Government – should explore more innovative strategies for ensuring that children and youth succeed.

Activities that build neighborhood:

1. Continue to expand the *Children's Neighborhood Network*
2. Continue NRH Social Capital Enrichment Zone Project: *Building Connections – Building Community*
3. Develop and/or import initiatives that enhance Tarrant County Elementary School Social Development efforts (i.e. *Dancing Classrooms*)
4. Continue the Arlington Child Care Council *Ready for School* Initiative

Youth Engagement:

After all, we are Tarrant County *Youth* Collaboration. TCYC should concentrate on bringing young people and the organizations within which they serve into a more unified effort to build social capital for children and youth.

Activities that build youth engagement:

5. Facilitate the ongoing Youth Initiatives Task Force effort
6. Develop and implement a Middle School strategic intervention pilot at Hutcheson Junior High in Arlington
7. In collaboration with faith groups, design and implement strategies that will bring youth together to focus on building their neighborhoods

2006-2008 Strategic Goals
Current Status: December 15, 2006

<u>Strategic Goals that build neighborhood:</u>	<u>Current Status:</u>
1. Continue to expand the <i>Children's Neighborhood Network</i>	Essentially building neighborhood associations focused on neighbors reaching out to families and children. First 3 pilots are up-and-running; work underway for CNN Starter Kits and Starter Teams. CNN model is being integrated into the Building Connections – Building Community effort in North Richland Hills. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=136
2. Continue NRH Social Capital Enrichment Zone Project: <i>Building Connections – Building Community</i>	Federally funded program focusing on reducing social isolation for families at risk of neglecting and/or abusing their children. BC2 is a partnership between the Faith Community, City of North Richland Hills, Birdville ISD. 25+ partners are developing and implementing various strategies to reduce social isolation for families. Model will be implemented in Arlington zip code 76104 in 2007. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=182
3. Develop and implement a Middle School strategic intervention pilot at Hutcheson Junior High in Arlington	Pilot is designed, initial funding has been received, pilot site is Hutcheson Junior High in Arlington. Partnership between Communities in Schools, Courage & Renewal North Texas, UTA College of Education and TCYC. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=167
4. Develop and/or import initiatives that enhance Tarrant County Elementary School Social Development efforts	<i>Dancing Classrooms</i> , an elementary school social development model, is being piloted this Fall 2006 in 3 FWISD and 3 HEBISD elementary schools. Partners include the two school districts, UTA College of Education, the American Ballroom Theater in New York, and TCYC. Dallas ISD will pilot 5 schools in Spring 2007. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=193
5. Continue the Arlington Child Care Council <i>Ready for School</i> Initiative	ACCC is completed the 1 st Annual School Readiness Survey, has founded a Arlington collaboration for all child care providers, created 11 essential School Readiness Skill Sets and Activities that build those skill sets. Brochures in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Partners include the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Arlington ISD, Arlington Memorial Hospital, City of Arlington, Star Telegram, UTA College of Education and TCYC. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=14
<u>Strategic Goals that build youth engagement:</u>	<u>Current Status:</u>
6. Facilitate the ongoing Youth Initiatives Task Force effort	Task Force is responsible for the Middle School project noted above. Focus is now on how to engage youth, utilizing current technologies, to become advocates for children. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=170
7. Design strategies that will bring youth together to focus on building their neighborhoods	Phase I of planning process was completed in May 2006. Representation on the planning group included youth and adults from the Bahai, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim community. Phase II will begin in January 2007. <i>For more info:</i> http://www.tcyk4kids.org/index.cfm?action=page&page=171
8. Recruit Youth to the TCYC Board	3 young people have joined the TCYC Board of Directors.



TCYC 2006 Partners
As of December 15, 2006

Education:

- Arlington ISD
- Birdville ISD
- Fort Worth ISD
- Hurst Euless Bedford ISD
- Mullendore Elementary School, BISD
- Smithfield Elementary School, BISD
- UTA College of Education
- UTA School of Social Work

Government:

- City of Arlington
- City of North Richland Hills
- City of Fort Worth
- Tarrant County
- TDFPS, Child Care Licensing
- TDFPS, Child Protective Services

Faith Community:

- Center Point Church
- First Baptist Church of Smithfield
- Richland Hills Church of Christ
- Smithfield United Methodist Church
- St. John the Apostle Catholic
- St. Philip Presbyterian Church
- Tarrant Area Community of Churches
- Tarrant County Stephen Ministry Network

Nonprofit organizations:

- All Church Home for Children
- Community Enrichment Center
- Communities In Schools
- Courage & Renewal North Texas
- Junior Achievement
- Strong Fathers/Strong Families
- TCU: Office of Extended Education
- Touchpoints Fort Worth/Tarrant County

Major Funders:

- Adeline & George McQueen Foundation
- Amon G. Carter Foundation
- Bracewell & Guiliani
- Capital One
- Chase Bank
- Crystelle Waggoner Trust
- Fit Future of Tarrant County
- Junior League of Arlington
- Martha Sue Parr Trust
- Smallwood Foundation
- Sid W. Richardson Foundation
- US Department of Justice
- Webb Maddox Trust
- Workforce Solutions

Others:

- Arlington Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals
- Arlington Chamber of Commerce
- Arlington Child Care Council
- Castlewinds Apartments, NRH
- Neglect Hurts Task Force
- Partnership For Children
- Star-Telegram
- The Trees CNN
- Two Thousand Oaks Apartments, NRH