

UNITY RECREATION PROJECT: Joliet's District 4 & 5 Spirit of Pride

RECREATION PROGRAM

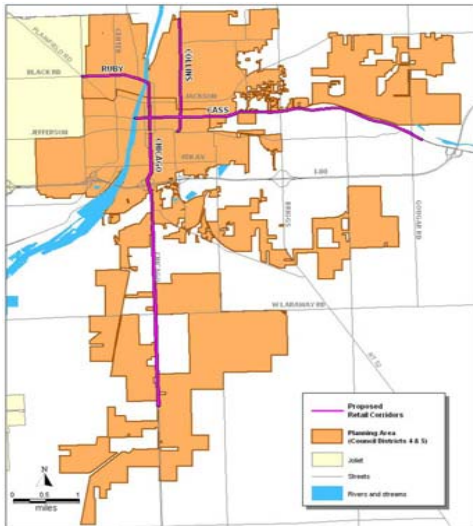


UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM



UNITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

LEAD AGENCY



To achieve implementation of the Quality of Life Plan for Joliet Council Districts 4 and 5. Unity CDC will share direct responsibility for implementing most of the proposals of the Plan, and its members will track progress on those proposals for which the Unity CDC will not have direct implementation responsibility. Unity CDC will have a range of functions and many specific tasks, but its core mission will be to serve as the organization that has the trust of the community and the backing of the City to see that the multi-faceted Quality of Life Plan is carried out.

--UCDC mission statement

Planning Task Force

More than 500 Joliet neighborhood residents, business owners, institutional leaders and youth came together in year 2006 to discuss and contribute to this quality of life plan for our community. Unity Community Development Corporation thanks all participants.

In 2006 Planning Area community leaders, eager to increase the pace of neighborhood improvement, formed the Quality of Life (QOL) Task Force. The QOL Task Force and the City of Joliet administration agreed to carry out a community-based planning process with a team of consultants in order to create a holistic plan for improving the lives of Planning Area residents. The Plan would take an integrated approach to quality of life improvements in regard to housing,

recreation, transportation, retail development, industrial development and employment, public infrastructure and land use, education, and human capital issues that encompassed health care, crime prevention, and the needs of youth and the elderly. The Plan would lay out a strategy for leveraging the Planning Area's assets to overcome its problems through a series of proposals for action, on three-year and ten-year time horizons.

UNITY RECREATION PROJECT

INTRODUCTION OF PLANNING AREA

The quality of life plan presents an action program for improving residents' quality of life in the Fourth and Fifth City Council Districts of the City of Joliet. These districts are the Planning Area for this project, and the area's boundaries are shown in the map on page 5. The Planning Area is the historic core of Joliet, and its geography and built environment reflect the city's history. The Planning Area lies along both banks of the Des Plaines River, the original artery of exploration and commerce that brought French voyagers here as early as the 17th Century and the first mills and kilns in the 1840s. From the mid 19th Century on the Rock Island Railroad, paralleling the river, provided a powerful industrial artery into Chicago and helped fuel Joliet's growth. The Planning Area contains Joliet's traditional downtown, City Hall, the Will County Seat, and a number of graceful historic buildings including Union Station, the Joliet Public Library, Joliet Township Central High School, and a number of restored commercial properties and private homes.

The Planning Area's landscape encompasses the large vacant site of the US Steel works and a district of obsolete industrial buildings and vacant industrial properties. From the 1940s to the 1970s industrial businesses with well paid labor made the Planning Area boom. Industrial salaries built the solid housing stock and vital residential neighborhoods that still make up most of the Planning Area. Beginning in the 1940s industrial jobs attracted waves of African American immigrants to the Planning Area from the Deep South. By the 1950s African Americans were becoming the predominant ethnic group in the Forest Park neighborhood in the northeast portion of the Planning Area and in the southeast neighborhoods of District Five. African Americans were also beginning to move from the factory floors to populate the professions, with the first African American doctors, attorneys, and judges practicing in Joliet.

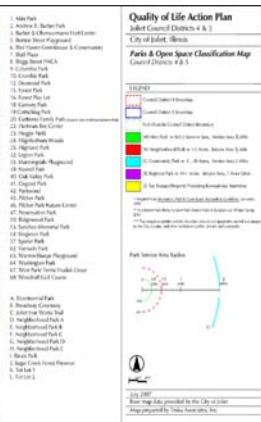
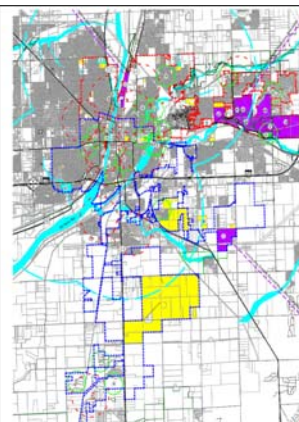
By the 1970s Latino immigrants pursuing jobs were settling east and north of Downtown. By the 1990s Latinos had become the Planning Area's fastest growing ethnic group, and Latino entrepreneurs were beginning to establish a successful new commercial district along Collins Street. By 2000 the ethnic composition of the Planning Area's population of 71,436 included: 45% non-Latino Whites, 27% African Americans, and 26% Latino residents. But in the 1970s and 1980s the contraction of heavy industry that devastated so many Midwestern American communities took a heavy toll on the Planning Area. By the mid 1980s unemployment in Joliet topped 26%. In the wake of joblessness drug addiction and crime spread in some neighborhoods of the Planning Area. At the same time, customers were beginning to abandon stores in Downtown Joliet for new shopping centers to the west. Many Joliet area residents began to regard Downtown and large parts of the Planning Area as unattractive, even dangerous places.

UNITY RECREATION PROJECT

JOLIET QUALITY OF LIFE PLAN

Since the early 1990s conditions in the Planning Area have been improving as a consequence of some favorable economic trends, determined actions by City Government, and individual and institutional decisions. The expansion of population and industrial/logistics businesses from Cook County has stimulated the Will County economy, particularly along rail and expressway routes. The location of two riverboat casinos has given the City of Joliet resources to address its redevelopment challenges.

The City has carried out an aggressive program of expansion west past the I-55 Expressway, incorporating locations for large scale commercial development and prosperous new neighborhoods, and using its expanded resources to support Downtown revitalization efforts, infrastructure improvements, and social service programs in the Planning Area. Important institutions including the University of St. Francis, Joliet Junior College, and Silver Cross Hospital decided to remain and grow in the Planning Area. Local residents including minority entrepreneurs have built successful businesses in the Planning Area. Human service and faith-based organizations have secured local support and created programs to assist Planning Area neighborhoods and residents. Capable residents have committed themselves to their neighborhoods and assumed positions of leadership in local organizations.



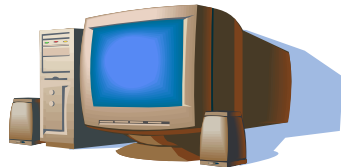
UNITY RECREATION PROJECT

VISION



Education: Improve student performance through initiatives that will build parental and community engagement in education: Improve **arts and culture** studies and

Create a community technology plan to increase the use of **technology**, with informed parental guidance, to help bridge the digital divide.



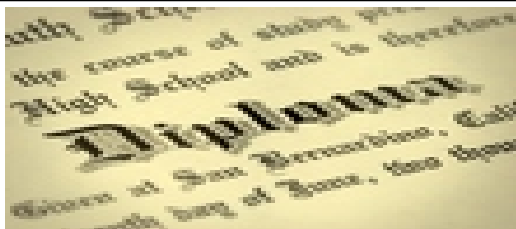
The Recreation Program will address existing and future Parks and Recreational needs for the youth in the 4th and 5th District of Joliet. The Recreational program will present the process that will be implemented to improve the recreational activities, and will address potential solutions in the area of recreational and educational needs for the youth in the Planning Area.



Tutoring classes to increase GPA, homework assistant and learning better study skills. Also to help students retain more information and to help promote college aspirations.



Working together with Park District to develop programs for the kids in the Planning Area.



College scholarship Award Program



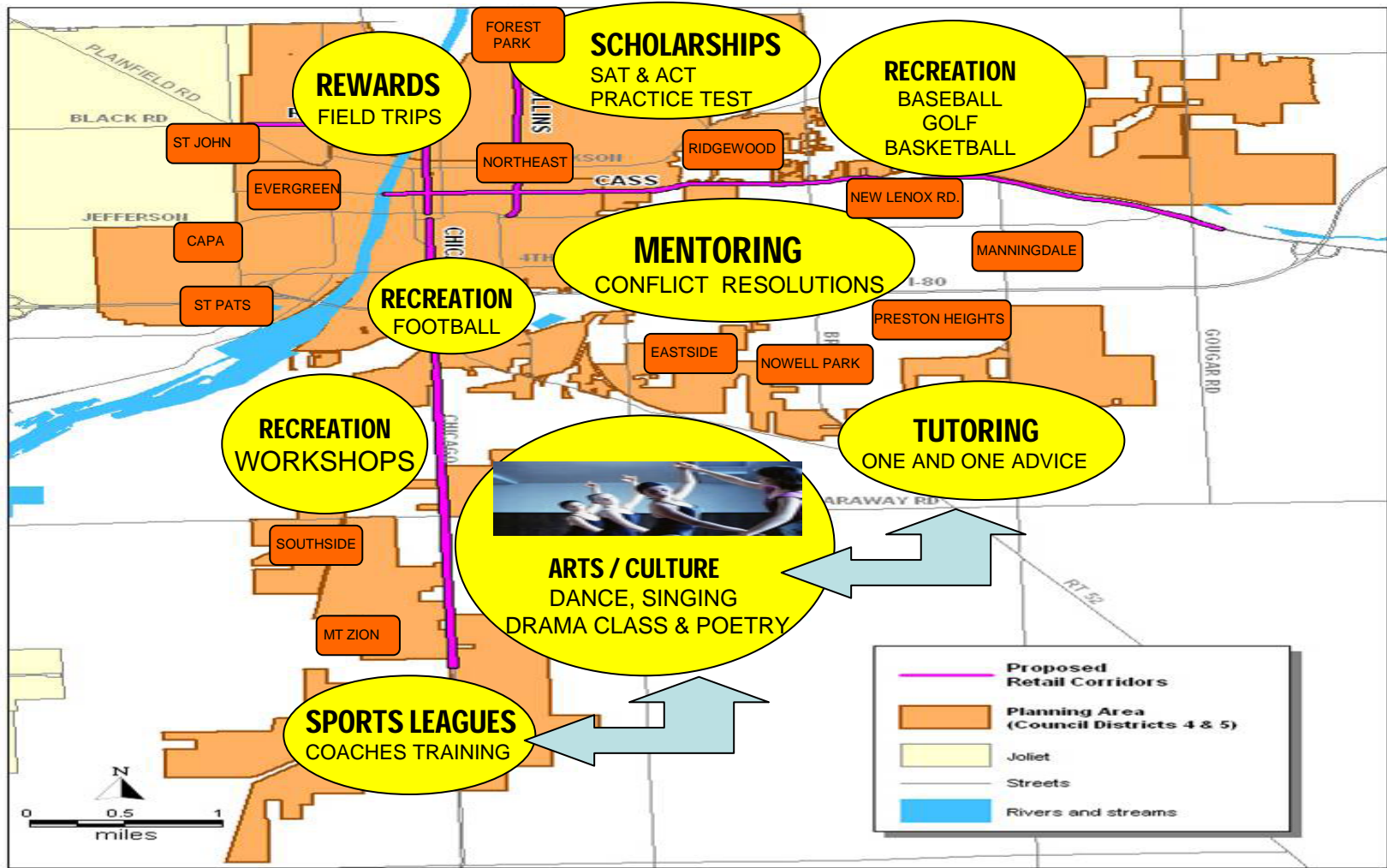
Improve recreational opportunities



Year End Award Banquet and Field Trips for Awardees.

UNITY RECREATION PROJECTS

KEY PROJECTS



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 1 Increase Community Involvement in Youth Activities

- 1.1 Development of Sports League in partnership with local Parks in Joliet
- 1.2 Establish Child Screening Process
- 1.3 Establish Child Assessment Program
- 1.4 Development of Workshops that will address the needs of each program
- 1.5 Development of Coach's Class to ensure proper fundamentals for all participants

STRATEGY 2 Introduction to Arts and Culture

- 2.1 Arts and Craft classes- will teach skills such as drawing, painting and ceramics classes
- 2.2 Dance classes- Establishment of a dance classes, including jazz, tap, ballet, and modern dance
- 2.3 Establishment of Home Economic classes- Will include courses in cooking, baking, sewing, kitchen safety and budgeting.
- 2.4 Singing/Poetry- Establish writing skills, voice lessons, music appreciation, learning of scales, and finding ones own tune.

STRATEGY 3 Mentoring and Basic Life Skills

- 3.1 Development of proper life skill and core values- These include honesty, sportsmanship, responsibility , integrity, perseverance, judgment, confidence ,respect and courtesy.
- 3.2 Presentation skills development- Including proper language usage, behavior management and stress relief
- 3.3 Conflict resolution- Including the proper way to solve disagreements, anger management, alternative courses of action and mediation skills
- 3.4 Problem Solving- Proper ways to solve a problem including identifying and selecting viable alternatives.

STRATEGY 4 Tutoring and Advising

- 4.1 Homework Help- Course work, special needs, grade improvement and test preparation.
- 4.2 One-on-one advice- regarding school issues, personal matters, special concerns, and having someone the students can talk to
- 4.3 Study Skill Improvement- Teaching study skills will improve overall school performance resulting in higher overall attendance, lower drop out rates and higher college entrance rates.

UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 5 COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

Students in the Planning Area desiring to further their education will be provided with various forms of assistance.

5.1 SAT/Act

Test preparation classes to familiarize the student with testing materials and the format.

5.2 Research colleges

Requirements for college admission and courses of study offered at the colleges.

5.3 College and University tours

Take students on tours of college campuses.

5.4 Research Scholarships

Assist students in obtaining financial support from various sources.

5.5 Completing scholarship applications

Assist students in completing scholarship applications, including essay portions.

STRATEGY 6 REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

All participating students will be rewarded based on commitment and performance.

6.1 Year End Banquet

An annual banquet will be hosted to give the students recognition for their hard work and dedication while in the program.

6.2 Certificates

All students will receive a certificate of completion.

6.3 Field Trip

Upon completion of certain programs students will take field trips to receive first hand exposure to their field of interest.

UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 1 INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Recreation Plan calls for increased community involvement and various activities for the youth of the 4th and 5th district. These include the development of a sports league, similar to the baseball league sponsored by the National Baseball Association. Also a football league that will be sponsored by the National Football League. The Golf league will be sponsored by the United States Golf Association. There will also be basketball, volleyball and soccer leagues.

This Recreation Plan deals with improving the parks of the 4th and 5th districts to better serve the youth. Such improvements will consist of installing and/or improving existing water fountains, lights, benches, play areas and walking trails.

In tandem with the development of the league will be developmental coaches classes for all coaches in this program. All coaches must be certified in coaching, First Aid and CPR in order to participate in the program. Coaches will need to understand the fundamentals of the game. Each coach will be required to develop positive means of communication with student athletes whereby profanity is prohibited. Coaches must be positive role models.

In order to better serve the students, all participants will take an initial interest survey at the onset of the program as part of the Child Screening Process.

A Student Assessment including evaluation of the students GPA, and student progress to better establish student goals, and to help improve test scores, and to assist in college planning a vocational training.

Workshops will provide hands-on experience for the participates and allows the student to re-evaluate his goals.

Some of the organizations supporting this portion of the Recreation Plan will be: *Harvey Brooks, Joliet Parks Districts, Joliet Central Field House, numerous church gyms, and the Joliet Police Department.*

After completing the program all students will receive a certificate of completion. This program will provide adult supervision of students from the hours of 3:00-7:00 PM daily. Participating in sports will build character, determination and students will learn the merits of fair play.

Parents will be required to participate in the youth activities as volunteers to promote a deeper sense of community involvement.

All parents of participating students will be required to sign an agreement to support the program.

UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 1: INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN YOUTH ACTIVITY

GOALS: The goals of the project are to instill a positive attitude within the community, the students and the parents. Also to improve the parks in the 4th and 5th districts and to become more family oriented.

Developing a strong partnership with the Joliet Police Department will promote a sense of harmony between the police department and the residents of the 4th and 5th districts of Joliet

All participants will understand the value of fair-play, competitiveness and perseverance and dedication. These ideals will transcend other areas of their development.

Ultimately building character and enhancing and equipping them will with the proper tools to be successful in life.

BUDGET:

Improve 4 th and 5 th District Parks	\$50,000
Nowell Park Improvement Plan	15,000
Upgrade Varnado & other Parks	15,000
Sports Equipment	<u>50,000</u>
Total Budget for Strategy 1	\$130,000



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 2: INTRODUCTION TO THE APPRECIATION OF ARTS AND CULTURE

The Recreational Plan calls for increased community involvement and activities for the youth of the 4th and 5th district through the exposure to Arts & Culture. The purpose of the Arts & Culture projects will be to empower the youths in the 4th and 5th District by developing some fundamentals and an appreciation of the Arts. This portion of the Recreation Plan will develop a sense of self worth and creativity that will transcend into other areas of their personal development.

Arts & Culture classes will provide the youth with the opportunity for a hands on experiences including drawing, painting, sewing, knitting and ceramic classes. These classes will impart on the youth an appreciation of the time, energy and creativity necessary to complete a project.

The Dance Classes will highlight creativity, movement, balance and coordination through participation in jazz, ballet, tap & modern and country line dances. These classes will be taught by professional instructors. Students will also be exposed to a Home Economic class such as cooking, shopping for ingredients, budgeting, food preparation, baking and most importantly safety in the kitchen.

Singing and Poetry will also be available. Classes will include song writing, voice lessons, group performance and music preparations. Students will have the opportunity to speak in front of an audience, present poetry, and practice voice projection.

All students will have an opportunity to participate in an annual year end presentation to showcase and/or demonstrate projects that were learned and abilities that were enhanced.

Some of the organizations supporting this portion of the recreation plan will be; *Harvey Brooks, National Hook-Up of Black Women Inc , Retired Teachers, Big Sisters, Eastern Star, Churches, Park District and College Students.*

UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Goals: Students in the Arts & Culture classes will receive a certification of completion. They will also develop and have a better understanding for the appreciation of art and culture. As a result of these classes, it is hoped that students may be inspired to pursue a profession in these areas.

At the completion of the Art & Culture project there will be a year end Fashion Show to demonstrate and showcase their works to the entire city of Joliet. The musical department will have a year end recital demonstrating their personal and group accomplishments while in the program.

Last but not least, there will be a stage production performed by the drama department that will highlight their acting and speaking stage persona.

All art projects completed by the students will be displayed in city hall, county building, churches and schools.

BUDGET:

Instructors Fee	\$20,000
Supplies and materials	\$20,000
Facility Use	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total Budget for Strategy 2	<u>\$40,500</u>



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 3 Mentoring

The Recreation Plan calls for mentoring for the youth involved in all recreational activities in the 4th and 5th districts. The mentoring program will be in conjunction with all recreational program.

During this facet of the program all individuals involved will be required to conduct themselves in a professional manner when dealing with the youth and parents. All instructors will and should understand the importance of setting an example of professionalism and having a positive attitude at all times.

The student see demonstrations of proper language usage in a formal stage presentation. All instructors will also be required to assist any student with anger management and stress relief and to understand the proper way in dealing with personal anger/stress using positive reinforcement.

The Recreation Plan will demonstrate the correct way for conflict resolution to assist in positive courses of action to solve disagreement and the proper course of action required to defuse a negative situation. Students will interact in group settings to establish the proper manner for decision making within a positive environment. This will be useful not only for this program but will help assist students develop positive life-changing decision making skills.

Organizations supporting this portion of the recreational plan will be: *National Hook-Up Black Women, 100 Black Men, Joliet Police Dept, local social services agency, present and former teachers, local minister, motivational speakers and local politicians.*

At the completion of this program all students will have a better understanding of the proper way of positive decision making skills, conflict resolutions, personal discipline, respectfulness of others but most importantly, students will be prepared for employment and the real world environment.

UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 3- MENTORING

The goal of this project is to instill a positive relationship within the community, students and parents.

To develop a stronger and better family relationship and improve skills related to personal conflict resolutions. This program will provide the tools for building life setting goals, dealing with conflict, anger and stress management and development of life goals.

Upon the successful completion of this program all students will be expected to understand the importance of improved decision making skills at it relates to education issues including increased attendance in school.

BUDGET

INSTRUCTOR FEE \$10,000

Total Budget for strategy 3

\$10,000



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 4- TUTORING

The Recreation Plan involves providing assistance to all students that are or associated with any program or organization in the 4th and 5th districts of Joliet desiring to further their education. This strategy is very critical to the personal advancement of all youth desiring to not only excel in sport and arts, but also in the classroom.

This strategy will deal with improving grade scores, grade point average and improving test scores of all participants.

Last, but not least there will also be a portion of the tutoring that will address the issue of special needs students.

The one-on-one advise portion of the program will address the issue of personal concerns that all students experience from grade school through high school graduation. This provides the youth with the opportunity to address issues that arise from school related situations. Students will also be allowed the opportunity to discuss their problems one-on-one within an environment of complete confidentiality.

The last Tutoring strategy focuses on developing better study skills. Research has shown that most youth in the United State have not been exposed to the proper techniques to study for a test or exam. This section will address the correct ways to study. Once a student grades improve this will indirectly lead to making school more enjoyable for the youth. Learning better study skills will also address how to retain information that a student has previously learned. This will also improve school grades and result in higher overall attendance rate. Last, but not least the ultimate goal will be to lower drop-out rate for the youth in the Planning Area and to improve their graduation rates.

Some organizations supporting this portion of the Recreation Plan will be: *The National Hook-Up Black Women Inc., Teachers former and present,, 100 Black Men, school counselors, college volunteers, ministers and church leaders, local businesses and staff.*

UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

STRATEGY 4- TUTORING**GOAL**

The goal of this portion is to improve grades and increase school attendance. Students should also be able to obtain higher standardized test scores. With higher grade point averages and classroom performance there will be higher college acceptance rates and a more positive outlook on life

Studies have shown that most students with higher grades will have a positive outlook on learning that will carry over to other areas of life. This will also give a student an improved sense of self worth and a positive outlook on the future.

BUDGET

Instructors	\$10,000
Materials	5,000
Facility	1,000
Field Trip/Transportation	1,000
Snacks	500
Supplies	<u>2,000</u>

Total Budget for Strategy 4 \$19,500



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Strategy 5 College Bound Program

The Recreation Plan calls for assistance to further the academic advancement of the youth in the 4th and 5th District. To assist in the funding for college tuition, books, and housing.

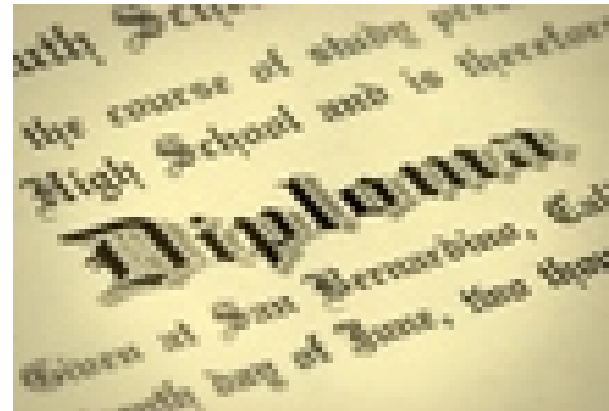
In this section, the youth that are currently attending high school will be allowed the opportunity to practice for the ACT and SAT exams to assist them in the enrolling process for the college of their choice.

The students will also receive assistance in researching colleges. This research will give the students a better understanding of the admissions policies of all colleges. The students will also be allowed the opportunity to research different colleges and to become more aware of the different types of colleges available.

Students will also be allowed the opportunity to visit the colleges they are interested in attending, in order to have first hand exposure to college life, the town, the dormitories and the college atmosphere.

Students will be given assistance with researching colleges and will also receive assistance in the scholarship application process.

Organizations supporting this portion of the Recreation/educational plan will be: Joliet Junior College, Lewis University, University of St. Francis, JACOB, The National Hook-Up of Black Women, 100 Black Men and NAACP.



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Strategy 5 College Bound Program

The goal of the program is to help increase awareness of the requirements for college admittance as well as the financial responsibilities.

Another goal for this program will be to obtain better scores on college admissions exams and have a wider range of selection when it comes to deciding which college to attend.

Students will also be monitored during the application process and will be exposed, during college tours, to first hand experience in the many challenges of attending college.

Another goal of this program will be an acceptance rate of 80% of the students in the program for the enrollment into college.

The last, and most important goal of all, will be to increase the graduation rate of the students in Districts 4 and 5.

Budget:

Instructors Fee \$15,000

Materials \$ 3,000

Tours \$ 3,000

Total Budget: \$ 21,000



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Strategy 6 Rewards and Recognition

The Recreation Plan calls for an annual banquet to recognize all the outstanding efforts of the participating youth. Instructors and volunteers that helped this program be a success will also be recognized.

The goal of this strategy will be to support a positive attitude toward learning and life, to increase high school employment, and student recognition for achievement.

Input:

Community Business Leader

Churches

School Teacher

Mayor of Joliet

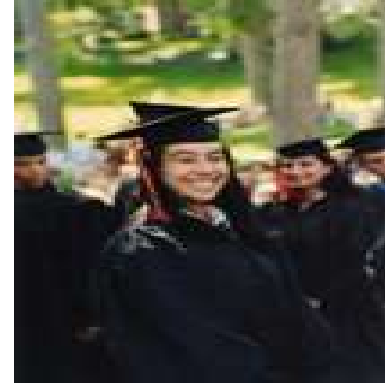
Unity Staff

Budget:

Banquet \$14,000

Certificates \$ 2,000

Total Budget: \$ 16,000



UNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

BUDGET

- ***RECREATION BUDGET 2009***
- **STRATEGY 1** **\$130,000**
- **STRATEGY 2** **\$ 40,500**
- **STRATEGY 3** **\$ 10,000**
- **STRATEGY 4** **\$ 19,500**
- **STRATEGY 5** **\$ 21,000**
- **STRATEGY 6** **\$ 16,000**
- **TOTAL BUGDGET FOR RECREATION PROJECTS** **\$237,000.00**