FRC Partner/ Nolensville Road Task Force, May 9, 2013, 9am

**Minutes**

**9:00-9:10**- Welcome and Introduction to the FRC- Sarah Carpenter, FRC Director

* Using a fit circle, Sarah described why FRC’s and the Nolensville Road Task Force exist.
* Sarah expressed hope and goals of Nolensville Road Task Force becoming a cohesive, proactive, and positive group that promotes growth in the Nashville. We’re not in competition with each other—we’re collaborators.

**9:10-9:20**- Completion of United Way FRC Partner Survey—THANK YOU!

**9:20-10:20**- Group Discussion guided by the United Way FRC Stock Taking Questions

* What changes has this community seen? What changes will we see in the next year? What strengths/needs does this create?
  + This is a very transient community, while it was previously mostly Middle Eastern, we have seen an influx of Nepali and Burmese families.
  + By this time next year, we will have a washer/dryer for the school.
  + By this time next year we hope to have worked on:
    - Job development
    - Transportation
* Task Force Goals (things we hope to accomplish through our efforts)
  + We will have a South Nashville/Nolensville Road/Tusculum area identity. We will know who we are as a community.
  + Our community will have access to reliable and affordable transportation including private, public, and pedestrian.
  + Our community will have access to reliable, quality, and affordable childcare.
  + Our parents and families will be empowered as evidenced by:
    - Strong parenting skills
    - Leadership skills
    - Connection and access to and use of community resources
    - Strong support systems
    - Financial literacy
  + Our community will be fluent in English
  + Our community will be culturally competent, aware, educated, and engaged. Our community will celebrate and work within each unique culture represented.
  + Our community will be civically engaged
  + Non-profit and for profit agencies, individuals, and interested persons within the community will be cooperative and collaborative rather than competitive.
  + Our community will be healthy- psychologically, socially, behaviorally, and physically
* What barriers do we have in achieving these goals?
  + Lack of childcare
  + Lack of transportation
  + Lack of financial resources (both as individuals and as organizations)
  + Lack of knowledge of resources
  + Lack of general resources
  + Fear and ignorance on the part of all parties involved
  + People feel they are too busy or have low buy-in with our goals. These goals are not prioritized
  + We are often in competition with each other
  + Language/culture barriers
* Prioritized barriers:
  + Many of our families are focused on survival
  + Many of our families have English Language barriers which hinders their ability to address their survival needs.
  + Our families are not as engaged with services as they could be which hinders their ability to address their EL needs
  + Our families are not as engaged because of fear—we are all afraid because it is all so different and intimidating
* Solutions:
  + “Marketing”—put a “spot light” on our community
    - This will increase awareness of our community strengths and needs
    - May help our families feel more accepted and welcomed—let them know we prize their cultures
    - NPT/NPR, other channels/stations
  + Work with the children to get families engaged
  + Work with the children because they are the ones who will eventually run the community
* Practical “Hows”—what are we doing and what can we do more of?
  + Get more mentors and tutors by talking up the program
  + Provide food and clothes-
    - South End United Methodist Church (and other UMC’s) are providing food over the summer for families here and at Binkley.
    - You can donate clothes to ThriftSmart or to the FRC. Clothes donated to the FRC are given away as parents come asking for them.
  + ESL Classes—are already offered at ThriftSmart, the FRC, NICE, and many other places.
  + Cultural Awareness—Coffee and Culture Events
  + YMCA is already working with Kurdish/Latino/Black/Etc Achievers
  + Kyle and ThriftSmart are piloting the Nashville Neighbor Project which is a system that connects specific needs with churches
  + Pam will connect Kyle with MDHA
  + Luisa Hough is providing parent support groups with the FRC
  + We will have a free counselor over the summer through Luisa Hough
  + John Stayskal, Lipscomb, and the FRC are working to start a community based soccer league to reach out to the children and (hopefully) engage the parents
    - Idea: provide food and have the counselor at the games/practices to engage the parents in an informal and social setting
  + Sarah will go to the homes with the translators next year
  + Anne Marie has found us a washer and dryer; Becky and Sarah will consult Dr. McMahan about where to put it; Ron will help Anne Marie transport it.
  + We will all go back to our own groups, friends, family, co-workers, etc. and spread the word of this work. Invite others to the meetings.
    - Sarah can come and present for any group
  + Email Sarah with other ideas, needs, and resources. She will communicate those to Kyle.
  + Sarah and Kyle (and others) will compile known resources—Sarah in a translated handout for parents and Kyle for the NNP system
* What data would be most helpful in our planning?
  + The school’s School Improvement Plan (SIP)
  + Data from Mayoral Plan; What are the mayor’s goals
  + Demographic Breakup of the School
  + Community Needs Evaluation
  + Names of current community partners so that we can patronize them.

**10:20-10:30**- Review of needs and responsibilities for summer; Next meeting: August 22nd, 9am. Do we need a new location? Does anyone have a bigger space?

* The FRC is closed over the summer, so the next meeting will be in August. We can decide how often to meet at that point. United Way requires at least once per quarter.
* Multiple spaces have been offered for the next meeting if needed. Please be sure to RSVP so we can know if we need a bigger space.
* Don’t forget to TALK US UP!!! We are our own best asset
* If you can help with the Newcomers Birthday Party, that will be May 23rd.
* We need volunteers for the first two weeks of school to help the kindergarten and newcomer’s classes settle in. Background Checks required.