

# Detroit Partnership

Managed by

Institute for Black Family Development

**Serving Neighborhoods in the  
City of Detroit, Michigan**

**April 30, 2006 through December 31, 2009**

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## EXECUTIVE STORY

On April 30, 2006, Detroit Partnership was approved by the Board of Directors of The Institute for Black Family Development.

The Detroit Partnership is the outcome of lessons learned from 1988 through 2006 with: (1) The Pastors Development Program for 100 pastors in Mendenhall, MS from 1988 to 2000; (2) The Skillman Foundation Faith-Based Initiative "A Call to Service" with 47 churches serving 2,300 youth in Detroit, Michigan from 2001 to 2006; (3) Convoy of Hope Super Bowl XL Day of Outreach with 2,100 volunteers from city and suburbia serving 7,825 Detroit residents in February 2006; (4) Al Kuhnle encouragement and financial support through City Light in 2007.

The Detroit Partnership is a networking mechanism providing training, resourcing and promoting racial, denominational and geographical unity among churches and Christian organizations in Southeastern Michigan.

The Detroit Partnership is a place to prepare pastors, churches and faith-based organizations in the field of community philanthropy an emerging field of sharing and giving in a neighborhood context.

The Detroit Partnership's co-directors, Matthew Parker and Mike Osminski, are now serving Master Builders, a network of 40 churches in United States; and Detroit Neighborhood Reformation, a network of 120 churches and faith-based organizations in Southeastern Michigan.

The Detroit Partnership started linking volunteers, money, services and in-kind contributions on September 1, 2006. As a result:

1. 12,000 people being touched each year;
2. Over 800 people have verbalized a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through Love Fest;
3. Leadership In The Local Church course has trained 50 coordinators from churches and Christian organizations;
4. 24 city and suburbia churches and Christian organizations have developed teams to deliver services in 12 neighborhoods;
5. Over 2,000 volunteers from the African American, Caucasian and Hispanic communities;
6. 35,000 volunteer hours for training, networking and serving children, youth and families in 12 neighborhoods;
7. \$675,150.00 dollars of in-kind wages towards programs;
8. 24 partners providing \$70,000.00 dollars in cash contributions for programs;

9. 5 partners providing \$450,000.00 dollars worth of in-kind contributions regarding food, goods, products, books, training materials and supplies for programs;
10. For every \$1.00 dollar we are able to leverage an additional \$5.00 dollars.
11. Sharing the vision with Master Builders; Detroit Neighborhood Reformation; and Willow Creek Association;
12. E-mail newsletter six times a year to 250 leaders in Southeastern Michigan and United States.

## **VISION**

The vision is to build the capacity of city and suburbia churches and Christian organizations to collaborate on neighborhood programs in Detroit, Michigan.

## **MISSION**

The mission is to serve Detroit's residents each year with training, networking and resources for children, youth and families.

## **BIBLICAL RATIONALE**

The guiding vision for the Detroit Partnership is taken from Acts 2:41-47 and Acts 4:32-37. These early church communities were (1) were multi-ethnic; (2) together in worship, fellowship and stewardship; (3) shared their gifts, roles and responsibilities.

## **PROGRAMS**

1. **Leadership in the Local Church** – A 40-hour curriculum to train, network, and resource leaders to serve neighborhoods.
2. **Love Fest** - A one-day outreach of compassion providing faith, hope and love in the neighborhoods of Detroit.
3. **The Leadership Summit** – A once-a-year, two-day conference presented by Willow Creek Association designed to increase the leadership effectiveness of pastors, volunteers, church staff, and Christians in the marketplace.
4. **Coordinators** – Training, networking and resourcing regarding partnerships.
5. **Round Table** – Advising and networking regarding partnerships.
6. **Pastors Forum** – A time of prayer, fellowship and networking with city and suburbia pastors three times a year.

## **STRATEGY**

The Detroit Partnership will be committed to enhancing the capacity to work across denominational, racial, ethnic and geographic opportunities. Through this strategy, practitioners will be equipped in the field of community philanthropy, and emerging field of sharing and giving in a neighborhood context. While learning valuable lessons in the classroom, the practical hands-on field experience comes serving people in neighborhoods. Each coordinator spends their time participating in team service projects in neighborhoods in the City of Detroit. The coordinators learn lessons about getting started, implementing plans and sustaining change.

The Detroit Partnership teams will be the central service in each neighborhood for delivery of services. The geographical area will be 4 blocks north, south, east and west.

## **OUTCOMES**

### **Short Term:**

- City and suburbia churches, Christian organizations and affiliates collaborating on delivery of services in neighborhoods in the City of Detroit.

### **Intermediate:**

- City and suburbia churches, Christian organizations and affiliates building relationships with residents to encourage faith, hope and love.

### **Long Term:**

- Becoming advocates for quality of life and community philanthropy.
- Young people entering college each year starting in September 2012.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

Lesson 1: Harnessing the partners' spiritual strength and ownership is key. Faith is a vital asset in any neighborhood initiative and faith can be a huge resource, for change is important.

Lesson 2: Acknowledging issues of race and class. An undercurrent of tensions around race and class often runs through exchanges between city and suburbia. It is essential to acknowledge these tensions, if not to resolve them, to build trust among partners.

Lesson 3: Generate belief in and ownership of the change. Hope, belief and commitment are powerful vehicles for change. Wise steps include all participants in the planning effort that activate and energize the partners in translating the vision into practical goals and strategies.

Lesson 4: Establish a culture of learning and self-evaluation. Continuous learning gives the partners a chance for theological reflection, assess their progress and refine strategies. Information about how an initiative is changing also can be a significant tool for recruiting new leaders and partners, building community investment, making difficult but necessary choices, and expanding the capacity of all partners.

Lesson 5: Balance funding against pace and priorities. The initiative's vision, priorities and schedule must drive decisions about whose money to seek, when to accept it, and how to use it. In particular, partners must engage in a continual process of educating funders. They must build in financial support for capacity building among partners. They must avoid setting up false expectations, and they should share decisions about fund-raising with a broad group of partners.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Adell Dickinson  
Alberta-Smith Plump  
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Detroit Medical Center  
Detroit World Outreach  
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Faith Lutheran Church  
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Grace Community Church  
Grace Theological Seminary  
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Harvest Christian Church  
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Lynn Johnson  
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Michigan Public Health Institute  
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Mt. Zion New Covenant Baptist Church of Detroit  
New Breed International Christian Center  
New Creations Community Outreach, Inc.  
New Hope Assembly of God  
New Song Bible Fellowship  
New Song Community Church  
Oakland Avenue Baptist Church  
Pamela Hudson  
Peace Within Ministries  
Pilgrim Church  
Power Walk Ministries  
Progressive Rehab Network  
Ravendale Community, Inc.  
Revelation and Truth Baptist Church  
Romulus Wesleyan Church  
Royal Rent a Car  
Roy Harlin  
Sabrina Black  
Samuel Shellhamer  
St. Clair Shores Assembly of God  
Steve Bradshaw  
St. John's Tabernacle New Pentecostal Church  
Susan Armstrong  
Temple of Faith Baptist Church

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church  
Terry Robinson  
The Amy Foundation  
The Children's Center  
The Pilgrim Foundation  
Tony Braggs  
THAW  
Trinity Church  
Truth Missionary Baptist Church  
Victory Christian Center  
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Willow Creek Association  
World Vision  
Zondervan Corporation

**TOTAL CASH CONTRIBUTIOS: \$70,000.00**

**TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS: \$450,000.00**