

# Washington University Medical Center

*Human and Social Services in Forest Park Southeast*

## 2008 Year End Report

**Washington University Medical Center (WUMC), a partnership between BJC Health Care and Washington University School of Medicine works to improve the quality of life for the neighborhoods surrounding the medical campus. In order to achieve this goal in Forest Park Southeast, WUMC has invested millions of dollars toward improving the level of physical and personal security, regenerating the market for private investment in businesses and real estate, and enhancing human and social service opportunities. This report outlines some of the human service initiatives that were implemented by WUMC in 2008 in an attempt to empower and serve the residents of Forest Park Southeast.**

### Employment Initiative Helps Residents Improve Opportunities

Since 2002, Washington University Medical Center has supported MERS/Goodwill to operate a full time employment agency in Forest Park Southeast, specifically for Forest Park Southeast residents. Participants in the Forest Park Southeast employment program receive three weeks of training on how to be successful on the job. During the training course MERS/Goodwill works with residents on self-esteem and self-confidence, meeting the challenges of one's personal life, being able to deal with the complexities of interpersonal relationships with co-workers and supervisors, as well as being able to perform the actual work tasks. In addition to job readiness training, the program makes available GED courses and skills training in order to assist participants who would like to climb the career ladder.

Once participants complete the three week training course, MERS/Goodwill employment specialists assist the participants with locating quality employment. While on the job, MERS/Goodwill staff track participants' progress and assist them in overcoming barriers. Since the inception of the program, more than 120 Forest Park Southeast residents have completed the program and have located quality employment.

If you are interested in the MERS/Goodwill-Forest Park Southeast Employment Service, stop into the Adams Park Community Center or contact Esther Williams at 535-5529 or Rayfinette Sanford at 535-3252.



Every Saturday a set of Washington University School of Medicine physicians and medical students run a free health clinic at the Family Care Health Center in Forest Park Southeast.

### WUMC Continues Its Commitment to Youth Programming



In 2001, WUMC funded the construction of the \$6 million Adams Park Community Center. The center was established to further support positive after-school and summer programs for Forest Park Southeast youth. The state-of-the-art facility includes a computer lab, dance studio, weight room, teen center, full size gymnasium, and adjacent baseball field.

In order to further expand programming and services, in 2007 Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club was engaged to help direct the operations of the center. Herbert Hoover provides programming that covers five core areas: Character & Leadership Development; Education & Career Development; The Arts;

Health & Life Skills; and Sports, Fitness & Recreation. Youth members of the Boys & Girls Club at Adams Park also have access to free eye care and dental services.

WUMC continues to support the operations of the center and is committed to offering Forest Park Southeast youth the most expansive and innovative programming available. For more information or to register your child please contact 633-7900.



## 2008 Human Service Report

### Home Repair Assistance Program Assists Low Income, Disabled, and Senior Citizen Households to Live in Comfort and Safety



For the third consecutive year, WUMC has worked with Rebuilding Together St. Louis to target homes in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood. Rebuilding Together, formerly Christmas in April, is a national organization that revitalizes neighborhoods in partnership with the community by rehabilitating the houses of low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners, so that they may continue to live independently in comfort and safety.

In addition to assistance with the funding of the initiative, each year WUMC leads in recruiting new Forest Park Southeast homeowners and educating them about the application process. Annually, WUMC and Rebuilding Together target between 10-15 homes in Forest Park Southeast. In the fall and winter volunteers and contractors review applications and assess the home repairs that are needed on each home. Then on a scheduled Saturday in April, hundreds of volunteers embark onto Forest Park Southeast to work on a one day home repair blitz. Work typically includes plumbing, electrical, interior and exterior painting, landscaping, tuck pointing, guttering and roof repair.

If you would like to become a volunteer or receive an application for home repair assistance please contact Brooks Goedeker at [goedekeb@wustl.edu](mailto:goedekeb@wustl.edu) or call 747-2332.

### Holiday Outreach Program Enters Eleventh Year of Giving

The goal of WUMC's annual Holiday Outreach Program is to aid community members who are in need during the holiday season. Each department at Washington University School of Medicine adopts at least one needy family in Forest Park Southeast. Throughout the year WUMC is in contact with area agencies and community stakeholders to identify families with extraordinary circumstances for that year. Once a family is identified they are asked to fill out an application that indicates their family dynamics and their needs.

This year, the Holiday Outreach Program served 25 families from FPSE. Items covered under the program usually include food, clothing, bedding, bathroom supplies, school supplies, toys for children, small appliances, and utility assistance. To nominate a family please contact Brooks Goedeker at [goedekeb@wustl.edu](mailto:goedekeb@wustl.edu) or call 747-2332.



### Other 2008 WUMC - Initiatives:

Police Bike Patrols, 2 Mile Neighborhood Walking Path, Lead Sponsor of Grove Fest, Outdoor Movie Nights, Senior Citizen Art Classes, Installation of Lighting and Gangway Gates to Neighborhood Homes, Maintenance of Community Garden, Beautification of Tower Grove Ave. and Vandeventer Ave., Funding Support to Community Liaison Officer, Beautification of Boyle Ave. and Norfolk Ave., Women's Self Defense Classes, and Field Trips for Adams School.