



PERFORMANCE REPORT

August 23, 2010



Mid-America Regional Council
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www.marc.org

Executive Summary • August 23, 2010



The Green Impact Zone serves as a model of how an urban community can be transformed through intense and comprehensive coordination of programs and resources. The targeting of resources into the Green Impact Zone is dependent on the successful application for and receipt of competitive federal funds, primarily from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

- Activity continues at a fast pace in the Green Impact Zone, with a strong focus in the last 45 days on energy efficiency and youth programs.
- The zone's highly acclaimed NEXUS of Excellence program for teens 13-18 years old ended with a celebration event on July 30. Sixteen participants learned about green jobs, leadership skills, community engagement and much more. In the event program (attached) the students talk about what the program meant to them.
- More young people are learning valuable skills as paid interns through the Green Ways to Green Careers initiative, part of a statewide summer jobs program announced in June by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II. Some of the interns are working at the Green Impact Zone office, helping with neighborhood organization and community outreach efforts.
- Energy efficiency improvements are a key part of the overall strategy to transform the Green Impact Zone into a thriving, sustainable community. While Kansas City Power & Light and its partners move forward with the Smart Grid demonstration project, which will bring improvements to the electrical infrastructure in the zone, two other programs are getting underway:
 - The Green Impact Zone Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program will kick off in September, with plans to weatherize more than 650 homes in the next 20 months. A contractor has been selected and a senior project coordinator hired to lead the effort.
 - Energy Works KC, a companion effort to help homeowners, landlords and business owners who do not qualify for the low-income program get weatherization assistance, is moving forward with hiring staff and plans to launch a marketing campaign.
- Since the kickoff of the Green Impact Zone initiative last September, attended by White House staff and cabinet officials, the Green Impact Zone has garnered national attention, in Washington, D.C., and across the nation. Last month, the zone hosted EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, who toured the area and met with local leaders and staff. Jackson's visit followed on the heels of a brief stop in Kansas City by President Barack Obama, who called attention to the Green Impact Zone in a speech at Smith Electric.
- Next month will mark the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Green Impact Zone office. Our next report will summarize the full year's activities.

Progress Report: Outreach

Scope of Services:

MARC will work with neighborhood organizations to develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood outreach program helping residents of the Green Impact Zone access programs and services. The outreach program will include:

- » *Hiring and deployment of outreach workers into the zone.*
- » *Establishment and staffing of a community center in the zone.*
- » *Establishment and implementation of an extensive engagement and marketing program to reach every resident of the zone.*
- » *Implementation of a neighborhood leadership training program in the zone.*
- » *Establishment and operation of neighborhood improvement crews within the zone to develop beginning job skills and practices for young adults and to do exterior work to homes and public properties.*

NEXUS youth program

Sixteen young people ages 13–18 participated in the Green Impact Zone’s NEXUS youth initiative, an intensive, seven-week enrichment program designed to encourage entrepreneurship in the fields of energy and the environment. The young people met at the Pioneer campus of the Metropolitan Community Colleges. MCC donated classroom space and access to a technology lab.

In addition to classroom training and presentations, the program included several “exposure” field trips, including visits to local urban farms, power plants, water-treatment facilities, money museums, and an environmental justice program. Several of the older



teens also participated in the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Foundation Conference in St. Louis, while younger teens visited the Wildwood Outdoor Education Center near La Cygne, Kan. The students put their new knowledge into action by developing business plans for entrepreneurial endeavors. They also earned community service hours toward high school graduation.

Two youth coordinators — David Bryant, lead youth coordinator, and Veronica Maull-Turner, assistant youth coordinator — were hired to lead the project. Maull-Turner is a resident of the Manheim neighborhood in the Green Impact Zone. The program culminated in a celebration event at the Green Impact Zone offices on July 30. (See attached program booklet.)

Urban Homes Tour



About 40 residents participated in an Urban Homes Tour on Saturday, July 24, sponsored by the Green Impact Zone and the Housing Authority of Kansas City, Mo. The event included bus tours of six homes for sale in the zone, as well as workshops that covered homebuying basics such as finding the right home, finding the right financing and rehabbing older homes.



**Green Impact Zone
Community Leadership
Program Graduates:**

Amos Baker

Charity Baker

Sheryl Coleman

Ida Dockery

Tanya Redmond

Sowers of Sustainability

Working in partnership with Keep Kansas City Beautiful and Bridging the Gap, the Green Impact Zone is offering classroom training and hands-on workshops for zone residents to promote the use of rain gardens to beautify neighborhoods and absorb stormwater runoff.

The summer session kicked off with orientation on Aug. 17, and a second classroom session will be held on Aug. 24. Demonstration workshops will be conducted on Aug. 28 and on a date to be determined in early October. The October workshop will involve planting a rain garden at Beacon Light Church at 48th and Paseo.

CLP Update

Last spring, more than 150 people took part in the five certificate sessions that make up the Community Leadership Program, and several participants earned certificates in all five topics. MARC's Government Training Institute recently announced its fall 2010 schedule. Courses are offered at no charge to zone residents on the UMKC campus and at the Green Impact Zone office. Space is available for residents of the Green Impact Zone and other Kansas City neighborhoods who want to build their leadership skills. More information is online at www.marc.org/clp.

Fall 2010 Schedule:

- Personal Strengths Series, UMKC, Oct. 19 and 26, Nov. 9, 16 and 23
- Facilitation Series, Green Impact zone, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25
- Relationship Building Series, UMKC, Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5 and 12; Green Impact Zone Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
- Problem Solving Series, UMKC, Sept. 23 and 30, Oct. 7, 14 and 21
- Community Building Series, to be announced, Spring 2011

Energy program outreach

In early September, Green Impact Zone ombudsmen and interns will conduct a door-to-door outreach campaign to help inform zone residents about several energy efficiency efforts underway, including the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program, EnergyWorks KC, and the Smart Grid Demonstration project.

While each initiative involves unique activities and audiences, the commonalities between the programs make a coordinated marketing and outreach effort important. Partner agencies, including the city of Kansas City, Mo., the Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City Power & Light and the Metropolitan Energy

Green Ways to Green Careers Interns

Doneisha Collins, Heritage College
Robert Dudley, Paseo Academy
Ryan Grigsby
Joseph Hamilton
Tearra Hamilton, MCC
Mariah Marshall, University Academy
Porcia Spencer, MCC
Richard Williams, Missouri Valley College
Kiara Wilson

Supervisor: Adrian Bruce

NEXUS of Excellence Participants

Liauna Carrere, Paseo Academy
Larry Combs III, ACECC
Raymond Darkis III, Foreign Language Academy
Alana Edwards, Paseo Academy
Sean Fields, Paseo Academy Graduate
Jaqual Jackson, Southwest
Tamara Jones, Penn Valley Community College
Felix Maull, Paseo Academy
Tra Shaun Maull, Paseo Academy
Ja'Kevion McLeod-McCullough, Paseo Academy
Jazmon McLeod-McCullough, Southwest Early College Campus
Khalilah Parkey, Southwest Early College Campus
HaQuan Perkins, University Academy
Aericka Randle, Paseo Middle School
Kendrel West, Imagine Renaissance Academy
RaVeonna West, ACECC

Coordinators: David Bryant, Veronica Maull

Center have formed a marketing team to work on community outreach. The team will conduct resident focus groups on Sept. 9 to help with development of key messages and delivery methods.

Neighborhood Capacity

The Green Impact Zone continues to work with neighborhood organizations to build community capacity. This month, ombudsmen and interns have helped organize and publicize upcoming community events in the Town Fork Creek and Troostwood neighborhoods.

Community Ombudsmen

Ombudsmen activities during this reporting period included:

- Planning and coordination for the NEXUS of Excellence summer youth program
- Planning and coordination for the Urban Homes Tour
- Working with Green Ways to Green Jobs summer interns on various neighborhood outreach projects
- Attending community events, including the Night out Against Crime and the Nutter Park dedication in the Ivanhoe neighborhood
- Attending neighborhood association meetings
- Meeting with Green Impact Zone partners on a wide variety of initiatives
- Helping residents with applications for weatherization, concrete work, emergency home repairs and other services
- Working with KCP&L on its energy-efficient appliance program
- Working with Ivanhoe leadership to help increase the capacity of the Rent Revitalization program and block captain program
- Participating in a "Blacks In Government" bus tour of the zone for EPA
- Attending the Community Leadership Program graduation

Progress Report: Data

Scope of Services:

MARC will subcontract with the University of Missouri–Kansas City Center for Economic Information to develop and execute the collection of data about all aspects of the zone, including a survey of housing and neighborhood conditions and the collection of operation data of programs operating in the zone.

The center will also assist MARC in analyzing the data and evaluating program accomplishments in order for mid-program course corrections to be made and the eventual merits of all programs to be judged.

Finally, the center will assist MARC in establishing an interactive Web site that zone organizations and residents can use to understand and assess their community and the programs that are operating in their community.

Common Application

The Green Impact Zone Data Committee continues to focus its efforts on development of a common application that will allow a resident or family in the zone to fill out one form to determine what assistance might be available from the wide variety of programs available to residents. The committee is collecting form questions from partners to ensure that all necessary data is captured.

The committee is also exploring the best methods to house application data securely. The University of Missouri–Kansas City is in the process of developing a web application that can be used to capture the data.

Non-Residential Survey

The UMKC Center for Economic Information has completed its windshield survey of non-residential properties in the zone, and will present the results at the next meeting of the Data Committee. The center published results of its residential survey last February, and created an interactive mapping site, <http://kc-crsv-ceiweb.kc.umkc.edu/greenimpactzone>, to showcase the results.

The non-residential survey quantifies conditions of business properties, including structures, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, landscaping, litter and more.



Green Impact Zone ombudsmen, volunteers and partner organizations help zone residents apply for needed services from a multitude of assistance programs. A common application will greatly simplify the process.

Progress Report: Administration

Scope of Services:

MARC will provide program, administrative, and financial management of the Green Impact Zone initiative, including:

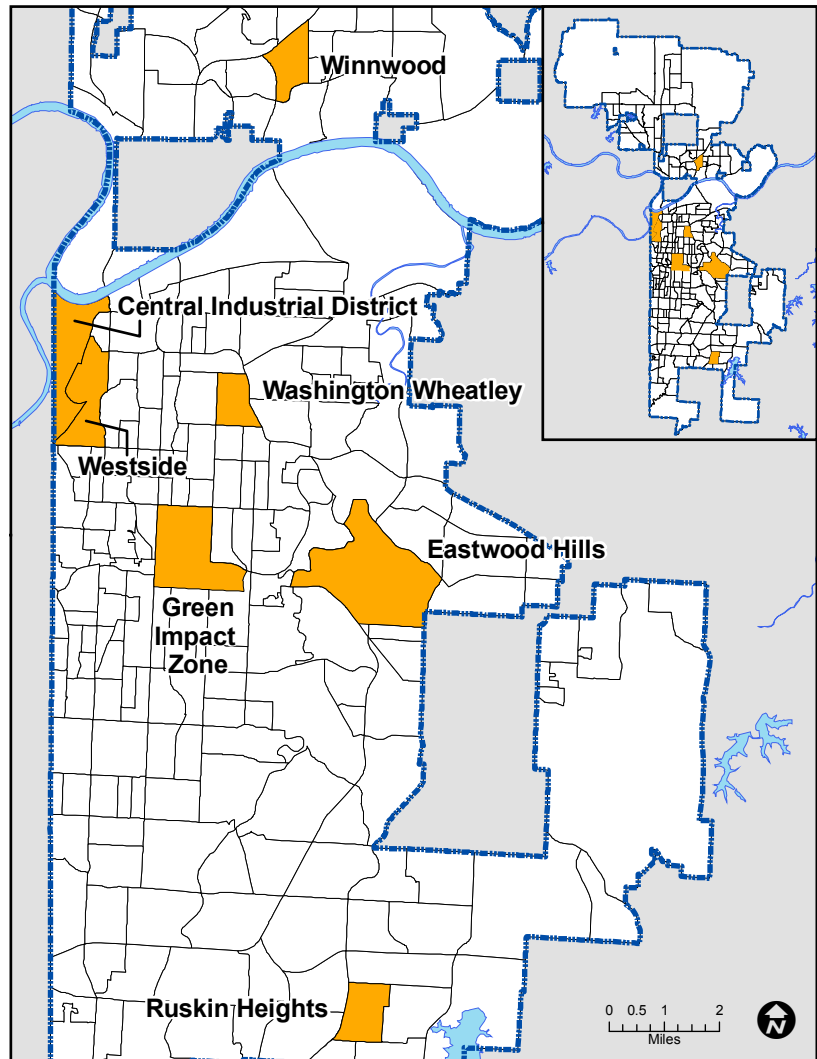
- » Financial management of this contract and other funds flowing into the zone.
- » Program coordination of activities within the zone.
- » Administrative coordination of activities under contract.
- » Grant writing and development.
- » Development of public, civic and private partnerships in support of the zone.
- » Periodic reports to the city and the public.

Administrative and Financial Management

In addition to managing the funds allocated to MARC by the city of Kansas City, Mo., for the Green Impact Zone, MARC works with area partners on other grants that will provide a significant benefit to the zone.

Energy Works KC

The EnergyWorks KC program, funded by a \$20 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, will manage a comprehensive energy audit and retrofit program in the Green Impact Zone and six other Kansas City neighborhoods: Winnwood, Sunnybrook, the Central Industrial District, Westside, Washington Wheatley, Eastwood Hills and Ruskin Heights.



**Initial Green Impact Zone
Partner Organizations:**

- » *City of Kansas City, Mo.*
- » *Full Employment Council*
- » *Kansas City Area
Transportation Authority*
- » *Kansas City Metropolitan
Crime Commission*
- » *Kansas City Power & Light*
- » *Kansas City, Mo., Police
Department*
- » *Metropolitan Community
Colleges*
- » *Metropolitan Energy Center*
- » *Mid-America Regional
Council*
- » *Missouri Gas Energy*
- » *PolicyLink*
- » *Time Warner Cable*
- » *University of Missouri–
Kansas City*
- » *U.S. Census Bureau*
- » *Habitat for Humanity*
- » *Local Investment Support
Corporation*

The goals of Energy Works KC are to:

- Reduce energy use and utility bills.
- Reduce the output of greenhouse gas emissions that damage the environment and economy.
- Create and retain jobs that support a greener Kansas City.
- Change the energy efficiency market by making demand for energy efficiency a first choice in home improvement and creating the jobs necessary to do the work.

To accomplish these goals, the program will provide a one-stop shop, run by the Metropolitan Energy Center, for all resources related to energy retrofits and weatherization. It will serve both commercial and residential building owners, particularly those who do not qualify for the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program. The program will also be the source for information on paying for weatherization improvements, whether through utility rebates, tax credits or financing.

MARC is currently conducting interviews for an energy conservation project manager and workforce development project manager for the Energy Works KC program. A public affairs specialist for energy outreach began work on Aug. 16. The city of Kansas City, Mo., is in the process of hiring a contract manager and marketing coordinator to support the program.

TIGER Grant for Transportation Infrastructure

MARC and partner agencies received a \$50 million federal stimulus grant that will fund transportation infrastructure enhancements in the Green Impact Zone of Kansas City, Mo., as well as investments in regional transit corridors in Kansas and Missouri, such as new transit centers, better pedestrian access and bus-stop improvements.

The city of Kansas City, Mo., and the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) are currently completing contract negotiations on the sub-agreements necessary to begin work in the Green Impact Zone, while MARC is working with the Federal Transit Authority on finalizing master grant agreements. The agreements are expected to be in place by mid-September, and the city hopes to begin work on streets and sidewalks later this fall.

Meanwhile, work continues on the Troost Avenue Bridge that will allow KCATA to expand its Bus Rapid Transit service into the zone with the Troost MAX bus line. MAX stations and other improvements are already underway along Troost.





Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program

MARC received a \$4.5 million grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to weatherize homes in the Green Impact Zone and the surrounding area as part of the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP). Plans call for work to begin this fall, with work to be completed at more than 650 homes during the 20-month grant period.

Homeowners in the Green Impact Zone who meet income guidelines and other criteria may be eligible for assistance with energy audits; attic, floor and ceiling insulation; sealing of air leaks around doors and windows; and maintenance or repair of furnaces, air conditioning units and/or hot water heaters.



After issuing a Request for Proposals, MARC selected Zimmer Real Estate Services to serve as a master contractor, managing client intake, energy audits, construction and inspection. Zimmer will seek minority-owned subcontractors and zone residents to do some of the construction work. Representatives of the Green Impact Zone and Zimmer recently met with members of LIUNA, the Laborers' International Union of North America, to discuss employment opportunities. According to LIUNA, 11 active union members with weatherization certification and experience currently live in the zone.

MARC also hired Michelle Martin to serve as senior project coordinator for the Green Impact Zone LIWAP, and is in the process of launching an extensive outreach campaign in the zone to encourage residents to apply for weatherization assistance. Training on client intake will begin in late August, followed by a program kickoff in September.

Partnerships

The Green Impact Zone initiative is built on strong partnerships with public, private and nonprofit enterprises. Some highlights of partner activities in this reporting period include:

Kansas City Power & Light

As part of its SmartGrid Demonstration project in the Green Impact Zone and surrounding areas, KCP&L will oversee the installation of new electric meters at homes and businesses. Green Impact Zone staff met with KCP&L and representatives of QTI, the subcontractor that will manage the meter installation. QTI is in the process of hiring installers, and plans to hire and train several zone residents to serve as installers.



Federal Partnership Group

Leaders from the regional offices of a number of federal agencies — including HUD, HHS, DOE, DOT and EPA — are making a concerted effort to build communications between their organizations. Because each of these agencies has a stake in projects currently underway in the Green Impact Zone, the group is meeting regularly with zone director Anita Maltbia to discuss work in the zone and use it to help build relationships.

Women’s Bureau

Green Impact Zone staff recently met with representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau to discuss a possible series of workshops focused on green careers and building job skills for women who live in the zone.

Business Opportunities

Staff continues to meet with a variety of private businesses that are considering locations and/or opportunities in the Green Impact Zone, such as LiliPad EV, a distributor of electric vehicle plug-in stations.

National Interest in Replication

Several metropolitan areas around the country have expressed interest in the work of the zone, including Portland and St. Louis most recently. To retain the unique identity of the Green Impact Zone brand, while openly sharing concepts and strategies, MARC is currently exploring a trademark for the Green Impact Zone name and logo.

Summary of Green Impact Zone Expenditures
(\$1.5 million contract with Kansas City, Mo.)

Category	Total Amount Budgeted	Current (July 1–Aug. 17, 2010)	Cumulative (Since Sept. 1, 2009)
Personnel costs, including salaries, fringe benefits and other indirect costs	\$632,803.00	\$79,059.68	\$632,777.15
Consultants/contractual services	\$642,000.00	\$79,796.49	\$356,818.01
Office lease, equipment and other expenses (including furnishings, computers, phone, etc.)	\$120,800.00	\$5,643.91	\$94,182.04
Other costs (including meeting expenses, printing, postage, training, supplies, etc.)	\$104,397.00	\$10,605.83	\$71,382.97
Totals	\$1,500,000.00	\$175,105.91	\$1,155,160.17

Progress Report: Participation

Scope of Services:

MARC will include information and promote neighborhood engagement/participation in various city sustainability priorities/initiatives (including solid waste recycling, energy efficiency and energy conservation, bike/pedestrian initiatives, stormwater management, green infrastructure, water conservation and transit use) and in door-to-door activities and during other Green Impact Zone education/training opportunities.

Committee and Community Meetings

The Green Impact Zone continues to host regular meetings of its Coordinating Council, Data Committee, Public Safety Committee and other committees and workgroups as needed.

Additional presentations, events and other meetings conducted and/or attended by Green Impact Zone staff included:

- Regular meetings with city staff
- July 29 — Sustainable Housing conference in Washington, D.C.; attended by Anita Maltbia
- Aug. 12 — Regional HUD-sponsored sustainable housing conference in Kansas City, Mo.; Anita Maltbia served as panelist
- Aug. 11 — Urban Land Institute Kansas City District Council meeting; presentation by Anita Maltbia
- Contractor selection interviews for Green Impact Zone LIWAP; attended by Twana Hall-Scott and Arletha Manlove
- Governor/Mayor's reception at the NAACP convention held in Kansas City; attended by Anita Maltbia and staff
- Aug. 3 — Night out Against Crime
- Project management training
- Neighborhood association meetings
- City Council meetings and redistricting hearings
- Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Foundation Caucus (attended by Arletha Manlove, Jermaine Reed and several NEXUS students)
- Congressman Cleaver's Congressional Connections for Young Professionals, attended by Jermaine Reed
- Aug. 16 — Next Steps Neighborhood Leadership Planning Session

Progress Report: Documentation

Scope of Services:

MARC will document the Green Impact Zone process, provide evaluation of all programs and activities, and work closely with neighborhood leaders, residents, Green Impact Zone Coordinating Council and program providers. In addition, MARC will develop with the community an RFP for planning services and cause to be developed a sustainable strategic plan for the Green Impact Zone.

MARC continues to document the Green Impact Zone process through printed materials, online information, and photo and video archives.

During this reporting period, MARC's documentation included:

- Status updates on the Green Impact Zone's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/greenimpactzone.
- Updates to the Green Impact Zone website, www.greenimpactzone.org. In July, the site had 1,198 visitors, with 5,835 page views. Since its launch in September 2009, the site has received 12,790 visitors, with 58,379 page views.
- Video documentation of various zone events, including the NEXUS of Excellence. A video of the NEXUS students talking about their experience is available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ritbx7ltPY>. The Metropolitan Community Colleges, a partner in the NEXUS program, produced this video. The Thompson group continues to provide video coverage of zone events, which will be incorporated into a short documentary about the zone.

Media Coverage

The Green Impact Zone continues to receive frequent coverage from local and national media outlets.

- The NEXUS youth program was reported by the Kansas City Globe, the Kansas City Call, the Independence Examiner and several other print and web news outlets.
- The Green Impact Zone was featured in a White House blog on July 9, after President Barack Obama's visit to Kansas City.
- EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's visit to the zone was covered by local newspapers and TV stations
- Green Impact Zone community ombudsman Jermaine Reed was featured in a story about the new generation of leaders published by the Kansas City Star on July 11, during the NAACP convention.

Progress Report: Resources

The Green Impact Zone vision is to develop a sustainable community; one that is environmentally, economically, and socially stronger tomorrow than it is today... using a comprehensive green strategy...coordinated programs with innovative delivery mechanisms... and intense resident engagement...to more rapidly push community change, build community capacity, and make the Green Impact Zone a place where people want to live, work, and play.

MARC and its community partners continue to seek additional grant funds to support the Green Impact Zone initiative.

Funded

No new grants were awarded in this reporting period.

Pending or in application process

- Local Investment Support Commission — \$42,750 requested to support a youth initiative and \$8,500 for the Community Policing Academy
- Direct Congressional Appropriations — \$2 million requested in upcoming federal appropriations bills
- Bank of America Foundation — Neighborhood builders grant, \$200,000 requested
- Georgia Pacific — Step One grant, \$75,000 requested
- Home Depot — “Affordable Housing Built Responsibly” \$300,000
- Creating Sustainable Communities — HUD planning grant, \$5 million requested (\$150,000 to be used in the Green Impact Zone) for sustainable housing initiatives, corridor studies, resource inventory, visualization tools, training and outreach to underserved populations.



green impact zone



Green Impact Zone Demographics:

Population.....	8,374
Black, Non-Hispanic	89%
Hispanic	2%
White, Non-Hispanic.....	7%
Other.....	2%
Single-Parent Households.....	25%
Persons in Rental Units.....	48%
Persons in Poverty.....	31%
Median Household Income	\$22,397
Per Capita Income	\$12,239

Active Neighborhood Organizations:

- Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
- Historic Manheim Park Association
- Troostwood Neighborhood Association
- 49/63 Neighborhood Association
- Blue Hills Neighborhood Association
- Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association
- Blue Hills Community Services
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- Swope Community Builders
- Brush Creek Community Partners

A large green leaf graphic is positioned to the left of the text "NEXUS OF EXCELLENCE". "NEXUS" is in a large, bold, orange sans-serif font, while "OF EXCELLENCE" is in a smaller, bold, brown sans-serif font. A thick green horizontal line is located below the text.

NEXUS OF EXCELLENCE

NEXT GENERATION
EMPowered TO SERVE
EXEMPLIFYING EXCELLENCE
USING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY

TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD

NEXUS of Excellence Summer Youth Initiative Program Celebration

Friday, July 30, 2010

5TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI
FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
GLOBAL WARMING
1ST VICE CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
REGIONAL WHP (Region 4)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Emanuel Cleaver, II

NATIONAL D.C. OFFICE
1027 Longworth House Office Building
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(202) 225-4123 (Phone)
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211 WEST Market Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202
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(317) 833-2881 (Fax)

<http://www.house.gov/Cleaver>

July 30, 2010

Mid America Regional Council
Green Impact Zone – NEXUS
4600 The Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64110

Dear NEXUS Participants:

It is my honor to congratulate you on your completion of this program. You deserve enthusiastic praise for your work in our community. Your participation in the NEXUS program is directly helping to further our vision of a sustainable and successful neighborhood. We have imagined the Green Impact Zone as a shining example of sustainable living for Kansas City and the nation to follow, and with your help that idea is becoming reality.

Without the full participation of young people, the transformation of the Green Impact Zone and our economy will not succeed. You and your peers bring new ideas, new energy, new entrepreneurial spirit, and the drive to make the world better than the one into which you were born. With the nation shifting to a green collar economy, this is an exciting time to be entering your adult years. As NEXUS participants, you have been fortunate to be exposed to some of the multitude of career possibilities that, with hard work and dedication, are wide open to you.

Thank you for your contribution to your community, and congratulations on completing the program. I look forward to hearing your ideas for the Green Impact Zone, and working with you to put them into action.

Warmest regards,

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



AGENDA

- I. Staff Welcome — Jermaine Reed
- II. Student Welcome — Jazmon McLeod-McCullough
- III. NEXUS Student Affirmation — NEXUS Youth
- IV. NEXUS Program Guiding Principles — NEXUS Youth
- V. NEXUS Rap and Student Performance — Felix Maull and Ja’Kevion McLeod-McCullough
- VI. NEXUS Group Presentations
- VII. NEXUS Video
- VIII. Remarks — Cokethea Hill and Anita Maltbia
- IX. Dismissal



green impact zone
of MISSOURI



green impact zone *of* MISSOURI



The Green Impact Zone is a 150-square-block area of the urban core of Kansas City, Mo. With help from federal stimulus funds, Green Impact Zone neighborhood leaders and other partners are working to transform the zone into a sustainable community that is stronger tomorrow — environmentally, economically and socially — than it is today.

www.greenimpactzone.org



NEXUS OF EXCELLENCE

NEXUS is the juncture where education, empowerment, entrepreneurship, and sustainability meet.

The NEXUS of Excellence summer youth initiative is an intensive seven-week enrichment program designed to encourage entrepreneurship in the fields of energy and the environment. Participating teens met each day at the Metropolitan Community College Pioneer Campus. As a result of a strategic partnership between the Green Impact Zone and MCC, classroom space and a technology lab were donated to the NEXUS program.

In addition to classroom training and guest speakers, students participated in “exposure” field trips geared towards reinforcing the concept of “green business and the green economy.” Students visited urban farms, power plants, water-treatment facilities, money museums, and an environmental justice program. Several of the older teens participated in the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus Foundation conference in St. Louis. The younger students visited Camp Wildwood, an outdoor educational facility in LaCygne, Kansas. Students were also able to earn community service hours towards high school graduation.

NEXT GENERATION
EMPOWERED TO SERVE
EXEMPLIFYING EXCELLENCE
USING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY

TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD



NEXUS staff

Jermaine Reed

Green Impact Zone Community Ombudsman
NEXUS Program Lead



Jermaine Reed is passionate about investing in our neighborhoods and communities, and about making a difference in the very community where he grew up. As a Green Impact Zone community ombudsman, Jermaine works with the Historic Manheim Park Association and Swope Community Builders. His primary focus areas are public safety and youth programming. Jermaine believes that the building blocks of a world-class city are viable, thriving neighborhoods. NEXUS students will be the next generation of community leaders.

Cokethea Hill

Green Impact Zone Community Ombudsman
NEXUS Program Co-Lead

Cokethea Hill is a native of Kansas City. As a Green Impact Zone community ombudsman she works with the Blue Hills Neighborhood Association and Blue Hills Community Services. Her primary focus areas are data and housing. As a doctoral student in educational policy, she is keenly aware that if we truly believe in education as the “great equalizer” we must be relentless in our efforts to transform disinvested communities by investing in community-based educational programs.



David Bryant

Green Impact Zone Youth Coordinator

A native of Gary, Indiana, David Bryant has lived in Kansas City since junior high school. He graduated from Central High School and was a member of the basketball team that placed third in the state championship in 1995. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Lane College in Jackson, Tenn., and is currently working towards a master's degree in higher education administration at UMKC. His passion for urban youth continues to give him the fuel to revolutionize urban education and expand student performance.



Veronica Maull

Green Impact Zone Assistant Youth Coordinator

Veronica Maull is a resident of the Green Impact Zone. Born in DeQueen, Arkansas, she has lived in Kansas City for 10 years. She holds an associate degree from Penn Valley Community College, and is currently in the KC Teach program at UMKC working towards a bachelor's degree in science and math. She has worked with the youth in the Historic Manheim Park neighborhood for several years. As the assistant youth coordinator for the NEXUS program, Veronica has enjoyed watching the transformation of students into new leaders and change agents for our neighborhoods.



“We tell our students daily that they hold the keys to the change they wish to see in their communities.”



NEXUS students



Liauna Lamonaé Carrere

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“I have become more aware about the challenges facing my community and I have become a better person because I control my attitude much better.”



Larry Charles Combs III

Age 13 | ACECC

“NEXUS has helped me learn how to recycle. I also have learned about the dangers of pollution.”



Raymond Ray Darkis III

Age 13 | Foreign Language Academy

“NEXUS camp has taught me to be a better leader and to be more responsible for my actions.”



Alana KneSchelle Maul Edwards

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“NEXUS has given me the skills to work in my community to teach children about becoming green not only by recycling, but by conserving energy and water.”

I am Powerful... I am Intelligent.. I am Responsible... I am a NEXUS Scholar!!



Sean Tyler Fields

Age 18 | Paseo Academy Graduate

“NEXUS has improved my attitude and helped me to become a leader.”



Jaqual Rose Rashida Jackson

Age 13 | Southwest

“NEXUS has helped change my attitude.”



Tamara Denise Jones

Age 18 | Penn Valley Community College

“NEXUS has made me more aware of the environmental issues, and how we can stop them. The program has also taught me how to conserve water and energy.”



Felix TraVoun Maul

Age 13 | Paseo Academy

“NEXUS has taught me that I have the power in my hands to change the community”



Tra Shaun Da'Loun Maul

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“NEXUS has helped me develop the necessary skills to become a leader instead of a follower.”



Ja'Kevion McLeod-McCullough

Age 14 | Paseo Academy

“The NEXUS youth program has taught me how my community became disinvested and that I need to help make it better. It has also made me become a stronger leader.”



Jazmon Adrie McLeod-McCullough

Age 15 | Southwest Early College Campus

“NEXUS has given me a better way of thinking about the reality of the Green Impact Zone. Also the program has assured me that I can and will be whatever and whoever I want to be.”



Khalilah Imani Parkey

Age 14 | Southwest Early College Campus

“NEXUS has helped me to learn how to recycle. I have learned how to become more comfortable speaking in front of people.”



HaQuan Sultan Khaliq Perkins

Age 17 | University Academy

“NEXUS youth group has helped me become more responsible, a better leader, and it changed my attitude towards life.”



Aericka Shannell Randle

Age 13 | Paseo Middle School

“NEXUS has helped me learn more about my community.”



Kendrel Eugene Vazquez West

Age 15 | Imagine Renaissance Academy

“NEXUS has helped me to become a stronger leader, and to be more responsible for what I have.”



RaVeonna Samantha Nicole West

Age 13 | ACECC

“Nexus has helped me channel my focus into things that will help me learn, grow, and be successful. I understand that my attitude can either help make me successful or prevent me from becoming the person I want to be in life.”



NEXUS events









**Thank you to all of our sponsors
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