

# **Choice Neighborhoods Planning Working Group**

## **Human Development Sub-committee**

### Assets and Challenges

#### **Introduction**

The Human Development Sub-Committee of the Toledo Choice Neighborhood Planning Working Group was tasked with identifying assets and challenges within the Junction neighborhood, specifically as they relate to human development. The Human Development Sub-Committee was intentional in its selection of representation from the public, nonprofit and private sectors, as well as Junction residents. This ensured that all key stakeholder voices were captured in this work.

#### **Overall Assets and Challenges**

The Human Development Sub-Committee agreed that the Junction neighborhood is rich in community, culture, education assets and is the heartbeat of the black community. The neighborhood is in close proximity to downtown, and has strong support through their neighborhood association, the Junction Coalition.

#### **Assets**

- Close proximity to downtown, I-75, and major roadways
- Richness of Junction Community
- Multiple Churches
- Schools with several being magnet schools
- Resilience among community members
- Available Community Center
- Strong Neighborhood Association
- Toledo Urban Credit Union
- Cordelia Martin Health Center
- Residents who are willing to invest in their community and spend their funds there
- Multiple black owned businesses

## Challenges

- Food Desert
- Lacking variety of Quality Daycare
- No marketing done for businesses that are in the neighborhood
- Lack of businesses and resources
- Lack of dollars invested in the community
- Lack of return on investments made in the community
- Safety
- Growth and investments happening all around the Junction Neighborhood but not within the Junction Neighborhood

## Human Development Assets, Challenges and Opportunities

### Assets

- Mott Branch Library
  - Work force Development Programs
  - Free Covid testing
  - Many other services
- Pathways
  - Brotherhood United
  - Fatherhood Initiative
  - Adult GED Program
  - Many other services
- Zeph
  - Fatherhood Initiative
  - Mental Health Supports
- LMH
  - Classes, supports and resources provided by Kam Newton

### Challenges

- Predatory Lending pay day loans
  - **Opportunity:** Recruit large banks such as 5/3 or Citizens
  - **Opportunity:** Advertise the financial resources available within the Toledo Urban Credit Union

- No financial education
  - **Opportunity:** Work with partners such as LISC to implement a Financial Opportunity Center in the Junction Neighborhood
- Lacking in quality daycare options
  - **Opportunity:** Work with the Ohio Department of Education to identify close high rated Step up to Quality Daycare's to recruit for the Junction Neighborhood
- No digital education for people who are 45 years old and up
  - **Opportunity:** Work with Goodwill Industries of Northwestern Ohio to possibly house a Job Connection Center in the Junction Neighborhood

## **Metrics Used**

2018 Junction Master Plan

Census Information

Junction Anchor Map

## **Summary**

The Human Development Sub-Committee agreed that there needs to be an increase in educational opportunities for children, teenagers and adults as well as programming. Junction is one of Toledo's oldest neighborhoods with great historical value. It has businesses and resources but many residents are not aware of the few existing support services that are there. Marketing strategies need to be developed to increase awareness of the resources there and to possibly recruit other resources to the area. The majority of the opportunities listed we considered low hanging fruit and a great place to start in order to increase human development within Junction. Our Sub-Committee agreed that there are many challenges within the Junction neighborhood but practically double the amount of overall Assets and Opportunities when positioned correctly and given the proper support.