

## **Teamwork Englewood makes a difference**

Teamwork Englewood has worked to implement two of its quality of life strategies this first quarter of 2008.

In order to address "Quality of Life" strategy #9 "initiate services to special needs population to address critical issues," Teamwork Englewood has partnered with:

- Kennedy-King College to provide tutoring and mentoring for at risk youth;
- The Safer Foundation for re-entry services for residents of the Greater Englewood Community;
- The Pastor of Englewood for transportation services for the re-entry population; and,
- Beloved Community Family Services to provide a safe haven from crimes and drugs for youth and adults in the community.

The new program, which was made possible through a grant from the Department of Justice, is called Weed and Seed. The grant is a collaboration between the Chicago Police Department and LISC, which provides Teamwork Englewood administrative support funding, and four other community based organizations.

The project is guided by a steering committee. Commander Patterson of the #7 District Chicago Police Department and Rev. Rodney C. Walker of Teamwork Englewood, serve as co-chairs.

The steering committee is made up of local residents, community stakeholders and law enforcement agency representatives from city and federal agencies.

Teamwork Englewood has also started to implement quality of life strategy #5 "Promote Healthy Lifestyles that include physical fitness, good nutrition and better use of health care resources."

To this end, we have formed a health care task force which met in December 2007 and January 2008. The task force is made up of local agencies such as Chicago Department of Public Health, St. Bernard Hospital, The Chicago Coalition to Reduce Children's Obesity, Growing Home, Illinois Child and Mental Health Coalition, The Englewood Food Network, and Agape Youth Network.

The Health Care Task Force decided to first compile all of the current data and reports on Englewood's status as a "food desert." The next step will be to implement several early action projects this spring and summer.

The following is a brief list of those planned early actions steps:

Mini-grants to build the capacity of the Englewood Food Network to increase delivery capacity to 38 local food pantries within the networks and increase food stamp advocacy.

Establish a mobile cart under food access through Mobile Food Cart Network to increase employment opportunities and fresh produce and fruit options in partnership with Growing Home and Shed Studio.

Establish a Farmers Market in partnership with Lindblum High School Student and Growing Home.

Expand physical fitness options through a partnership with CLOCC, Roberson High School, Harper High School and the Salvation Army to bring a "Hoops in the Hood" Program and jump-start several youth sports leagues with support from public and private foundations.

This story first appeared in the Teamwork Englewood newsletter.