Revitalizing Neighborhoods Through Collaboration
Panelists

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Brewster Elementary

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Lester Community Center

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Junior League of Memphis

Stephanie Simpson
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Junior League of Memphis
Planting the Seeds for G.R.O.W.

- Member survey for issue focus (October 2008)
- Education initiative development committee performed researched (2009)
- Recommendations for structure presented to leadership (Fall 2009)
- Partnership developed with the City of Memphis (Fall 2009 – Spring 2010)
- G.R.O.W. launched (August 2010)
Growing G.R.O.W.

- Holistic approach – family focus
- Draw community together
- Provide funding in needed areas (computers/lab staff, extend hours)

Important considerations
- Consistency
- Synergies with other organizations
- Ongoing assessment
- Member feedback
- Goal is to reproduce model
Where G.R.O.W. is Now

• G.R.O.W. Binghampton
  – Committee of 40; 60-120 participants in programming each week.
  – Programs: Pre-K Readiness, Thursday Night Supper Club, Saturday/Special Events

• G.R.O.W. Berclair
  – Committee of 7 (20 next year); 46 families/60 children signed up
  – Programs: G.R.O.W. Berclair at STREETS, Saturday Events

• Continued support: computer labs, tutoring, supplies, general funding

promoting voluntarism. developing the potential of women. improving our community.
Let’s hear from others what G.R.O.W. means to them …
So, let’s look at how this collaboration came together and some best practices for programming like this.
What were some of the critical elements for the successful startup of this program?
How do the different programs within G.R.O.W. overlap and work together?
What were the bumps in the road? How did you cope with challenges along the way?
Which elements worked well?
And which elements did not work so well?

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What partnerships were formed beyond the parties sitting here today? Which ones were key?
How have the program participants reacted? And how have the volunteers been impacted?
Questions?
In Conclusion…

• What are the key elements for a successful collaborative neighborhood revitalization initiative?
  – Common goal
  – Consistency
  – Trained volunteers
  – Complimentary elements
  – Relationships and communication
  – Willingness to being open to change
  – Ongoing evaluation
  – Support from each other
Thank you!