

The Connection Community Consultant Group 2010-2011 Projects

Bea Gaddy Family Centers, Inc. (Grantwriting)

Description: The Bea Gaddy Family Centers (<http://www.bea-gaddy-family-center.org/familycenter.shtml>) is a small, grassroots, long-time organization that provides a variety of programming for its community members, right here within walking distance of JHSPH. Its programs include housing for homeless women and children, self-development, tutoring, and job training. In addition, they host an annual Thanksgiving dinner for those who would otherwise have to make the choice between buying turkeys and paying the bills (feeding roughly 3,000 meals on site and another 50,000 meals delivered to those who cannot come to the meal).

Project: Connection consultants assisted Bea Gaddy Family Centers in their effort to apply for a grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation (<http://www.hjweinbergfoundation.org/>), which is “dedicated to assisting the poor through operating and capital grants to direct service organizations.” If awarded, this grant would help the Bea Gaddy Family Centers with general operating costs, building repair, and other programmatic costs. Students put together a grant template, a letter of intent, and submitted the grant application.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students

Caroline Center (Strategic Consulting)

Description: The Caroline Center (<http://www.caroline-center.org/>) is a job training program that offers tuition free Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training, Pharmacy Technician training and Life Skills training for low-income women in Baltimore.

Project: Connection consultants assisted the Caroline Center in its effort to expand their training offerings. They conducted research into allied health professions that would fit the Center’s current training model. Their efforts focused on making recommendations on these aspects of suitable allied health professions: current/future demand for the position, training /certification required, pre-qualifications needed, length/scope of training, personnel needed, and placement potential of those who complete training.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students

**Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition (HEBCAC)
(Resource Development and Data Analysis)**

Description: HEBCAC (Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Inc.) (<http://www.hebcac.org/>) operates several programs servicing residents throughout East Baltimore, including: The Youth Opportunities Center (YO! Center), Dee's Place, the East Baltimore Technology Resource Center, the Monument Main Street Program, and HEBCAC'S Neighborhood Services Program.

Project: Connection consultants assisted HEBCAC in its effort to build a convincing, data-supported case to prospective grantors to fund their programs. The team pulled together data that described current demographic, health, employment, education, crime, and other trends in HEBCAC's neighborhoods. The final report contained rich data that provided demographic "snapshots" or community profiles of the neighborhoods that HEBCAC serves.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student

Project PLASE (Grant Proposal and Advocacy)

Description: Project PLASE, Inc. (<http://www.projectplase.org>) addresses homelessness by providing transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services to homeless adults. They serve the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities, and ex-offenders, etc. They treat, restore and rehabilitate the whole person. The organization empowers each individual to function at the highest level possible.

Project: Connection consultants assisted Project PLASE in putting together a grant proposal for a PEPSI Refresh grant (<http://www.refresheverything.com/>) to fund its housing and support programs.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students

**Baltimore City Health Department, STD/HIV Prevention Program
(Formative Research)**

Description: The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), STD/HIV Prevention Program offers HIV Counseling and Testing services in their clinics and outreach locations. However, they have identified a need to offer more prevention education in local Baltimore communities and are exploring the possibility of creating an HIV prevention education program with SOURCE.

Project: Connection consultants reviewed STD/HIV neighborhood profiles and identified existing and potential community sites suitable for prevention education talks/workshops. They put together a resource directory of neighborhood associations, community organizations, and contact persons who would be able to partner with this initiative.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students; 1 JHSPH alumna

East Baltimore Community School (Curriculum Design)

Description: The East Baltimore Community School is a new (2nd year of operations), K-8 community school within walking distance of the medical campus. It is a public contract school, focusing on experiential learning (similar to the Montessori model for pre-schools), and offers a “Saturday Academy” for all grades.

Project: The Connection Consultants developed a Saturday Academy curriculum consisting of project-based lesson plans, focusing on literacy and the sciences. In collaboration with the school staff and Saturday Academy lead teachers, they identified, selected, and modified instructional resources to meet the needs of the students at the school.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students

Baltimore Urban Debate League (Program Evaluation)

Description: The Baltimore Urban Debate League's (BUDL) mission is to make debate and its related academic and social benefits available to all Baltimore Public School students. Further, they seek to aid all debate participants in realizing a successful collegiate career. The literature indicates that youth that participate in debate have higher indicators of success: good performance in school, higher attendance rates, improved self awareness and pride, higher rates of entering into institutions of higher educations.

Project: BUDL needed to improve its data collection process in order to demonstrate that its program has positive impacts on its participants, as validated by the literature. Connection consultants worked with BUDL staff, alumni, and adolescent health experts from JHSPH to develop an evaluation plan to measure BUDL's success. The final deliverable involved a pre- and post-survey for middle school BUDL participants, an implementation plan, and recommendations about additional indicators to measure success.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students

Shepherd's Clinic (Best Practices for Business/Informatics Review)

Description: Shepherd's Clinic is a unique non-profit organization providing quality, comprehensive health care to Baltimore's uninsured – helping people who are unable to afford commercial health insurance, yet do not qualify for government assistance. Shepherd's Clinic relies on volunteers for almost every aspect of clinic operations. Last year, the clinic had over 305 volunteers who contributed over 14,000 hours. Potential and current volunteers are tracked through emails, paper applications, and an Access database.

Project: Because of the growing number of volunteers (22% increase) and volunteer roles, the clinic's Volunteer Management Program needed a better system to monitor potential and existing volunteers. Specifically, Shepherd's Clinic needed help in refining the requirements for volunteer management software, comparing an existing list of volunteer management software products, and identifying the best choice for the clinic's unique setting. Connection consultants researched various volunteer management software packages and made comprehensive recommendations for the optimal software to meet the clinic's volunteer tracking needs.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students, 1 SOM student, 1 JHSPH alumna

Sisters Together and Reaching (Literature Review)

Description: Sisters Together and Reaching (STAR) is a faith-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing spiritual support, direct services, and preventive education to women infected with HIV/AIDS through a holistic women's community center and mobile van unit. The program has a focus on women, but also serves the entire population (including men and the GLBTQ community). The organization is partnering with Initiatives, Inc. on a new program called The Baba (Father) Project, which seeks to help restore family structure, promote economic stability, and address education and health disparities within minority communities.

Project: Connection consultants helped STAR to put together a literature review on the social, health, educational, and economic issues related to urban African American males. Based on the data and information gathered in the literature review, STAR hopes to create a needs statement that will inform the direction of The Baba Project.

Connection team: 5 JHSPH students