

# Stakeholder Group Summit Outcomes and Plans

## Faith-Based Stakeholder Group

Kevin Harrison, Stakeholder Leader

### Pre-Summit Stakeholder Group Assumption Targets and Proposed Activities

Will address assumptions 1–8

- Coordinate parental training programs of churches with respective schools
- Develop a “Leg-Up” summer enrichment camp program
- Develop service opportunities for students, parents, and the community

#### Summit Report in Brief

Who attended?

*Attendees included various clergy members and educational professionals from McLennan County. In all, 32 people were in attendance.*

What the stakeholder group considered

*We considered the role of the church in disseminating information as it has very targeted audiences. We also discussed how there is an abundance of activities relating to the assumptions that are provided within the purview of the church, but that little is known about them by the larger community. We also considered many ways in which the faith-based community can extend its reach by both youth and adult groups.*

What will be our success?

*We believe that success can be measured by increased family participation in activities, an increased rate of those attending postsecondary education, an increase in participation in after-school programs, improved living conditions for all, and unity within the ministerial community of Waco.*

#### Discussion

The Faith-Based Stakeholder Group considered a large array of initiatives, generating ideas around issues of families and what they need in order to prosper. Parent training programs in which the whole family participates, addressing the needs of working parents, confronting issues of single-parent homes, and assisting with life-coping skills were among the topics.

The group recognized its importance in teaching good character and a system of values that extend into school success. It discussed the role of the faith-based community in mentorship programs and ones that pair adults with students as role models.

The group discussed specific programs with examples as follows:

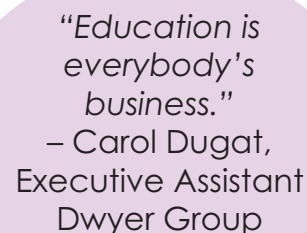
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## *Summer Enrichment Camps*

The camps would build on existing programs and create new opportunities. Ideas to expand camps include special training for parents, partnerships among existing programs to enrich the experiences, seeking additional volunteer participation and other resources beyond each church's reach, and consideration of extending summer programs into the school year.

## *Service Opportunities*

While there are many service opportunities in Waco, many could be expanded with the coordinated addition of volunteers. Cooperation among groups that have adopted various projects could enlarge the pool of people and resources. A review of service opportunities may lead to new ideas concerning tying the project to educational goals. And the faith-based community could organize to seek volunteers for some of the projects being considered by other stakeholder groups.



*"Education is everybody's business."*  
– Carol Dugat,  
Executive Assistant  
Dwyer Group

## *Resources List*

The group discussed how it could participate in a community resources guide for parents, students, and other organizations. With a breadth and depth of current programs and services, the list would both display the richness of current efforts and give parents and students a very valuable tool for seeking assistance when it is needed.

## **First-Year Action Items and Assumption Targets**

- Plan and implement two parental workshops (one in a local church and one in a school) to help better equip parents with training in the basics of parenting.
- Hold quarterly worship meetings where all churches and religious entities come together to build relationships and provide a united front. An education focus would be maintained throughout all of the service opportunities.
- Work with local schools, parents, and religious organizations to provide two service opportunities in 2009 (one in the spring and one in the fall).
- Plan and implement the first "Leg Up" summer enrichment camp in targeted neighborhoods where there is a large population base of children in need. Host these camps in neighborhood churches and work with local schools to provide educational and personnel resources.
- Positive reinforcement nights called "Parents Night Out" where parents can drop off their children in a safe location and have time to themselves, as a reward for participation in parental training.

## **Long-Range Proposals**

- Provide a network of parental resources online, including training videos and audio resources that would utilize Internet "streaming" technology
- Major yearly family gathering offered working with the schools and city to connect thousands of people in one venue
- Four annual service projects with local schools, parents, and churches on multi-campus locations
- "Leg Up" summer camps that will be implemented in four targeted areas of the city every year

## **Other Ideas Being Considered**

- Scholarships from faith-based institutions for students who are actively engaged in community involvement
- Faith-based leaders volunteering in the local schools one day per school semester to serve as needed
- Faith-based leaders establishing mentor programs in their own houses of worship where families would mentor other families in need of training