



HEALTH EQUITY ZONE (HEZ)

PROVIDENCE - OLNEYVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD

ONE NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDERS



A diverse community development initiative that reaches deeply into all sectors of the community to activate public passion and pride, and to elevate the quality of life for a community in transition.

Health Equity Zones are geographical areas designed to achieve health equity by eliminating health disparities using place-based (where you live) strategies to promote healthy communities. Healthy communities are places where people live, work, play, and learn. These are neighborhoods consisting of social and physical environments that support healthy choices and safe living.

STORY SPOTLIGHT: STUDENTS OF OLNEYVILLE

Some kids take getting their first new bike for granted. This is not the case with Jordanny, Arly, and Rose. Where they live, a new bike may be out of reach for some families. And, at times some may find life a little scary. Thanks to the partnerships created by the Providence - Olneyville HEZ, the **Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council's Red Shed bike program** gave Jordanny, Arly, and Rose newfound confidence, and they learned the value of perseverance. Each were given a new mountain bike, and taught how to ride.

"I got my bike and they helped me to keep on going. They kept cheering me on, and once I was riding on my own, it was like magic." - Arly

In tandem with **Manton Avenue Project**, biking opens the door to dreams. With the help of his classmates, Jordanny wrote a play about why bikes are important for the community, and how they can help save the world. When asked what this meant to him, Jordanny confidently said, **"I think it will help me follow my dream of becoming an author."**



Arly



Jordanny



Rose

BACKGROUND INFO

Led by residents and local stakeholder organizations, the Providence Olneyville HEZ has completed a number of comprehensive community assessments. These resulted in a practical blueprint for addressing the health and safety issues that residents see as most important.

At the top of the list is community engagement through community pride events, and work to bring people together for positive change. Some of the priorities include:

- Improving public safety and the relationship between residents and police;
- Redevelopment of distressed and vacant properties;
- Creating opportunities for personal financial stability;
- Making it easier for residents to engage in healthy eating and physical activity;
- Providing access to diabetes prevention and self-management programs.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS:



SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM: WALKING SCHOOL BUS



Children living within a mile of school don't qualify for the school bus. Walking, however, isn't always a safe option for kids whose parents can't take them to school. Without the **Walking School Bus**, a lot of kids wouldn't go to school at all.

"Before I joined, I had to walk by myself and it was really scary. Now since I walk with a group of students, it's not as scary."
- Rose

The **Walking School Bus** helps children get to school on time, navigate busy streets, and get home safe inside. Parents have more confidence letting them go to school, knowing they're in safe hands. The **Walking School Bus** launched in October 2015 with three students and one walking route. By Fall 2016, there were 43 students participating.

WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

The Providence Olneyville HEZ and partner organizations like the D'Abate School, Red Shed and Manton Avenue Project are making great strides in helping residents to transform this community. Programs are giving young people new confidence and new opportunities. Learning outcomes are improving radically, and there is a new spirit of community collaboration. This HEZ will continue to build on these assets, raising awareness, diversifying engagement, and continuing to focus funding on measurable impact. The once challenged D'Abate School for example, **now has the highest test scores and attendance rates in Providence.**

"If we didn't have the community partnerships that we have, I don't know where we would be. We have great students, great families, and great teachers, but there is so much more to overcome that you need everything else."

- Principal Brent Kerman



Principal Brent Kerman

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OVHEZ.ORG



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Shared public health strategic priorities working with partners statewide.

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- Addressing the social and environmental determinants of health
- Eliminating the disparities of health and promote health equity
- Ensuring access to quality health services including vulnerable populations.

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