

Transforming Dallas

Introduction

In late 2008, concerned business, civic and church leaders met about the widespread suffering in the Greater Dallas area. These leaders believed a pro-business model was needed to: 1) Eradicate widespread hunger and poverty 2) Develop character education in failing schools and 3) Secure partnerships between business and non-profits for long-term success.

To address these three challenges, they formed a program called FEED 3:

FEED 3 contains three key elements:

- 1) **Feed the Body** – Meets the physical hunger needs with a plan to curtail poverty
- 2) **Feed the Mind** – Implements successful character education program improving graduation rates
- 3) **Feed the Soul** – Provides business solutions for non-profits and local neighborhoods in decline



Community gardens
South Dallas



Feeding Site
West Dallas



Community Outreach Project
West Dallas

Community Transformation

The FEED 3 Initiative is a unique block-by-block community revitalization strategy for West and South Dallas. Working with partner business, civic, and church leaders throughout the city, teams are mobilized to reach targeted neighborhoods in blighted areas, resulting in economic, educational, social, and spiritual transformation.



FEED 3

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Make checks payable to FEED 3
Randy Skinner - Executive Director

FEED 3 is an educational 501c3 non-profit for the development of safe communities.

www.feed3.org

Contact us at: info@feed3.org

This child is hungry for more than food.



A new paradigm for ending poverty.

Join the team of partners working to bring about social, economic, and spiritual change in West and South Dallas

Dallas History

In the 1940's, as African American citizens were beginning to develop a pattern of home ownership, the city of Dallas began buying up these homes under the right of eminent domain. These properties were resold at a higher price for development to Anglo developers. The African American homeowners were then re-located to West Dallas, in spite of the fact that the area had no water or sewer lines. The area grew 1,500% as African-Americans are forced into West Dallas which has less than 20% of the population, but 50% of typhus cases, 60% of T.B., and 30% of polio cases. Infant deaths are staggering.

In 1950, Dallas City officials implemented a flood control system in the Trinity watershed area, moving African-American residents and other poor citizens to public housing and sells dried out land to private Anglo developers. The project brings in \$79 million for the area, and more than 320 new industrial warehouses are built.

By 1951, 100,000 minorities and poor citizens live in 36,500 shacks of which 61% were rented by landlords, many at "extortionate rents." While some wealthy Anglo developers such as John Carpenter deplored the situation and asked the city to annex areas like West Dallas for development, his pleas went unheeded.

With the 1960's being a period of social unrest, racial violence, and political turmoil, little progress was made to bring minorities into economic opportunity. (Other US cities like Atlanta were moving toward minority business and home ownership resulting in a healthier city today).

This developed a philosophy for city leaders in future decades which led to little economic development, few jobs and lost opportunities for minorities in West and South Dallas. White-flight in the 1970's contributed to the local school systems academic, social, and economic decline, resulting in higher welfare and prison costs, as drop-out rates increased.

"Areas like West Dallas...are cancers eating into the moral and physical fibers of our democratic system."

- Joseph Roos, Director
Dallas Council of Social Agencies, 1951

Current Trends

The following sections highlight the health, economic activity, housing conditions, educational trends, and crime in the West Dallas and South Dallas neighborhoods. Many of its residents live in an environment of illiteracy, drugs, crime, teen pregnancy, and violence.

Hunger

Over 280,000 children in the Greater Dallas area go hungry on weekends, and summers. In the DISD school district, 84% of children live in poverty making them eligible for the school lunch program.

Health

Roughly 60% of all residents in West and South Dallas are uninsured and experience shorter life spans.

Economic and Poverty

Roughly 69% of West Dallas and 71% of South Dallas residents live in extreme poverty. Among those distressed neighborhoods, 90% of children suffering were African-American and /or Hispanic children.

Education

Almost 65% of the West Dallas and 53% of South Dallas population has not completed high school.

Jobs

The average age of West Dallas residents is 26yoa. Fifty-eight percent (58%) are unemployed and Sixty-three percent (63%) earn less than \$35,000. Only half of the West Dallas residents own a home, the pathway in America to economic freedom.

The average age of a South Dallas resident is 32yoa. Fifty-four percent (54%) are unemployed and the median income is \$27,000. Only thirty-three percent (33%) of residents own a home in South Dallas.

Crime

West Dallas has experienced a dramatic decrease in crime due to the faith based Weed and Seed U.S. Justice Department program implemented in 2005. South Dallas continues to have the highest crime in the city.

Key Challenges

- » Dallas has one of the lowest minority home ownership rates in the nation. 42% of minorities own their home compared to 67% of whites. This creates unstable neighborhoods. In West Dallas, the rate of minority home ownership is even lower.
- » Minority families receive the majority of predatory loans. They pay a higher rate, and are robbed of wealth for the future.
- » The average sales prices of new homes in the Dallas metroplex area exceed what the average working person can afford. Prices continue to increase, while at the same time, ways for the working class to own homes are not growing as fast.
- » The lack of jobs and job training allows for hundreds of unemployed men resulting in an environment for crime and community instability. The lack of businesses that pay "living wages" also contributes to the poverty landscape. Drug dealers take advantage of this environment that victimizes families, youth and children living in these communities.
- » The lack of a coordinated effort for healthy communities in the poor areas of our city for over a century has led to this current crisis.



All Dallas citizens, regardless of where they live, deserve to experience good health, low crime rates, excellent schools, and a chance to earn a livable wage.

"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God by taking up the care and cause of the widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor?"

Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7: 10-11

*Statistics are taken from U.S. Census Bureau

