

**THE ANNIE E. CASEY  
FOUNDATION**  
ATLANTA CIVIC SITE



# Neighborhoods Count:

## A Look at NPU-V in 2004





## NEIGHBORHOOD DATA ADVISORY GROUP

*Pictured left to right and front to back:*

*Patricia Blanton, AmeriCorp Volunteer*

*Cheryl Y. Boykins, Executive Director, Center for Black Women's Wellness*

*Rev. DeBorah James, Executive Director, Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc.*

*Helen Jenkins, Chair, Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association Board of Directors*

*Major Gloria Reagan, Community Liaison, Salvation Army*

*Elsie Pyles, Pittsburgh Resident*

*Larry Mims, Job Developer, Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc.*

*Pearline Walker, Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association Board of Directors*

*Renee Giles, Mechanicsville Resident*

*Chandra McGee, Pittsburgh Resident*

*Jeanne Mills, Historian, Adair Park Today*

*Arthur Mitchell, Peoplestown Revitalization Corporation*

*Columbus Ward, Executive Director, Peoplestown Revitalization Corporation*

*Peggy Harper, President, NPU-V Association*

*Kermitt Williams, Pittsburgh Resident*

*Insert:*

*Wendy Scruggs-Murray, NPU/Citizens Participation Coordinator, Atlanta Department of Planning and Community Development and Peoplestown Resident*

*Not photographed:*

*Dr. Ellen Fleming, Peoplestown Resident*

*Ronnie Galvin, Pittsburgh Resident*

*Juanita Goss, Community Development Volunteer*

*Traci Hall, Mechanicsville Resident*

*Rashaan Hicks, Information Specialist, Center for Black Women's Wellness*

*LaShawn Hoffman, Chief Executive Officer, Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association*

*Karen Rogers, Director, Weed and Seed*

*Sharon Rogers, Charles S. Gideons Elementary School*

*Dr. Armistead Salters, Principal, Charles S. Gideons Elementary School*

*Toija Sandifer, Weed and Seed*

*Clarence Sinkfield, Vice-Chair, Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association Board of Directors*

*Sister Marie Sullivan, Director, The Sullivan Center*

*Cynthia Thomas, Owner, Kids Day Care*

*Dr. Perry Thornton, Director, Adair Park Community Empowerment Association*

*Amy Vosburg, Staff Attorney, Georgia Justice Project*

*Watrina Watson, Community Organizer, Center for Black Women's Wellness*

# Neighborhoods Count:

## A Look at NPU-V 2004

**The Annie E. Casey  
Foundation**

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor, Suite 449

Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946

T: 404.688-5525

F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to  
request additional copies, please  
contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

# Neighborhoods Count:

## A Look at NPU-V 2004

---

Letter from the President of Annie E. Casey Foundation .....	3
Acknowledgements .....	4
Executive Summary .....	5
Introduction .....	9
<i>Why Neighborhoods Count: A Look at NPU-V 2004?</i> .....	9
Who We Are: The Neighborhood Data Advisory Group .....	9
What We Want for Our Families and Neighborhoods .....	10
How to Use <i>Neighborhoods Count</i> .....	12

### **Part I: The Neighborhoods**

Neighborhood Planning Unit-V .....	13
Adair Park .....	19
Mechanicsville .....	25
Peopletown .....	31
Pittsburgh .....	37
Summerhill/Capitol Homes .....	43

### **Part II: Desired Results**

Adults are Healthy .....	48
Families are Stable .....	53
Families have an Adequate Standard of Living .....	57
Children are Prepared to Enter School and are Ready to Learn .....	63
Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development .....	67
Neighborhoods are Safe .....	73
Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business, and Recreational Facilities .....	75
Residents Increase their Civic Participation .....	79

### **Part III: Appendices**

A. Terms You Should Know .....	81
B. NDAG Working List of Results and Indicators .....	84
C. Endorsements .....	87



# Letter

## from the President of The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**A**tlanta is one of three cities defined by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a “civic site,” meaning a place where we have a unique long-term commitment, presence, and set of connections.

Those connections are easy to track in Atlanta, which is the headquarters of UPS. UPS is the multi-billion dollar company that grew out of a small messenger service started in 1907 by a 19-year-old named Jim Casey. Its success enabled Casey and his siblings to launch a charitable foundation in 1948 named for their mother, Annie E. Casey.

The Foundation has worked for more than 50 years to improve the futures of the nation’s most vulnerable, at-risk children. These children are disproportionately city kids whose parents have limited work experience, low earnings, no savings, little credit, and little hope for financial security. We have concluded that bold new approaches, partnerships, and creative investments are needed to help these families and their children beat the odds.

In Atlanta, the Foundation is grateful to work in partnership with a diverse array of residents, community organizations, civic groups, foundations, and government officials working to strengthen families living in NPU-V. We want to acknowledge the many contributions of the Neighborhood Data Advisory Group that developed *Neighborhoods Count*. They share a desire to improve their neighborhood and recognize the importance of using reliable data to make change.

Our shared goals for NPU-V are ambitious, and accordingly, we have made a long-term commitment to these neighborhoods. We are working side-by-side with community partners to ensure that more families have good paying jobs with benefits, get ahead financially, and that the neighborhoods have renewed pride and increased economic and social power. To do this, we are contributing resources, technical assistance, and learning opportunities to help people and organizations committed to achieving concrete, measurable, and lasting results for children and families.

*Neighborhoods Count* is an opportunity to tell the rich story of NPU-V in hopes of attracting new partners and investment to build an even stronger foundation for families. This report, the first of many to come, provides baseline data to measure progress that the community is making toward desired results. We hope it challenges all who care about the families living in NPU-V to act in new ways about policy, strategy and resources for long term progress.

Douglas W. Nelson, President  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

# Acknowledgements

*Neighborhoods Count: A Look at NPU-V 2004* could not have been produced without the help of numerous people and the leadership of members of the Neighborhood Data Advisory Group. The publication was assembled and produced under the general direction of Dr. Laurie Dopkins, with the outstanding organization and writing of Sarah Torian and other members of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's-Atlanta Civic Site-Research & Data Team, Janice Hamilton Outtz, Brenan Stearns, and Dr. Jackie Williams. We are also grateful to Atlanta Civic Site Team Leader Gail Hayes for her leadership and guidance and to Andrew Flippo for his expert administrative assistance to the team.

We also owe a special thanks to: Peggy Harper (Mechanicsville), Erma Jean Lockett (Pittsburgh), Jeanne Mills (Adair Park), Wendy Scruggs-Murray (Peopletown) and Tramunda Hodges from Peopletown Revitalization Corporation for their contributions to the neighborhood histories.

Special thanks are extended to: Jon Abercrombie (AECF Atlanta Civic Site Team), Shavien Dennis (Pittsburgh), Sonya Jenkins (Pittsburgh), Yolanda Jones (Mechanicsville), Tiffany Momon (Pittsburgh), Catherine Prather (Peopletown), Devin Rucker (Community Foundation), Dr. Perry Thornton (Adair Park), and Gary Wright (Capitol Area Mosaic/Capitol Homes) for their contributions to the stories included in *Neighborhoods Count*.

We thank our reviewers who contributed yeoman's work: Jon Abercrombie (AECF- Atlanta Civic Site Team), Becky Butler (AECF-Atlanta Civic Site Team), Dr. Ellen Fleming (Peopletown), Ronnie Galvin (Pittsburgh), Renee Giles (Mechanicsville), Peggy Harper (Mechanicsville), Gail Hayes (AECF-Atlanta Civic Site Team), Jeanne Mills (Adair Park), Arthur Mitchell (Peopletown), Wendy Scruggs-Murray (Peopletown), and Lorne Steedley (Annie E. Casey Foundation).

Special thanks are also extended to our editors Devin Rucker (Community Foundation) and Janice Hamilton Outtz (Research & Data Team) and our design and production team: P. Faith Carmichael

(Mustard Seed Communications), Beverly Isom, Marcia Lampe and Greg Farley at Lampe-Farley Communications, Inc., Aaron Brown at Digital Field of View for the photography and New London Press for providing discounted printing.

The data presented in *Neighborhoods Count* were collected and organized by Brenan Stearns of Data and Policy Analysis at Georgia Tech who worked painstakingly to assemble, organize, check and re-check the figures included here. Special thanks go to our data providers:

Ronald T. Henry  
Georgia Department of Corrections

Officer Justin Lykins and Major E. N. Finley  
Atlanta Police Department

Madeleine Kellam  
Brownfields Coordinator  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

John F. Cunningham  
Fulton County Board of Assessors

Johnathan Wishart  
Fulton County Department of Environmental and Community Development

Alan Berube  
The Brookings Institution

Karen L. Bowens  
Board of Pardons and Parole

Dr. John Carter  
Emory University

Jim Skinner  
Atlanta Regional Commission

Ed Fuller and Vickie J. Fluellen  
Georgia Department of Human Resources  
Division of Family and Children Services

Beverly W. Jones  
Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services

Lamar W. Smith  
Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services

Steven Reed  
Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services

Dr. Douglas Greenwell  
The Atlanta Project at the Georgia State Neighborhood Collaborative

Wendy Scruggs-Murray  
Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Atlanta

Peggy Harper  
Neighborhood Planning Unit V

Oliver R. Delk  
Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness

Finally, we would like to thank Clarence Sinkfield (Pittsburgh) for providing nourishment for our meetings, the Romae Powell Juvenile Justice Center for being a true community partner, Major Gloria Reagan (Salvation Army) who opened the doors to the Salvation Army for NDAG's monthly meetings with style, elegance and great food, Karen Rogers (Weed and Seed) for scheduling meetings at the Juvenile Justice Center, Becky Butler for helping us access data, Scott Sirotkin for collecting and processing data, and our Baltimore AECF partners—Doug Nelson, Sandy Jibrell, Irene Lee, staff of Kids Count, Joy Moore, Kim Love, Connie Dykstra, and Odette Ramos from Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance.

# Executive Summary

## A NEW CENTURY

A baby born in NPU-V in 2000 will be eligible for the Georgia Pre-kindergarten program this year. If the child stays on grade level, she/he will graduate from one of the local high schools in 2018 and if they keep a B average may have their tuition paid at a Georgia college or university. By 2030, this child could be raising their own family in NPU-V and on their way to becoming a community leader. The neighborhood they live in will most certainly look quite different than the one they were born in.

Indeed, NPU-V is already quite a different place. For example:

- Large housing developments such as Capitol Homes, Pittsburgh Civic League Apartments, and McDaniel-Glen have either been torn down recently or are slated for demolition, to be replaced by mixed-income units.
- The new Asian families moving in are joining with the current African-American and white families to make NPU-V once again racially, ethnically, and economically diverse neighborhoods.
- The prospect of new economic investment, such as the UPS small package facility, hold the promise of returning good jobs to the area—jobs with family supporting wages and benefits.

NPU-V enters the 21st century with a long and proud history, facing an uncertain future possessing many opportunities and challenges. From a diverse, vibrant community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, NPU-V has changed to a community in decline, with many families leaving and where the future seems dim. NPU-V has been weakened by institutional disinvestment, residential displacement, interstate highways that divide the neighborhoods, the construction of large public housing developments, and increased poverty, and crime.

In response, residents and community-based organizations are mobilizing to secure a better future. They are working together to establish community development corporations, youth programs, and community centers. They seek to improve the local schools, playgrounds, and parks; to reclaim vacant land, build new housing, and attract new investment. Their revitalization efforts include not only the housing stock and commercial districts, however, but extend to reinvigorating spiritual and cultural institutions and strengthening the sense of community.

NPU-V is poised for revitalization and economic prosperity, but its very success presents new challenges. Rising real estate prices and rents displace low-income families and the elderly. Educational, economic, and health status gains are not distributed evenly within and between neighborhoods. Historic patterns of disadvantage are often deeply entrenched, leading to a culture of despair and hopelessness.

NPU-V residents must seize the unprecedented opportunity to shape the future and address the following questions:

- How can we extend the benefits of economic success to all residents and all neighborhoods?
- How can we achieve a vibrant mix of income, ethnic, and age diversity in the midst of a rising cost of housing?
- How can we create pathways to educational success for all our young people?

Progress will require collaboration, imagination, and action. The engagement of residents and community leaders in *Neighborhoods Count* – from formulating the desired results and indicators to reviewing charts and maps – provides a solid foundation. This

information is a shared tool that can be used by all to tell the story of NPU-V, to determine how we are faring, and to help chart a wise course of action for the future. It is a collaborative approach to data collection, analysis, and reporting to insure that our individual and collective actions are based on an honest and hard look at the facts. *Neighborhoods Count* also provides us with a tool for holding each other accountable.

## CLOSING THE GAP

While NPU-V is changing rapidly, there is a substantial gap between these five neighborhoods, the City of Atlanta, and Fulton County as a whole. Across the eight desired results formulated by the Neighborhood Data Advisory Group, it is striking to see how one's life chances are shaped by the community in which one is born and lives.

In terms of percentage point difference, notable findings include the following:

- *A child is more likely to be poor in NPU-V than in the City of Atlanta or Fulton County.* The child poverty rate of 59.3% for NPU-V is 21 points higher than Atlanta and 37 points higher than Fulton County.
- *NPU-V residents are more likely not to own their own home.* The 20.9% rate at which housing units in NPU-V are owner occupied is 18 points lower than Atlanta and 27 points lower than Fulton County.
- *Carver High students are less likely to graduate.* The high school completion rate of 28.7% at Carver High School is 28 points below Atlanta Public Schools and 53 points below Fulton County.
- *Vacant lots are more common.* The 34% rate at which lots are vacant in NPU-V is 22 points higher than Fulton County.

On the positive side of the ledger, three indicators stand out.

- *Gideons Elementary students are more likely to pass the state reading test than students in Atlanta Public Schools in general or students in Fulton County.* The 93% pass rate at Gideons Elementary School on the state reading test is 17 points higher than Atlanta Public Schools and 7 points higher than Fulton County.

- *NPU-V residents are more likely to attend neighborhood association meetings.* With an average monthly attendance rate of 57 residents, NPU-V meetings exceed the Atlanta average by 18 people.
- *Wage-earners in NPU-V benefit more from the Earned Income Tax Credit.* The average amount claimed in all three zip codes covering NPU-V exceeds that of the City and County as a whole. In zip code 30310 (Adair Park and Pittsburgh),

the average EITC claim of \$2,023 is \$30 higher than Atlanta and \$69 higher than Fulton County.

These three success measures point to the innovation, spirit of collaboration, and engagement of residents that hold the promise for NPU-V.

## CLOSING THE GAP: NPU-V, CITY OF ATLANTA, AND FULTON COUNTY

Indicator	Measure	NPU-V	City of Atlanta*	Fulton County
<b>Desired Result: Adults are Healthy</b>				
<b>Adults can meet their health care needs</b>	Adults 16-64 with physical disability (2000)	12.6%	6.4%	4.8%
	Adults 16-64 with mental disability (2000)	8.1%	4.2%	3.1%
<b>Adults have access to effective treatment services</b>	Number of substance abuse treatment programs (2003)	1	18	na
<b>Desired Result: Families are Stable</b>				
<b>Children are safe</b>	Substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect (1/03-6/03)	13.5/1000	10.2/1000	7.0/1000
<b>Foster care resources are located close to neighborhoods where children live</b>	Number of foster care homes (2004)	2	64	121
<b>Parents are able to care for their children</b>	Children with a parent in state prison (2/04)	62	1,797	1,688
<b>Desired Result: Families have an Adequate Standard of Living</b>				
<b>Families have adequate earnings and income</b>	Children below federal poverty level (1999)	59.3%	38.3%	22.6%
	Average EITC amount claimed (2002) – zip code 30310 (Adair Park and Pittsburgh)	\$2,023	\$1,993	\$1,954
	Unemployment rate (1/04)	12.8%	6.7%	4.9%
	Adults 25 or older with high school degree or higher (2000)	53.0%	76.9%	84.0%
	Adults on probation (per 1,000 adults) (2/04)	46/1000	23/1000	16/1000
<b>Families have increased levels of assets</b>	Housing units that are owner occupied (2000)	20.9%	39.3%	47.9%
<b>Desired Result: Children are Prepared to Enter School and are Ready to Learn</b>				
<b>Babies are born healthy</b>	Babies born to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care (2002)	29.3%	22.2%	17.8%
<b>Children are ready to succeed in school</b>	Licensed child care centers (2004)	3	160	259
	Registered family child care homes (2004)	3	218	420
	Georgia Pre-kindergarten sites (2002-03)	5	na	186
	Children with health insurance (2002) – zip code 30310 (Adair Park and Pittsburgh)	55.4%	na	66.5%

\* City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

*continued*



**CLOSING THE GAP: NPU-V, CITY OF ATLANTA, AND FULTON COUNTY** *continued*

Indicator	Measure	NPU-V	City of Atlanta*	Fulton County
<b>Desired Result: Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development</b>				
<b>Young people are avoiding trouble</b>	Babies born to teen mothers (2002)	8.7%	5.9%	4.0%
<b>Students succeed in school</b>	3rd grade students passing state reading test – Gideons Elementary School (2001-02)	93%	76%	86%
<b>Students graduate from high school and have opportunities for further education</b>	High school completion rate (2001-02) – Carver High School	28.7%	56.9%	82.1%
<b>Desired Result: Neighborhoods are Safe</b>				
<b>Residents are safe from crime</b>	Violent crimes as proportion of all major crimes reported (10/03)	25.4%	16.8%	na
<b>Residents are safe from pollution</b>	Sites on state Hazardous Site Inventory (7/03)	2	26	46
<b>Desired Result: Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business, and Recreational Facilities</b>				
<b>Neighborhoods have an adequate mix of land use</b>	Vacant lots (2003)	34.1%	na	12.6%
	Tax delinquent properties (2003)	12.7%	na	2.6%
<b>Neighborhoods have quality, affordable housing</b>	Residential properties sold at least once in 2003	7.4%	na	4.7%
<b>Neighborhoods have businesses that serve local residents</b>	Banks, Savings and Loans, Credit Unions (2002)	1	na	na
<b>Neighborhoods have parks and recreational facilities</b>	Recreation Centers (2003)	3	29	na
<b>Desired Result: Residents Increase their Civic Participation</b>				
<b>Residents participate in the electoral process</b>	Registered voters who voted in general election (2000)	45.2%	60.0%	63.3%
<b>Residents participate in local neighborhood organizations</b>	Average monthly attendance at NPU meetings (2003)	57	39	na

\* City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

# Introduction

## Why Neighborhoods Count: A Look at NPU-V in 2004?

How many times have you asked yourself if your efforts on your street, in your block, in your neighborhood were making a difference? How do you know if you are having a positive impact on improving the lives of those we care about? We believe that in order for Atlanta to continue to prosper, Atlanta's neighborhoods need to be an opportunity rich environment in which all families thrive. The communities in Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Unit V<sup>1</sup> (NPU-V)—Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, Summerhill/Capitol Homes—sare rich with history, pride, determination and diversity. These neighborhoods are places where we call home.

A group of residents, representatives of non-profits, neighborhood leaders and representatives of neighborhood associations came together because of a shared belief that in order to affect change all stakeholders must have access to reliable, high quality and timely data on the well-being of families in our neighborhoods. We believe that information can and should be used to help various stakeholders work together to inform, monitor, and improve life in our neighborhoods. *Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* is a user-friendly tool for reviewing and using data that help all of us—residents, neighborhood leaders, community-based organizations, neighborhood associations, and others—to be held accountable for our roles in improving and strengthening our neighborhoods.

*Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* provides a baseline which tells the story of our five neighborhoods and gives a starting point to measure progress over time. It also helps all of us identify gaps between our neighborhoods and the city of Atlanta and

Fulton County. We believe that this tool will be valuable in helping all stakeholders make informed decisions that will guide the long-term planning process for improving our neighborhoods. Data can tell us where we need to work harder or where and how to work differently.

Without data we have opinions. With data, as The Education Trust makes clear, we have facts—facts that can help us make better decisions and hold all stakeholders accountable.

It is our intent that the data included in *Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* be used to understand the conditions of our neighborhoods, to shape policy decisions, funding priorities, community building strategies and neighborhood organizing efforts that will move the measures in a direction that promotes Atlanta's progress toward a shared vision for strong neighborhoods and an even stronger city. It is a goal that we all share.

The desired results and indicators chosen by consensus by the Neighborhood Data Advisory Group can also provide information to challenge all of us who have a vested interest in NPU-V to think in new ways when making neighborhood decisions, drafting policies, and developing new programs. Data that are neighborhood specific will, without a doubt, help all of us make better decisions. It can also lead to action.

### WHO WE ARE: THE NEIGHBORHOOD DATA ADVISORY GROUP

We are a diverse group of residents, community leaders, and representatives of non-profits, community-based organizations and foundations who share a strong desire to improve our neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Data Advisory Group's (NDAG) mission is to promote, support, and use accurate, reliable, and accessible data and information to help resident-led organizations better plan and execute programs that create and sustain healthy communities.

With technical support and funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site Research & Data Team, the NDAG (see Partners below) began meeting in August 2003 to discuss ways to help build the capacity of local leaders and residents to use data to improve their quality of life and to measure community change.

*"Without data, you are just another person with an opinion."*

— The Education Trust

### Examples of Overarching Questions Raised by NDAG

- What makes families stable?
- What role does prison play in children's lives and the life of the community?
- How can parents be involved in schooling from the earliest years on?
- Why are adults unemployed?

## OUR PARTNERS

**Adair Park Today** was established in 1976 for the purpose of working toward a better neighborhood. The association continues to support and encourage participation of all residents and businesses in the community by working on issues such as safety, neighborhood attractiveness, and affordability. Projects of the association include tree plantings, community clean-ups, and working with public offices.

**The Center for Black Women's Wellness** is a not-for-profit (501(c)3) community-based, family service center established in 1988. The Center is committed to improving the health and well-being of Black women and their families. The Center's goals are achieved through a variety of activities, services and programs. The programs offered by the Center cover a range of topics including: wellness, pregnancy prevention, women's self-employment training, maternal and child health, and other information and referral services.

**Charles L. Gideons Elementary School** is located in the Pittsburgh Community.

**City of Atlanta's Weed and Seed** is a Department of Justice, community-based multi-agency with a comprehensive strategic approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood revitalization. Atlanta Weed and Seed's mission is to coordinate city resources with federal, state, local governments and other key interest groups to develop revitalizing strategies in targeted communities, including two in the NPU-V neighborhoods, while reducing and/or eliminating criminal activity. The strategy takes a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors Weed Out criminal activities while human services and neighborhood stakeholders Seed in prevention, intervention, treatment, neighborhood revitalization, mobilization and community policing strategies.

**Georgia Justice Project (GJP)** is a mix of lawyers, social workers, and a landscaping company. GJP defends people accused of crimes and, win or lose, works with their clients while they rebuild their lives. The organization provides a variety of services to its clients, including quality legal representation, individual counseling, job training and

employment, addiction counseling, and educational assistance.

**Kids Day Care** is a local child care agency serving infants, preschool, and school-age children in the NPU-V neighborhoods.

#### **Mechanicsville Civic Association**

#### **NPU-V Neighborhood Association**

**Peopletown Revitalization Inc. (PRC)** is a non-profit Community Development Corporation founded in 1991 by a small group of neighborhood residents. PRC's mission is to improve the quality of life of residents in the community through, but not limited to, economic development, residential development and rehabilitation (including affordable low-income housing) and any other activities that will enhance the community and its residents.

**Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA)** is a resident-driven Community Development Corporation operating in Pittsburgh, a predominantly African-American neighborhood that is one of the oldest in-town communities in the City of Atlanta. PCIA's mission is to revitalize and redevelop the Pittsburgh community, giving particular emphasis to the neighborhood's current residents. As trustees and executors of the Pittsburgh Redevelopment Plan, PCIA's work emphasizes improvements in affordable housing options, economic development, public safety, and education for residents.

**Ropheka Rock of The World Ministries, Inc.** is a multi-faceted Human Service Agency that provides services to low-income youth, families, and individuals in the area of employment preparation, youth leadership training, after school services, seniors food pantry, community health, affordable housing initiatives, education/substance abuse intervention, and pre-release and post-release support services for inmates and ex-offenders.

**Residents of the five NPU-V neighborhoods**, some of whom have lived in their neighborhood for many years and some of whom are relative newcomers.

The **Salvation Army College for Officer Training** trains cadets who represent the fifteen southern states in the residential setting for a period of two years. During the training cadets minister in the communities, reaching out to neighbors, the homeless, and tutoring at Gideons Elementary School. At the end of the training period, cadets are commissioned as Salvation Army officers and assigned throughout the southern territory of the U.S. The Salvation Army's training facility has been located in the Pittsburgh and Adair Park communities since 1938.

**The Sullivan Center** is a social service agency that offers a wide array of services to families and individuals. The services include: financial aid, financial planning and nutrition classes, food and clothing assistance, employment workshops, and beginning and advanced-computer classes.

**The Annie E. Casey Foundation** who for the past eight years has invested in local Atlanta efforts to reform education and child welfare systems as well as locally driven efforts to create neighborhood change on behalf of children and families. As one of three cities defined by the Foundation as a Civic Site—places where the Foundation has a unique, long-term commitment, presence and set of connections, Atlanta's investment has shifted to a more place-based, results focused and strategy oriented agenda. Atlanta also has a key institutional connection with United Parcel Services (UPS) with whom the Foundation shares a legacy base on assets from founder, Jim Casey. With the focus being on place-based efforts, the Atlanta Civic Site Research and Data Team was led to engage residents, community-based organizations, neighborhood associations, and other key stakeholders in a dialogue about the use of data to measure progress in the NPU-V neighborhoods while building local data capacity of all those involved in decision-making. It is also the strong desire of the Foundation to help residents close the gap in employment, income, assets, and community investment between the NPU-V neighborhoods and the City of Atlanta.

The group's initial goals were to build relationships, provide critical information, and increase accountability by monitoring the impact of decisions on neighborhoods. The goal was also to empower residents and community leaders to use data for decision-making, and to help business, government, and civic leaders work collectively for community change.

NDAG members share a commitment of ensuring that the development of *Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004*—the first project selected to work on as a group—is a collaborative process driven by residents. Over the past year, the NDAG met monthly to define its mission, guiding principles, roles and responsibilities and to identify the desired results we want for our community. These desired results are stated in the present tense so that we can easily contrast the reality of today with our hope for tomorrow. *Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* is a snapshot—a photograph that documents how we look today. It tells the story of our successes and challenges, so that problems can be addressed within the context of our assets and resources. Too often we measure the quality of our lives and depict our neighborhoods with deficit measures such as rates of crime, unemployment and teen pregnancy. This obscures the many strengths of our families and communities. In addition to trying to decrease negative measures, we are focused on increasing the outcomes we want such as the rate of third graders reading at grade level. We know from experience that by identifying strengths, we have a much better chance of meeting our challenges.

## WHAT WE WANT FOR OUR FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Using a consensus work group process facilitated by the Research & Data Team of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site, the NDAG decided on eight result areas and multiple indicators that would enable us to establish a benchmark and measure the overall progress and direction of

change in the neighborhoods. The desired results are simply statements about what we want for our neighborhoods and the indicators let us know if we are making a difference.<sup>2</sup>

Developing reliable measures that allow us to see how well or poorly we are doing proved challenging and took several months to complete. NDAG deliberately chose not to be limited to data from readily available sources, instead following the advice to “measure what we value” and not simply “value what we measure.” This means that measures are not available at this time for all indicators and these data gaps will need to be addressed in the future.

*Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* contains only data from secondary sources such as the Census Bureau, Georgia Department of Human Resources, and the Atlanta Police Department. No primary data were gathered for this report. Data sources and notes are presented at the bottom of each table, chart and map.

*Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* gathers into one place data from many different agencies to provide a foundation for meaningful dialogue about our values, options and choices for the future. Our goal is to create a shared tool for data collection, analysis and reporting that can be used to tell the story of how our neighborhoods are doing and to guide and measure change. It marks a beginning of measuring community conditions in relationship to one another—the impact of high quality after school programs on youth violence, public safety on neighborhood economic investment, transportation on the ability to find and keep a job. While we will explore these relationships in greater detail in later publications, this initial look allows for a more comprehensive view of community life than is typically available.

At the same time that the results were being defined, NDAG members provided important infor-

## Guiding Principles of NDAG for developing NEIGHBORHOODS COUNT

1. We seek to tell the story about NPU-V neighborhoods—celebrating what is good and pointing out challenges that must be addressed.
2. The users of the data will be residents, neighborhood leaders, service providers, policy makers, businesses, foundations, and others who make decisions impacting NPU-V.
3. We will utilize the data and analysis of people and organizations that are already doing this work. We do not seek to reinvent the wheel but rather to bring their collective efforts together in one place within a neighborhood context.
4. We select indicators which let us know whether we are making a difference toward achieving agreed upon results.
5. We seek to determine the minimum number of indicators necessary to tell this story. We believe that data collection is a means and not an end result itself.
6. The indicators selected can be compared to the city, county, and state to show gaps between the neighborhoods and the city and county and thereby provide another avenue for affecting for closing the gap.
7. The selected indicators can be affected by policy changes, neighborhood actions and activities. We will promote best practices in support of neighborhood desired results.
8. We will strive to recognize the links between desired results (goals) and highlight these linkages whenever possible.
9. To the extent possible, we will measure the desired results (ends) and not the means to an end.
10. We will identify where data and analysis are missing and seek to make them available in the future.
11. The knowledge gained through our data collection efforts and analysis will be communicated back to the larger community including but not limited to those who participated in the project.
12. Our meetings are open and we will continue to seek to include representatives of all groups who have a stake in the neighborhoods of NPU-V.

mation on the history of their neighborhoods and identified “success” stories that are tied to the desired results and help frame their work in the community.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

*Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* is a user-friendly tool for reviewing and using data that helps residents, neighborhood leaders, community-based organizations, neighborhood associations, and others to determine if progress is being made over time. *Neighborhoods Count* is not a ranking of neighborhood results and indicators. Instead it provides a baseline which tells the story of the neighborhoods and provides us with a starting point from which to measure progress over time. It also helps us to see where the gaps exist between individual neighborhoods and the City of Atlanta and Fulton County.

Whether it is an individual resident just wanting to understand her/his neighborhood, a community

organization working to improve their areas, non-profit groups considering new programs, foundations and corporations targeting their investments, city agencies improving their services, policy makers considering new courses of action or neighborhood associations wanting to hold lawmakers accountable, *Neighborhoods Count* is a vehicle to help. It is the intention that the information presented will energize and mobilize various stakeholders to work together and to continue to do neighborhood based work that leads to positive action. As the desired results and indicators change over time, we will all be inspired to continue working collaboratively to make sure that each of us plays a vital role in improving and building strong neighborhoods. As neighborhoods get stronger and more vital, so will the City of Atlanta.

*Neighborhoods Count: NPU-V 2004* is divided into three parts. In Part I, NPU-V and each of the five neighborhoods have their own chapter. Every chapter contains a brief overview of the neighborhood, a quick look at demographic facts, a neighborhood

“success” story, a resource map showing the location of community centers, churches, schools, and the like, and concludes with selected highlights of the desired results.

In Part II, each desired result has its own chapter. Chapters have a brief explanation of why the result is important and provide a short summary of key findings. Where appropriate, we note any topics of special interest that may warrant future exploration and identify gaps that may require new data collection. Finally, there is a detailed table showing numbers and rates for the different neighborhoods, compared to City of Atlanta and Fulton County.

Although every effort was made to translate jargon into everyday language, it is sometimes necessary to use special terms for precision and clarity. Part III is an appendix that includes “Terms You Should Know,” a glossary defining these terms. It also includes the Working List of Results and Indicators developed by NDAG and Organizational Endorsements obtained by NDAG members.

## NPU-V Neighborhoods Count Desired Results:

1. Adults are Healthy
2. Families are Stable
3. Families have an Adequate Standard of Living
4. Children are Prepared to Enter School and are Ready to Learn
5. Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development
6. Neighborhoods are Safe
7. Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities
8. Residents Increase their Civic Participation

## Examples of Uses for Neighborhood Data

We believe that neighborhood-level data can:

- Provide information to assist with community planning and problem solving.
- Help business, government and community leaders find effective points of intervention and collaboration.
- Promote a collaborative approach to data collection, analysis and reporting that focuses on shared goals.
- Monitor change over time to assess progress in reaching desired results.
- Build relationships across traditional boundaries such as race, language, age, and residence.

<sup>1</sup> Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU) are Citizen Advisory councils that make recommendations to the mayor and city council on zoning, land-use and other planning issues. The NPU System was established in 1974 to provide an opportunity for citizens to participate actively in the Comprehensive Development Plan—the City’s vision for the next 5, 10 and 15 years. The system enables the citizens to express ideas and comment on City plans and proposals while assisting the City in developing plans which best meet the needs of different areas

<sup>2</sup> NDAG used the results-based accountability (RBA) framework developed by Mark Friedman of the Fiscal Policy Studies Institute. RBA is a discipline that helps groups move from talk to action and to measure the effectiveness of that action over time. Using RBA, groups identify desired results that they would like to achieve and indicators that allow them to measure progress towards that result. For more information about the RBA framework and methodology, visit: [www.raguide.org](http://www.raguide.org).



# NPU-V

**Neighborhood Planning Unit V (NPU-V) includes the six intown Atlanta neighborhoods** of Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, and Summerhill/Capitol Homes. (For the purposes of Neighborhoods Count, the neighborhoods of Summerhill and Capitol Homes have been combined. While many residents of the two areas consider them to be different neighborhoods, the City of Atlanta defines them as one “statistical neighborhood” and reports data for them together.)

**These neighborhoods are some of Atlanta’s oldest residential areas**, with a rich history that mirrors much of Atlanta’s history. The neighborhoods were formed during the decades following the Civil War. As Atlanta regained its importance as a railroad crossroads for the Southeast, the NPU-V neighborhoods grew up around the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia rail yard.

**Today, the CSX and Southern rail lines continue to form portions of the borders of NPU-V** neighborhoods while also serving as the dividing line between some of the neighborhoods. In their developing years, these neighborhoods were served by horse-drawn trolleys that were replaced by electric street cars in 1893. These cars carried residents to and from jobs and shops in downtown Atlanta.

**The five neighborhoods were home to a diverse array of residents.** Adair Park became a predominantly white neighborhood of blue collar workers near the turn of the 20th Century. Mechanicsville became a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse neighborhood with western and eastern European Jews, Greeks, and African

Americans settling there. Peoplestown was also home to Jewish immigrants, African Americans, and native whites while Pittsburgh was founded as an African-American neighborhood to provide a haven for black residents and businesses during segregation. Summerhill was also diverse, with African Americans, Jewish immigrants, and native-born whites.

**While the neighborhoods of NPU-V thrived from the 1870s to the 1940s**, they began to decline during the 1950s. The northern expansion of Atlanta’s business center lured many wealthy and powerful white residents northward. Middle-income African Americans moved to the suburbs and closer to the developing black colleges and universities – Atlanta University, Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University), Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College. The diversity of the neighborhoods declined and by the 1950s, they were becoming predominantly working-class African-American communities.

**The negative impact of this residential migration was compounded** by decades of misguided federal, state, and city policies and programs, beginning with the 1949 Federal Housing Act, which provided communities with funding to support “urban renewal.” This urban renewal in Atlanta gave the city power to acquire tracts of land that were deemed physically or economically depressed.

**The 1950s Rawson-Washington project sought to connect the downtown area** to Atlanta’s suburbs with a major highway and to move all African Americans out of the downtown

area, targeting NPU-V neighborhoods. In the 1960s, city leaders sought to make Atlanta a “national” city by constructing a new civic center, convention center, and baseball stadium within walking distance of downtown that could also serve as a buffer between downtown and the African-American neighborhoods to its south.

*see NPU-V, page 18*

## The NPU System

Adair Park, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, Mechanicsville, and Summerhill/Capitol Homes became known as NPU-V when Mayor Maynard Jackson instituted the city’s Neighborhood Planning Unit system in 1974. The NPUs are Citizen Advisory Councils that make recommendations on questions of zoning, land-use, and other planning issues.

It was Mayor Jackson’s hope that the NPU system might provide citizens the opportunity to participate actively in the Comprehensive Development Plan, the city’s vision for the next five, 10, and 15 years. The NPU system is also a channel through which residents receive information concerning all functions of city government. The system has helped Atlanta’s neighborhoods become a powerful force in Atlanta’s government.

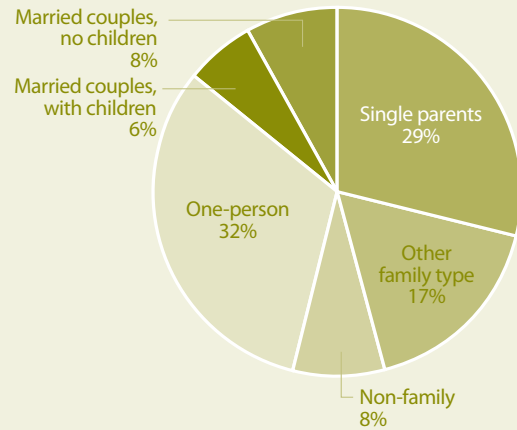
NPUs meet on a monthly basis to consider community concerns. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older whose primary residence is within the NPU, or any corporation, organization, institution, or agency that owns property or has a place of business or profession within the NPU. Today, NPU-V has a strong core of resident involvement, attracting an average of 57 residents to its monthly meetings in 2003 as compared to an average of 39 attendees at other NPU meetings in Atlanta that year.

## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 15,825 people resided in NPU-V in 2000 – a decrease of 1% since 1990. By comparison, the City of Atlanta increased by nearly 6% during that same time frame.
- Women outnumbered men 8,497 to 7,328 in 2000 and comprised 54% of the total population, compared to 50% citywide.
- 92% of NPU-V residents were African American, 3% white, and 4% other races. Residents of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) doubled to 289 in 2000.
- Children under age 18 increased by 3% to 5,548 between 1990 and 2000 and accounted for 35% of the total population, as compared to 22% in the City of Atlanta.

#### Households in NPU-V by Household Type (2000)

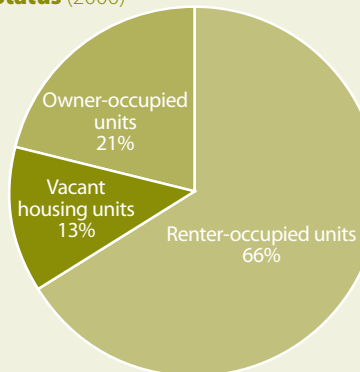


- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 29% to 1,316.
- There were 323 grandparents (age 30 and older) who were responsible for raising their grandchildren under the age of 18 in 2000.
- There were 5,729 households in NPU-V in 2000 – virtually the same as in 1990. The number of households in Atlanta increased by 8% during that same time period.
- The number of persons per household remained unchanged between 1990 and 2000 at 2.8.
- 35% of NPU-V households included one or more children under the age of 18 in 2000, compared to 22% in the City of Atlanta.
- Single-parent households remained essentially unchanged at 1,637 in 2000 and accounted for 29% of all households, compared to 13% citywide.
- Married couples with children decreased 5% to 359 in 2000 and accounted for 6% of all households, compared to 9% citywide.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- NPU-V had 5,729 occupied housing units in 2000, comprising 87% of all housing units, compared to 90% in the City of Atlanta.
- The number of occupied housing units remained essentially unchanged since 1990, compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- Owner-occupied housing increased 8% in NPU-V to 1,374 homes in 2000 and accounted for 21% of all housing units, compared to 39% citywide.
- Renter-occupied housing decreased 3% to 4,355 units in 2000 and accounted for 66% of all housing units, compared to 51% in the City of Atlanta.

#### Housing Units in NPU-V by Occupancy Status (2000)



### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 5,495 NPU-V residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 94 more residents than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 20% in 2000 is higher than the 14% rate for the entire city.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000, Census 1990, and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)

# A Healthy Start for Babies Can Be a Healthy Start for Teenage Moms

Teenage mothers face many medical and emotional challenges. The Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative and its Resource Moms Program are an effort to give infants a healthy start and to start young mothers on the right track too.

Eight years ago, Shavien Dennis was a teenage mother working in a fast food restaurant and wanting a job that would be more meaningful. "I was 17 when I had my first child. I had four sisters. My mother wasn't around and most people wanted to talk about the baby. I needed someone to talk to me about me and what I was going through," explains Dennis.

When she saw fliers in the neighborhood three years ago, advertising openings for Resource Moms, she applied, and was hired. Since then she has provided support to other young mothers in her Pittsburgh neighborhood. "I like helping teen mothers because I can relate to them. I am more supportive because I have been there," she says.

Resource Moms are part of a case management team that provides trained community outreach and health care support. They conduct home visits, coordinate care, and provide assistance to new and expectant mothers. They discuss sexual health and child immunization, help homeless or unemployed mothers, and encourage early and regular prenatal care. They link families to health and social services, including well woman and pediatric care, child care, education, and employment opportunities.

Dennis sees about 10 women regularly, sometimes three times a month. One of her clients

was a teenage girl who was afraid to tell her mother that she was pregnant. "I was with her when she told her mom. She is still in school and on schedule to graduate this June. She hasn't had any other kids and she is so much better now."

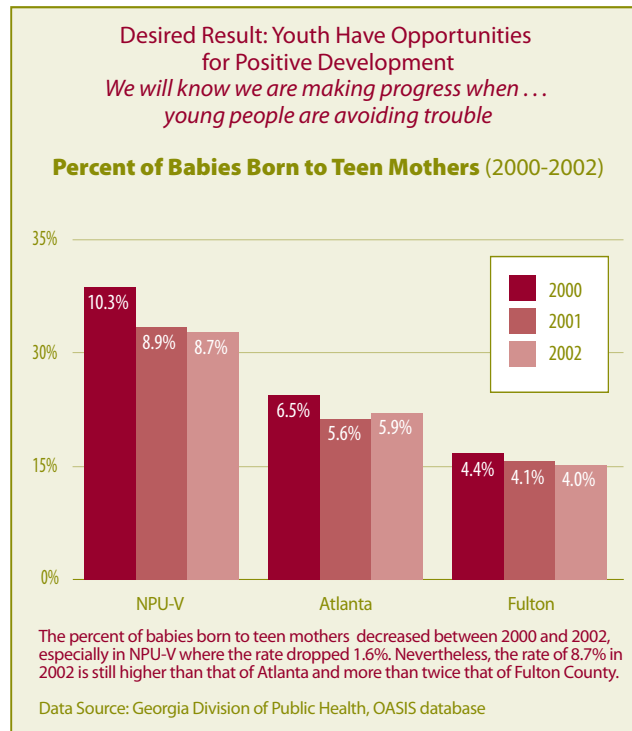
Resource Moms teach young mothers about parenting and life. Dennis' mother was a drug user. Their relationship was hampered by her mother's absence and her resentment. Today, their relationship has grown. "I understand more now since I am a mother too. Being a Resource Mom has not just helped me be a better mom, but a better daughter."

The work of Atlanta Healthy Start extends well beyond the toddler's first steps. After a brief pause, Dennis almost whispers, "I see that I'm changing people's lives."

For more information on Atlanta Healthy Start and the Center for Black Women's Wellness, visit: [www.cbwww.org/programs](http://www.cbwww.org/programs).

*"I like helping teen mothers because I can relate to them; I am more supportive because I have been there."*

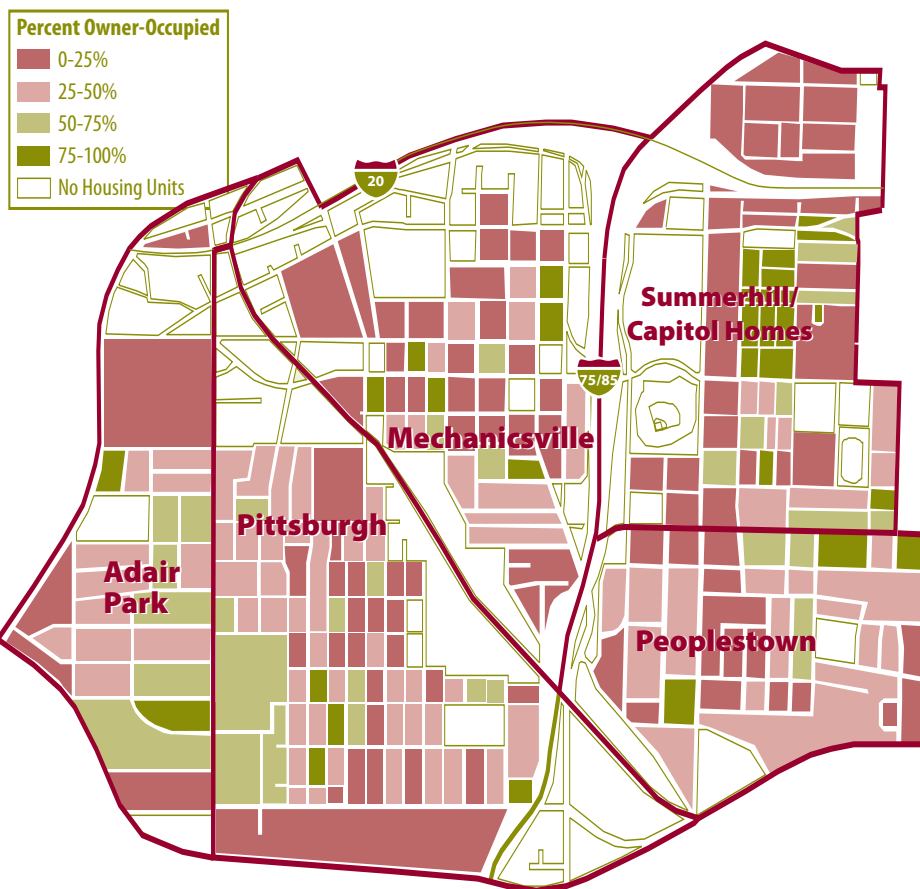
— Shavien Dennis





Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living  
*We will know we are making a difference when ...  
families have increased levels of assets*

### Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units by Census Block (2000)



For many adults homeownership represents the pinnacle of personal asset development. Of the 5,729 occupied housing units in NPU-V in 2000, however, only about one in four were lived in by the unit's owner. Concentrations of owner-occupied units are also few and far between. Only in Summerhill-Capitol Homes – the site of a large-scale housing development project around the 1996 Olympics – does one find a sizeable group of blocks that have predominantly owner-occupied housing.

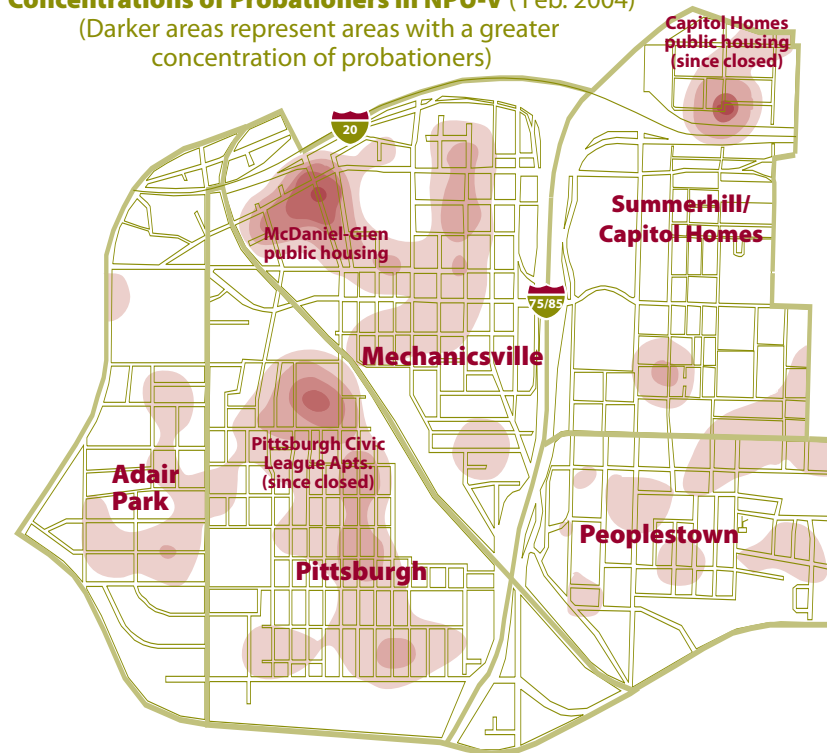
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Data Note: Data does not capture instances where a renter may own property elsewhere.

Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living  
*We will know we are making a difference when ...  
barriers to employment are overcome*

### Concentrations of Probationers in NPU-V (Feb. 2004)

(Darker areas represent areas with a greater concentration of probationers)



For many, a criminal background is a serious obstacle to gainful employment. As of November 2003 NPU-V was home to 475 active probationers with 140 of these coming from Peoplestown – the most of any neighborhood. Most of the high concentration areas in the map above are around public or quasi-public housing sites, some of which are now closed.

Data Source: Georgia Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis

Data Note: The high concentration seen in the northeast corner of NPU-V is likely lower than shown due to the handful of probationers reported as living at the since-closed Capitol Homes. Concentrations depict weighted geographic densities based on location of geocoded address of probationers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the exact location of probationer residences.



**NPU-V***continued from page 13***The construction of Interstates 20 and 75/85**

(also known as the “Downtown Connector”) and of Atlanta Fulton County Stadium and its replacement Turner Field, resulted in thousands of residents being displaced and historical structures being demolished. The neighborhoods of NPU-V are now divided by the Downtown Connector traveling north-south, and are skirted to the north by Interstate 20, separating most of NPU-V from downtown Atlanta.

**According to the 2000 Census**, the population of the NPU-V neighborhoods totaled 15,825, slightly less than the 15,960 residents in 1990. With 42.8 percent of NPU-V families living in poverty, as compared to only 26 percent of families in the City of Atlanta, the neighborhoods have a high concentration of poverty.

**More than 92 percent of NPU-V residents were African American** in 2000. In recent years, NPU-V has been becoming more diverse. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of races other than African American and white more than tripled. During that same time the number of Hispanics more than doubled. While racial diversity is increasing in all neighborhoods except for Summerhill/Capitol Homes and Peoplestown, and ethnic diversity is increasing in all of the neighborhoods, the increases were most dramatic in Adair Park. The number of people in that neighborhood who defined their races as other than white or African American on the 2000 Census increased from 18 to 405 while the number of Hispanics increased from 8 to 41.

**Much of this increase in diversity in Adair Park is the result of immigrants** making their homes in the neighborhood. Since 1990, approximately 450 foreign-born residents have settled there, the large majority (355) from Vietnam.

**The neighborhoods have been changing rapidly since the 2000 Census.** Capitol Homes, the 700-unit public housing complex in Summerhill/Capitol Homes, was demolished in 2002 in preparation for the construction of Capitol Gateway, a mixed-income complex that will include 1,000 residential units, 45,000 square feet of offices, shops, and restaurants, and a youth development center. All of the families who lived in Capitol Homes have been relocated since the census. Similarly, the Pittsburgh Civic League Apartments in Pittsburgh were vacated in 2004 in preparation for redevelopment, displacing the largest concentration of families with children in the neighborhood.

**Several schools have served the neighborhood of NPU-V** during its history. Before Atlanta’s schools began the process of integration in the 1960s, however, there was only one public school in the neighborhoods that served African-American students. That school began in the basement of Pittsburgh’s Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church in the late 1890s and was called the Pittsburgh School.

**The Pittsburgh School later moved into a two-room rented building** and became a part of the Fulton County School System. In 1909, area residents raised their own money (receiving only \$75 from the school board) to construct a wooden school building, renaming it Crogman School in honor of Dr. William Henry Crogman, the first

African-American president of Clark College. In 1922, a brick structure was built to house Crogman School, which educated youth and adults until 1979. Today, that building serves as a community center, senior housing, and an apartment complex.

**Perhaps the biggest asset of NPU-V** is its location to the immediate south of downtown Atlanta and north of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. And in keeping with its roots as a rail transportation hub, the NPU is also strategically located at the crossroads of two of the area’s largest interstates. Conversely these interstates (I-20 and I-75/85) can also be viewed as a detriment to the NPU since they effectively separate neighborhoods from one another.

**The area overall has a healthy mix of residential, commercial, and industrial space** – some of which is already utilized, and some of which is vacant and holds potential for future community development. Such development could include a large supermarket or other commercial amenities that local residents currently lack in their neighborhood. The area offers several important community resources, including Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative in the Center for Black Women’s Wellness, which sends Resource Moms to expectant and new mothers in the neighborhoods in order to connect them to health care and other supports.

**Today’s NPU-V youth are served by six schools located inside the neighborhoods.** They are Dunbar Elementary in Mechanicsville; D.H. Stanton Elementary in Peoplestown; Gideons Elementary in Pittsburgh; Parks Middle School in Pittsburgh; and McGill Elementary and Cook Elementary in Summerhill.

# Adair Park

**Adair Park is a neighborhood of many folk Victorian and Craftsman bungalows**, bordered on the west by railroads that developed gradually from the 1880s through the 1920s. The neighborhood began as a trolley car community with trolleys that ran along Metropolitan Avenue (called Stewart Avenue at that time) carrying the neighborhood's mostly blue collar workers to their jobs in the city.

**Adair Park was called Shady Side Grove and Bonnie Brae in its early years**, but the neighborhood was formally named Adair Park in the 1920s when Adair Realty Company purchased and developed a large tract of land on the neighborhood's south side. The northern section of the neighborhood housed a variety of industries and warehouses. These included a Merita Bakery, an ice house, and the Candler-Smith warehouse (originally called the Candler warehouse). Part of this structure was used as a military arms warehouse during World War II and later served as a warehouse for Rich's Department Store for many years.

**Many residents worked in heavy and light industry** while others worked in skilled and moderately skilled occupations. The neighborhood's only school, George W. Adair Elementary, was established in 1912, the year after the neighborhood was brought into the city limits. A park was established across the street from the school several years later.

**The Adair Park neighborhood has witnessed many changes over the years.** As Atlanta grew from a railroad town to an industrial city, to a thriving metropolis and transitioned from a southern city firmly rooted in Jim Crow segregation to a city led by African Americans, Adair Park also evolved. Once almost entirely inhabited by whites, the neighborhood is now a mix of whites, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans. While for most of its history the neighborhood has been predominantly owner-occupied, the majority of today's residents rent their homes. Speculators have also purchased and converted homes into duplexes and illegal rooming houses and have frequently let the properties fall into disrepair.

**Neighborhood organizations like Adair Park Today and Adair Park Community Empowerment Association** (APCEA) are working to make the community a better place to live, work, shop, and play for all residents. Adair Park Today was formed in 1976 and APCEA was formed in 1998 to create a better community. Soon after Adair Park Today's creation, members organized to remove an auto salvage and junkyard from the neighborhood by requesting that the city not renew its contract. That area, at the corner of Murphy and Lillian streets, is now one of the neighborhood's four parks.

**APCEA is in the process of forming a charter school in the neighborhood.** Members established the charter in 2000 and are currently in

negotiation with Atlanta Public Schools to obtain an abandoned school building. When this school is opened in the next few years, it will be the only school inside the neighborhood.

*see **ADAIR PARK**, page 24*



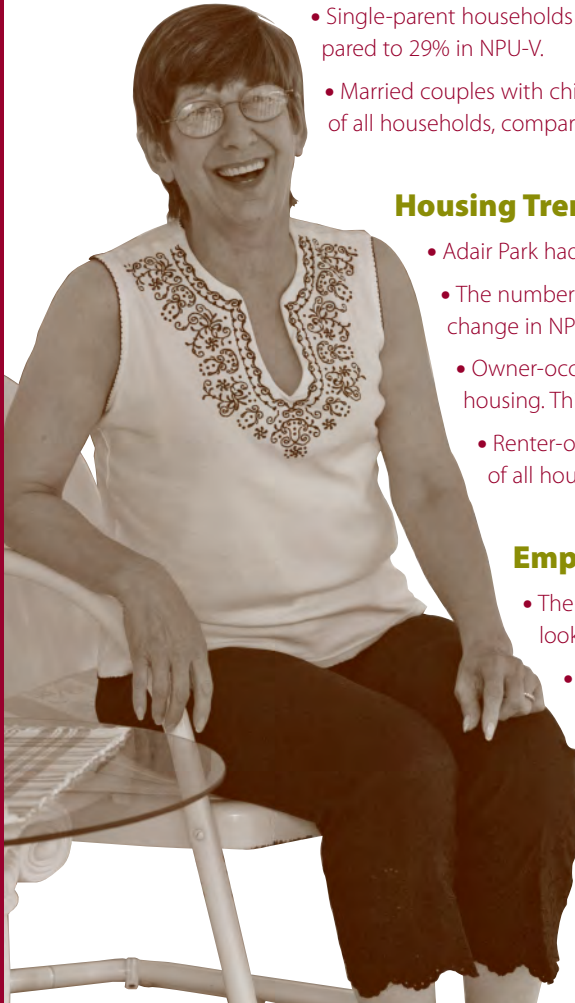
## Increased Diversity

The racial and ethnic diversity of Adair Park has been increasing in recent years. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of residents who defined their race as other than African American or white increased from 18 to 405. Many of these are among the approximately 450 foreign-born residents who were living in the neighborhood in 2000, most of whom (279) arrived between 1990 and 1994. The overwhelming majority (355) are immigrants from Vietnam. The number of Hispanics in the neighborhood also increased, from 8 to 41.

## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 2,205 people resided in Adair Park in 2000, a 29% increase since 1990. During the same time period the population of NPU-V declined by 1% and the city as a whole increased nearly 6%.
- Children under age 18 increased by 8% to 599 in 2000, accounting for 27% of the population, as compared to 35% for NPU-V as a whole.
- Adults age 65 and older increased by 59% to 185.
- Nearly three-quarters of Adair Park residents were African American, 8% were white and 18% were of other races. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up less than 2%.
- There were 683 households in Adair Park in 2000, an increase of 15% since 1990, while NPU-V was virtually unchanged.
- On average, household size is increasing. In 2000 there were 3.2 persons per household, up from 2.9 persons in 1990.
  - Nearly 31% of households include one or more children under the age of 18.
  - Single-parent households decreased 22% to 112 since 1990 and made up 16% of all households, compared to 29% in NPU-V.
  - Married couples with children increased by 39 households to 97 households in 2000 and made up 14% of all households, compared to 6% in NPU-V.



### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Adair Park had 683 occupied housing units in 2000 comprising 86% of all housing units.
- The number of occupied housing units increased 30% since 1990 compared to virtually no change in NPU-V.
- Owner-occupied housing increased 4% to 265 homes in 2000 and accounted for 33% of all housing. This is substantially higher than the 21% in NPU-V.
- Renter-occupied housing increased by 55% to 418 units in 2000 and accounted for 53% of all housing. This is well below the 66% in NPU-V.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- There were an estimated 992 Adair Park residents in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – an increase of 235 persons since 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 13% in 2000 for Adair Park is substantially below the 20% rate for NPU-V and is slightly lower than the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)

# Building a Neighborhood School

Adair Park parents and children want a neighborhood school and are taking steps to achieve that dream. Since G.W. Adair Elementary School closed during the 1970s, there has not been a school inside the neighborhood. Instead, Adair Park children cross over busy Metropolitan Parkway to attend Gideons Elementary School and Parks Middle School in Pittsburgh. In recent years, residents and members of the Adair Park Community Empowerment Association (APCEA) have sought to establish a charter school in the abandoned school building.

"The Charter School has been challenging to get started," explains Dr. Perry Thornton, director of APCEA. "We are pro public education but we want kids who live in our neighborhood to have a school to attend, a school that will be a community school."

Adair Park residents have faced some recent challenges in their efforts to establish the charter school. After the management company in charge of their charter was bought out by a new company, the managers allowed the charter to expire, so the residents are beginning the process again with a new management company. They hope to open the school's doors during the next one to two years. Until that time, they are in conversation with KIPP Academy, another area charter school that is in need of more space, about a possible merger. They are

seeking financial support from Microsoft to support a school technology center. When the school opens, they also plan to offer GED and continuing education courses for seniors. Residents are committed to the vision of a true neighborhood school and plan to use the site as the location of neighborhood association meetings, Boy Scout meetings, and other neighborhood activities.

*"We are pro-public education but we want kids who live in our neighborhood to have a school to attend, a school that will be a community school."*

*— Dr. Perry Thornton  
Adair Park Community  
Empowerment Association*

"This will be a school that is very much like what schools used to be," says Thornton, a resident whose family has lived in the neighborhood for almost 10 years.

Adair Park is a diverse but close-knit community. Residents include a racially and ethnically diverse group of young people and seniors. Adair Park is

the most racially diverse neighborhood in NPU-V. "As neighbors, we share the same problems. We may look different, but we care about the same things," says Thornton.

The community is on both the Atlanta Historic Registry and the National Registry of Historic Places, with many old Victorian homes along its wide streets. With 5.7 percent of the land covered in parks, it has a larger percentage of park land than any other NPU-V neighborhood and more than the City of Atlanta.

Adair Park residents are committed to making their neighborhood a safe place to raise children. They have actively worked against drug trafficking and

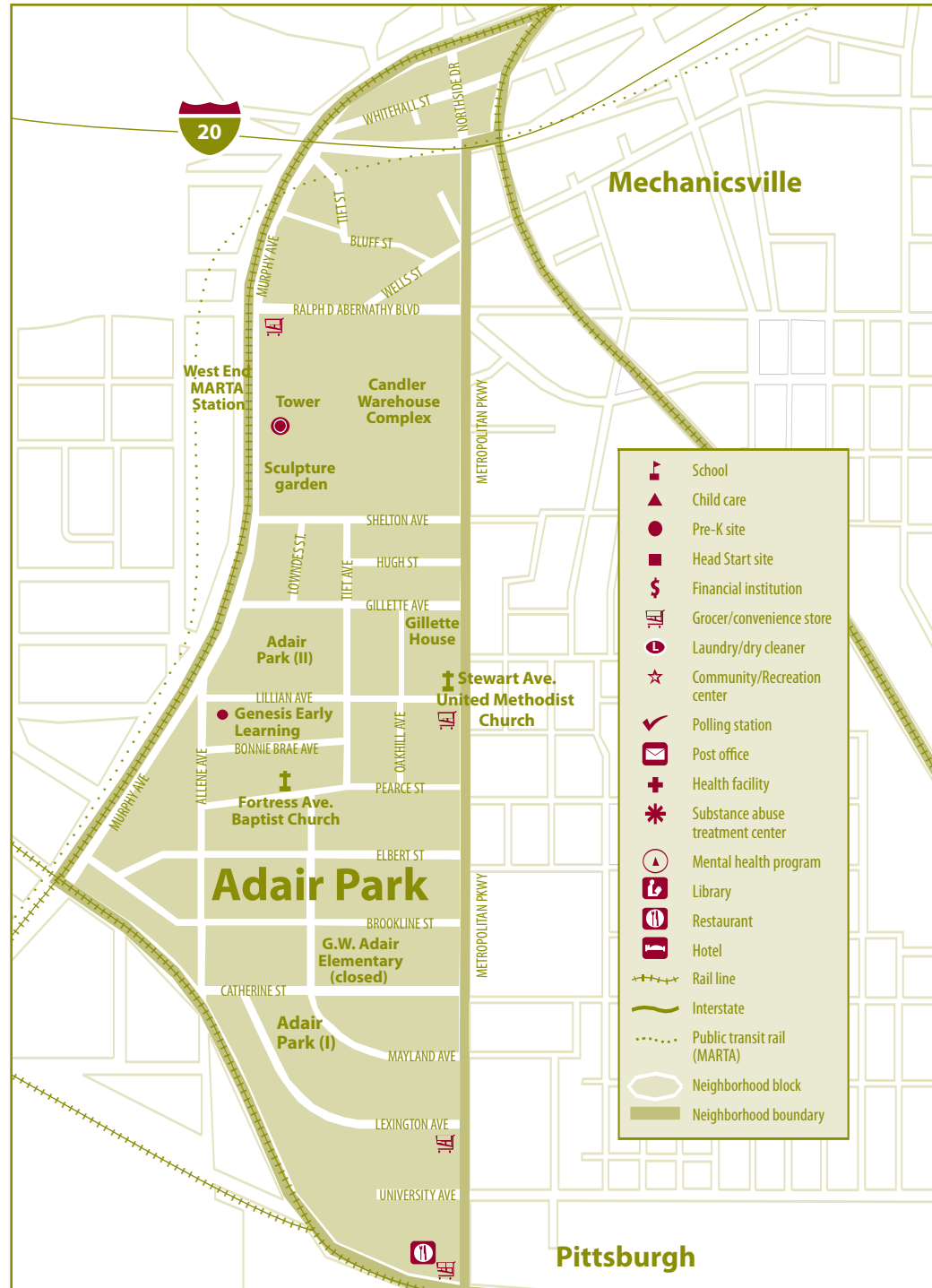
prostitution by calling on the police frequently and attending community zoning board meetings. "The seniors have a real sense of history; they are the true founders of this community," says Thornton.

For more information about Adair Park Community Empowerment Association, visit [www.neighborhoodlink.com/atlanta/adair](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/atlanta/adair) or call Dr. Perry Thornton at 404.755.3208.





# ADAIR PARK RESOURCE MAP

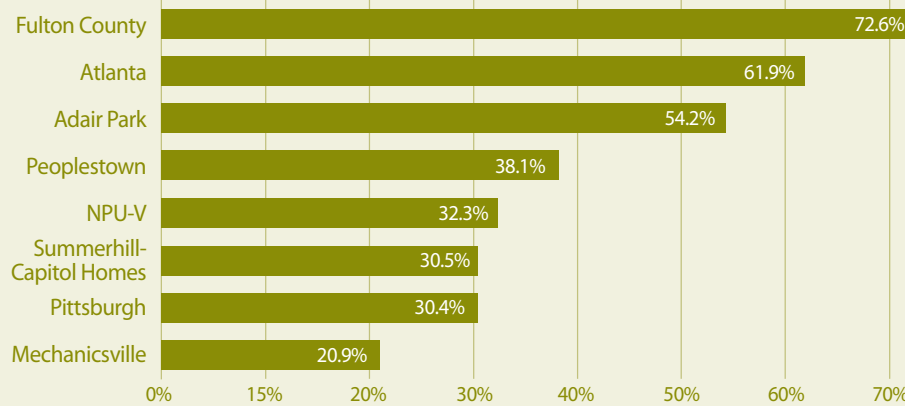




Families in Adair Park typically have higher incomes than those in other NPU-V neighborhoods. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Adair Park was the only neighborhood with more than 50% of its households earning more than \$25,000 per year in 1999. That represents 370 households – second only to the notably larger Summerhill-Capitol Homes with 547 such households. The median household income was \$34,770 for Atlanta and \$47,321 for Fulton County.

**Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . families have adequate income*

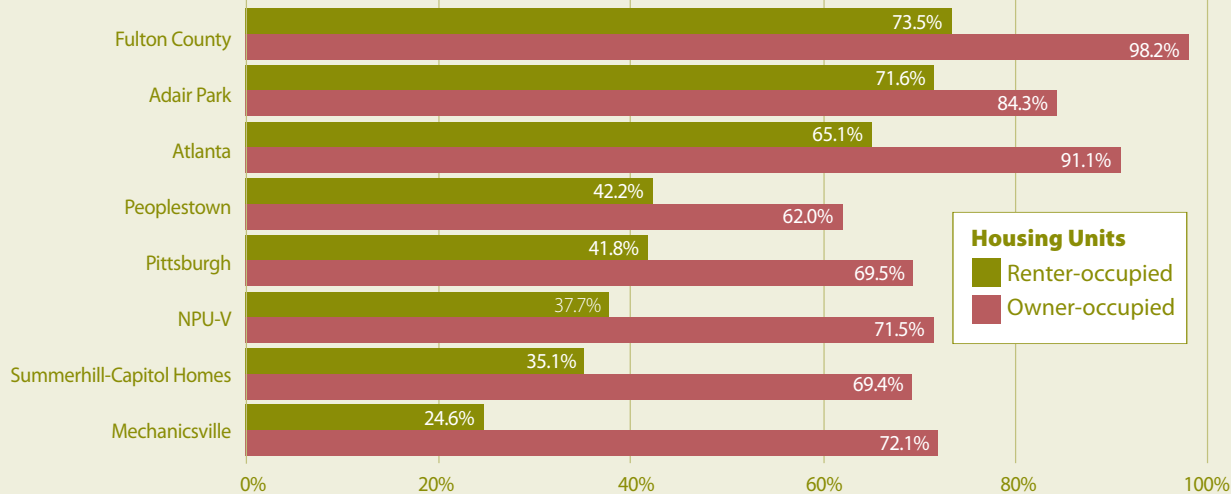
**Percent of All Households That Earn More than \$25,000 (1999)**



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

**Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . barriers to employment are overcome*

**Percent of Occupied Housing Units with At Least One Vehicle (2000)**

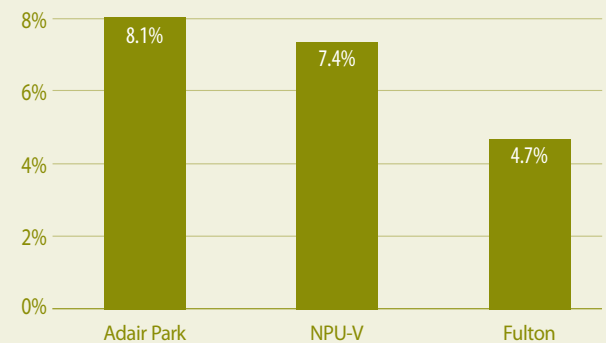


Households in Adair Park are more likely than other NPU-V neighborhoods to have access to at least one vehicle according to data from the 2000 Census. Also, with the exception of Mechanicsville, renter-occupied housing units in Adair Park have a higher rate of vehicular access (71.6%) than owner-occupied housing units in the rest of NPU-V.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

**Desired Result: Neighborhoods Have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . neighborhoods have an adequate mix of housing, business and recreation.*

**Percent of Residential Properties Sold in 2003**



Of all NPU-V neighborhoods, Adair Park had the highest percentage (8.1%) of its residential properties sold at least once during the first eight months of 2003.

Data Source: Fulton County Board of Assessors, 2003 Tax Digest

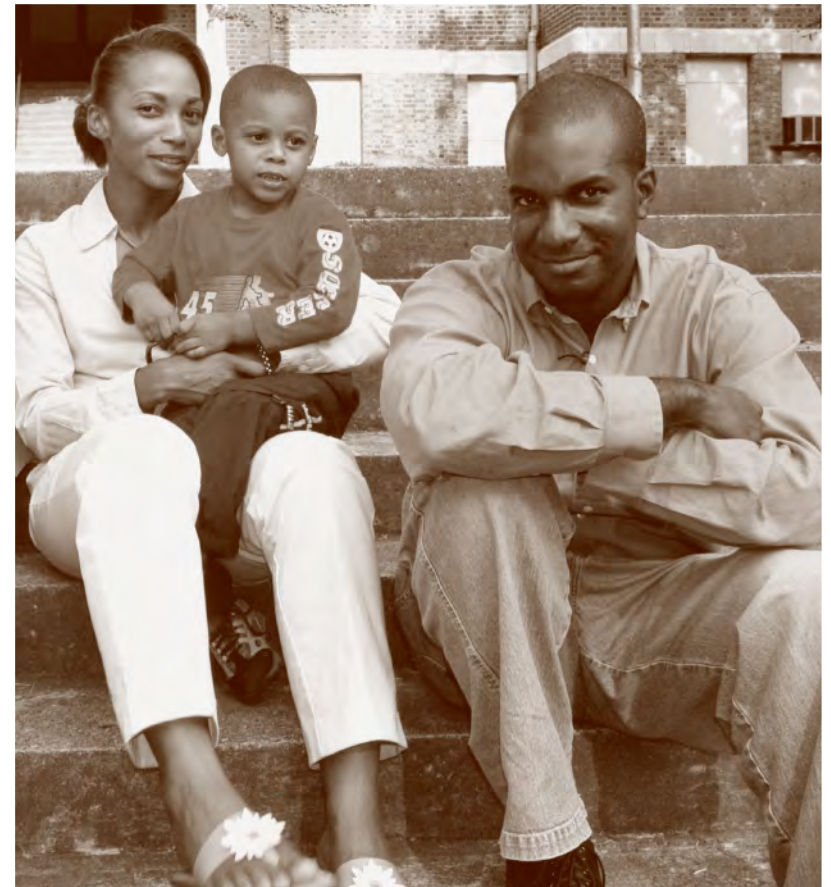
Data Note: Because of limitations of the source data, figures for the City of Atlanta are not available.

## ADAIR PARK

*continued from page 19*

**Adair Park has more park space than any other NPU-V neighborhood.** With the exception of some industrial and mixed-use land at its northern tip, Adair Park is primarily a residential neighborhood that lacks many of the commercial and governmental institutions found in the other neighborhoods. The neighborhood is also the smallest of the NPU-V neighborhoods in terms of both population and land size.

**In 1994, the neighborhood was recognized by formal application** process as an Atlanta Historic District and, in 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation added Adair Park to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2004, at the request of residents, the neighborhood was rezoned to allow only single-family housing to prevent investors from dividing larger homes into duplexes, which would increase the number of renter-occupied residences. The neighborhood is now considered a “reviving” community and many young adults are purchasing homes.



# Mechanicsville

**Mechanicsville has witnessed a great deal of change in its more than 140-year history** and has been home to several of Atlanta's religious, business, and government leaders. Formed alongside the rail yard and locomotive repair shop of the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railway, the neighborhood was home to the men responsible for the maintenance of the rail lines and locomotives. Because the neighborhood was home to "mechanics," it soon became known as Mechanicsville.

**In 1860, Atlanta's earliest Jewish residents, Jacob Haas and Henry Levi**, settled in the northern edge of Mechanicsville and opened a dry goods store. The neighborhood's Jewish community grew rapidly and soon comprised a substantial portion of Atlanta's Jewish population. By 1880, there were more than 600 Jewish residents in Mechanicsville. The Hebrew Benevolent Congregation Synagogue was built, and attracted increasing numbers of Jews. It was replaced by "The Temple" in 1902. By 1911, Mechanicsville boasted two-thirds of Atlanta's Jewish population.

**In 1870, Mechanicsville residents were an ethnically, economically, and religiously diverse group** of people, including African Americans, Russians, Germans and other Europeans. In the early 1870s, the growing African-American population formed two religious congregations – St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Zion Hill Baptist Church.

**Because of its location close to the downtown business district and the availability of land**, Mechanicsville was home to many of Atlanta's upper

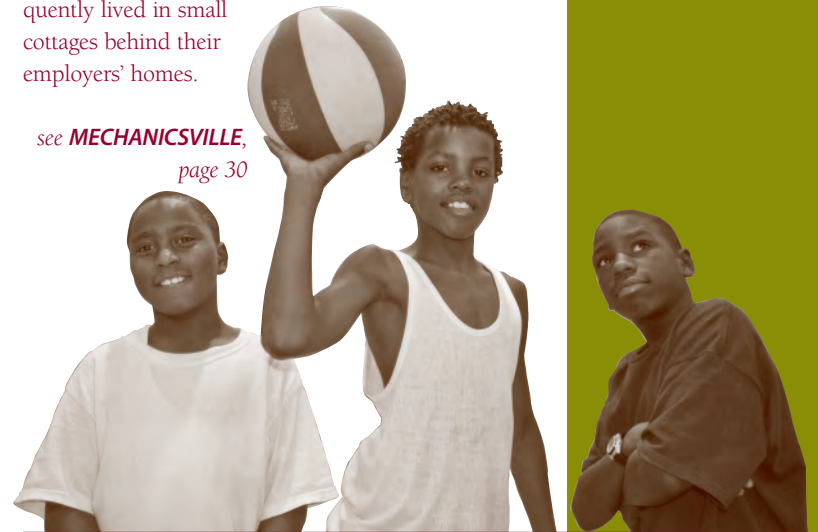
and middle class families around the turn of the century, including Amos Rhodes, J. J. Haverty, and the Rich family. According to a neighborhood history written by NPU-V President Peggy Harper, middle-income African Americans also resided in the neighborhood. In 1873, a black brick mason in Mechanicsville was listed as owning \$1,200 in property and in 1885 a black carpenter living in the neighborhood owned \$1,510 in property (substantial amounts at that time).

**Mechanicsville's residents traveled to downtown and nearby neighborhoods on trolley cars.** Being so close to downtown Atlanta, Mechanicsville did not develop any major commercial corridors, but small grocers, laundries, and a coal company were opened to serve local residents. Rapid growth required the establishment of several schools in Mechanicsville's early years. The first, Ira Street School, was built in 1887 to serve 500 students. Three additional schools were built over the next 20 years. The Briscane Ball Park was also built in 1899 as the neighborhood's first recreational area. Today, this area is the Windsor Play Lot.

**While the overall population of the neighborhood was quite diverse in the early years**, the levels of segregation varied inside the neighborhood. The northeastern section was home to wealthy residents and was predominantly white. Early in its history, the western and southern sections of the neighborhood were more integrated and African-American and white families lived next door to each other. By 1900, the neighborhood was becoming more segregated, with each street being

either African American or white. Wealthier residents lived in Queen Anne-style homes. Middle-income residents lived in folk Victorian or Craftsman-style homes. And servants for the wealthier residents, predominantly African American, frequently lived in small cottages behind their employers' homes.

see **MECHANICSVILLE**,  
page 30



## A Community Resource

The Dunbar Community Center was founded in the 1960s and continues to serve neighborhood residents. Nonprofit and service organizations rent space in the center and provide health services, after-school and youth-oriented programs, computer classes, job training classes, and child care. Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc., is one of the organizations housed at the Dunbar Center, offering pre-employment skills courses to area residents. *To learn more about Ropheka, see "Getting the Skills to Achieve Your Dream" on page 27.*



## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 3,358 people resided in Mechanicsville in 2000 – a decrease of 14% since 1990 compared to a decrease of less than 1% in NPU-V and an increase of nearly 6% in the entire city during that time.
- The number of children under age 18 decreased by 6% to 1,279 in 2000.
- Adults age 65 and over decreased by 43% to 263.
- Mechanicsville residents, like the residents in NPU-V overall, were predominantly African-American – 94% of the total population – while whites made up 2% and persons of other races made up just over 3%. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up less than 2% in 2000.
- Mechanicsville had 1,307 households in 2000.

- The total number of households decreased 13% since 1990, compared to a decline of 1% in NPU-V and growth of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- There was no change in the number of persons per household between 1990 and 2000 – 2.6 persons.
- Nearly 36% of all households included one or more children under the age of 18.
- Single-parent households decreased 18% to 399 since 1990 but still made up 31% of all households, slightly higher than the 29% rate for NPU-V.
- Married couples with children increased slightly from 64 in 1990 to 68 in 2000 and made up 5% of all households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Mechanicsville had 1,307 occupied housing units in 2000 comprising 90% of all housing units.
- The number of occupied housing units decreased 10% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- The number of owner-occupied housing increased 20% to 174 homes in 2000 and accounted for 12% of all housing, substantially lower than the 21% rate for NPU-V.
- Renter-occupied housing decreased by 13% to 1,133 units in 2000 and accounted for 78% of all units.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 930 Mechanicsville residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 170 fewer persons than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 29% in 2000 is more than twice the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)



## Getting the Skills to Achieve Your Dream: Yolanda Jones' Story

**Y**olanda Jones, a Mechanicsville resident, was doing her best to care for her five children. She had been working for the State of Georgia, but in August 2002, was let go when her car broke down and she could no longer get to work. Soon after, she was evicted from her apartment and moved into her sister's one-bedroom apartment in the McDaniel Glen Housing Project in Mechanicsville. "I lost everything," Jones laments. "I lost my car, my job, and my home."

Jones began looking for another job, but she wanted one where she could grow. "I said I wasn't going to settle for just anything," Jones explains. "I wanted to get training so I could get a better job." The opportunity presented itself in August 2003, when she saw a flier for a pre-employment skills class at Ropheka Rock of the World. She started that very day.

In the Ropheka classes, which are conducted in Mechanicsville's Dunbar Center, Jones learned to prepare her resume, dress professionally, and use proper job etiquette. She also learned to be a team player and get along with all types of people. "It's not like you are going to school when you go to Ropheka," she explains. "It's like a family there. If you have a problem, they have a problem, and they work with you to fix it."

When Ropheka's staff learned that Jones' dream was to work in the legal field, they helped her enroll in Paralegal Studies at Atlanta Technical College. She graduated with certification in July 2004.

As part of a class assignment, Jones interviewed Judge Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore, one of Atlanta's first African-American female judges. Moore took a real interest in Jones. "I was very nervous at first, but she was so down to earth," says Jones. "She explained how you can go farther. She gave me background on women in law and how they have had to struggle to get where they want to go."

Moore also encouraged Jones to seek an internship at King Grant Law Firm. Jones applied and began an internship there in February. The next month she was hired as a part-time employee. Now that she has completed her class work, she will begin to work there full-time. "I just love it," she explains. "It is something I always wanted to do. My children are so proud of me. They are so happy. They think I'm a lawyer."

Jones continues to reap benefits from the training and support of Ropheka. Recently, she was nominated by the Concerned Black Clergy (CBC) for a scholarship. Her family was also nominated to be Family



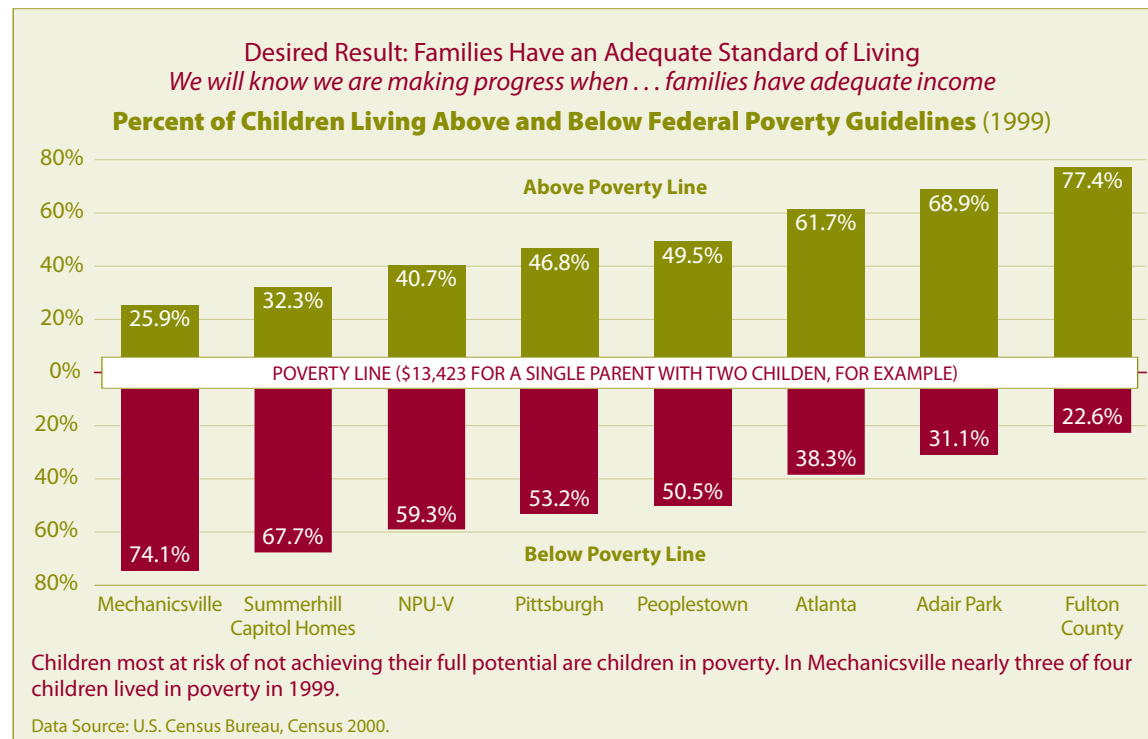
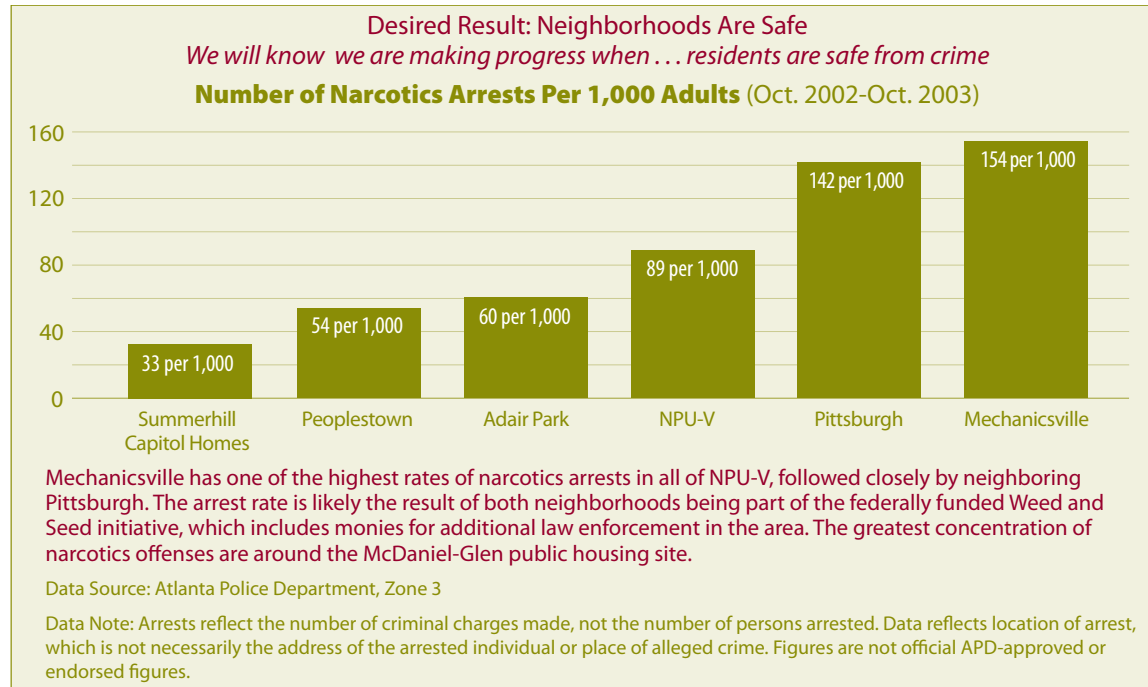
of the Year by CBC. When she looks back on all she has achieved in the past year, Jones offers advice to others, saying, "If you don't have the training, go to school. Get training so you can advance in life."

*For more information on Ropheka's pre-employment skills training, call 404.221.1444. For more information on Atlanta Technical College's course work, visit [www.atlantatech.org](http://www.atlantatech.org) or call 404.225.4400.*

# MECHANICSVILLE RESOURCE MAP







**MECHANICSVILLE***continued from page 25*

**The railroad remained the largest employer in the Mechanicsville neighborhood** for much of its history, but in 1922, General Electric built a factory that employed many neighborhood residents. By the mid-1920s though, Atlanta's residential and business expansion to the north and east led many of Mechanicsville's business leaders to move north as well. Middle-income African Americans also moved from Mechanicsville to the west side where black colleges and universities were established.

**This relocation, followed by the Great Depression,** caused negative changes in the neighborhood. Many homes became rental properties and fell into great disrepair. After World War II, home ownership and ethnic diversity fell rapidly and, by 1945, Mechanicsville was a predominantly working

class, African-American community. A number of public redevelopment policies subjected Mechanicsville to harm in the name of redevelopment. In 1964, the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium was built just outside of the neighborhood, while highway construction on the north and east furthered destruction of the neighborhood's physical resources. In 1968, a 1,000-unit public housing complex, the McDaniel Glen Housing Project, was constructed on the western edge of Mechanicsville to house many of the displaced lower-income families in the area.

**From 1960 to 2000, Mechanicsville lost two-thirds of its population,** dropping from 10,530 in 1960 to 3,358 in 2000. Those remaining residents have united as a force to stall the neighborhood's decline. In the 1980s, Mechanicsville residents successfully protested the Metropolitan Atlanta Regional Transportation Association's (MARTA) attempts to claim public housing property along Interstate 20, a move that would have displaced many low-income residents. Because of resident protests, annexes of McDaniel Glen were built throughout the neighborhood, making

the housing complex a more integral part of the neighborhood.

**As Atlanta made its bid to host the 1996 Olympics,** Mechanicsville residents united again to protect their neighborhood. They encouraged the city to fund a resident-informed master development plan and formed the Mechanicsville Civic Association to push the plan forward. The SUM-MECH Community Development Corporation has converted several blocks of vacant property into Ware Estates, a complex of 69 townhomes. Today, renters make up more than two-thirds of all occupied housing.

**Anchored in large part by the Dunbar Center,** Mechanicsville includes a varied assortment of assets and resources, both old and new. Perhaps because of its proximity to downtown Atlanta and two interstates, the northern half of the neighborhood contains several public and private institutions such as the county's new Romae Powell Juvenile Justice Center and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Separated by the primarily commercial Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, the south is made up mostly of single-family residences.

Data Source: Mechanicsville: Past, Present, and Future, by Peggy Harper.



# Peopletown

**Peopletown is named for the Peoples family who owned 66 lots** in the southeast section of the neighborhood as it was developing in the 1890s. The area developed as a fashionable single-family neighborhood with impressive Victorian homes lining the streets and small servant quarters hidden towards the rear. Early development was concentrated along the southeast sections of today's Peopletown.

**The neighborhood was served by a street trolley which carried residents** to downtown businesses. By the 1920s the residential area had expanded towards today's neighborhood boundaries and commercial areas had developed along the southernmost borders of the neighborhood. Peopletown was home to a diverse population, including African Americans, whites and Jewish immigrants from Western Europe. Those residents were, however, segregated within the neighborhood.

**In the 1930s and 1940s, development slowed in the neighborhood** and many residents moved out. Some middle-class blacks moved to Atlanta's west side near the newly developed Atlanta University Center while some middle- and upper-class whites relocated to the newly developed areas on Atlanta's north side. This relocation left many of Peopletown's larger homes to become boarding houses, which fell into disrepair.

**With the end of World War II, the neighborhood again became** a vital and racially mixed community. Schools, a library, post office, hospital, drug store, clothing stores, and movie theaters were close enough to the neighborhood to provide

employment and recreation, allowing for a convenient urban existence. An industrial area stretched from Peopletown to Mechanicsville and provided many jobs within walking distance. The neighborhood was also served by several schools: Capitol Avenue Elementary, Capitol Avenue High School, E.P. Johnson Elementary and, after 1958, Daniel H. Stanton Elementary.

**The 1950s and 1960s brought dramatic change to Peopletown** and the surrounding areas. Federal policies, including the urban renewal activities of the Federal Housing Act of 1949, massive freeway and parking construction projects, and the development of federally subsidized rental housing, contributed to the decline of the neighborhood. This hastened "white flight," which carried affluent residents and businesses out of Peopletown. Although the Urban Renewal program promised replacement housing for the homes demolished by this construction and for the families who had lived there, Fulton County Stadium and its associated parking in neighboring Summerhill were built on the land intended for this purpose.

**By 1990, Peopletown had lost half of its 1950 population**, dropping from 5,598 to 2,527. In 1992, residents formed Peopletown Revitalization Corporation (PRC) and have worked for the past 12 years to build a safe and thriving community. PRC has initiated projects to support affordable housing in the neighborhood, including Columbia at Peopletown Apartment Homes, an \$8.2 million mixed-income project that offers 69 affordable units; The Square at Peopletown, an \$8.74 million complex on four acres of land that offers 94 afford-

able units; and Peopletown Villas, a 20-unit apartment community where 690-square-foot apartments are available for \$370 per month. PRC also combats crime through community watch and safety programs,

see **PEOPLETOWN**, page 36



## A Neighborhood Mission

In 1967, the Episcopal Church founded Emmaus House in Peopletown as a neighborhood mission committed to civil rights and working with the poor. Today, Emmaus House continues to provide services for the area's seniors and children, including monthly shuttle bus service to the Reidsville State Penitentiary for friends and family of inmates.

## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 2,656 people resided in Peoplestown in 2000, an increase of 5% between 1990 and 2000 compared to a decrease of less than 1% in NPU-V and an increase of nearly 6% in the entire city.
- Children under age 18 decreased by 2% to 1,020 between 1990 and 2000.
- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 19% to 173.
- Peoplestown residents, like other neighborhoods in NPU-V, are predominantly African-American – 94%. Whites made up about 3% and persons of other races made up less than 2%. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up almost 4%.
- There were 870 households in Peoplestown in 2000.
- The total number of households increased 11% since 1990, compared to a decline of 1% in NPU-V and a growth of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- On average, there are 3.1 persons per household in 2000, virtually unchanged since 1990.
- Nearly 41% of households include one or more children under the age of 18, compared to 35% in NPU-V.
- The number of single-parent households increased 11% to 297 since 1990 and accounted for 34% of all households.
- Married couples with children decreased 30% to 56 in 2000 and accounted for 6% of households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Peoplestown had 870 occupied housing units in 2000 comprising 84% of all housing units.
- The number of occupied housing units increased 12% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.

- Owner-occupied housing increased 27% to 253 homes in 2000, more than three times the growth rate for NPU-V.
- Renter-occupied housing increased by 6% to 617 – nearly the same rate as Atlanta.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- There were an estimated 964 Peoplestown residents in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 81 persons more than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 25% in 2000 is above the NPU-V rate of 20% and nearly twice the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)





## Moving Ahead: Empowering Residents to Strengthen Neighborhood Life

Since 2000, the Peoplestown neighborhood has been a part of the Family Investment Cycle, a small grants program funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Family Investment Cycle empowers residents to design a short-term project that connects residents and strengthens families, and puts a small amount of money, between \$500 and \$2,000, in their hands to make that project a reality. It helps to identify and develop new community leaders and strengthens the social fabric of a neighborhood.

Neighborhood leaders, known as “co-investors,” select eight to 12 projects, take project leaders through a planning process, and then make the grants. At the end of the process, all of the participants explore what they have learned, celebrate their successes, and start planning for their next round of investment.

“The power of the Family Investment Cycle is the creativity that comes from neighborhood ownership and resident creativity,” explains Jon Abercrombie, who has facilitated the process in Peoplestown and other Atlanta neighborhoods. “While family-strengthening projects are the focus, a powerful benefit has been the emergence of new leaders in the community. Neighborhood mothers have organized support groups, recovering alcoholics have taken retreats to rebuild their family ties, fathers have joined with their children in bike-repair days and young college graduates from the neighborhood have returned to develop the young people who have come along behind them.”

“The Family Investment Cycle is unique in that it’s based on the principle that residents themselves have

great ideas for strengthening family and neighborhood life,” explains Devin Rucker, who organizes Family Investment Cycles in Peoplestown and other neighborhoods as a part of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta. “By putting money in the hands of residents, it provides everyday folks with opportunities to get involved in their communities and turn their great ideas into real projects that help their neighbors.”

Catherine Prather, a mother of two high school students who was born and raised in Peoplestown, heard about the Family Investment Cycle when she was a VISTA volunteer, serving as a community organizer. She was intrigued by the idea. “Are you all really going to be giving free money to the community?” she remembers asking. When she learned that residents really could apply for and receive funding to do six-month projects to help families, she quickly applied to do two projects.

Her first project was to connect single mothers in the community to jobs. They invited representatives from the Department of Labor, Workforce Development, Marriott, and Department of Family and Children Services to come and speak to the women, and hosted job fairs at Stanton Elementary School. “Mostly, we just listened and talked,” explains Prather. “We had monthly meetings where the women could learn and talk about their frustrations.” By the end of the six-month grant period, 18 of the 20 women involved had found jobs.

Also that year, Prather organized a group of 10 to 15 young people in the community and helped them develop a museum exhibit on the history of Peoplestown. The youth went out in the community, videotaped interviews with Peoplestown’s elders, and

recorded the history of the neighborhood. While they continue to seek additional funding to expand the exhibit, titled “Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” it is currently on display at the Emmaus House.

Energized by the impact she saw in her community, her neighbors, and herself, Prather continued her efforts the next year, organizing the Sophisticated Ladies. She recruited 15 to 20 women who were suffering from depression and low self-esteem. The women came together each month to talk about their problems and plan events.

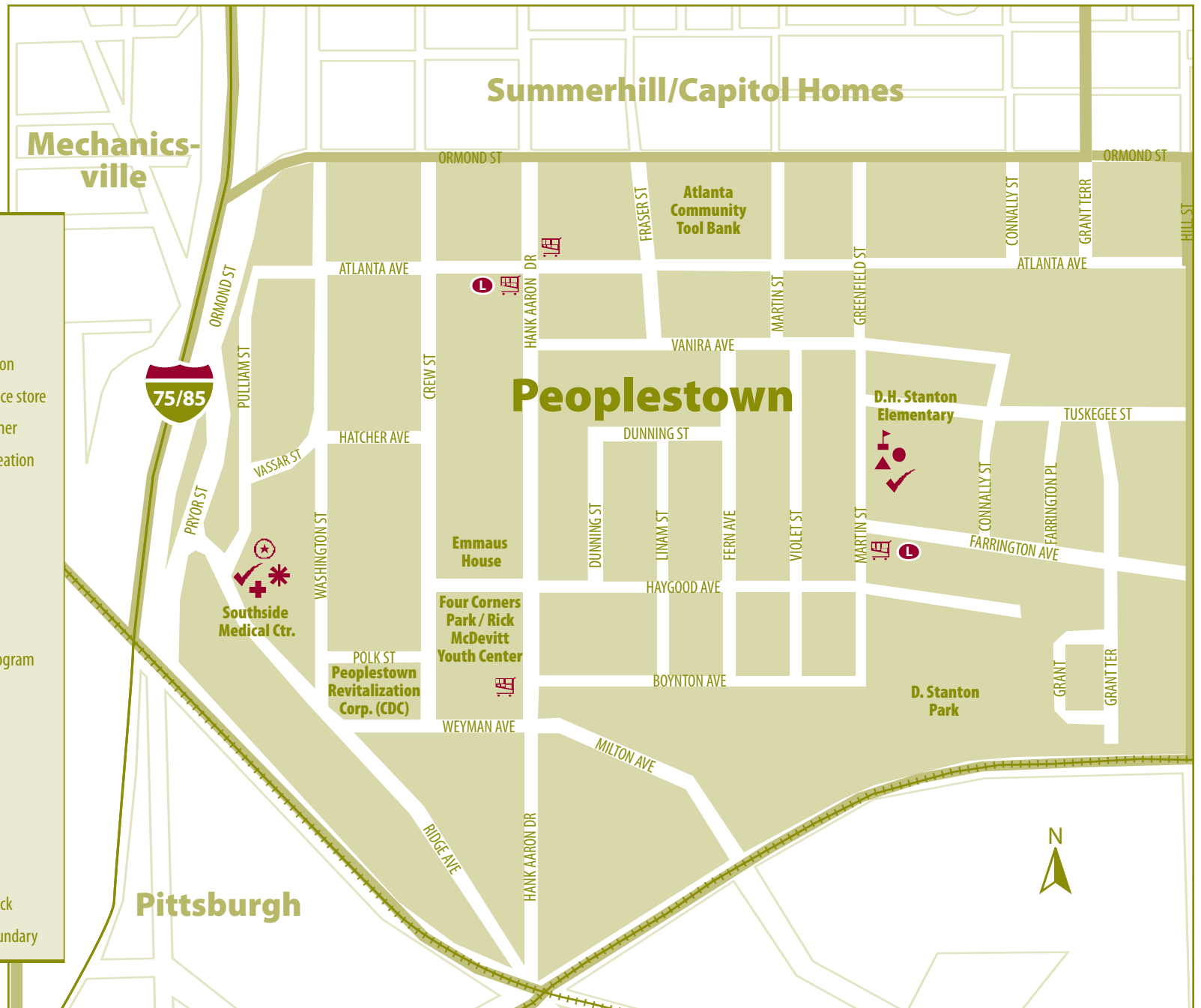
One Sophisticated Lady talked about how she was able to overcome her addictions to drugs and alcohol and become a gospel singer. A financial planner

see **MOVING AHEAD**, page 24



# PEOPLESTOWN RESOURCE MAP

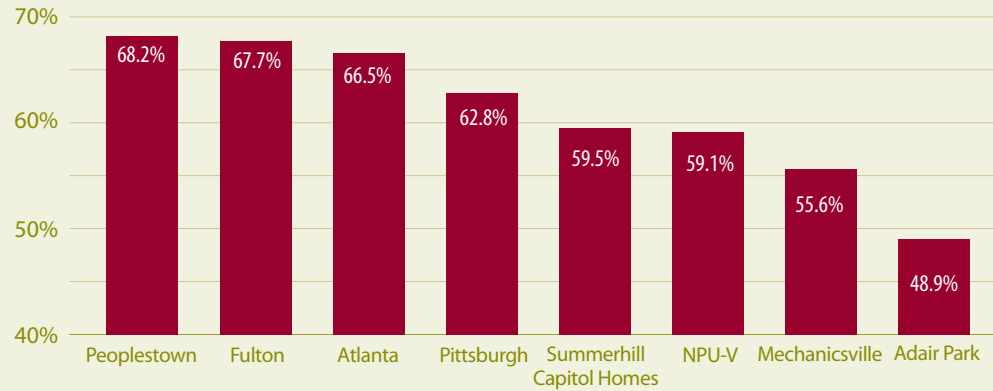
	School
	Child care
	Pre-K site
	Head Start site
	Financial institution
	Grocer/convenience store
	Laundry/dry cleaner
	Community/Recreation center
	Polling station
	Post office
	Health facility
	Substance abuse treatment center
	Mental health program
	Library
	Restaurant
	Hotel
	Rail line
	Interstate
	Public transit rail (MARTA)
	Neighborhood block
	Neighborhood boundary





Desired Result: Residents Increase Their Civic Participation  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . residents participate in the electoral process*

**Percent of Adults Who Are Registered to Vote (2000)**

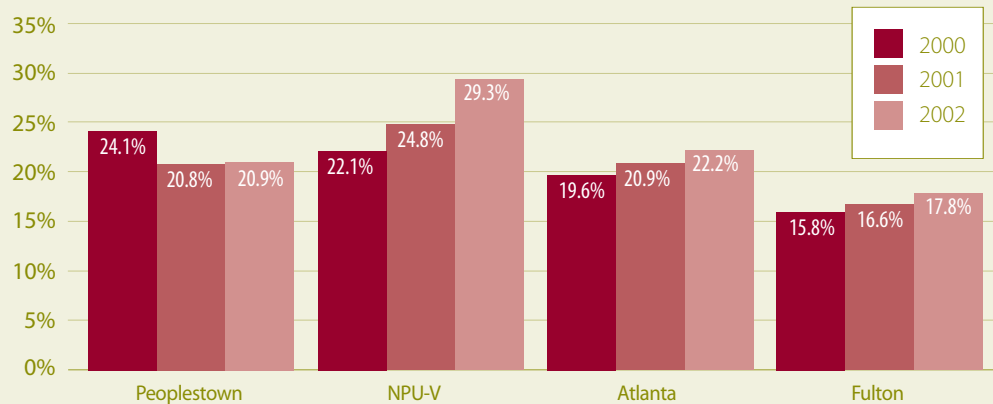


Before one can vote one must be registered to vote. In the 2000 presidential election year 68.2% of the 1,635 adults in Peoplestown were registered to vote. While only half actually went to the polls that year, the registration rate was greater than in any of the other areas.

Data Sources: University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Legislative Reapportionment Services Office; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Desired Result: Children Are Prepared to Enter School and Are Ready to Learn  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . babies are born healthy*

**Percent of Babies Born to Mothers Who Received Late or No Prenatal Care (2000-2002)**



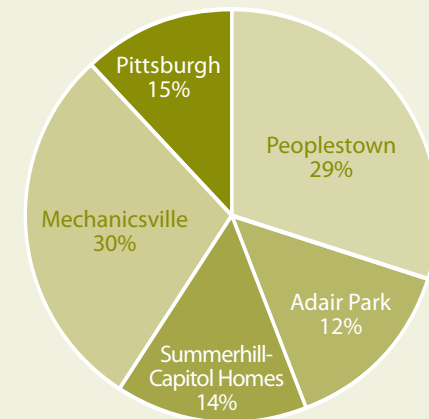
Babies born to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care are more likely to suffer from a variety of health problems than those born to mothers who receive proper and timely medical attention while pregnant. The rate of late or no prenatal care has declined from 24 percent in 2000 to 20.9 percent in 2002. In contrast, the rates for NPU-V, Atlanta and Fulton County increased during this time period.

Data Source: Georgia Division of Public Health, OASIS database

Data Note: Prenatal care is considered to be late if the mother begins such care more than three months into her pregnancy.

Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . barriers to employment are overcome*

**Percent of Probationers in NPU-V by Neighborhood (Feb. 2004)**



For many ex-offenders their criminal background is a formidable obstacle to gainful employment. Of the 475 probationers shown as living in NPU-V in February 2004, Peoplestown had the greatest number (140) and rate (86 per 1,000 adults). Looked at another way, while the neighborhood has about 17 percent of all adults in NPU-V, it is also home to nearly 30 percent of the area's probationers.

Data Source: Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis

**PEOPLESTOWN***continued from page 31*

sponsors a neighborhood book club, and has begun to renovate D.H. Stanton Park for residents' use.

**Among the most notable of the assets and resources of Peoplestown** is the relatively large number of well-established programs geared towards children and families – in particular Emmaus House and the nearby Rick McDevitt Youth Center. Peoplestown is also home to the largest health care provider in the NPU – Southside Medical Center.

**Since 1990, the neighborhood population has begun to grow slowly** and, in 2000, 2,656 people resided there, an increase of 129 residents. Despite all of the displacement and destruction of the last

50 years, many residents have lived there for most of their lives and continue to work together to strengthen their neighborhood.

Data Source: K.N.I.T.(Keeping Neighborhoods Informed and in Touch) Neighborhood Directory, by Peoplestown Revitalization Corporation.

**MOVING AHEAD***continued from page 21*

came to talk to the group and told of how she had been in jail and felt that her life was going nowhere, but she had been able to start her own grant writing business after her release. "We cried together. We laughed together. But, we respected each other. We were just like sisters," Prather reflects. They also listened to presentations from representatives from the Enterprise Foundation, Atlanta Technical College, the Atlanta Police Department, and Weed and Seed.

Currently, Prather is leading a fourth project, called "Walk In, Walk Out." The group, which includes people of all ages, signs a pledge to commit to walking regularly and improving their individual health. Some are trying to improve their nutrition; some are seeking to stop smoking; some are trying to increase their metabolism or strengthen their heart. Soon, they will receive pedometers and will try to make walking a regular part of their everyday life by walking at least 10,000 steps each day.

Some of the members walk in the morning three days a week at 6 a.m., while others walk in the evenings at 6 p.m. At the end of the six-month program, they will participate in a three-mile neighborhood walk. "We empower women around health," explains Prather. "I had major surgery this year and I am 44 years old. I decided I needed to lose weight and I needed to stop smoking."

Next year, Prather hopes to organize a long-term project to support young people in the community, but she continues to encourage those around her to take part in the Family Investment Cycle. "This is a good way to meet your neighbors and get involved in a positive way in the community," she says. "It's all about moving ahead with your life. You don't need to be stuck in a hole. You need to move ahead."

# Pittsburgh

**Pittsburgh developed in the aftermath of the Civil War as citizens moved away** from the dirt and congestion caused by the convergence of three railroads near Five Points in downtown Atlanta. In 1883, the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railway completed construction of extensive shops in the area. Because the areas surrounding the shops were polluted and dirty, much like those around steel mills, the community was nicknamed Pittsburgh after the Pennsylvania steel town. Many of its residents worked there as railroad laborers.

**The neighborhood was founded as a predominantly African-American community** where steady employment and segregated conditions gave birth to many black-owned homes, businesses, churches, and schools, especially along McDaniel Street. Four streetcar lines served the Pittsburgh neighborhood, providing convenient access to downtown and other neighborhoods.

**Carrie Steele Logan, a former slave and a maid at the Atlanta Union Railroad Station**, used funds raised from the sale of her autobiography and other contributions to purchase four acres of land in Pittsburgh during the late 1800s. There she founded the Carrie Steele Orphan Home, which continues to care for abandoned and neglected children at a new site in northwest Atlanta.

**Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church helped found the community's first school** – the Pittsburgh School – by housing it in the church's basement. The school later moved into a two-room rented building and became part of the Fulton County School System. In 1908, 200 students were

enrolled. The following year, residents raised money to construct a wooden building to house the school and renamed it Croghan School in honor of Dr. William H. Croghan, Clark College's first African-American president. The Fulton County School Board contributed a meager \$75 towards this new construction.

**In 1922, the current structure of Croghan Elementary School was built** at the request of Carrie Badger Pittman. Croghan continued to educate young residents until 1979, also offering academic and vocational classes to adults in the evenings. While the former Croghan School has now been converted into apartment homes, senior housing and a community center, today's students attend Charles L. Gideons Elementary School and Parks Middle School (the only middle school located in NPU-V), both located in the Pittsburgh community. The Atlanta Theological School was founded on Pittsburgh's western border and continues today as the Salvation Army College for Officer Training.

**For the past 30 years, Pittsburgh has seen a great deal of property disinvestment**, loss of population, and a general decline in the neighborhood economy. Many longtime residents point to integration and redlining as significant factors in the decline of the

neighborhood. Integration caused the decline of black-owned businesses as their customer base dispersed. Redlining by financial institutions prevented residents from selling their homes and, as African Americans moved farther west into transitional areas formerly occupied by whites in the 1940s, 1950s and, increasingly in the 1960s, they vacated their homes. The homes quickly fell into disrepair.

These negative impacts were increased in the 1960s and early 1970s by the construction of Interstate 75/85, which cut off the southeast section of the  
*see **PITTSBURGH**, page 42*



## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 3,286 people resided in Pittsburgh in 2000, a decrease of nearly 10% since 1990. By comparison, the number of persons residing in NPU-V decreased by less than 1% while the City of Atlanta increased by nearly 6%.
- The number of children under age 18 increased by 18% to 1,063 between 1990 and 2000.
- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 31% to 406.
- Pittsburgh remains predominantly African American (97%).
- Pittsburgh had 1,152 households in 2000.

- The total number of households decreased 23% since 1990, compared to a decrease of less than 1% in NPU-V and an increase of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- On average, there were 2.9 persons per household, up from 2.4 persons in 1990.
- Nearly 31% of households included one or more children under the age of 18.
- Single-parent households increased 15% to 291 since 1990 and made up 25% of all households.
- Married couples with children declined by nearly half to 61 households in 2000 and comprised 5% of all households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Pittsburgh had 1,152 occupied housing units in 2000 (81% of all housing units).
- The number of owner-occupied housing units (which made up 27% of all housing units) decreased 24% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- Renter-occupied units dominated in Pittsburgh. For every one owner-occupied housing unit in 2000 there were two that were renter occupied.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 1,093 Pittsburgh residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – a decrease of just over 200 persons since 1990.
- The unemployment rates of 15% in 1990 and nearly 20% in 2000 were both more than 5% higher than the rate for the entire city during those same time periods.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)





# Gideons Elementary NBA Team Shoots for the Stars

Charles L. Gideons Elementary School in Pittsburgh is an ideal place to chart the challenges and successes of urban youth. The school's Never Been Absent (NBA) Program and partnership with the Salvation Army are important parts of Gideons' successes.

One evening earlier this year, an eager boy entered the school gymnasium and impatiently waited for his mother, who was a few steps behind. He was not there to play; he was there to celebrate his school attendance. Everywhere were proud parents and family members who attend the bi-monthly banquets sponsored by the Salvation Army to recognize students with perfect attendance.

The Salvation Army College for Officer Training has been a strong presence in the community for more than 15 years. Years ago Salvation Army staff met with school staff to ask how they could help. After that conversation, Gideons and the Salvation Army developed a multi-faceted partnership that includes drug awareness, parenting enrichment programs and an after-school mentoring program to increase the achievement scores of fourth graders.

Since 24 percent of the children at Gideons were missing more than 10 days of school a month,

the school developed the NBA Program, a truancy reduction initiative that recognizes attendance. The Salvation Army partnered with Gideons to support the NBA Program, providing goodie bags and sunshine dollars the students use to purchase child-friendly items. Tiffany Momon, Gideons program coordinator, reports that the Salvation Army's incentives have greatly increased student participation and parent involvement. "They look forward to the recognition and to the banquets," she explains, adding that Gideons has seen a 17 percent reduction in truancy. They attribute their success to a community-wide effort that involves the school, community partners, and parents.

Sonya Jenkins, the mother of two Gideons students, says, "Gideons is a family school." Her children, second grader Gregory Lee and fourth grader

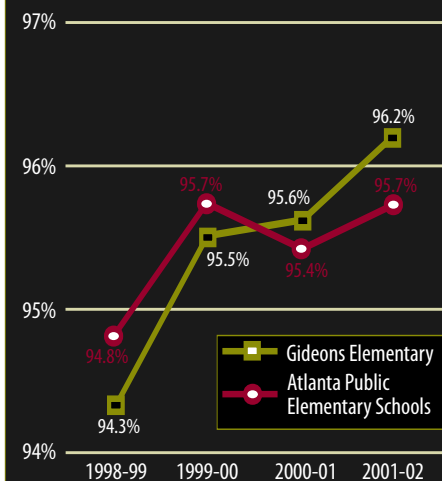
*"If my children aren't doing what they're supposed to, I expect someone to let me know. At Gideons they do that, and it has made a difference to my children and me."* — Sonya Jenkins

expect someone to let me know. At Gideons they do that, and it has made a difference to my children and to me."

It has also made a difference at Gideons. Attendance at the banquets has exceeded 400 and more than half of the school's students regularly attend. Gideons has been applauded in the educational community for its creative strategies. At Gideons, community partnerships are improving children's lives.

Gregyana Lee, are frequently recognized for their perfect attendance and academic achievements. Jenkins is actively involved in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and is proud of the school's community-based approach. "If my children aren't doing what they are supposed to, I

**School Attendance Rates**  
(1998-99 through 2001-02)



Data Source: Atlanta Public Schools

Data Note: Attendance rate represents the percent of days during the 180-day school year that the average student attended school.



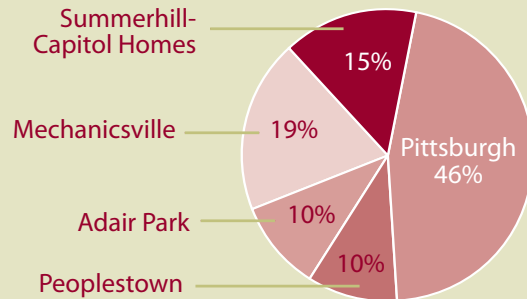
# PITTSBURGH RESOURCE MAP





**Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . barriers to employment are overcome*

**Percent of Probationers in NPU-V by Neighborhood (Nov. 2003)**

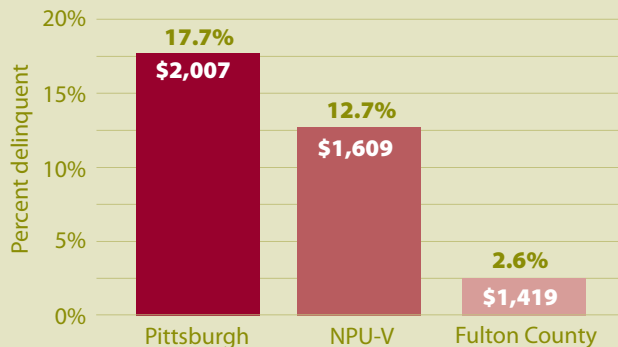


For many ex-offenders their criminal background is a formidable obstacle to gainful employment. As of November 2003, there were an estimated 48 parolees living in NPU-V. Nearly half (46%) resided in the Pittsburgh neighborhood.

Data Source: State Board of Pardons and Paroles (Georgia)

**Desired Result: Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities**

**Percent of Properties That Are Tax Delinquent (Nov. 2003)**  
(with Median Amount Owed)

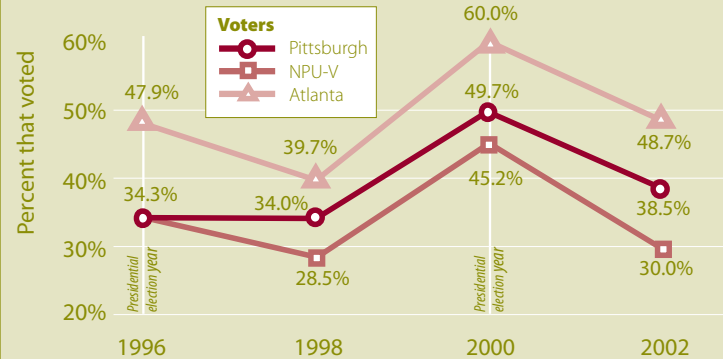


Of the approximately 1,784 known properties located in Pittsburgh, an estimated 315 (17.7%) were tax delinquent in late 2003. Not only was that more than six times the rate for the county, but the median amount owed was also higher, as well as the number of years for which property owners were in arrears (5.4 years compared to 4.6 for NPU-V and 3.9 for Fulton County).

Data Source: Fulton County Tax Commissioner, Fulton County Geographic Information System Department.

**Desired Result: Residents Increase Their Civic Participation**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . residents participate in the electoral process*

**Percent of Register Voters Who Voted 1996-2002**

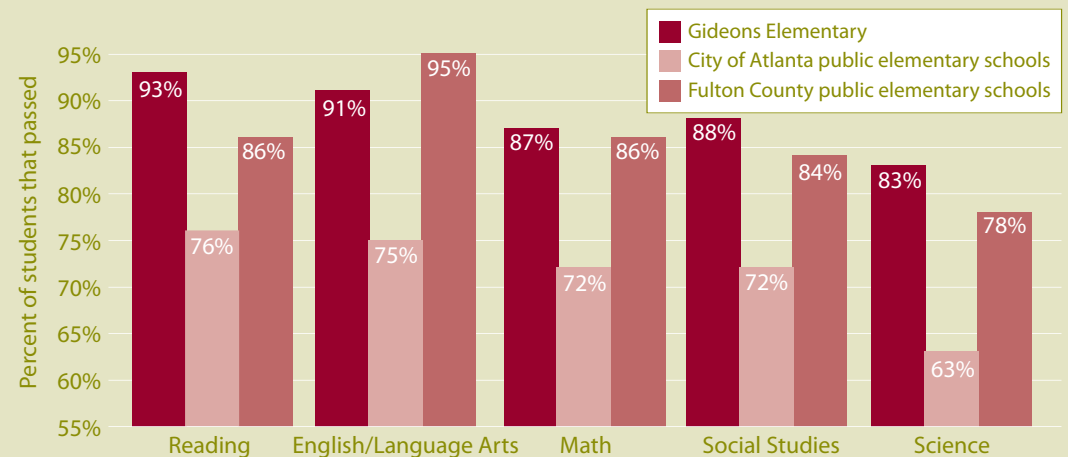


Like its overall population, the number of registered voters in Pittsburgh has steadily declined in recent years (from 1,589 in 1996 to 1,204 six years later). Those still on the voter registration rolls, however, tend to turn out to the polls at a higher rate than most other NPU-V neighborhoods and the NPU as a whole. Despite such a relatively good turnout, however, the turnout rate is still notably lower (by about 10% in recent election years) when compared with the City of Atlanta as a whole.

Data Source: University of Georgia, Carl Vincent Institute of Government, Legislative Reapportionment Services Office

**Desired Result: Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . students succeed in school*

**Percent of 3rd Grade Students Passing Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests 2001-02**



Third grade students at Gideons Elementary School performed remarkably well on each of the five Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) given during the 2001-02 school year. In fact, with one exception, Gideons' students outperformed third graders in both Atlanta and Fulton County public school systems overall.

Data Source: Georgia Office of Student Achievement

**PITTSBURGH***continued from page 37*

neighborhood from the rest of the city; the construction of Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, which widened roads and brought heavy traffic to the neighborhood; and the Model Cities Program that brought unfulfilled hopes and the replacement of many single-family homes with multi-family units. From 1970 to 2000, the population of Pittsburgh dropped by more than half from 7,276 to 3,286.

**The Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA) was reorganized** by residents of the community in 2001 to combat this decline and is now spearheading neighborhood revitalization efforts. PCIA has lobbied the city to

demolish neighborhood homes that have fallen into disrepair. They have also organized a neighborhood garden and are beginning a neighborhood watch program to increase safety and build relationships among the residents. PCIA is also working with developers to rebuild the Pittsburgh Civic League Apartments. The Salvation Army supports community efforts through training and school programs. The area includes several dozen churches of various sizes as well as a large stock of relatively affordable homes and recently completed or planned apartment complexes.

Data Source: Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association pamphlet.



# Summerhill/ Capitol Homes

## SUMMERHILL

**Summerhill began as Atlanta's first African-American real estate development** soon after the Civil War, when attorney William Jennings subdivided the property and it was settled by freed slaves. During the early 1900s, the neighborhood was home to a diverse group of residents, including African Americans, Jews, and Greeks. Over the years, many influential people have called Summerhill home, including developer Herman Russell, boxer Evander Holyfield, and singer Gladys Knight. The neighborhood continued to thrive and

grow through the first half of the 1900s and, in the mid-1950s more than 20,000 residents, primarily African-American and Jewish, lived there.

**During the 1950s and 1960s, as many of Summerhill's more affluent residents** began to move to the developing northern sections of the city and to the western neighborhoods around the historically black colleges and universities, the neighborhood began to decline. The construction of Interstate 20 and the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium led to the demolition of numerous housing units and the exodus of many residents and neighborhood businesses.

**The area where the stadium was built, called Washington-Rawson**, had once been home to wealthy families living in ornate homes. City leaders viewed the area as a "buffer zone" between Summerhill, where many African-Americans lived, and the commercial business district downtown. While African-American leaders pushed for much-needed housing for black residents to

be constructed there, white business leaders were nervous about having blacks living so close to downtown. Building the stadium became a way to compromise and for then-Mayor Ivan Allen to fulfill a campaign promise to build a stadium to attract a major league baseball team.

see *SUMMERHILL-CAPITOL HOMES*, page 48



## Two Neighborhoods

For the purposes of *Neighborhoods Count*, the neighborhoods of Summerhill and Capitol Homes have been combined. While residents of the two areas consider them to be different neighborhoods, the City of Atlanta defines them as one "statistical neighborhood" and reports data for them together. For planning purposes, the City of Atlanta was divided into 139 distinct neighborhoods years ago. These neighborhoods fit exactly into the city's 24 Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU's). In 1980 and 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau provided data to Atlanta at the statistical neighborhood level rather than the less well-known census tract level. Data and Policy Analysis at Georgia Tech prepared Census 2000 data for the city at the statistical neighborhood level. The consistency of these statistical neighborhood lines is beneficial for looking at neighborhood change over time and is, therefore, the way data will be presented in *Neighborhoods Count*.



## Quick Look

### Population & Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- 4,320 people resided in Summerhill/Capitol Homes in 2000, an increase of 3% since 1990. By comparison, the population decreased by less than 1% in NPU-V and increased by nearly 6% in the entire city.
- Children under the age of 18 increased by 4% to 1,587 between 1990 and 2000.
- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 38% to 289.
- Summerhill/Capitol Homes residents were predominantly African American (95%) with whites comprising 3% and persons of other races making up 2%. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up 1% of the population.
- There were 1,717 households in Summerhill/Capitol Homes in 2000, an increase of 15% since 1990, compared to a decline of 1% in NPU-V and growth of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- On average, there were 2.5 persons per household in 2000, down from 2.8 persons in 1990.
- Nearly 36% of households included one or more children under the age of 18.
- The number of single-parent households increased 10% to 538 since 1990 and made up 31% of all households.
- Married couples with children increased 22% to 77 in 2000 and made up 5% of all households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Summerhill/Capitol Homes had 1,717 occupied housing units in 2000, comprising 92% of all housing units.
- The total number of occupied housing units increased 11% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- Owner-occupied housing increased 71% to 303 homes and accounted for 16% of all housing units.
- Renter-occupied housing increased by 3% to 1,414 units and accounted for 78% of all units.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 1,516 Summerhill/Capitol Homes residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 250 more persons than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 15% in 2000 is below the NPU-V rate of 20% and nearly the same as the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)



## The Capitol Area Mosaic: A Community Partner

The Capitol Area Mosaic (CAM) has always had its finger on the pulse of the Capitol Homes public housing community. The organization began when groups of ministry students from the Central Presbyterian and Trinity United Methodist churches brought small wagons through the neighborhood to assist residents. They helped with clothing and rent; they gave children candy; they did everything they could to help residents in need.

This small mission soon grew into the Trinity United Methodist Church Parish House, a facility eventually redeveloped as a community center in 1994. Just as

the word mosaic is often used to describe artwork that is made of many pieces, the community center came to be known as the Capitol Area Mosaic because of the many people and faiths who supported its redevelopment.

CAM's programs have grown with the people. "They asked the community what else they wanted," explains Gary Wright, the center's executive director. "They said they wanted school services for youth. That began in 1958. It became an after-school program for children ages 5 to 18, and the program grew from there. Now we also serve adults and seniors."

Today CAM is a comprehensive center that serves youth, adults and seniors. Through the center's after-school and summer programs, youth participate in a variety of leadership activities, some of which have focused on community action, voting, the media and juvenile justice issues. Adults can access programs focusing on GED preparation, employment and parenting.

Much of CAM's work has focused on supporting neighborhood families. Since 2001, the center has been one of the nine Atlanta Families First sites. Families First began as an orphanage at Spelman College in 1910 and has grown to focus on foster and adoptive support, family counseling, parenting, transitional housing

for pregnant mothers-to-be, and support for sexually abused girls.

As the Capitol Homes complex is redeveloped, Capitol Area Mosaic is committed to serving its community. "Location is crucial to our work at Capitol Area Mosaic," Wright explains. "Being located in the community we serve gives us legitimacy. We are part of this community – a fixture in the community. Really, it is their facility. The images on the wall are the people who live here. It is an extension of their community."

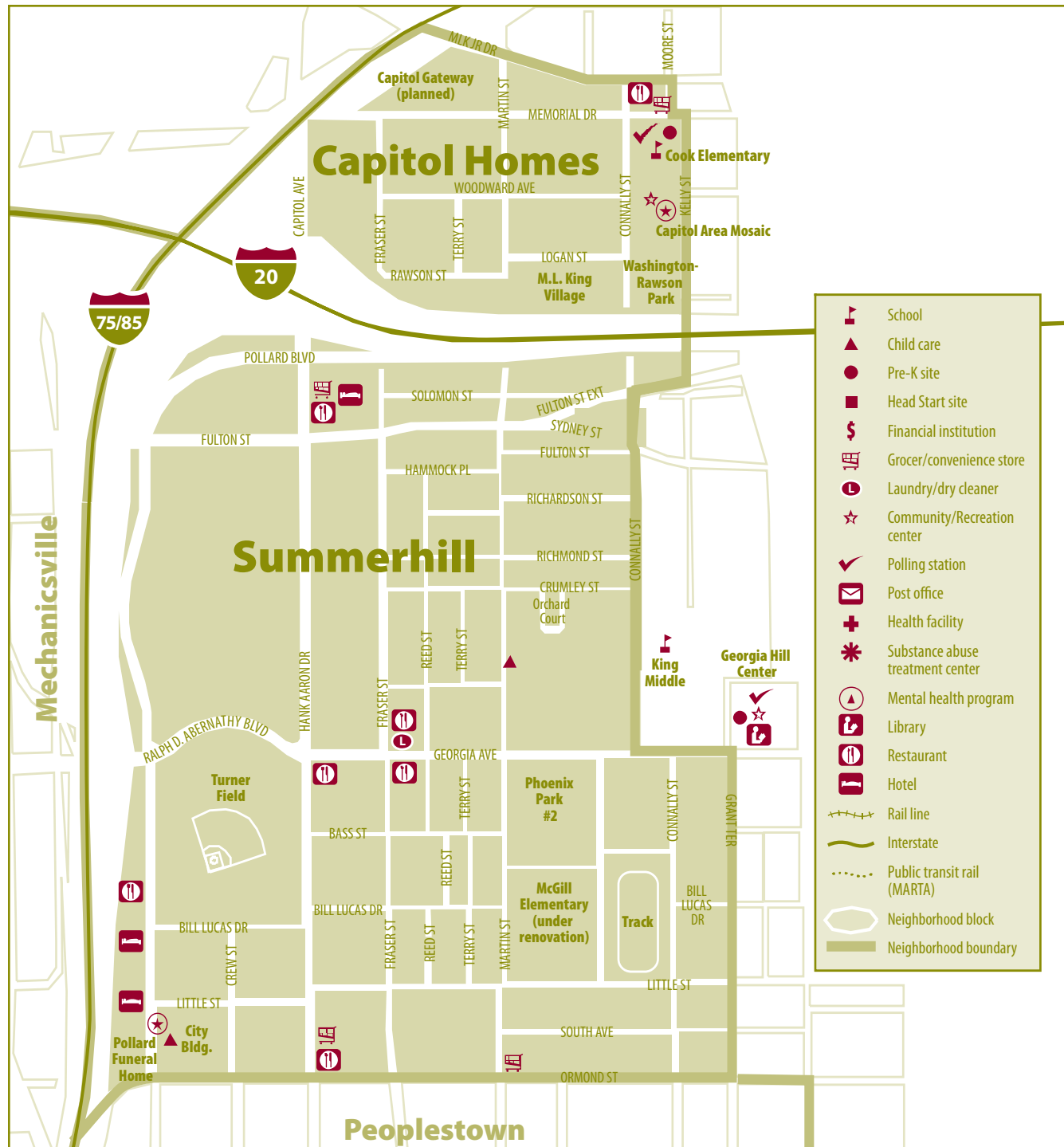
*"We are part of this community, a fixture in this community . . . the pictures on the wall are the people who live here. It's an extension of their community."*

— Gary Wright, Director  
Capitol Area Mosaic



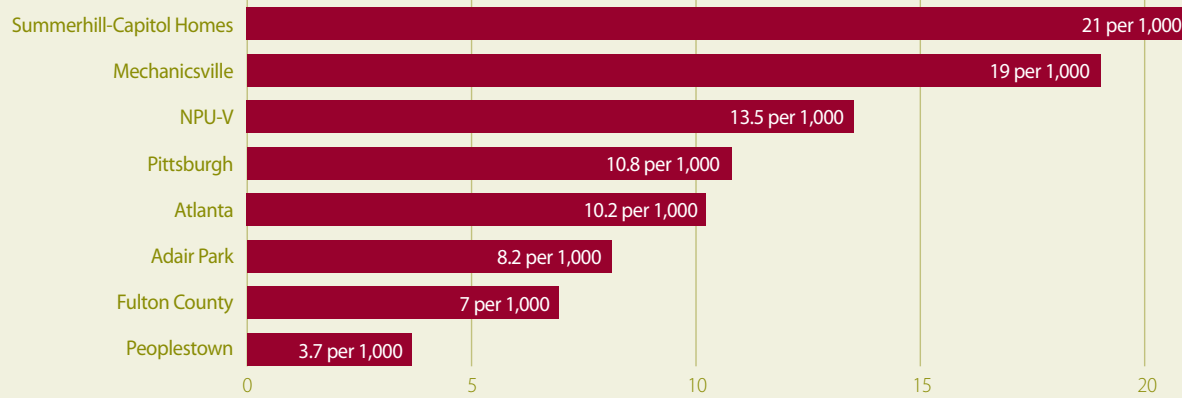


# SUMMERHILL/CAPITOL HOMES RESOURCE MAP



Desired Result: Families Are Stable  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . children are safe*

**Number of Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children (Jan.-June 2003)**

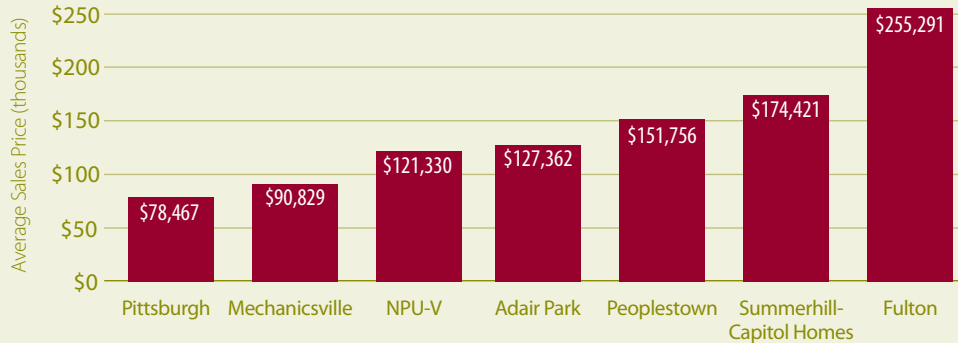


A stable family is one where children can grow up without fear of abuse and neglect. Between January and July 2003, 26 children in Summerhill-Capitol Homes were involved in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. While that is one less case than the neighboring Mechanicsville, because there are fewer children in Summerhill-Capitol Homes (an estimated 1,237 in 2003), the rate of abuse and neglect is the highest of all NPU-V neighborhoods and is two times that of Atlanta and three times that of Fulton County.

Data Sources: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services; Atlanta Regional Commission

Desired Result: Neighborhoods Have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . neighborhoods have an adequate mix of housing, business and recreation.*

**Average Sales Price of Most Recent Residential Sale in 2003**



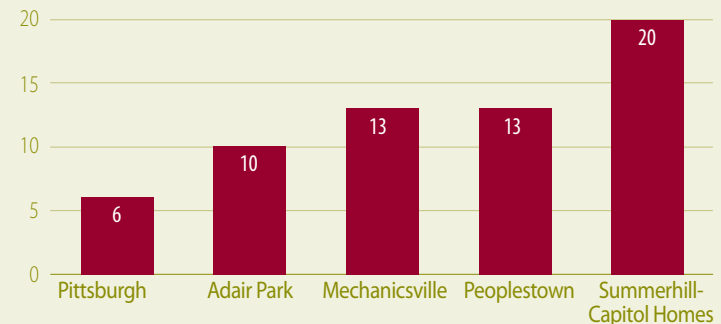
An adequate mix of housing is affordable housing. With its proximity to downtown Atlanta and a large residential development project built around the 1996 Olympics, Summerhill-Capitol Homes had an average residential sales price of \$174,421 in 2003 – the highest of any NPU-V neighborhood.

Data Source: Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors, 2003 Digest

Data Note: Because of limitations of the source data, figures for the City of Atlanta are not available.

Desired Result: Families Are Stable  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . parents are able to care for their children*

**Number of Children with a Parent in State Prison (Feb.-2004)**



As of February 2004 nearly half of the 48 state prisoners from NPU-V reported being a parent. These 21 inmates were parents to a total of 62 children in NPU-V. About a third (20) are from the Summerhill-Capitol Homes neighborhood.

Data Source: Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis

Data Note: Figures based on the self-reported address of inmate parent which may be different than the actual address of their children. Even if this is the case there is likely to be a family tie to the neighborhood.

## SUMMERHILL-CAPITOL HOMES

*continued from page 43*

**Even before the stadium became a part of the neighborhood**, groups of residents had been organizing demonstrations, calling for public services such as street cleaning, health and educational facilities, improved housing, and increased employment opportunities. Frustrations increased when highway and stadium construction in Summerhill crowded more than 10,000 people into 354 acres. Officials sought increased city services and federal funding for Summerhill, but by the summer of 1966, residents began street protests against the conditions. On September 6, 1966, tensions heightened when an African-American resident fleeing arrest was shot by a white policeman. The ensuing riot lasted for several days.

**In 1967, in response to the frustrations in Summerhill**, the Episcopal Church founded Emmaus House in neighboring Peoplestown as a neighborhood mission committed to civil rights and working with the poor. Today, Emmaus House continues to provide services for the area's seniors and children, including monthly shuttle bus service to the Reidsville State Penitentiary for friends and family members of inmates.

**In 1988 residents came together at a neighborhood reunion** to form the Summerhill Neighborhood Development Corporation (SNDC), a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved nonprofit corporation. SNDC develops, owns, and manages affordable rental housing and promotes economic revitalization. When Atlanta constructed the Olympic Coliseum in Summerhill to host the 1996 Olympics, residents gained funding and support to construct 100 new townhomes and houses. As of the 2000 Census, the population of Summerhill had begun to rebound, totaling 4,320 people, up from 4,201 in 1990.

## CAPITOL HOMES

**Capitol Homes was a public housing complex constructed in 1941** in the shadow of the state Capitol. The project provided nearly 700 rental units for low-income residents. The complex is currently being developed into a mixed-income complex called Capitol Gateway. The new complex, to be completed in

2006, will offer more than 1,000 residential units and 45,000 square feet of offices, shops, and restaurants, as well as youth development centers. In 2002, Capitol Homes residents were offered subsidized housing vouchers to relocate. Many of the families moved outside of the neighborhood, causing Cook Elementary School's enrollment to drop from 560 in spring 2001 to 422 in fall 2002.

**Since 1958, Capitol Area Mosaic, a community center founded by area churches**, has served residents of Capitol Homes and Martin Luther King Village through summer and after-school programs for youth and emergency assistance and services for area seniors. They recently built a new 10,000-square-foot facility where they provide additional services and programs, including a reading lab, karate, sports teams, dance, math and technology programs, library and computer, and Internet access.

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

**Divided by Interstate 20, the assets and resources of Summerhill and Capitol Homes**

are essentially distinct from one another. What resources there are in each area are concentrated in pockets. In Capitol Homes the elementary school and adjacent Capitol Area Mosaic house most of the area's community services and programs. Summerhill to the south comprises a large new residential development, large parks, and underutilized commercial development around Turner Field. Its primary community center, however, is located just outside the neighborhood boundary in Grant Park.



# Desired Result

## Adults are Healthy

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want the adults who live in their neighborhoods to be healthy, in both body and mind. The residents feel that, in order for children and families to be stable and healthy, the parents in those families first need to be healthy themselves. To show that the neighborhoods are making a difference and to measure their progress towards this goal, residents identified several indicators of healthy adults:

- Adults can meet their health needs
- Adults have access to effective treatment services
- Health problems are identified and treated in the early stages

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Adults Can Meet Their Health Care Needs and Have Access to Effective Treatment Services.

Currently, 43 million Americans are without health insurance. Without the support of health insurance to cover a portion or all of the cost of health care, many individuals and families are unable to access health services. Researchers have documented a relationship between a lack of health insurance and increased risk of death or hospitalization due to preventable illnesses.

A 2002 survey of more than 2,100 Atlanta residents by the Atlanta Community Access Coalition (ACAC) revealed that a substantial portion of NPU-V residents—and Fulton County residents—are without health insurance. The survey was reported by zip codes. In the three zip codes that encompass the NPU-V neighborhoods, 30310, 30312, and 30315, just under two-thirds of adults have health insurance, with 30312 having the lowest percentage of adults with health insurance at 61.7 percent. In Fulton County, just over two-thirds of adults reported that they have health insurance.

Health insurance increases the likelihood that adults receive annual medical exams, which in turn increases the chances that any developing health problems can be identified before they become more serious. Although less than two-thirds of sur-

veyed residents in NPU-V zip codes had health insurance, more than three-fourths reported that they had been to a physician in the past year. These numbers were just below the survey results for Fulton County as a whole, where 80.2 percent reported that they had seen a physician within the past year.

The 2000 Census revealed that adults (ages 16 to 64) in neighborhoods in NPU-V have a much higher rate of physical and mental disabilities<sup>1</sup> than adults in the City of Atlanta or Fulton County—12.6 percent for NPU-V compared to 6.4 percent in the City of Atlanta and 4.8 percent in Fulton County. The percentage of adults, ages 16 to 64, with physical disabilities in NPU-V ranged from a low of 9.3 percent in Pittsburgh to a high of 15.3 percent in Summerhill/Capitol Homes. While a lower percentage of adults in NPU-V between the ages of 16 and 64 experience mental disabilities than physical disabilities (8.1 percent), the rate continues to be close to double the rate across the City of Atlanta (4.2 percent) and Fulton County (3.1 percent). Inside the NPU-V neighborhoods, the rates of mental disabilities vary from a low of 4.1 percent in Pittsburgh to a high of 11.3 percent in Mechanicsville.

*Although less than two-thirds of surveyed residents in NPU-V zip codes had health insurance, more than three-fourths reported that they had been to a physician in the past year.*

Persons aged 65 and older in NPU-V, however, have comparable rates of physical and mental disabilities as do persons in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. The percentage of persons aged 65 and older with a physical disability in NPU-V was 35.7 percent compared to 34.8 percent in the City of Atlanta and 31.4 percent in Fulton County. Among the NPU-V neighborhoods, the rate of physical disabilities for those above age 65 varied from a low of 29.1 percent in Adair Park to a high of 41.6 percent in Pittsburgh.

Among persons aged 65 and older, the percentage with a mental disability is similar for NPU-V (14.6 percent), the City of Atlanta (14.7 percent), and Fulton County (13.4 percent). Again, the numbers varied widely among the different neighborhoods from a low of 9.1 percent in Summerhill/Capitol

Homes to a high of 19.1 percent in Pittsburgh.

While Pittsburgh has the lowest rate (9.3 percent, physical disabilities and 4.1 percent mental disabilities) of persons aged 16 to 64 suffering from physical or mental disabilities compared to the other NPU-V neighborhoods, persons aged 65 and older in Pittsburgh suffer from the highest rate of both physical and mental disabilities among the NPU-V neighborhoods (41.6 percent physical disabilities and 19.1 percent mental disabilities).

#### Health Problems Are Identified and Treated in the Early Stages.

The ACAC survey also revealed a need among NPU-V residents to see a physician in order to treat and combat chronic health diseases and conditions. A large number of NPU-V residents reported that they suffered from hypertension or high blood pressure. The numbers ranged from a low of 31.5 percent in the 30310 zip code to a high of 46.2 percent in the 30315 zip code. Heart disease also impacts more than one-tenth of residents in NPU-V zip codes, ranging from a low of 11 per-

cent in 30312 to a high of 14.0 percent in 30315. While 21.9 percent of Fulton County residents reported that they suffered from diabetes, only 11.7 percent of the surveyed residents in zip code 30315 said that they had diabetes. The percentages of people facing diabetes were much higher in the 30310 and 30312 zip codes where 22 and 19.5 percent of those surveyed reported that they suffered from diabetes. Residents who reported that they were battling some type of cancer ranged from 5.8 percent in zip code 30310 to 11.7 percent in zip code 30315.

#### ISSUES AND GAPS

Adult health impacts the other desired results for NPU-V, including families' standards of living and children's preparedness for school.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- The cost of prescription medication
- Rates of HIV and STDs
- Adults with a substance-abuse problem
- Adults with high blood pressure or high cholesterol, heart disease or other ailments associated with alcohol abuse



<sup>1</sup> According to the U.S. Census Bureau, persons with a mental disability are those who have difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating. Persons with a physical disability are persons who have one or more of the following: (a) blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment; (b) a substantial limitation in the ability to perform basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying; or (c) difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home. In addition, people 16-64 years old are considered to have a disability if they have difficulty working at a job or business.



## Desired Result: Adults are Healthy

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS					Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh					
Adults can meet their health needs	Number of adults ages 16-64 with a physical disability	2000	157	269	191	173	389	1,179	18,156	26,848	
	Percent of all adults ages 16-64 with a physical disability	2000	10.7	13.9	12.1	9.3	15.3	12.6	6.4	4.8	
	Number of adults age 65 and over with a physical disability	2000	58	88	56	159	92	453	13,970	21,375	
	Percent of all adults age 65 and over with a physical disability	2000	29.1	35.1	34.6	41.6	33.6	35.7	34.8	31.4	
	Number of adults ages 16-64 with a mental disability	2000	131	219	135	77	201	763	11,984	17,535	
	Percent of all adults ages 16-64 with a mental disability	2000	8.9	11.3	8.6	4.1	7.9	8.1	4.2	3.1	
	Number of adults age 65 and over with a mental disability	2000	34	33	20	73	25	185	5,878	9,135	
	Percent of all adults age 65 and over with a mental disability	2000	17.1	13.1	12.3	19.1	9.1	14.6	14.7	13.4	
Adults have access to effective treatment services	Number of substance abuse treatment services in area	2003	0	0	1	0	0	1	18	na	
	Number of mental health programs in area	2003	0	2	1	0	2	5	na	na	

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 decennial census; Georgia Office of Regulatory Services, online database (substance abuse treatment centers); United Way 211 database (mental health programs)

Data Notes: Figures from Census Bureau are estimates based on demographically weighted data; Because of data limitations, a denominator of 15 to 64 year-olds was used when calculating the percentages for the population aged 16 to 64

City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

## Desired Result: Adults are Healthy

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V ZIP CODES			City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			30310 <i>Adair Park, Pittsburgh</i>	30312 <i>Mechanicsville, Summerhill/Capitol Homes</i>	30315 <i>Mechanicsville, Summerhill/Capitol Homes, Peoplestown</i>		
Adults can meet their health needs	Percent of adults with health insurance	2002	62.6	61.7	65.5	na	66.7
Health problems are identified and treated in the early stages	Percent of adults who have been to a physician within the past year	2002	78.6	78.0	77.0	na	80.2
	Percent of adults who report having hypertension	2002	31.5	39.0	46.2	na	36.0
	Percent of adults who report having heart disease	2002	13.6	11.0	14.0	na	11.7
	Percent of adults who report having diabetes	2002	22.0	19.5	11.7	na	21.9
	Percent of adults who report having cancer	2002	5.8	7.3	11.7	na	8.5

Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 decennial census; Georgia Office of Regulatory Services, online database (substance abuse treatment centers); United Way 211 database (mental health programs)

Data notes: Figures from Census Bureau are estimates based on demographically weighted data; Because of data limitations, a denominator of 15 to 64 year-olds was used when calculating the percentages for the population aged 16 to 64

# Desired Result

## Families are Stable

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want the families living in their neighborhoods to be stable. To them a stable family is one that does not experience domestic violence or child abuse; a family in which neither parent is imprisoned and in which both parents are involved in the care of the children; and one in which members belong to religious institutions and are able to meet their transportation needs. NPU-V residents also felt that a stable family meant that young people who are in the foster care system are able to age out of that system successfully with a job and savings. At this point, all of the measures that would show if we are making progress toward this goal are not available. The indicators for which data is available to show progress towards meeting this goal of stable families in NPU-V are:

- Children are safe
- Foster care resources are located close to neighborhoods where children live
- Parents are able to care for their children

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Children are Safe.

Abuse from intimate partners and/or family members is a threat to the health and well-being of both households and communities. Child abuse and neglect is a significant community problem that reflects society's failure to care for, nurture, and protect children. Early identification of the victims of child abuse and domestic violence and proactive steps to end the abuse may prevent the level of violence from increasing and may disrupt the multi-generational cycle of abuse. Child abuse and neglect have

serious consequences on a child's physical, behavioral, and cognitive development and can result in learning disorders, attention problems, low self esteem, long-term physical and mental health problems, and violent behavior. Rates of domestic violence and child abuse are difficult to estimate because much of the abuse goes unreported. The numbers in the accompanying table refer to substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect, accord-

ing to the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

A total of 74 children in NPU-V had substantiated cases of abuse and neglect between the months of January and June in 2003, a rate of 13.5 children per 1,000 children. By comparison, the City of Atlanta had a rate of 10.2 children per 1,000 children and Fulton County had a rate 7.0 per 1000.

#### Foster Care Resources are Located Close to the Neighborhoods Where Children Live.

Children need stability and safety in their families and homes in order to develop and mature successfully. Many children, however, live in families that are not safe or adequate and are, therefore, removed from their homes for their own safety. Although this is sometimes necessary, there are several significant consequences. The child's life is disrupted by the move and the long-term effects of this trauma can be significant. Having suffered from abuse and neglect, these children are vulnerable and need stability and permanency in their lives. Realities of the child welfare system, however, often lead to children being moved through a succession of short-term placements or to temporary placements that become long-term. These out-of-home placements can lead to emotional, behavioral, and educational problems. When children are able to remain close to their original neighborhood or community some of this trauma and negative impact can be lessened.

While there are 34 children from NPU-V in foster care during 2004, there are only two foster care homes in the neighborhood with spaces for just five children. This means that most NPU-V children who are placed in foster care must be uprooted from their community and may end up miles away from their family and friends.

**Parents Are Able to Care for their Children.**

Because parents can not take care of their children

when they are in prison, many of the children are placed in the care of grandparents, other family members, or in the foster care system. This instability increases the likelihood of trauma caused by the separation of children from their parents. According to the Georgia Department of Corrections, as of February 2004, 62 children in NPU-V have a parent who is in prison.

**ISSUES AND GAPS**

Family stability cuts across the other desired results.

Further analyses of these connections can lead to a deeper understanding of both root causes and often unintended consequences of even the most well-intentioned programs and policies.

An additional area in need of further study concerns the situation of neighborhood children in foster care—where they are placed, for how long, and what happens when they leave the system.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Domestic violence
- Involvement of fathers in their children's daily lives
- Participation in churches, synagogues, and mosques



## Desired Result: Families are Stable

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Children are safe	Number of children	2003	613	1,420	1,081	1,108	1,237	5,465	95,842	207,641
	Number of children in substantiated cases of abuse or neglect	Jan. 1-June 30 2003	5	27	4	12	26	74	980	1,446
	Number of children in substantiated cases of abuse or neglect per 1,000 children	Jan. 1-June 30 2003	8.2	19.0	3.7	10.8	21.0	13.5	10.2	7.0
Foster care resources are located close to neighborhoods where children live	Number of neighborhood children in foster care	2004	na	na	na	na	na	34	na	1,941
	Number of foster care homes	2004	1	1	0	0	0	2	64	121
	Number of spaces in foster care homes	2004	2	3	0	0	0	5	194	349

**Data sources:** Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS); Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis; Atlanta Regional Commission (2003 population estimate)

**Data notes:** Address data for inmates is self-reported. Data about the number of children is self-reported and calculated using the reported address of inmate which may not necessarily reflect the a child's current place of residence; Number of substantiated incidents of child abuse or neglect includes open and closed cases of child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect against an individual child; Number of children in 2003 calculated using known proportion of children in 2000 with ARC's tract-level population estimates for 2003 and then demographically weighted to neighborhood geographies; State prison refers only to Georgia state prisons; A total for the City of Atlanta can be greater than Fulton County total since part of the city is in DeKalb County.

*continued*



## Desired Result: Families are Stable *continued*

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS							City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V			
Parents are able to care for their children	Number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren	2000	14	65	80	62	102	323	5,947	8,384	
	Percent of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren	2000	19.7	56.5	65.6	45.3	61.4	52.9	51.4	47.0	
	Number of men in state prison	Feb. 2004	7	8	8	15	6	44	1,381	1,266	
	Number of women in state prison	Feb. 2004	0	1	2	0	1	4	138	132	
	Number of male inmates with children	Feb. 2004	4	5	3	3	3	18	689	641	
	Number of female inmates with children	Feb. 2004	0	1	1	0	1	3	95	94	
	Number of children with a parent in state prison	Feb. 2004	10	13	13	6	20	62	1,797	1,688	

**Data sources:** Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS); Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis; Atlanta Regional Commission (2003 population estimate)

**Data notes:** Address data for inmates is self-reported. Data about the number of children is self-reported and calculated using the reported address of inmate, which may not necessarily reflect the a child's current place of residence; Number of substantiated incidents of child abuse or neglect includes open and closed cases of child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect against an individual child; Number of children in 2003 calculated using known proportion of children in 2000 with ARC's tract-level population estimates for 2003 and then demographically weighted to neighborhood geographies; State prison refers only to Georgia state prisons; A total for the City of Atlanta can be greater than Fulton County total since part of the city is in DeKalb County.

# Desired Result

## Families have an Adequate Standard of Living

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want the families who live in their neighborhoods to be employed in jobs that allow them to earn enough to meet the family's basic needs and to begin to accumulate assets that can provide financial security during economic downturns. To show that the neighborhoods are making a difference and to measure their progress towards this goal, residents identified several indicators of family economic success:

- Families have adequate earnings and income
- Families have increased levels of assets

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Families Have Adequate Earnings and Income.

Whether or not a parent is employed is a significant predictor of a family with income above the poverty level. Nationwide in 1999, 87 percent of all children who were living above the poverty level had at least one parent who worked full-time all year compared to only 31 percent of children living below the poverty level. Children of working parents are also much more likely to have access to health care and regular, high quality childcare. Eighteen percent of children living in families where no parent had a full-time, year-round job lacked health insurance, compared to 9 percent in other families. Unemployment and under-employment also increase the stress on a family, which can negatively impact family interactions.

The unemployment rate was much higher in NPU-V (12.8 percent) than in either the City of Atlanta (6.7 percent) or Fulton County (4.9 percent). Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh had the highest unemployment rate in January 2004 with 15.5 percent. Adair Park had the lowest unemployment rate with 10.5 percent, but it was still higher than the unemployment rate for Atlanta.

Secure parental employment does not guarantee that a family can move above the poverty line. According

to the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, "Children living below the poverty line have become increasingly likely to have one or two parents working full-time all year. In 1993, 21 percent of children below poverty had at least one parent working full-time all year. In 2001, this statistic was 32 percent." The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an important resource for low income working parents. The incomes of approximately five million people, most of whom are in families with children, are raised above the poverty level each year by claiming and receiving the EITC. Federal expenditures on the refundable EITC and Child Tax Credit are comparable to those for traditional anti-poverty programs and are nearly equivalent to what is spent on food stamps and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

In 1999, there were 1,459 families and 3,289 children living below the federal poverty level<sup>1</sup> in NPU-V. A majority (59.2 percent) of children living in NPU-V were living below the poverty level with the highest percentages in Mechanicsville (68.7 percent) and Summerhill/Capitol Homes (68.4 percent).

While tax data is not available at the neighborhood

*The three zip codes that include the NPU-V neighborhoods received a total of \$27.7 million in EITC in 2002. These credits were distributed to a total of 13,631 residents.*

## DESIRED RESULT

### Families have an Adequate Standard of Living

level, the three zip codes that include the NPU-V neighborhoods received a total of \$27.7 million in EITC in 2002 (the latest year for which data are available). These credits were distributed to a total of 13,631 residents in those zip codes. The average EITC amount for each zip code ranged from a high of \$2,176 in 30315 to a low of \$2,023 in 30310.

A large segment of children in poverty do not receive benefits from the government's major cash assistance programs, such as TANF and Supplemental Security Income. U.S. Census Bureau data indicate that, nationally, only 24 percent of poor families with children received public assistance in 2002. While an end goal would be that no children and families lived in poverty and, therefore, no children and families received TANF and other public benefits, it is important for those who qualify for these benefits to access them to protect the health and

welfare of families as they seek to move out of poverty.

A total of 546 families and 1,116 children in NPU-V did receive TANF in June 2003. Of the children living in NPU-V, 20.4 percent received TANF which is higher than the percentage for the City of Atlanta (16 percent) and more than double that in Fulton County (8.7 percent).

### ISSUES AND GAPS

Having an adequate standard of living and being financially secure impacts family health on many levels. Many NPU-V residents face barriers to

employment caused by criminal records and a lack of a high school diploma or GED. The impact of these barriers and strategies to overcome them warrant further analyses.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Child support from non-custodial parents
- Post-secondary education attainment
- GED attainment
- Cottage and home-based businesses
- Employment opportunities for people with criminal records
- Jobs that provide family supporting wages and benefits and have opportunities for advancement

<sup>1</sup>The poverty level is the income level cutoff used for persons, households, children or families. The cutoff (threshold) based on family size is based solely on money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons receive non-cash benefits such as food stamps. The poverty threshold, defined by the government, is based on an annually adjusted market basket that includes food, transportation, utilities and housing. The income cutoff, for example, for two children and one adult in 1999 was \$13,423. A family of three who earned less than this amount was considered to be below the poverty level.



## Desired Result: Families have an Adequate Standard of Living

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS						NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes				
Families have adequate earnings and income	Number of households with an annual income between \$0 and \$14,999	1999	202	877	403	525	961	2,968	40,936	53,022	
	Number of households with an annual income between \$15,000 and \$24,999	1999	111	126	134	267	283	921	23,191	35,138	
	Number of households with an annual income greater than \$25,000	1999	370	265	331	346	547	1859	104,214	233,106	
	Number of families living below the poverty level	1999	125	417	225	241	451	1,459	17,966	23,270	
	Number of children that live below the poverty level	1999	186	948	515	565	1,075	3,289	35,624	44,992	
	Percent of all children that live below the poverty level	1999	31.1	74.1	50.5	53.2	67.7	59.3	38.3	22.6	
	Number of families that live between poverty level and 150 percent of the poverty level	1999	55	139	96	137	151	578	8,753	12,770	
	Number of families that live at or above 150 percent of the poverty level	1999	266	140	280	301	358	1,345	57,760	151,587	
	Number of persons 16 years and over in the labor force	Jan. 2004	905	1,160	1,088	1,700	1,430	6,283	233,178	427,659	
	Number of persons in the labor force who are unemployed	Jan. 2004	95	180	122	187	222	806	15,681	20,933	
Unemployment rate	Jan. 2004	10.5	15.5	11.2	11.0	15.5	12.8	6.7	4.9		

Data sources: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)); Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services (food stamps); U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 decennial census (income, poverty figures, vehicle ownership); Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis (probationers); State Board of Pardons and Paroles (Georgia), Office of Criminal Justice Research (parolees); Georgia Dept. of Labor (labor force and employment)

Data notes: Percent of TANF and food stamp recipients under 18 calculated using 2003 census tract population estimates from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC); Food stamp figures for Atlanta include some, but not all, households that receive Food Stamp benefits in the DeKalb County portion of the city. Figures for the city are therefore likely to be slightly higher than shown here; Food stamp totals for Atlanta and Fulton County include recipients listed as "homeless" but whose last known zip code of residence is in one of the two areas; Sum of households for income indicators may not necessarily equal the total number of known households because figures are derived from geographically and demographically weighted calculations of Census blockgroup level data; Probationer totals do not include persons on probation for non-aggravated misdemeanor offenses; Number of homeowners represent owner occupied housing units in area and may not necessarily capture renters in area who may own property elsewhere; City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

*continued*



## Desired Result: Families have an Adequate Standard of Living *continued*

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Families have adequate earnings and income (continued)	Number of adults 25 and over with a high school diploma or higher	2000	769	716	723	1,031	1,250	4,489	206,294	443,368
	Percent of adults 25 and over with a high school diploma or higher	2000	55.6	42.1	54.2	53.4	59.0	53.0	76.9	84.0
	Number of adults 25 years and over with a postsecondary education	2000	334	260	217	365	716	1,892	146,418	341,122
	Percent of adults 25 years and over with a postsecondary education	2000	24.1	15.3	16.3	18.9	33.8	22.3	54.6	64.6
	Number of adults on probation	Feb. 2004	57	137	140	73	68	475	7,297	10,164
	Number of probationers per 1,000 adults	Feb. 2004	35	66	86	33	25	46	23	16
	Number of adults on parole	Nov. 2003	5	9	5	22	7	48	966	1,336
	Number of parolees per 1,000 adults	Nov. 2003	3	4	3	10	3	5	3	2
	Number of households that receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	June 2003	57	196	103	133	57	546	7,700	9,204
	Number of children who receive TANF	June 2003	115	418	188	273	122	1,116	15,331	18,032
	Percent of area children who receive TANF	June 2003	18.8	29.4	17.4	24.6	9.9	20.4	16.0	8.7
	Number of households that receive Food Stamps	Feb. 2004	215	809	343	552	352	2,271	31,027	39,613
	Number of households with children that receive Food Stamps	Feb. 2004	95	394	182	239	140	1,050	14,569	20,152
	Percent of area children in a household that receives Food Stamps	Feb. 2004	34.1	64.9	39.7	52.1	27.1	45.3	35.9	22.6

Data sources: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)); Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services (food stamps); U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 decennial census (income, poverty figures, vehicle ownership); Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis (probationers); State Board of Pardons and Paroles (Georgia), Office of Criminal Justice Research (parolees); Georgia Dept. of Labor (labor force and employment)

Data notes: Percent of TANF and food stamp recipients under 18 calculated using 2003 census tract population estimates from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC); Food stamp figures for Atlanta include some, but not all, households that receive Food Stamp benefits in the DeKalb County portion of the city. Figures for the city are therefore likely to be slightly higher than shown here; Food stamp totals for Atlanta and Fulton County include recipients listed as "homeless" but whose last known zip code of residence is in one of the two areas; Sum of households for income indicators may not necessarily equal the total number of known households because figures are derived from geographically and demographically weighted calculations of Census blockgroup level data; Probationer totals do not include persons on probation for non-aggravated misdemeanor offenses; Number of homeowners represent owner occupied housing units in area and may not necessarily capture renters in area who may own property elsewhere; City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

## Desired Result: Families have an Adequate Standard of Living *continued*

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS					NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes			
Families have increased levels of assets	Number of occupied housing units that are owner-occupied	1990	256	145	199	501	177	1,278	67,126	127,285
		2000	265	174	253	379	303	1,374	73,473	167,119
	Percent of occupied housing units that are owner-occupied	1990	48.7	10.0	25.5	34.7	11.4	22.2	43.1	49.5
		2000	38.8	13.3	29.1	32.9	17.6	24.0	43.7	52.0
	Number of owner-occupied housing units with at least one vehicle	2000	237	106	134	269	267	1,013	66,915	164,027
	Number of renter-occupied housing units with at least one vehicle	2000	265	287	281	330	484	1,647	61,649	113,219
	Percent of owner-occupied housing units with at least one vehicle	2000	84.3	72.1	62.0	69.5	69.4	71.5	91.1	98.2
	Percent of renter-occupied housing units with at least one vehicle	2000	71.6	24.6	42.2	41.8	35.1	37.7	65.1	73.5

Data sources: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families); Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services (food stamps); U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 decennial census (income, poverty figures, vehicle ownership); Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis (probationers); State Board of Pardons and Paroles (Georgia), Office of Criminal Justice Research (parolees); Georgia Dept. of Labor (labor force and employment)

Data notes: Percent of TANF and food stamp recipients under 18 calculated using 2003 census tract population estimates from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC); Food stamp figures for Atlanta include some, but not all, households that receive Food Stamp benefits in the DeKalb County portion of the city. Figures for the city are therefore likely to be slightly higher than shown here; Food stamp totals for Atlanta and Fulton County include recipients listed as "homeless" but whose last known zip code of residence is in one of the two areas; Sum of households for income indicators may not necessarily equal the total number of known households because figures are derived from geographically and demographically weighted calculations of census blockgroup level data; Probationer totals do not include persons on probation for non-aggravated misdemeanor offenses; Number of homeowners represent owner occupied housing units in area and may not necessarily capture renters in area who may own property elsewhere; City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

## Desired Result: Families have an Adequate Standard of Living *continued*

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V ZIP CODES			City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			30310 <i>Adair Park, Pittsburgh</i>	30312 <i>Mechanicsville, Summerhill/Capitol Homes</i>	30315 <i>Mechanicsville, Summerhill/Capitol Homes, Peoplestown</i>		
Families have adequate earnings and income	Number of federal tax returns filed	2000	12,751	7,452	11,609	175,228	435,531
		2001	11,963	7,099	11,062	168,408	430,910
		2002	11,444	6,525	11,183	154,403	382,798
	Number of filers who claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	2000	5,546	2,628	5,960	41,931	75,795
		2001	5,297	2,403	5,752	40,664	74,967
		2002	5,370	2,233	6,028	41,753	78,948
	Percent of tax filers' returns that claimed EITC	2000	43.5	35.3	51.3	23.9	17.4
		2001	44.3	33.8	52.0	24.1	17.4
		2002	46.9	34.2	53.9	27.0	20.6
	Total amount of EITC claimed in area (in millions of dollars)	2000	10.3	4.8	11.6	77.1	136.9
		2001	10.3	4.7	11.8	78.2	140.9
		2002	10.9	4.6	13.1	83.2	154.2
	Average EITC amount claimed	2000	\$1,864	\$1,840	\$1,952	\$1,840	\$1,807
		2001	\$1,954	\$1,958	\$2,051	\$1,922	\$1,879
		2002	\$2,023	\$2,043	\$2,176	\$1,993	\$1,954
	Number of tax filers who received a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL)	2000	3,762	1,782	4,227	27,696	48,111
		2001	3,655	1,694	4,132	27,268	47,997
		2002	na	na	na	na	na
	Percent of tax filers who received an RAL	2000	29.5	23.9	36.4	15.8	11.0
		2001	30.6	23.9	37.4	16.2	11.1
		2002	na	na	na	na	na

Data source: The Brookings Institution, EITC Zip Code-Level Data, 1997-2002 (website: <http://apps89.brookings.edu:89/EITC/zipcode.jsp> )

Data notes: City of Atlanta totals calculated using estimates for portions of zip codes that overlap with city boundaries. Such estimates are based on the percentage of the zip code's area that falls within the city boundary; As of publication date, RAL figures for 2002 were not available; Zip codes also include other neighborhoods outside of NPU-V; City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

# Desired Result

## Children are Prepared to Enter School and Ready to Learn

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want the children who live in their neighborhoods to be born healthy, and to receive the health care, child care, and learning services they need to help them succeed when they enter school. To measure their progress towards this goal, residents outlined several indicators of healthy and supportive environments for babies and young children, including:

- Babies are born healthy
- Children are ready to succeed in school
- Children are healthy

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Babies are Born Healthy.

Early prenatal care has clear health benefits for children and mothers. Evidence shows that early prenatal care results in healthier births—especially for low-income and adolescent mothers. Some studies have revealed that mothers who receive prenatal care are less likely to deliver babies with a low birth-weight. Prenatal care may also improve outcomes by screening for high-risk pregnancies that require increased medical care and monitoring and by modifying harmful behaviors like smoking, alcohol and drug use and poor nutrition.

As the accompanying chart shows, most of the mothers in each of the NPU-V neighborhoods receive prenatal care early and throughout their pregnancy. Of the 930 babies born in NPU-V between 2000 and 2002, the percentage of mothers in each neighborhood who received little or no prenatal care ranged from 22 percent to 29 percent. This rate is higher than the averages for both Atlanta and Fulton County during those same years. Sadly, the data show that an increasing percentage of mothers in NPU-V, the City of Atlanta, and Fulton County are not receiving appropriate prenatal care. Pittsburgh is a striking

example of this. In 2002, nearly half (48 percent) of all new mothers did not receive prenatal care.

In NPU-V there was a 3.7 percent decrease between 2000 and 2002 in the percentage of babies born to mothers who smoked or drank alcohol during their pregnancies. The rate dropped from a high of 10.3 percent in 2000 to a low of 4.7 percent in 2002. These rates also decreased across Atlanta and Fulton County.

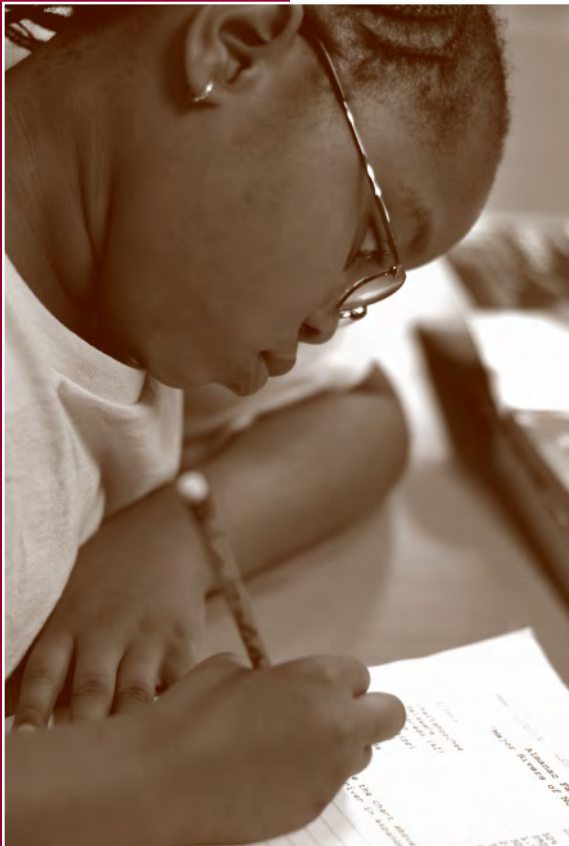
Babies who are born weighing less than 5.5 pounds are at an increased risk for developmental delays that can affect their chances of being left behind in school. The first year of life is more precarious than later years of childhood and being born weighing less than 5.5 pounds increases the risks for developing babies. National statistics reveal that the threat of dying during the first year of life for low-birth-weight babies (59.4 deaths per 1,000 births) is 24 times higher than that of babies of normal birth weight (2.5 deaths per 1,000 births).

*In NPU-V there was a 3.7 percent decrease between 2000 and 2002 in the percentage of babies born to mothers who smoked or drank alcohol during their pregnancy. The rate dropped from a high of 10.3 percent in 2000 to a low of 4.7 percent in 2002.*



## DESIRED RESULT

### Children are Prepared to Enter School and Ready to Learn



Across NPU-V, Atlanta, and Fulton County, the rate of babies being born weighing less than 5.5 pounds remained fairly consistent between 2000 and 2002. In NPU-V, the percentage of babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds ranged from a high of 14.1 percent in 2000 to a low of 13.7 percent in 2001. Across Atlanta and Fulton County, the percentage of babies being born weighing less than 5.5 pounds in those years ranged from a high of 12.0 percent in 2002 to a low of 11.1 percent in 2000 and a high of 10.6 percent in 2002 to a low of 9.7 percent in 2001, respectively.

This relative consistency in NPU-V belies the great fluctuations that occurred in some neighborhoods.

In Adair Park, more than one-quarter (27 percent) of babies were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds in 2000. The next year, that number dropped to 6.5 percent, only to rise again to 13.9 percent in 2002. Mechanicsville also experienced fluctuations in the percentages of babies with a low-birth-weight, going from a low of 13.3 percent in

2000 to a high of 23.2 percent in 2001 before dropping back to 16.5 percent in 2002. The percentage of babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds in Pittsburgh dropped steadily during those years, from a high of 16.1 percent in 2000 to a low of 6.3 percent in 2002 while the numbers steadily increased in Peopletown from 12.1 percent in 2000 to 18.6 percent in 2002.

#### Children are Ready to Succeed in School

A child's earliest learning experiences greatly impact his or her feelings about school and consequently future academic performance. Pre-kindergarten experiences allow children to meet important developmental milestones that enable them to pay attention, communicate effectively, work and play with others, solve problems, behave appropriately, use reason, and be creative. These skills serve children as they enter kindergarten and as they move throughout their educational and professional careers.

The availability of low-cost, quality child care also helps increase parents' ability to work and get ahead. The need for such child care has increased with the shift of many low-income parents from welfare to work.

In 2004, NPU-V has at least one child care program or Pre-k site in each of its neighborhoods. There are three day care centers, three family day care homes,

six Pre-k sites, and one Head Start site. There are no Early Head Start sites in the neighborhoods. All of the neighborhoods' child care programs close by 6:30 in the evening and no programs provide weekend care. These limits are obstacles for low-income working parents since many low wage jobs have evening and weekend shifts.

#### ISSUES AND GAPS

According to the Georgia Policy Council for Families and Children, "Children most at risk of not achieving their full potential are children in poverty. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to go without necessary food and clothing, live in sub-standard housing, be victims of crime and violence, lack basic health care, and have unequal access to educational opportunities. Poor children are more likely to be born with a low birth weight, die in infancy or childhood, have health problems, become a teenage parent, or drop out of school." For these reasons, it is apparent that a child's health and preparedness for school is connected to his/her family's financial stability as well as the stability and health of the neighborhood.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Infant and toddler child care
- Child immunization
- Mental health needs of young children
- Children without health insurance

## Desired Result: Children are Prepared to Enter School and Ready to Learn

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS					NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes			
Babies are born healthy	Number of babies born	2000	37	75	58	62	108	340	6,800	13,527
		2001	31	82	48	66	87	314	6,606	13,298
		2002	36	79	43	48	70	276	6,317	12,957
	Number of babies born that weigh less than 5.5 pounds	2000	10	10	7	10	11	48	758	1,326
		2001	2	19	8	9	5	43	742	1,287
		2002	5	13	8	3	9	38	757	1,370
	Percent of babies born that weigh less than 5.5 pounds	2000	27.0	13.3	12.1	16.1	10.2	14.1	11.1	9.8
		2001	6.5	23.2	16.7	13.6	5.7	13.7	11.2	9.7
		2002	13.9	16.5	18.6	6.3	12.9	13.8	12.0	10.6
	Number of babies born to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care	2000	9	15	14	18	19	75	1,335	2,143
		2001	9	23	10	18	18	78	1,378	2,210
		2002	9	22	9	23	18	81	1,404	2,306
	Percent of babies born to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care	2000	24.3	20.0	24.1	29.0	17.6	22.1	19.6	15.8
		2001	29.0	28.0	20.8	27.3	20.7	24.8	20.9	16.6
		2002	25.0	27.8	20.9	47.9	25.7	29.3	22.2	17.8
Children are ready to succeed in school	Number of babies born to mothers who smoke or drink alcohol during pregnancy	2000	3	14	5	5	8	35	512	782
		2001	4	7	2	8	9	30	392	639
		2002	3	3	3	0	4	13	252	447
	Number of licensed day care centers	2004	0	0	1	2	0	3	160	259
	Number of licensed group day care homes	2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	10
	Number of registered family day care homes	2004	0	0	0	2	1	3	218	420
	Number of child care facilities that . . . close before or at 6 pm	2003-04	0	1	2	2	0	5	125	na
	. . . close at 6:30 pm	2003-04	1	1	0	0	0	2	26	na
	. . . close at 7 pm	2003-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	na
	. . . close after 7 pm	2003-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	na
	. . . have weekend care available	2003-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	na

Data sources: Georgia Division of Public Health, OASIS database (birth data); United Way 211 database (mental health facilities); GA DHR Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) (childcare programs); Georgia Office of School Readiness (OSR) (pre-k sites); Quality Care for Children (2003-04 Metro Atlanta Child Care Directory) (nationally accredited pre-k sites and child care facility hours); Georgia Head Start Association website (Head Starts sites);

Data notes: Birth-related figures for some geographies calculated from tract-level birth data and 2000 Census data using demographically weighted formulas; The total number of childcare facility totals in any given geography may differ between indicators due to differences in the time and manner data is collected and reported by the various data sources used. Attainment of national accreditation on the part of Head Start is completely voluntary. City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

*continued*

## Desired Result: Children are Prepared to Enter School and Ready to Learn *continued*

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peopletown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Children are ready to succeed in school (continued)	Number of Pre-kindergarten (Pre-k) sites	2004	1	2	0	1	1	5	na	186
	Number of nationally accredited Pre-k sites	2003-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	na
	Number of children enrolled at Pre-k sites	2002-03	19	37	0	40	17	113	na	5,323
	Number of Head Start sites	2004	0	0	0	1	0	1	30	32
	Number of nationally accredited Head Start sites	2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	9
	Number of classrooms at Head Start sites	2004	0	0	0	3	0	3	106	134
	Number of Early Head Start sites	2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7
	Number of nationally accredited Early Head Start sites	2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6
Children are healthy	Number of child mental health facilities and services	2003	0	2	1	0	1	4	na	na

**Data sources:** Georgia Division of Public Health, OASIS database (birth data); United Way 211 database (mental health facilities); GA DHR Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) (childcare programs); Georgia Office of School Readiness (OSR) (pre-k sites); Quality Care for Children (2003-04 Metro Atlanta Child Care Directory) (nationally accredited pre-k sites and child care facility hours); Georgia Head Start Association website (Head Start sites);

**Data notes:** Birth-related figures for some geographies calculated from tract-level birth data and 2000 Census data using demographically weighted formulas; The number of child care facility totals in any given geography may differ between indicators due to differences in the time and manner data is collected and reported by the various data sources used. Attainment of national accreditation on the part of Head Start is completely voluntary. City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V ZIP CODES			City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			30310 <i>Adair Park, Pittsburgh</i>	30312 <i>Mechanicsville, Summerhill/Capitol Homes</i>	30315 <i>Mechanicsville, Summerhill/ Capitol Homes, Peopletown</i>		
Children are healthy	Percent of children who have health insurance	2002	55.4	66.3	55.7	na	66.5

**Data source:** Atlanta Community Access Coalition (ACAC), 2002 survey

**Data notes:** Figures are estimates based on results of more than 2,100 completed surveys conducted in 2002; Zip codes also include neighborhoods outside of NPU-V; Atlanta total not given because survey not conducted in portion of city located in DeKalb County

# Desired Result

## Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want the young people who live in their neighborhoods to have opportunities for positive development and growth. They feel that young people need to have support in their schools as well as safe and constructive activities after school and during the summer months. To show that the neighborhoods are making a difference and to measure their progress towards this goal, residents identified several indicators of youth having opportunities for positive development:

- Young people are avoiding trouble
- Students succeed in school
- Students graduate from high school and have opportunities for postsecondary education

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Young People are Avoiding Trouble.

Teenage childbearing often diminishes the opportunities for both the young mother and her child. Nationwide, of the mothers aged 15 to 17 who gave birth in 2002, 89 percent were unmarried and only 10 percent were high school graduates. While the poverty rate for children born to teenage mothers who do not marry or graduate from high school is 78 percent, the poverty rate for children born to mothers above the age of 20 who are married and high school graduates is only 9 percent. As Gary Sandefur and Sara McLanahan wrote in their book, *Growing Up With a Single Parent*, children born to single mothers “are twice as likely to drop out of high school, twice as likely to have a child before age 20, and one-and-one-half times as likely to be ‘idle’—out of school and out of work—in their late teens and early 20s.”

In NPU-V during 2002, there were 24 babies born to mothers who were in their teens, comprising 8.7 percent of all babies born in the NPU that year. Summerhill/Capitol Homes had the smallest percentage of babies born to teens. The four babies born to teen mothers there in 2002 comprised 5.7 percent of all babies born in the neighborhood. Pittsburgh had the highest percentage of babies born to teens in 2002. The six babies born to teen

mothers there comprised 12.5 percent of all of the babies born in the neighborhood.

As youth move into their middle and late teen years, they face many new risks. Between 2000 and 2002, only three teenagers died a violent death in NPU-V. One Peoplestown teenager died in 2001 and two Summerhill/Capitol Homes teenagers died in 2002. While these numbers are small, the two NPU-V violent teen deaths in 2002 comprised 12.5 percent of all violent teen deaths in the City of Atlanta that year.

#### Students Succeed in School.

Students who do not attend school regularly miss critical opportunities for learning and become at risk for many other problems. Truancy is a risk factor for delinquent behavior, school drop out, substance abuse and early parenthood. High levels of school absence have also been correlated with having poor grades and with students working more than 15 hours a week while in school.

The five elementary schools that draw students from NPU-V have high attendance rates that are on par with those across all Atlanta Public Schools (95.7

*The five elementary schools that draw students from NPU-V have high attendance rates that are on par with those across all Atlanta Public Schools (95.7 percent). Gideons and McGill have the highest attendance rates at 96.2 percent and 96.1 percent, respectively.*



## DESIRED RESULT

### Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development

percent). Gideons and McGill have the highest attendance rates at 96.2 percent and 96.1 percent, respectively. Attendance rates at the two middle schools that serve NPU-V are slightly lower at 92.1 percent at King and 91 percent at Parks. They continue to drop as students move into high school. At Carver and Southside High Schools the attendance rates are 87.6 and 89.1 percent, respectively.



### Students Graduate from High School and Have Opportunities for Postsecondary Education.

Graduating from high school is critical for obtaining postsecondary education and finding a good job. Many students attend schools where graduating on time with a solid education is more the exception than the rule. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2002 more than seven million children live in neighborhoods where the high school drop out rate is 23 percent or more. Teens who drop out of high school face increased obstacles to achieving financial success in life. A recent Census report reveals the average income for full-time, year-round workers with a high school diploma to be \$30,400, which is 30 percent higher than the average income for workers without a high school diploma (\$23,400).

Twenty years ago the significant hurdle to achieving financial independence was a high school diploma. More recently, college attendance is becoming an increasing prerequisite for achieving a reasonable standard of living. As technology continues to evolve rapidly, education beyond high school is becoming increasingly necessary in order to be competitive when seeking jobs. The economic benefits of a college education are clear; education and income are positively correlated.

At Carver High School, which serves students in Adair Park, Pittsburgh, and most of Peoplestown, the graduation rate for the 2001-2002 school year was 28.7 percent. The graduation rate at Southside High School, which serves students in Summerhill/Capitol Homes and part of Peoplestown, is much higher at 57 percent in 2001-2002. While even Southside's graduation rate was much lower than that for all schools in Fulton County in 2001-2002 (82.1 percent), it was comparable with other Atlanta Public Schools (56.9 percent).





Of the students graduating from Carver and Southside High Schools, more than a third were eligible for the Georgia HOPE Scholarship, which covers the tuition and board for Georgia students who attend a Georgia school and maintain a B grade average. This program makes college more accessible for those whose families are unable to pay the rising costs of college. At Carver, 38 percent of graduates were eligible for HOPE while at Southside, 44.3 percent were eligible.

## ISSUES AND GAPS

Having positive experiences in youth is critical to setting the stage for a successful adulthood and family life. Youth experiences are impacted by their fami-

ly life, the health and stability of their parents, and the health of the neighborhoods and communities.

The graduation rates at the high schools in NPU-V and Atlanta Public Schools varies greatly. At Carver High School, less than one-third of students graduate whereas just under two-thirds of students at Southside High School graduate. In recent years, the graduation rate at Southside has been comparable to that of all Atlanta Public High Schools but far below the rate of 82 percent graduation rate of Fulton County Public Schools. The explanation for these gaps requires further study in order to understand why some students drop out of school and why others continue on through to graduation.

While the rates of membership of NPU-V parents in their school's Parent Teacher Associations (22.4 percent) is lower than that of Atlanta Public Schools (34.2 percent), parental involvement among NPU-V families, according to anecdotal evidence, is high. A deeper study of this and the varied ways in which parents support and are involved in their children's schools would be beneficial.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Youth with a substance abuse problem
- Risky behavior by youth
- Support for youth in crisis
- Parent involvement
- Youth employment opportunities
- Reading for pleasure
- After-school programs

## Desired Result: Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS					NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
			Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes			
Young people are avoiding trouble	Number of youth after-school programs	2002-03	1	3	3	1	1	9	na	na
	Number of babies born to teen mothers, ages 15-17	2000	3	7	9	7	9	35	441	601
		2001	4	8	5	5	6	28	372	551
		2002	4	6	4	6	4	24	370	521
	Percent of all babies born that are born to teen mothers, ages 15-17	2000	8.1	9.3	15.5	11.3	8.3	10.3	6.5	4.4
		2001	12.9	9.8	10.4	7.6	6.9	8.9	5.6	4.1
		2002	11.1	7.6	9.3	12.5	5.7	8.7	5.9	4.0
	Number of teen violent deaths, ages 15-19	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	38
		2001	0	0	1	0	0	1	25	35
		2002	0	0	0	0	2	2	16	28

Data sources: Partnership for After School Education, Program Guide (after school programs); Georgia Division of Public Health, OASIS database (births and teen deaths)

## Desired Result: Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Schools That Serve NPU-V											Atlanta Public Schools			Fulton County Public Schools		
	Measure	Year	ELEMENTARY (ES)					MIDDLE (MS)		HIGH (HS)		All ES	All MS	All HS	All ES	All MS	All HS
			Cook	Dunbar	Gideons	McGill	Stanton	King	Parks	Carver	Southside						
			GRADE 3					GRADE 8		GRADE 11							
Students succeed in school	Percent of students who passed the following Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests:																
	Reading	2001-02	72.0	53.0	93.0	55.0	63.0	69.0	57.0	na	na	76.0	68.0	na	86.0	86.0	na
	English	2001-02	76.0	61.0	91.0	64.0	72.0	52.0	48.0	76.0	91.0	75.0	55.0	90.0	95.0	79.0	96.0
	Math	2001-02	76.0	46.0	87.0	59.0	64.0	47.0	43.0	61.0	76.0	72.0	46.0	81.0	86.0	75.0	93.0
	Social Studies	2001-02	79.0	54.0	88.0	57.0	72.0	68.0	60.0	37.0	77.0	72.0	72.0	75.0	84.0	87.0	90.0
	Science	2001-02	59.0	40.0	83.0	38.0	53.0	48.0	50.0	40.0	49.0	63.0	54.0	63.0	78.0	78.0	78.0
	PTA membership rate	2003-04	40.8	7.3	11.8	57.4	7.1	na	na	na	na	34.2 (all schools)			na	na	na
	Average number of years of teacher experience	1999-00	15.3	17.9	13.9	14.5	14.2	21.7	14.7	21.5	20.4	16.2 (all schools)			10.3 (all schools)		
		2000-01	11.1	12.6	12.2	10.1	11.3	15.3	9.3	17.9	16.8	12.9 (all schools)			10.9 (all schools)		
		2001-02	9.1	10.6	12.4	11.1	8.7	13.4	6.0	18.1	15.7	11.7 (all schools)			10.6 (all schools)		
	Percent of school officials who feel their school meets or exceeds minimum technology needs	2003-04	8.0	10.0	14.0	12.0	4.0	na	na	na	na	8.0 (all schools)			na		
	School attendance rate	1999-00	94.2	94.8	95.5	96.4	95.9	92.0	93.0	85.2	89.5	95.7	93.1	90.7	na	na	na
		2000-01	94.6	95.3	95.6	96.7	95.4	91.3	90.9	83.7	89.4	95.4	92.0	89.7	na	na	na
		2001-02	95.3	93.9	96.2	96.1	94.9	92.1	91.0	87.6	89.1	95.7	92.8	90.5	na	na	na

**Data sources:** Georgia Office of Student Achievement (OSA, formerly the Office of Education Accountability) (CRCT scores); Georgia PTA; Georgia Dept. of Education, Report Card data files (teacher experience); Learning Quest, 2003 Level of Technology Implementation Survey ([www.learning-quest.com/](http://www.learning-quest.com/)) (technology needs); Atlanta Public Schools, school reports (attendance rates)

**Data notes:** NPU-V neighborhoods served by the following schools: Gideons ES – most of Adair Park and Pittsburgh; Dunbar ES – Mechanicsville and northern tips of Adair Park and Pittsburgh; Cook ES – Capitol Homes portion of Summerhill-Capitol Home; Stanton ES – most of Peoplestown; McGill ES – Summerhill/Capitol Homes and northern part of Peoplestown; King MS – Summerhill/Capitol Homes and northern part of Peoplestown; Parks MS – Adair Park, Pittsburgh, Mechanicsville and most of Peoplestown; Carver HS – Adair Park, Pittsburgh and most of Peoplestown, Southside HS – Summerhill/Capitol Homes, Mechanicsville and part of Peoplestown; School attendance zones often include areas outside of NPU-V boundaries and are subject to change from year to year; “School officials” in the technology indicator included officials from the school itself and was mostly made up of teachers, though the exact number of survey respondents is not known; Full Title for “English” CRCT test is “English/Language Arts.” City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

## Desired Result: Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development

We will know we are making progress when . . .	Measure	Year	High Schools that Serve NPU-V		All Atlanta Public School System High Schools	All Fulton County School System High Schools
			Carver <i>Serves Adair Park, Pittsburgh and most of Peoplestown</i>	Southside <i>Serves Summerville/Capitol Homes Mechanicsville and part of Peoplestown</i>		
Students succeed in school	Number of students who took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	1999-00	30	77	1,268	2,860
		2000-01	30	75	1,354	3,021
		2001-02	27	63	1,250	3,192
	Average total SAT score	1999-00	689	786	861	1,044
		2000-01	688	819	878	1,055
		2001-02	693	831	876	1,060
	Number of Advanced Placement (AP) tests taken	1999-00	4	50	903	3,029
		2000-01	7	90	1,134	3,549
		2001-02	34	80	1,293	4,186
Students graduate from high school and have opportunities for post-secondary education	Number of high school graduates	1999-00	62	155	2,056	3,245
		2000-01	48	160	2,074	3,520
		2001-02	50	158	2,105	3,559
	High school completion rate	1999-00	32.8	50.8	60.0	80.2
		2000-01	28.2	61.8	53.6	83.1
		2001-02	28.7	57.0	56.9	82.1
	Number of high school graduates who are eligible for a HOPE scholarship	1999-00	23	60	1,018	2,306
		2000-01	14	59	1,052	2,373
		2001-02	19	70	1,053	2,459
	Percent of high school graduates who are eligible for a HOPE scholarship	1999-00	37.1	38.7	49.5	71.1
		2000-01	29.2	36.9	50.7	67.4
		2001-02	38.0	44.3	50.0	69.1

**Data source:** Georgia Dept. of Education, Report Card data files, Average SAT score calculated using the highest test score for students who took the test more than once that academic year

**Data notes:** High school attendance zones include areas outside of NPU-V and are subject to change from year to year; Average SAT score calculated using only a student's highest test score for those who took the test more than once

# Desired Result

## Neighborhoods are Safe

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want their neighborhoods to be safe from crime and pollution. They feel that, in order for the neighborhoods to be ones where families will choose to raise their children, they must not have high levels of violence, crime, or pollution. To show that the neighborhoods are making a difference and to measure their progress towards this goal, residents identified several indicators of neighborhoods being safe for residents and families:

- Residents are safe from crime
- Residents are safe from pollution

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Residents Are Safe from Crime.

High levels of crime and drugs make a neighborhood a dangerous environment for children to play in and for families to enjoy. They deter businesses and services that would benefit the community from locating in the neighborhood and they increase fear and distrust among residents.

The Atlanta Police Department (APD) submitted unofficial numbers for various crimes committed during October 2003. The APD defines Part I crimes as being criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary (breaking and entering), larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. During October 2003, 142 Part I crimes were reported in NPU-V. The large majority (74.6 percent) of those crimes, however, were non-violent and property-related crimes. Mechanicsville had the highest number of Part I crimes with 45 while Peoplestown had the least with 17. Peoplestown, however, had the highest percentage of Part I crimes involving violence with 41.2 percent.

Between October 2002 and October 2003, there were 912 narcotics arrests in NPU-V. The majority of those arrests were in Mechanicsville (320) and Pittsburgh (316), both of which are Weed and Seed neighborhoods. Summerhill/Capitol Homes and Peoplestown had the fewest numbers of narcotics arrests that year with 34 arrests in each neighborhood. The concentration of narcotics arrests can be misleading and should not be interpreted as meaning that a larger percentage of residents in Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh are involved in drugs. When drug dealers designate a location as one where they will make their transactions, it can attract buyers from many other neighborhoods. Data was not available to determine the number of arrests that involved neighborhood residents as compared to people outside of the neighborhood.

#### Residents are Safe from Pollution.

The safety and healthfulness of the environment in which a family lives can have significant impact on their well-being. Many neighborhoods face challenges with pollution from hazardous sites, chemical releases, toxic substances and trash removal and problems with sewer and septic systems that can have health implications.

As of July 1, 2004, there were two sites in NPU-V that were listed on the Georgia Hazardous Site Inventory. One is located in Adair Park and the other is in Peoplestown. There are a total of 26 sites in Atlanta and 46 sites in Fulton County listed in the state inventory. These sites will remain on the inventory list until they are properly cleaned. Between 1994 and 2003, there were also nine sites that were investigated for having had minor chemical releases. Minor releases are those which are not serious enough to warrant inclusion on the state inventory list. There are no sites in NPU-V that handle federally regulated toxic substances.

### ISSUES AND GAPS

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Traffic accidents
- Police visibility
- Sidewalks and streetlights
- Resident perception of safety
- Brownfields and polluting industries



## Desired Result: Neighborhoods are Safe

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Residents are safe from crime	Number of reported Part 1 (major) crimes	Oct. 2003	20	45	17	37	23	142	4,004	na
	Number of reported property crimes	Oct. 2003	18	37	10	24	17	106	3,333	na
	Number of reported violent crimes	Oct. 2003	2	8	7	13	6	36	671	na
	Percent of all Part 1 crimes that are violent crimes	Oct. 2003	10.0	17.8	41.2	35.1	21.6	25.4	16.8	na
	Number of narcotics arrests	Oct. 2002-Oct. 2003	97	320	89	316	90	912	na	na
	Narcotics arrests per 1,000 adults	Oct. 2002-Oct. 2003	60	154	54	142	33	89	na	na
Residents are safe from pollution	Number of sites on state Hazardous Site Inventory	as of July 1, 2004	1	0	1	0	0	2	26	46
	Number of sites investigated for minor chemical releases	1994 -2003	3	2	0	4	0	9	356	310
	Sites that handle federally regulated toxic substances	2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	59

**Data sources:** Atlanta Police Dept., website and public relations department for city totals, Zone 3 Crime Analysis division for NPU-V level data; Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI) and Non-Hazardous Site Inventory; US Environmental Protection Agency, Toxics Release Inventory, online database ([www.epa.gov/triexplorer](http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer))

**Data notes:** Figures are not official APD-approved or endorsed figures; Part 1 crimes include – criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary (breaking and entering), larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft; Sites investigated for minor chemical releases include a handful of cases where an investigation was carried out but no release was detected at all. Minor releases represent releases not significant enough to warrant inclusion on the EPD's Hazardous Site Inventory; Sites on HSI remain so until they are properly cleaned up; Dates of EPD inspections for sites on the list do not necessarily reflect the date of the reported release. For more information about specific HSI sites, visit the EPD website at [www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/environ/](http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/environ/) ); Sites that handle federally regulated toxic substances are not polluters by default but are of special interest and included here because of the potential risk to community residents should a chemical spill take place.

# Desired Result

## Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business, and Recreational Facilities

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want their neighborhoods to have quality housing, business, and recreational facilities. They feel that, in order for the neighborhoods to be ones in which families can live, play, and work successfully, they must have affordable and quality properties for both renters and owners, businesses that provide needed services to residents, and parks and recreation areas. To show that the neighborhoods are making a difference and to measure their progress towards this goal, residents identified several indicators of neighborhoods having quality housing, business, and recreational facilities:

- Neighborhoods have an adequate mix of land uses
- Neighborhoods have quality, affordable housing
- Neighborhoods have businesses that serve local residents
- Neighborhoods have parks and recreational facilities

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Neighborhoods Have an Adequate Mix of Land Uses.

In many metropolitan areas, lack of adequate and affordable housing is a significant problem, especially for low income families. Metro Atlanta is no exception. With increasing property values and

rental payments, home ownership becomes more difficult and families have to pay a larger percentage of their income for shelter, leaving little for other basic necessities such as clothing, food, and utilities. Millions of families nationwide pay more than half of their income for rent or live in seriously substandard housing.

While the costs of housing have increased and the supply of affordably priced housing has decreased, subsidies to benefit low income renters have not kept pace. The number of new federal vouchers funded in fiscal year 2002 was lower than the number funded in any year between 1983 and 1994. Housing subsidies support families' efforts towards employment and job retention. According to a 2002 Brookings Institution study, subsidized families are 16 percent less likely to return to the welfare rolls in the following year than those without housing assistance.

The NPU-V neighborhoods are predominantly residential. While only 55.3 percent of the land in Mechanicsville is zoned as residential, close to three-fourths of the land in the four other NPU-V neighborhoods is zoned for residential use. In many of the neighborhoods, however, much of the land was vacant in 2003. Out of all lots in the neighborhoods, 48.7 percent of the lots in Mechanicsville were vacant. Adair Park had the smallest percentage

*While property values are increasing in NPU-V, properties in several of the neighborhoods remain affordable for working families. Between January and August 2003, the average sale price of homes ranged from a low of \$78,467 in Pittsburgh to a high of \$174,421 in Summerhill/Capitol Homes.*

of vacant lots with only 13.4 percent. In comparison, only 12.6 percent of lots in Fulton County were vacant in 2003.

While property values are increasing in NPU-V, properties in several of the neighborhoods remain affordable for working families. Between January and August 2003, the average sale price of homes ranged from a low of \$78,467 in Pittsburgh to a high of \$174,421 in Summerhill/Capitol Homes.

#### **Neighborhoods Have Businesses that Serve Local Residents.**

When grocery and drug stores, health clinics, laundromats, banks, libraries, and other businesses and services are located in or near neighborhoods, resi-

dents' daily lives can become less stressful. Being able to access shops and services on foot, bike, or short bus ride can free up people's time for work, family life, and recreational activities. Since many low-income families live in economically or geographically isolated neighborhoods, shopping at locations that are convenient to their homes means paying more for food, clothing, furniture, and other items. Smaller local businesses are frequently located in low-income neighborhoods, but they operate outside of the economies of scale that allow larger mainstream businesses to offer a wider variety of products at lower costs.

All NPU-V neighborhoods, except Adair Park, have at least one dry cleaner or laundromat in the neighborhood for a total of 14 in the NPU. There are also several corner or grocery stores in each neighborhood providing food to residents for a total of 56 in the NPU. When residents need financial or banking services, however, there is only one bank inside the NPU to serve them.

Each of the NPU-V neighborhoods includes

at least one park with a total of 16 parks in the NPU. There are also three recreation centers in NPU-V, one in Mechanicsville, another in Peoplestown, and one in Pittsburgh. Park space totals 3.3 percent of all land in NPU-V, which is just below the 3.7 percent of land dedicated to park space across the City of Atlanta.

#### **ISSUES AND GAPS**

The neighborhoods of NPU-V, because of their affordability and proximity to downtown and to Atlanta's interstates, are becoming a target for real estate investors and others looking for affordable intown homes. While less than one-fourth of homes in NPU-V were owner occupied in 2003, as more people with higher incomes from outside the neighborhoods move in, the home ownership rate may increase. Members of the Neighborhood Data Acquisition Group want current NPU-V residents to be a part of increasing the home ownership rates by purchasing homes in their neighborhood. As home ownership in the neighborhoods increases, it will be difficult to determine how much of that is caused by new residents moving in and how much is caused by current residents moving from rental properties to home ownership.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Housing costs
- Entrepreneurial opportunities for residents
- Public and private investments
- Preservation and planting of trees



## Desired Result: Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Neighborhoods have an adequate mix of land uses	Number of lots/parcels	2003	672	1,194	960	1,784	1,172	5,782	na	280,603
	Number of vacant lots	2003	90	582	273	544	482	1,971	na	35,311
	Vacant lots as a percent of all lots	2003	13.4	48.7	28.4	30.5	41.1	34.1	na	12.6
	Number of tax delinquent properties	2003	25	160	114	315	123	737	na	7,244
	Average number of years properties are tax delinquent	2003	3.8	4.5	3.9	5.4	3.8	4.6	na	3.9
	Residential lots as a percent of all lots	2003	75.4	55.3	75.0	79.9	72.9	72.1	na	85.2
	Commercial and industrial lots as a percent of all lots	2003	17.4	17.7	11.6	10.5	9.8	12.8	na	7.6
Neighborhoods have quality, affordable housing	Number of residential properties sold at least once in 2003	Jan.-Aug. 2003	41	30	60	110	67	308	na	11,316
	Percent of residential properties sold at least once in 2003	Jan.-Aug. 2003	8.1	4.5	8.3	7.7	7.8	7.4	na	4.7
	Average sales price of most recent residential sale in 2003	Jan.-Aug. 2003	\$127,362	\$90,829	\$151,756	\$78,467	\$174,421	\$121,330	na	\$255,291
	Maximum residential sales price	Jan.-Aug. 2003	\$365,000	\$215,000	\$435,000	\$240,000	\$365,000	\$435,000	na	\$5,000,000

**Data sources:** Fulton County Board of Assessors, 2003 tax digest (zoning/land use status); Fulton County Tax Commissioner (tax delinquencies, home sales); Fulton County GIS Dept. (underlying parcel layer); Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) business database (2002) and partial 2004 field checks and NDAG reviews(businesses); Atlanta Parks and Recreation Dept.

**Data notes:** The terms "lots", "parcels" and "properties" are interchangeable and refer to an individual piece of real estate property as recognized and defined by the county; Incomplete parcel information precludes a calculation of zoning/land use and tax figures for the City of Atlanta. City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

*continued*

## Desired Result: Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities *continued*

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Neighborhoods have businesses that serve local residents	Number of dry cleaners/ laundromats	2002	0	3	2	4	1	10	na	na
	Number of grocery/corner stores	2004	4	6	4	9	4	27	na	na
	Number of banks and credit unions	2004	0	0	0	1	0	1	na	na
Neighborhoods have parks and recreational facilities	Number of parks	2003	4	5	2	1	4	16	345	na
	Number of recreation centers	2003	0	1	1	1	0	3	29	na
	Percent of land area that is covered by parks	2003	5.7	3.3	3.2	2.3	3.0	3.3	3.7	na

**Data sources:** Fulton County Board of Assessors, 2003 tax digest (zoning/land use status); Fulton County Tax Commissioner (tax delinquencies, home sales); Fulton County GIS Dept. (underlying parcel layer); Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) business database (2002) and partial 2004 field checks and NDAG reviews(businesses); Atlanta Parks and Recreation Dept.

**Data notes:** The terms "lots," "parcels" and "properties" are interchangeable and refer to an individual piece of real estate property as recognized and defined by the county; Incomplete parcel information precludes a calculation of zoning/land use and tax figures for the City of Atlanta. City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.



# Desired Result

## Residents Increase their Civic Participation

### BACKGROUND

NPU-V residents want the individuals and families living in their neighborhoods to be actively involved in the political system and their community. To show that the neighborhoods are making a difference and to measure their progress towards this goal, residents identified two indicators of increased civic participation:

- Residents participate in the electoral process
- Residents participate in local neighborhood organizations

### SELECTED FINDINGS

#### Residents Participate in the Electoral Process.

Our nation's government is founded upon the ideals of democracy and the right to vote is a core element of that democracy. Since voter turnout peaked nationally in 1960, there has been an ongoing decline in voter turnout and other forms of civic participation. Many American citizens, including a substantial portion of young people, ages 18 to 30, low income people and people of color, do not vote. When segments of the population do not vote in large numbers, however, their needs are frequently overlooked by elected officials.

According to the 2000 Census, there are more than 10,000 adults of voting age (ages 18 and older) living in NPU-V. In 2000, only 6,075, or 59.1 percent, of those voting age adults were registered to vote. This is lower than the percentage of people in the City of Atlanta (66.5 percent) and Fulton County (67.7 percent) who were registered to vote in 2000. Among NPU-V neighborhoods, Peopletown has the highest percentage of registered voters with 68.2 percent while Adair Park had the lowest with 48.9 percent.

Voter turnout, in NPU-V, metro Atlanta, and the nation, varies greatly depending upon whether or

not it is a presidential election year. In 2000, when the nation's electorate was deciding between Al Gore and George W. Bush for president, 45.2 percent of NPU-V's registered voters voted. Pittsburgh had the highest voter turnout, with 49.7 percent of its registered voters casting a ballot. A much larger percentage of Atlanta's (60 percent) and Fulton County's (63.3 percent) registered voters cast votes that year.

During non-presidential election years, the turnout rates drops dramatically. In 2002, only 30 percent of registered voters in NPU-V cast a vote compared to 48.7 percent in Atlanta and 51.9 percent in Fulton County. In Mechanicsville, only 14.7 percent of registered voters cast a ballot that November.

#### Residents Participate in Local Neighborhood Organizations.

The act of voting exists on a continuum of civic engagement. People who are involved in civic affairs and participate in their communities are more likely to be voters. Communities with high levels of civic and community engagement also have strong social networks.

*NPU-V has a much higher participation rate in its Neighborhood Planning Unit meetings than other neighborhoods in the City of Atlanta.*

# DESIRED RESULT

## Residents Increase their Civic Participation

NPU-V has a much higher participation rate in its Neighborhood Planning Unit meetings than other neighborhoods in the City of Atlanta. The average monthly attendance for NPU-V meetings was 50 people in 2002 before increasing to 57 in 2003. Monthly attendance at NPU meetings across Atlanta was 37 in 2002 before increasing to 39 in 2003.

### ISSUES AND GAPS

While Peoplestown has the highest percentage of residents who are registered to vote (68.2 percent in 2000), the voter turnout during the 2000 presidential election was only 47.4 percent. Adair Park, where only 48.9 percent of residents are registered to vote, had a comparable turnout that year (47.1 percent). This raises the question of why people do

and do not register to vote and why people do and do not come out to the polls on Election Day. Further study is required to understand these issues.

Data gaps to be addressed in the future include:

- Participation in resident and tenant associations, civic, cultural, and other voluntary organizations
- Resident leadership

## Desired Result: Residents Increase their Civic Participation

We will know we are making progress when . . .	NPU-V NEIGHBORHOODS									
	Measure	Year	Adair Park	Mechanicsville	Peoplestown	Pittsburgh	Summerhill/ Capitol Homes	NPU-V	City of Atlanta	Fulton County
Residents participate in the electoral process	Number of voting age adults	2000	1,606	2,079	1,636	2,223	2,733	10,277	323,474	616,716
	Number of adults registered to vote	1998	876	1,164	1,219	1,499	1,700	6,458	233,837	437,559
		2000	785	1,155	1,115	1,395	1,625	6,075	215,066	417,229
		2002	718	1,221	995	1,204	1,477	5,615	196,552	383,990
	Percent of adults registered to vote	2000	48.9	55.6	68.2	62.8	59.5	59.1	66.5	67.7
	Number of registered voters who voted in the general election	1998	281	290	342	509	418	1,840	92,782	182,791
		2000	370	425	529	693	730	2,747	128,957	264,150
		2002	264	180	325	463	451	1,683	95,703	199,230
	Percent of registered voters who voted in the general election	1998	32.1	24.9	28.1	34.0	24.6	28.5	39.7	41.8
		2000	47.1	36.8	47.4	49.7	44.9	45.2	60.0	63.3
		2002	36.8	14.7	32.7	38.5	30.5	30.0	48.7	51.9
Residents participate in local neighborhood organizations	Average monthly attendance at Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) meetings	2002	na	na	na	na	na	50	37	na
		2003	na	na	na	na	na	57	39	na
	Percent change in NPU meeting attendance	2002-03	na	na	na	na	na	14.0	5.4	na

**Data sources:** University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Legislative Reapportionment Services Office (voters); 2000 U.S. Census; Atlanta Dept. of Planning and Community Development (NPU meeting attendance)

**Data notes:** Voter data based on aggregates of block-level estimates. City of Atlanta includes part of DeKalb County.

# Appendices

## A. Terms You Should Know

**Adult** – A person aged 18 or older.

**Attendance rate** – The percent of days during the 180-day school year that the average student attended school. For example, if the student rate of attendance is 90%, then on the average, students missed 18 days out of 180 days of instruction.

**Child care** – The state of Georgia recognizes three types of child care. They are:

- **Family Day Care Home** – A private residence operated by any person who receives payment for the supervision and care fewer than 24 hours per day, without transfer of legal custody, at least three but not more than six children under 18 years of age who are not related to such person and whose parents or guardians are not residents in the same private residence.
- **Group Day Care Home** – Any place operated by any person or group who receives payment for the supervision and care of not less than seven nor more than 18 children under 18 years of age for less than 24 hours per day.
- **Day Care Center** – Any place operated by a person, society, agency, corporation, institution, or group who receives payment for group care for fewer than 24 hours per day without transfer of legal custody 19 or more children under 18 years of age.

**Children** – People under the age of 18.

**Completion rate (high school)** – The percentage of students who entered ninth grade in a given year and were in the graduating class four years later.

### **Crime**

- **Part 1** – Criminal offenses that includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary (breaking and entering), larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft. Arson is also a Part 1 crime but is reported separately by fire department officials and is not included here.
- **Property Crimes** — Reported and substantiated incidents of larceny, burglary and motor vehicle theft.
- **Violent Crimes** — Reported and substantiated incidents of homicide, forcible rape and aggravated assault

### **Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT)**

– These tests are administered in grades 1 through 8 in the content areas of Reading, English/ Language Arts, and Mathematics. Science and Social Studies are tested in grades 3 through 8. Student scores are placed in one of three performance levels for each content area test: 1) Does Not Meet Standard, 2) Meets Standard, or 3) Exceeds Standard. For *Neighborhoods Count*, “passed” refers to those students whose test scores fell into the performance levels of “Meets Standard” and “Exceeds Standard.”

**Data (baseline)** – The first time data is reported for a particular indicator it is referred to as baseline data. Such data can either capture conditions at a particular point in time (number of welfare recipients as of June 30, 2003, for example) or across a given time range (narcotics arrests between October 2002 and October 2003). Knowledge gained from subsequent reporting of the same data is referred to as trend data.

**Data (trend)** – Data that results from a comparison of an indicator measure between two or more given reporting periods.

**Disability** – Persons are considered to have a physical or mental disability if they were reported to have one or more of the following: (a) a substantial limitation in the ability to perform basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying (physical disability) or; (b) difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability).

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** – The EITC is a refundable federal tax credit that provides billions of dollars to low-income taxpayers annually. The credit is typically available to families with children though in some cases individuals with certain income thresholds can qualify as well. Depending on their income and other factors such families may be eligible for credits of up to \$4,100.

According to national studies, approximately 15 to 20 percent of tax filers eligible for the EITC don't file for the credit.

**Food Stamps** – The Food Stamp Program provides low income households with a means to obtain a more nutritious diet through normal channels of trade by increasing their food purchasing power. This is done by supplementing income with Food Stamp coupons based on the household's current income.

**Head Start/Early Head Start** – Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive developmental services for low-income preschool children and their families. In Georgia, Head Start programs serve nearly 20,000 children ranging from 3 to 5 years-old in 33 different programs covering 157 of Georgia's 159 counties. For the 2001-2002 school year, Georgia Head Start provided spaces for 10,976 four year-olds. The program in Georgia is designed to address developmental goals for children, employment and self-sufficiency goals for adults, and support for parents in their work and in their roles as parents.

**HOPE scholarship** – The number of graduates eligible to receive HOPE—Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally—Scholarships as reported by local school systems to the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Eligible students include those who graduated any time during the 2001-2002 school year as well as in the summer of 2002 while maintaining a "B" average during their high school program of study. Eligible students may use the HOPE scholarship to attend a postsecondary school in Georgia. The HOPE scholarship program is funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.

**Household** – A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit (an apartment or house) whether or not they are related. For exam-

ple, two families living together in an apartment would be considered *one* household.

**Labor force** – The number of people in the labor force includes all people who were either working or looking for work (unemployed) including members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It does not include unpaid volunteer workers.

**Late prenatal care** – Pregnant mothers who did not receive prenatal care until after the first three months of their pregnancy.

**Married couple** – A married couple is defined as a husband and wife living together in the same household, with or without children and other relatives.

**Non-family** – A household of two or more individuals who are not related to the head of household.

**Occupied housing unit** – A housing unit is classified as occupied if it is the usual place of residence of the person or group of people living in it.

**Other family type** – A household made up of more than one related family members, not including own children or spouse of the householder. For example, a 34-year old female head of household living with her mother would be considered an "other family type".

**Parole** – Parole is the discretionary decision of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to release a certain offender from confinement after he or she has served an appropriate portion of a prison sentence. Persons on parole remain under state supervision and control according to conditions which, if violated, allow for reimprisonment. According to the Georgia Department of Corrections, in 2003 parolees accounted for approximately 10 percent of the state correctional population.

**Poverty (150% of)** – The average income cutoff at 150% of the poverty level for a family of three (\$13,423 x 1.50) was \$20,134.50 in 1999.

**Poverty (federal guidelines)** – The poverty level is the income level cutoff used for persons, households, children or families. The cutoff (threshold) based on family size is based solely on money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons receive noncash benefits such as food stamps. The poverty threshold, defined by the government, is based on an annually adjusted market basket which includes food, transportation, utilities and housing. The income cutoff, for example, for two children and one adult in 1999 was \$13,423. A family of three who earned less than this amount was considered to be below the poverty level.

**Probation** – The act of suspending the sentence of a person convicted of a criminal offense and granting that person provisional freedom on the promise of good behavior or other set conditions.

**Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL)** – A product sold by many commercial tax preparers. By purchasing a RAL, the tax filer assigns the proceeds of his/her tax refund to the preparer's bank partner, and the preparer arranges a loan for the taxpayer in the amount of his/her refund, net of fees for tax preparation and the loan itself. The bank makes the loan available to the taxpayer within 1-2 days, and the IRS typically delivers the taxpayer's refund to the bank within about 10 days. For this short-term loan, the taxpayer often pays fees in excess of \$100 (in addition to the fees they pay to have their taxes prepared and filed), and incurs an implicit annual interest rate on the loan of 250 percent or higher.

**Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** – The SAT is a college admissions test developed by The College Entrance Examination Board and Educational Testing Service (ETS). It consists of verbal and mathematics components. Scores on each section range from 200 to 800 with the sum ranging from 400 to 1600.

**Substantiated case of abuse or neglect** – A reported case of child abuse, child neglect and/or child sexual abuse against an individual child that is investigated by DFCS and found to be substantiated. A case can include multiple occurrences of abuse or neglect against a child.

**Teen deaths** – Includes any violent non-medically related deaths, such as homicide, suicide and motor vehicle accidents.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** — TANF is a federally funded program operated by Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services that provides cash assistance and other support services to needy families with dependent children who are deprived of the support of at least one parent whose income is below the state's standard of need. The grant amount depends on family size and income. Assistance is available for a period of up to 48 months.

**Toxic substances (federally regulated)** – Those federally regulated toxic chemicals and waste management activities that certain covered industrial facilities and federal facilities are required to report annually to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or state.

**Unemployment rate** – The percent of persons aged 16 and over who were not working but were actively making efforts to find a job. This includes persons who were on layoff from a job and were expecting recall.

### Sources:

Atlanta Public Schools

U.S. Census Bureau

Georgia Office of Regulatory Services website  
<http://www2.state.ga.us/departments/dhr/ors/>

Georgia Dept. of Education, 2001-02 Georgia Public Education Report Card website  
<http://accountability.doe.k12.ga.us/Report02/>

Board of Pardons and Paroles (Georgia)  
<http://www.pap.state.ga.us/Overview.htm>

Georgia Department of Corrections

U.S. Department of Environmental Protection  
<http://www.epa.gov/tri/>

Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) website  
(<http://www2.state.ga.us/departments/dhr/dfcs/fultoncty/FoodStamps.html>) and  
(<http://www2.state.ga.us/departments/dhr/dfcs/fultoncty/Tanf.html>)

Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, "Report of the Findings From The Early Childhood Study: 2001-02"

The Brookings Institution  
<http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/eitc/dataguide.htm>



## B. NDAG Working List of Results, Indicators and Measures

**Desired results** are simply statements about what we want for our neighborhoods. **Indicators** let us know if we are making progress toward the result. **Measures** use quantifiable data to assess whether conditions are improving or a gap is narrowing. We refer to this as a “Working List” because it is continually being enhanced. It was originally formulated on October 15, 2003 and reflects what residents want for their children, families and neighborhood, rather than information that is currently available. Measures reported in this 2004 NPU-V publication are noted in ***bold italics***.

### Adults are Healthy

*We will know we are making progress when...*

#### Adults can meet their health care needs

- The cost of prescription medication declines
- ***More adults have access to health insurance***
- Rates of HIV and STD's decline
- Fewer adults have a substance-abuse problem
- More adults can meet their mental health needs

#### Health problems are identified and treated in the early stages

- ***Adults have been to a physician in the past year***

#### Adults have access to effective treatment services

- ***Adults with legal and/or illegal substance abuse problems have access to effective treatment services***
- ***Adults do not suffer from high blood pressure or cholesterol, heart disease or other ailments***

### Families are Stable

*We will know we are making progress when...*

#### Children are safe

- There is a lower rate of domestic violence
- ***There is a lower rate of child abuse***

#### Foster care resources are located close to neighborhoods where children live

- ***There is an increase in foster care homes located close to the neighborhoods where children grow up***
- Young people are aging out of foster care successfully, including savings and employment

#### Parents are able to care for their children

- ***Fewer children have a parent in prison***
- ***Fewer grandparents are responsible for raising their grandchildren***
- More children go to school on time, every day (School attendance rate)
- More non-custodial fathers are a regular part of their children's lives

#### Families can meet their transportation needs

#### Families belong to neighborhood churches

## Families have an Adequate Standard of Living

*We will know we are making progress when...*

### Families have adequate earnings and income

- *Fewer adults are on probation/parole*
- More single family households receive child support from non-custodial parent
- *More adults attain post-secondary education*
- More adults without high school diploma obtain the GED
- More opportunities for cottage and home-based businesses
- More employment opportunities for people with criminal records (successful re-entry)
- Recidivism rates decline as parents remain out of prison
- More parents are employed in jobs that provide family supporting wages and benefits and have opportunities for advancement (Unemployment and labor force participation rates)
- *Levels of family income and earnings increase*
- Stable labor force attachment and retention increases
- *More families are claiming EITC, CTC and other tax credits and other incentives and benefits*

### Families have increased levels of assets

- Fewer adults file for bankruptcy
- More families have bank accounts
- More families and individuals receive financial literacy trainings
- Credit scores improve
- The number of families who save increases
- The level of family savings increases
- *More families own their homes and other assets*

## Children are Prepared to Enter School and are Ready to Learn

*We will know we are making progress when...*

### Babies are born healthy

- *More pregnant women receive prenatal care in the first trimester*

### Children are ready to succeed in school:

- *More infant and toddler child care is available*
- *More night and weekend child care is available*
- *More children have developmentally appropriate preschool experiences*
- More parents are involved in their children's pre-school program

### Children are healthy

- More children receive immunization
- More children have their mental health needs met (*Number mental health programs*)
- *More children have access to health insurance*

## Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development

*We will know we are making progress when...*

### Young people are avoiding trouble

- Fewer youth have a substance abuse problem
- Fewer youth engage in risky behavior (*Births to teen mothers, ages 15-17 & Violent deaths to teens, ages 15-19*)
- More youth participate in after-school programs (*Number afterschool programs*)
- Young people have positive and effective assistance and support when they are in crisis

### Students succeed in school

- *School attendance rates increase*
- All test scores (but specifically third grade level tests), SAT scores, grade point averages increase (*3rd grade, 8th grade, 11th grade CRCT & SAT*)
- More parents are involved in their children's school (*PTA membership*)
- Access to technical resources and technical literacy/skills increase
- Children are reading for pleasure

### Students graduate from high school and have opportunities for postsecondary education

- *The high school graduation rate increases*
- Young people have opportunities for employment
- Young people have expanded awareness and broader life experiences that connect them to life's opportunities

## Neighborhoods are Safe

*We will know we are making progress when...*

### Residents are safe from crime

- Violent, drug, prostitution, and property crime rates decline
- Fewer traffic accidents occur
- Increased visibility of police
- There are more sidewalks
- There are more street lights
- More people feel safe in their neighborhood; more people sit on porches and interact with neighbors

### Residents are safe from pollution

- There are fewer brownfields (*Number on State Hazardous Site Inventory*)
- There are fewer polluting industries (*Number federally regulated toxic substance sites*)
- Trash and rubbish is picked up in a more timely manner

Recognizing that many neighborhood conditions relate to more than one desired result, NDAG identified some **overarching questions** that they will pursue in the future through community dialogue and additional research. Examples include:

- What makes families stable?
- Why are adults unemployed?
- How can parents be involved in schooling from the earliest years on?
- What contributes to healthy adults? Children? Youth?
- How can consumer retail business be brought into the neighborhood (dry cleaner, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc.)?
- What role does prison play in children's lives and the life of the community?
- People have an increased appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures, races, religions, and languages
- How at what age should financial literacy be taught?
- Why do high school students drop out of school?
- Why are there more renters than homeowners?

## Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities

*We will know we are making progress when...*

### Neighborhoods have an adequate mix of land uses

- Adequate mix of residential and commercial properties
- There are fewer tax delinquent properties
- There are fewer vacant lots

### Neighborhoods have quality, affordable housing

- Adequate mix of single and multi-family residences to meet physical needs and price ranges
- There are more options for affordable housing
- Fewer properties are sold multiple times during a year

### Neighborhoods have businesses that serve local residents

- There are more local serving businesses, including dry cleaners, grocery stores, laundromats, etc.
- Households spend more of their income on goods and services in the neighborhood
- There are more resident-owned and resident-driven entrepreneurial opportunities
- There is an increase in public and private investments in the neighborhoods

### Neighborhoods have parks and recreational facilities

- There are more recreational centers and parks
- More trees are preserved and planted

## Residents Increase their Civic Participation

*We will know we are making progress when...*

### Residents participate in the electoral process

- More adults register to vote and cast their votes

### Residents participate in local neighborhood organizations

- More families participate in resident and tenant associations, civic, cultural, interest-based and social organizations (*Number attending NPU & PTA meetings*)
- More residents are prepared for and take up leadership roles in neighborhood

# C. Endorsements

**Kathy Ashe**, State Representative, District 42 Post 2

**Dr. Daniel Blumenthal**, Professor, Morehouse School of Medicine

**Sule Carpenter**, AHAND

**George Epps**, Center Manager, Community Care, Inc.

**Shirley Clarke Franklin**, Mayor, City of Atlanta

**Kwanza Hall**, Atlanta Public School Board, District 1

**John Lewis**, Congressman, District 5

**Rick McDevitt**, Director, Georgia Alliance for Children

**Ceasar C. Mitchell**, Councilperson, Atlanta City Council Post 1 At Large

**Commissioner Phil Needham**, Southern Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army

**Richard Pennington**, Chief, Atlanta Police Department

**Darren W. Phelps**, Executive Director, The Study Hall

**Karen Rogers**, Director, Weed and Seed

**Debra Shew**, Director, Emmaus House

**Carla Smith**, Councilperson, Atlanta City Council District 1

**Dr. David Williams**, Chief Operating Officer/Physician, Southside Medical Center

**Cleta Winslow**, Councilperson, Atlanta City Council District 4

**Sam Zamarrippa**, State Senator, District 36

**Atlanta Workforce Development Agency**







## The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. It was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings, who named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and neighborhoods fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

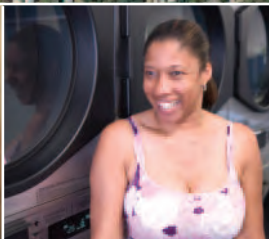




**The Annie E. Casey  
Foundation**

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060





# Adair Park

**Adair Park is a neighborhood of many folk Victorian and Craftsman bungalows**, bordered on the west by railroads that developed gradually from the 1880s through the 1920s. The neighborhood began as a trolley car community with trolleys that ran along Metropolitan Avenue (called Stewart Avenue at that time) carrying the neighborhood's mostly blue collar workers to their jobs in the city.

**Adair Park was called Shady Side Grove and Bonnie Brae in its early years**, but the neighborhood was formally named Adair Park in the 1920s when Adair Realty Company purchased and developed a large tract of land on the neighborhood's south side. The northern section of the neighborhood housed a variety of industries and warehouses. These included a Merita Bakery, an ice house, and the Candler-Smith warehouse (originally called the Candler warehouse). Part of this structure was used as a military arms warehouse during World War II and later served as a warehouse for Rich's Department Store for many years.

**Many residents worked in heavy and light industry** while others worked in skilled and moderately skilled occupations. The neighborhood's only school, George W. Adair Elementary, was established in 1912, the year after the neighborhood was brought into the city limits. A park was established across the street from the school several years later.

**The Adair Park neighborhood has witnessed many changes over the years.** As Atlanta grew from a railroad town to an industrial city, to a thriving metropolis and transitioned from a southern city firmly rooted in Jim Crow segregation to a city led by African Americans, Adair Park also evolved. Once almost entirely inhabited by whites, the neighborhood is now a mix of whites, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans. While for most of its history the neighborhood has been predominantly owner-occupied, the majority of today's residents rent their homes. Speculators have also purchased and converted homes into duplexes and illegal rooming houses and have frequently let the properties fall into disrepair.

**Neighborhood organizations like Adair Park Today and Adair Park Community Empowerment Association** (APCEA) are working to make the community a better place to live, work, shop, and play for all residents. Adair Park Today was formed in 1976 and APCEA was formed in 1998 to create a better community. Soon after Adair Park Today's creation, members organized to remove an auto salvage and junkyard from the neighborhood by requesting that the city not renew its contract. That area, at the corner of Murphy and Lillian streets, is now one of the neighborhood's four parks.

**APCEA is in the process of forming a charter school in the neighborhood.** Members established the charter in 2000 and are currently in

negotiation with Atlanta Public Schools to obtain an abandoned school building. When this school is opened in the next few years, it will be the only school inside the neighborhood.

*see **ADAIR PARK**, page 6*



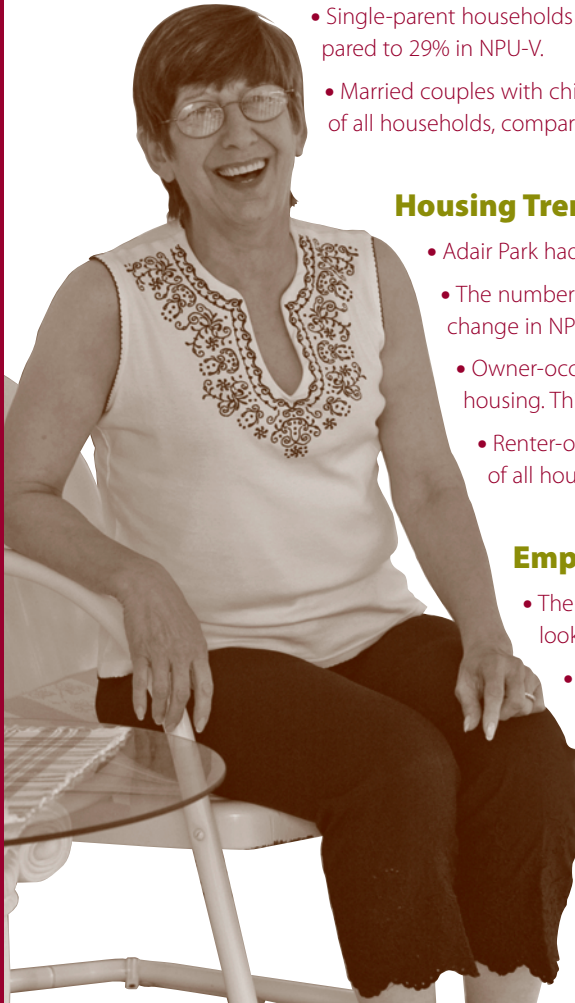
## Increased Diversity

The racial and ethnic diversity of Adair Park has been increasing in recent years. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of residents who defined their race as other than African American or white increased from 18 to 405. Many of these are among the approximately 450 foreign-born residents who were living in the neighborhood in 2000, most of whom (279) arrived between 1990 and 1994. The overwhelming majority (355) are immigrants from Vietnam. The number of Hispanics in the neighborhood also increased, from 8 to 41.

## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 2,205 people resided in Adair Park in 2000, a 29% increase since 1990. During the same time period the population of NPU-V declined by 1% and the city as a whole increased nearly 6%.
- Children under age 18 increased by 8% to 599 in 2000, accounting for 27% of the population, as compared to 35% for NPU-V as a whole.
- Adults age 65 and older increased by 59% to 185.
- Nearly three-quarters of Adair Park residents were African American, 8% were white and 18% were of other races. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up less than 2%.
- There were 683 households in Adair Park in 2000, an increase of 15% since 1990, while NPU-V was virtually unchanged.
- On average, household size is increasing. In 2000 there were 3.2 persons per household, up from 2.9 persons in 1990.
  - Nearly 31% of households include one or more children under the age of 18.
  - Single-parent households decreased 22% to 112 since 1990 and made up 16% of all households, compared to 29% in NPU-V.
  - Married couples with children increased by 39 households to 97 households in 2000 and made up 14% of all households, compared to 6% in NPU-V.



### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Adair Park had 683 occupied housing units in 2000 comprising 86% of all housing units.
- The number of occupied housing units increased 30% since 1990 compared to virtually no change in NPU-V.
- Owner-occupied housing increased 4% to 265 homes in 2000 and accounted for 33% of all housing. This is substantially higher than the 21% in NPU-V.
- Renter-occupied housing increased by 55% to 418 units in 2000 and accounted for 53% of all housing. This is well below the 66% in NPU-V.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- There were an estimated 992 Adair Park residents in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – an increase of 235 persons since 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 13% in 2000 for Adair Park is substantially below the 20% rate for NPU-V and is slightly lower than the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)

# Building a Neighborhood School

Adair Park parents and children want a neighborhood school and are taking steps to achieve that dream. Since G.W. Adair Elementary School closed during the 1970s, there has not been a school inside the neighborhood. Instead, Adair Park children cross over busy Metropolitan Parkway to attend Gideons Elementary School and Parks Middle School in Pittsburgh. In recent years, residents and members of the Adair Park Community Empowerment Association (APCEA) have sought to establish a charter school in the abandoned school building.

"The Charter School has been challenging to get started," explains Dr. Perry Thornton, director of APCEA. "We are pro public education but we want kids who live in our neighborhood to have a school to attend, a school that will be a community school."

Adair Park residents have faced some recent challenges in their efforts to establish the charter school. After the management company in charge of their charter was bought out by a new company, the managers allowed the charter to expire, so the residents are beginning the process again with a new management company. They hope to open the school's doors during the next one to two years. Until that time, they are in conversation with KIPP Academy, another area charter school that is in need of more space, about a possible merger. They are

seeking financial support from Microsoft to support a school technology center. When the school opens, they also plan to offer GED and continuing education courses for seniors. Residents are committed to the vision of a true neighborhood school and plan to use the site as the location of neighborhood association meetings, Boy Scout meetings, and other neighborhood activities.

*"We are pro-public education but we want kids who live in our neighborhood to have a school to attend, a school that will be a community school."*

*— Dr. Perry Thornton  
Adair Park Community  
Empowerment Association*

"This will be a school that is very much like what schools used to be," says Thornton, a resident whose family has lived in the neighborhood for almost 10 years.

Adair Park is a diverse but close-knit community. Residents include a racially and ethnically diverse group of young people and seniors. Adair Park is

the most racially diverse neighborhood in NPU-V. "As neighbors, we share the same problems. We may look different, but we care about the same things," says Thornton.

The community is on both the Atlanta Historic Registry and the National Registry of Historic Places, with many old Victorian homes along its wide streets. With 5.7 percent of the land covered in parks, it has a larger percentage of park land than any other NPU-V neighborhood and more than the City of Atlanta.

Adair Park residents are committed to making their neighborhood a safe place to raise children. They have actively worked against drug trafficking and

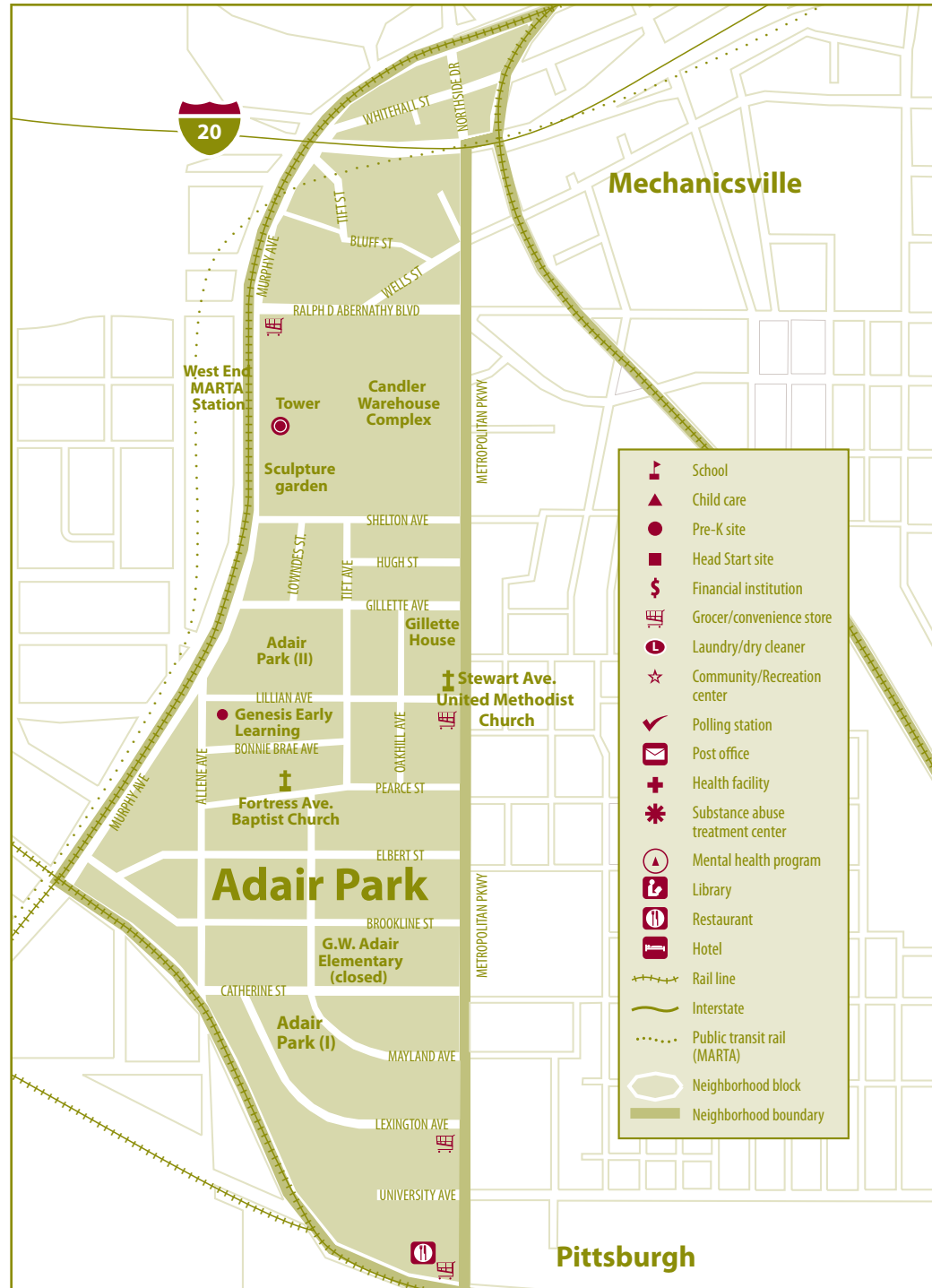
prostitution by calling on the police frequently and attending community zoning board meetings. "The seniors have a real sense of history; they are the true founders of this community," says Thornton.

For more information about Adair Park Community Empowerment Association, visit [www.neighborhoodlink.com/atlanta/adair](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/atlanta/adair) or call Dr. Perry Thornton at 404.755.3208.





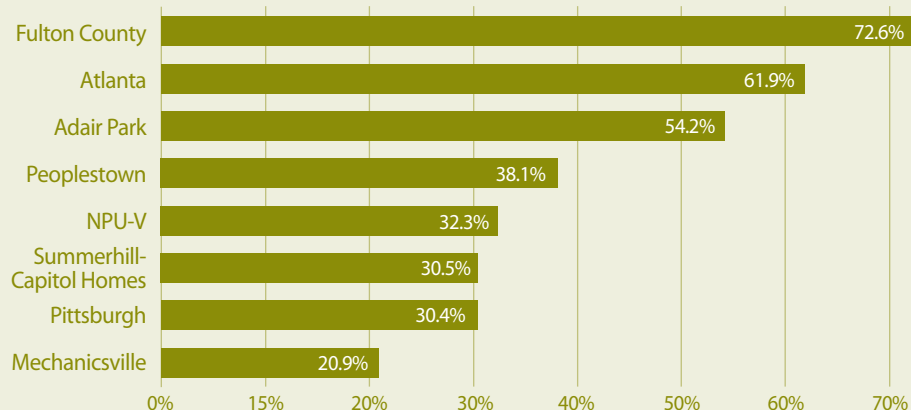
# ADAIR PARK RESOURCE MAP



Families in Adair Park typically have higher incomes than those in other NPU-V neighborhoods. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Adair Park was the only neighborhood with more than 50% of its households earning more than \$25,000 per year in 1999. That represents 370 households – second only to the notably larger Summerhill-Capitol Homes with 547 such households. The median household income was \$34,770 for Atlanta and \$47,321 for Fulton County.

**Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . families have adequate income*

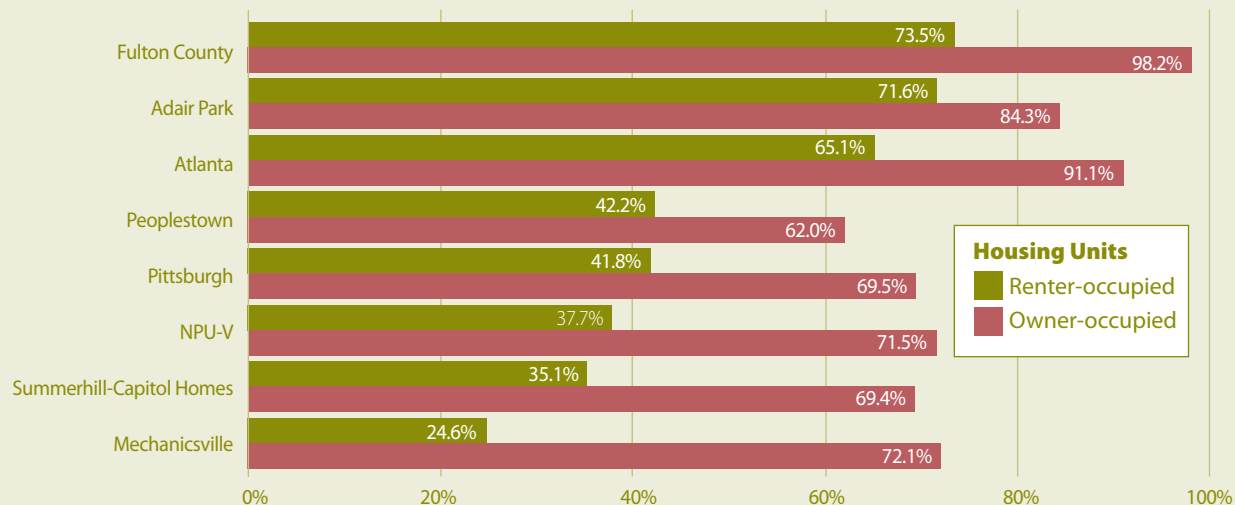
**Percent of All Households That Earn More than \$25,000 (1999)**



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

**Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . barriers to employment are overcome*

**Percent of Occupied Housing Units with At Least One Vehicle (2000)**

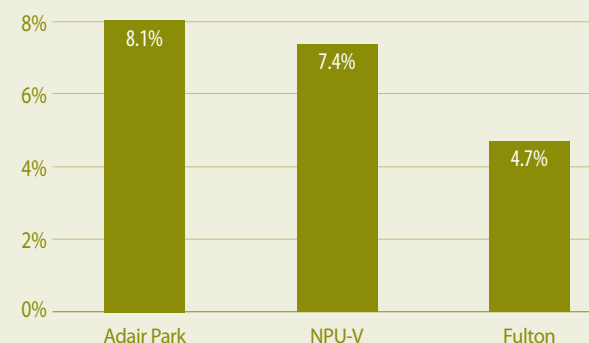


Households in Adair Park are more likely than other NPU-V neighborhoods to have access to at least one vehicle according to data from the 2000 Census. Also, with the exception of Mechanicsville, renter-occupied housing units in Adair Park have a higher rate of vehicular access (71.6%) than owner-occupied housing units in the rest of NPU-V.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

**Desired Result: Neighborhoods Have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities**  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . neighborhoods have an adequate mix of housing, business and recreation.*

**Percent of Residential Properties Sold in 2003**



Of all NPU-V neighborhoods, Adair Park had the highest percentage (8.1%) of its residential properties sold at least once during the first eight months of 2003.

Data Source: Fulton County Board of Assessors, 2003 Tax Digest

Data Note: Because of limitations of the source data, figures for the City of Atlanta are not available.

## The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Atlanta Civic Site

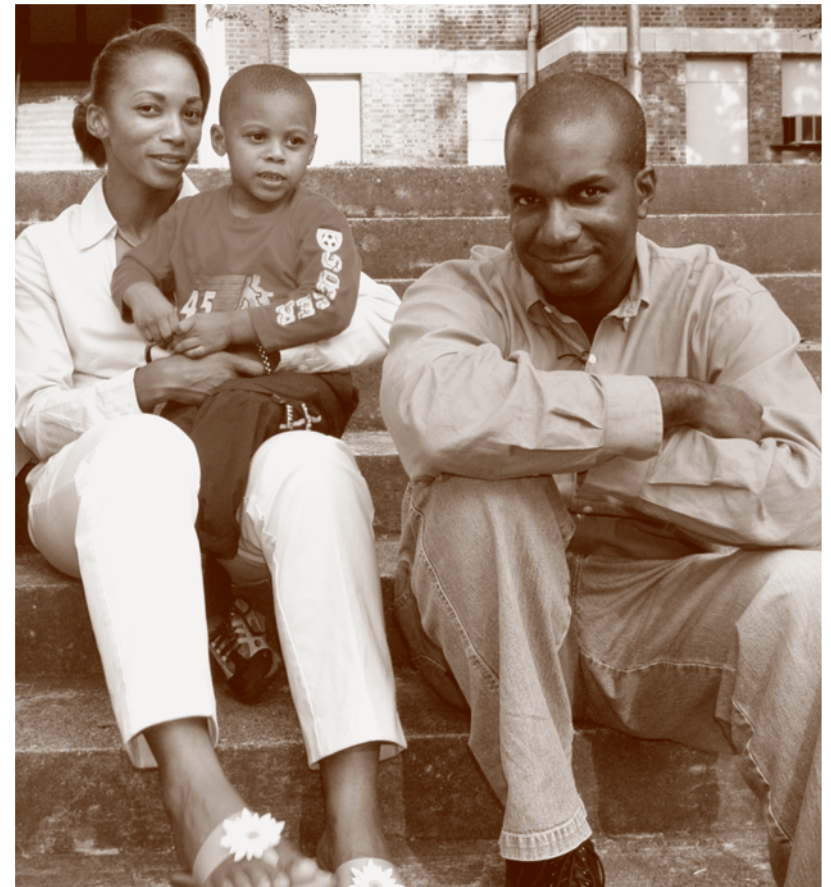


## ADAIR PARK

*continued from page 1*

**Adair Park has more park space than any other NPU-V neighborhood.** With the exception of some industrial and mixed-use land at its northern tip, Adair Park is primarily a residential neighborhood that lacks many of the commercial and governmental institutions found in the other neighborhoods. The neighborhood is also the smallest of the NPU-V neighborhoods in terms of both population and land size.

**In 1994, the neighborhood was recognized by formal application** process as an Atlanta Historic District and, in 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation added Adair Park to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2004, at the request of residents, the neighborhood was rezoned to allow only single-family housing to prevent investors from dividing larger homes into duplexes, which would increase the number of renter-occupied residences. The neighborhood is now considered a “reviving” community and many young adults are purchasing homes.



# Mechanicsville

**Mechanicsville has witnessed a great deal of change in its more than 140-year history** and has been home to several of Atlanta's religious, business, and government leaders. Formed alongside the rail yard and locomotive repair shop of the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railway, the neighborhood was home to the men responsible for the maintenance of the rail lines and locomotives. Because the neighborhood was home to "mechanics," it soon became known as Mechanicsville.

**In 1860, Atlanta's earliest Jewish residents, Jacob Haas and Henry Levi**, settled in the northern edge of Mechanicsville and opened a dry goods store. The neighborhood's Jewish community grew rapidly and soon comprised a substantial portion of Atlanta's Jewish population. By 1880, there were more than 600 Jewish residents in Mechanicsville. The Hebrew Benevolent Congregation Synagogue was built, and attracted increasing numbers of Jews. It was replaced by "The Temple" in 1902. By 1911, Mechanicsville boasted two-thirds of Atlanta's Jewish population.

**In 1870, Mechanicsville residents were an ethnically, economically, and religiously diverse group** of people, including African Americans, Russians, Germans and other Europeans. In the early 1870s, the growing African-American population formed two religious congregations – St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Zion Hill Baptist Church.

**Because of its location close to the downtown business district and the availability of land**, Mechanicsville was home to many of Atlanta's upper

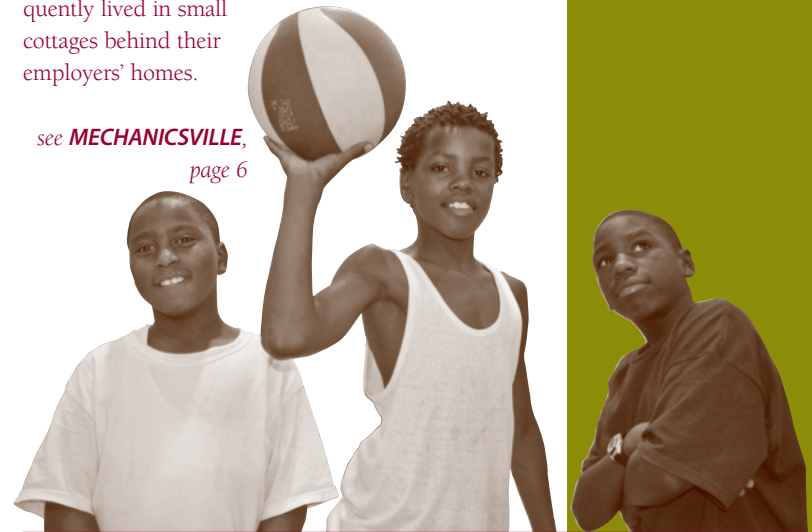
and middle class families around the turn of the century, including Amos Rhodes, J. J. Haverty, and the Rich family. According to a neighborhood history written by NPU-V President Peggy Harper, middle-income African Americans also resided in the neighborhood. In 1873, a black brick mason in Mechanicsville was listed as owning \$1,200 in property and in 1885 a black carpenter living in the neighborhood owned \$1,510 in property (substantial amounts at that time).

**Mechanicsville's residents traveled to downtown and nearby neighborhoods on trolley cars.** Being so close to downtown Atlanta, Mechanicsville did not develop any major commercial corridors, but small grocers, laundries, and a coal company were opened to serve local residents. Rapid growth required the establishment of several schools in Mechanicsville's early years. The first, Ira Street School, was built in 1887 to serve 500 students. Three additional schools were built over the next 20 years. The Briscane Ball Park was also built in 1899 as the neighborhood's first recreational area. Today, this area is the Windsor Play Lot.

**While the overall population of the neighborhood was quite diverse in the early years**, the levels of segregation varied inside the neighborhood. The northeastern section was home to wealthy residents and was predominantly white. Early in its history, the western and southern sections of the neighborhood were more integrated and African-American and white families lived next door to each other. By 1900, the neighborhood was becoming more segregated, with each street being

either African American or white. Wealthier residents lived in Queen Anne-style homes. Middle-income residents lived in folk Victorian or Craftsman-style homes. And servants for the wealthier residents, predominantly African American, frequently lived in small cottages behind their employers' homes.

see **MECHANICSVILLE**,  
page 6



## A Community Resource

The Dunbar Community Center was founded in the 1960s and continues to serve neighborhood residents. Nonprofit and service organizations rent space in the center and provide health services, after-school and youth-oriented programs, computer classes, job training classes, and child care. Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc., is one of the organizations housed at the Dunbar Center, offering pre-employment skills courses to area residents. *To learn more about Ropheka, see "Getting the Skills to Achieve Your Dream" on page 27.*



## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 3,358 people resided in Mechanicsville in 2000 – a decrease of 14% since 1990 compared to a decrease of less than 1% in NPU-V and an increase of nearly 6% in the entire city during that time.
- The number of children under age 18 decreased by 6% to 1,279 in 2000.
- Adults age 65 and over decreased by 43% to 263.
- Mechanicsville residents, like the residents in NPU-V overall, were predominantly African-American – 94% of the total population – while whites made up 2% and persons of other races made up just over 3%. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up less than 2% in 2000.
- Mechanicsville had 1,307 households in 2000.

- The total number of households decreased 13% since 1990, compared to a decline of 1% in NPU-V and growth of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- There was no change in the number of persons per household between 1990 and 2000 – 2.6 persons.
- Nearly 36% of all households included one or more children under the age of 18.
- Single-parent households decreased 18% to 399 since 1990 but still made up 31% of all households, slightly higher than the 29% rate for NPU-V.
- Married couples with children increased slightly from 64 in 1990 to 68 in 2000 and made up 5% of all households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Mechanicsville had 1,307 occupied housing units in 2000 comprising 90% of all housing units.
- The number of occupied housing units decreased 10% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- The number of owner-occupied housing increased 20% to 174 homes in 2000 and accounted for 12% of all housing, substantially lower than the 21% rate for NPU-V.
- Renter-occupied housing decreased by 13% to 1,133 units in 2000 and accounted for 78% of all units.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 930 Mechanicsville residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 170 fewer persons than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 29% in 2000 is more than twice the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)





## Getting the Skills to Achieve Your Dream: Yolanda Jones' Story

**Y**olanda Jones, a Mechanicsville resident, was doing her best to care for her five children. She had been working for the State of Georgia, but in August 2002, was let go when her car broke down and she could no longer get to work. Soon after, she was evicted from her apartment and moved into her sister's one-bedroom apartment in the McDaniel Glen Housing Project in Mechanicsville. "I lost everything," Jones laments. "I lost my car, my job, and my home."

Jones began looking for another job, but she wanted one where she could grow. "I said I wasn't going to settle for just anything," Jones explains. "I wanted to get training so I could get a better job." The opportunity presented itself in August 2003, when she saw a flier for a pre-employment skills class at Ropheka Rock of the World. She started that very day.

In the Ropheka classes, which are conducted in Mechanicsville's Dunbar Center, Jones learned to prepare her resume, dress professionally, and use proper job etiquette. She also learned to be a team player and get along with all types of people. "It's not like you are going to school when you go to Ropheka," she explains. "It's like a family there. If you have a problem, they have a problem, and they work with you to fix it."

When Ropheka's staff learned that Jones' dream was to work in the legal field, they helped her enroll in Paralegal Studies at Atlanta Technical College. She graduated with certification in July 2004.

As part of a class assignment, Jones interviewed Judge Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore, one of Atlanta's first African-American female judges. Moore took a real interest in Jones. "I was very nervous at first, but she was so down to earth," says Jones. "She explained how you can go farther. She gave me background on women in law and how they have had to struggle to get where they want to go."

Moore also encouraged Jones to seek an internship at King Grant Law Firm. Jones applied and began an internship there in February. The next month she was hired as a part-time employee. Now that she has completed her class work, she will begin to work there full-time. "I just love it," she explains. "It is something I always wanted to do. My children are so proud of me. They are so happy. They think I'm a lawyer."

Jones continues to reap benefits from the training and support of Ropheka. Recently, she was nominated by the Concerned Black Clergy (CBC) for a scholarship. Her family was also nominated to be Family

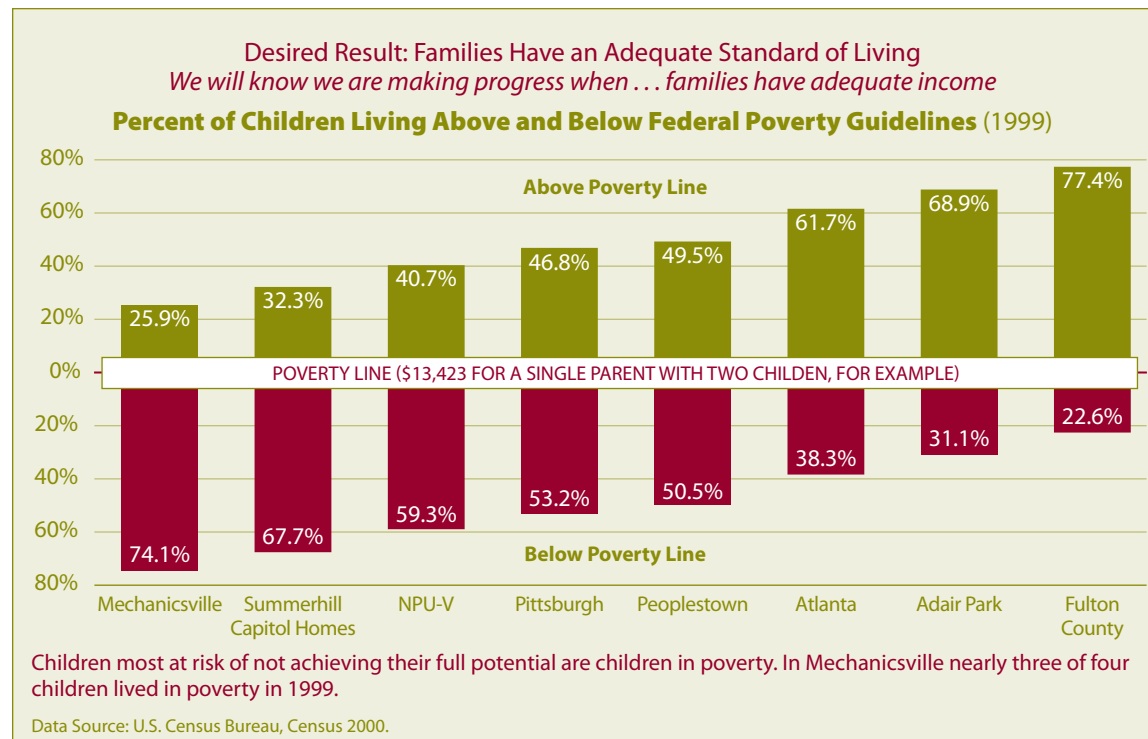
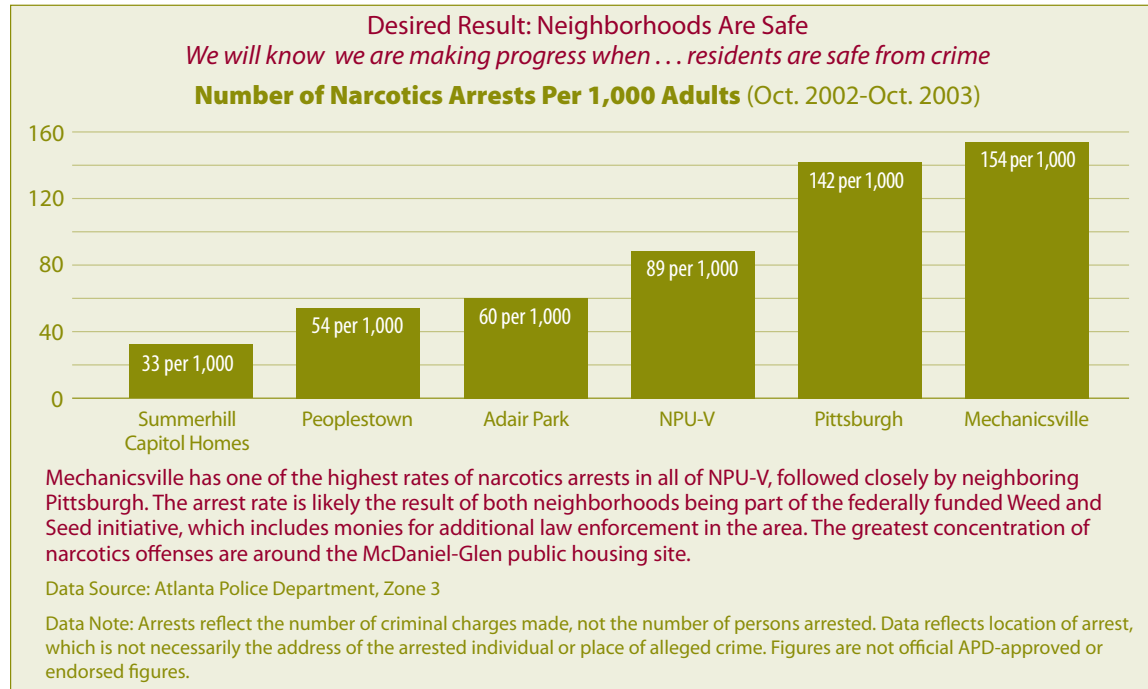


of the Year by CBC. When she looks back on all she has achieved in the past year, Jones offers advice to others, saying, "If you don't have the training, go to school. Get training so you can advance in life."

*For more information on Ropheka's pre-employment skills training, call 404.221.1444. For more information on Atlanta Technical College's course work, visit [www.atlantatech.org](http://www.atlantatech.org) or call 404.225.4400.*

# MECHANICSVILLE RESOURCE MAP





## MECHANICSVILLE

*continued from page 1*

**The railroad remained the largest employer in the Mechanicsville neighborhood** for much of its history, but in 1922, General Electric built a factory that employed many neighborhood residents. By the mid-1920s though, Atlanta's residential and business expansion to the north and east led many of Mechanicsville's business leaders to move north as well. Middle-income African Americans also moved from Mechanicsville to the west side where black colleges and universities were established.

**This relocation, followed by the Great Depression,** caused negative changes in the neighborhood. Many homes became rental properties and fell into great disrepair. After World War II, home ownership and ethnic diversity fell rapidly and, by 1945, Mechanicsville was a predominantly working class, African-American community. A number of

public redevelopment policies subjected Mechanicsville to harm in the name of redevelopment. In 1964, the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium was built just outside of the neighborhood, while highway construction on the north and east furthered destruction of the neighborhood's physical resources. In 1968, a 1,000-unit public housing complex, the McDaniel Glen Housing Project, was constructed on the western edge of Mechanicsville to house many of the displaced lower-income families in the area.

**From 1960 to 2000, Mechanicsville lost two-thirds of its population,** dropping from 10,530 in 1960 to 3,358 in 2000. Those remaining residents have united as a force to stall the neighborhood's decline. In the 1980s, Mechanicsville residents successfully protested the Metropolitan Atlanta Regional Transportation Association's (MARTA) attempts to claim public housing property along Interstate 20, a move that would have dis-

placed many low-income residents. Because of resident protests, annexes of McDaniel Glen were built throughout the neighborhood, making the housing complex a more integral part of the neighborhood.

**As Atlanta made its bid to host the 1996 Olympics,** Mechanicsville residents united again to protect their neighborhood. They encouraged the city to fund a resident-informed master development plan and formed the Mechanicsville Civic Association to push the plan forward. The SUM-MECH Community Development Corporation has converted several blocks of vacant property into Ware Estates, a complex of 69 townhomes. Today, renters make up more than two-thirds of all occupied housing.

**Anchored in large part by the Dunbar Center,** Mechanicsville includes a varied assortment of assets and resources, both old and new. Perhaps because of its proximity to downtown Atlanta and two interstates, the northern half of the neighborhood contains several public and private institutions such as the county's new Romae Powell Juvenile Justice Center and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Separated by the primarily commercial Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, the south is made up mostly of single-family residences.

Data Source: Mechanicsville: Past, Present, and Future, by Peggy Harper.

### The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Atlanta Civic Site





# Peopletown

**Peopletown is named for the Peoples family who owned 66 lots** in the southeast section of the neighborhood as it was developing in the 1890s. The area developed as a fashionable single-family neighborhood with impressive Victorian homes lining the streets and small servant quarters hidden towards the rear. Early development was concentrated along the southeast sections of today's Peopletown.

**The neighborhood was served by a street trolley which carried residents** to downtown businesses. By the 1920s the residential area had expanded towards today's neighborhood boundaries and commercial areas had developed along the southernmost borders of the neighborhood. Peopletown was home to a diverse population, including African Americans, whites and Jewish immigrants from Western Europe. Those residents were, however, segregated within the neighborhood.

**In the 1930s and 1940s, development slowed in the neighborhood** and many residents moved out. Some middle-class blacks moved to Atlanta's west side near the newly developed Atlanta University Center while some middle- and upper-class whites relocated to the newly developed areas on Atlanta's north side. This relocation left many of Peopletown's larger homes to become boarding houses, which fell into disrepair.

**With the end of World War II, the neighborhood again became** a vital and racially mixed community. Schools, a library, post office, hospital, drug store, clothing stores, and movie theaters were close enough to the neighborhood to provide

employment and recreation, allowing for a convenient urban existence. An industrial area stretched from Peopletown to Mechanicsville and provided many jobs within walking distance. The neighborhood was also served by several schools: Capitol Avenue Elementary, Capitol Avenue High School, E.P. Johnson Elementary and, after 1958, Daniel H. Stanton Elementary.

**The 1950s and 1960s brought dramatic change to Peopletown** and the surrounding areas. Federal policies, including the urban renewal activities of the Federal Housing Act of 1949, massive freeway and parking construction projects, and the development of federally subsidized rental housing, contributed to the decline of the neighborhood. This hastened "white flight," which carried affluent residents and businesses out of Peopletown. Although the Urban Renewal program promised replacement housing for the homes demolished by this construction and for the families who had lived there, Fulton County Stadium and its associated parking in neighboring Summerhill were built on the land intended for this purpose.

**By 1990, Peopletown had lost half of its 1950 population**, dropping from 5,598 to 2,527. In 1992, residents formed Peopletown Revitalization Corporation (PRC) and have worked for the past 12 years to build a safe and thriving community. PRC has initiated projects to support affordable housing in the neighborhood, including Columbia at Peopletown Apartment Homes, an \$8.2 million mixed-income project that offers 69 affordable units; The Square at Peopletown, an \$8.74 million complex on four acres of land that offers 94 afford-

able units; and Peopletown Villas, a 20-unit apartment community where 690-square-foot apartments are available for \$370 per month. PRC also combats crime through community watch and safety programs,

see **PEOPLETOWN**, page 6



## A Neighborhood Mission

In 1967, the Episcopal Church founded Emmaus House in Peopletown as a neighborhood mission committed to civil rights and working with the poor. Today, Emmaus House continues to provide services for the area's seniors and children, including monthly shuttle bus service to the Reidsville State Penitentiary for friends and family of inmates.



## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 2,656 people resided in Peoplestown in 2000, an increase of 5% between 1990 and 2000 compared to a decrease of less than 1% in NPU-V and an increase of nearly 6% in the entire city.
- Children under age 18 decreased by 2% to 1,020 between 1990 and 2000.
- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 19% to 173.
- Peoplestown residents, like other neighborhoods in NPU-V, are predominantly African-American – 94%. Whites made up about 3% and persons of other races made up less than 2%. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up almost 4%.
- There were 870 households in Peoplestown in 2000.
- The total number of households increased 11% since 1990, compared to a decline of 1% in NPU-V and a growth of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- On average, there are 3.1 persons per household in 2000, virtually unchanged since 1990.
- Nearly 41% of households include one or more children under the age of 18, compared to 35% in NPU-V.
- The number of single-parent households increased 11% to 297 since 1990 and accounted for 34% of all households.
- Married couples with children decreased 30% to 56 in 2000 and accounted for 6% of households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Peoplestown had 870 occupied housing units in 2000 comprising 84% of all housing units.
- The number of occupied housing units increased 12% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.

- Owner-occupied housing increased 27% to 253 homes in 2000, more than three times the growth rate for NPU-V.
- Renter-occupied housing increased by 6% to 617 – nearly the same rate as Atlanta.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- There were an estimated 964 Peoplestown residents in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 81 persons more than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 25% in 2000 is above the NPU-V rate of 20% and nearly twice the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)



## Moving Ahead: Empowering Residents to Strengthen Neighborhood Life

Since 2000, the Peoplestown neighborhood has been a part of the Family Investment Cycle, a small grants program funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Family Investment Cycle empowers residents to design a short-term project that connects residents and strengthens families, and puts a small amount of money, between \$500 and \$2,000, in their hands to make that project a reality. It helps to identify and develop new community leaders and strengthens the social fabric of a neighborhood.

Neighborhood leaders, known as “co-investors,” select eight to 12 projects, take project leaders through a planning process, and then make the grants. At the end of the process, all of the participants explore what they have learned, celebrate their successes, and start planning for their next round of investment.

“The power of the Family Investment Cycle is the creativity that comes from neighborhood ownership and resident creativity,” explains Jon Abercrombie, who has facilitated the process in Peoplestown and other Atlanta neighborhoods. “While family-strengthening projects are the focus, a powerful benefit has been the emergence of new leaders in the community. Neighborhood mothers have organized support groups, recovering alcoholics have taken retreats to rebuild their family ties, fathers have joined with their children in bike-repair days and young college graduates from the neighborhood have returned to develop the young people who have come along behind them.”

“The Family Investment Cycle is unique in that it’s based on the principle that residents themselves have

great ideas for strengthening family and neighborhood life,” explains Devin Rucker, who organizes Family Investment Cycles in Peoplestown and other neighborhoods as a part of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta. “By putting money in the hands of residents, it provides everyday folks with opportunities to get involved in their communities and turn their great ideas into real projects that help their neighbors.”

Catherine Prather, a mother of two high school students who was born and raised in Peoplestown, heard about the Family Investment Cycle when she was a VISTA volunteer, serving as a community organizer. She was intrigued by the idea. “Are you all really going to be giving free money to the community?” she remembers asking. When she learned that residents really could apply for and receive funding to do six-month projects to help families, she quickly applied to do two projects.

Her first project was to connect single mothers in the community to jobs. They invited representatives from the Department of Labor, Workforce Development, Marriott, and Department of Family and Children Services to come and speak to the women, and hosted job fairs at Stanton Elementary School. “Mostly, we just listened and talked,” explains Prather. “We had monthly meetings where the women could learn and talk about their frustrations.” By the end of the six-month grant period, 18 of the 20 women involved had found jobs.

Also that year, Prather organized a group of 10 to 15 young people in the community and helped them develop a museum exhibit on the history of Peoplestown. The youth went out in the community, videotaped interviews with Peoplestown’s elders, and

recorded the history of the neighborhood. While they continue to seek additional funding to expand the exhibit, titled “Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” it is currently on display at the Emmaus House.

Energized by the impact she saw in her community, her neighbors, and herself, Prather continued her efforts the next year, organizing the Sophisticated Ladies. She recruited 15 to 20 women who were suffering from depression and low self-esteem. The women came together each month to talk about their problems and plan events.

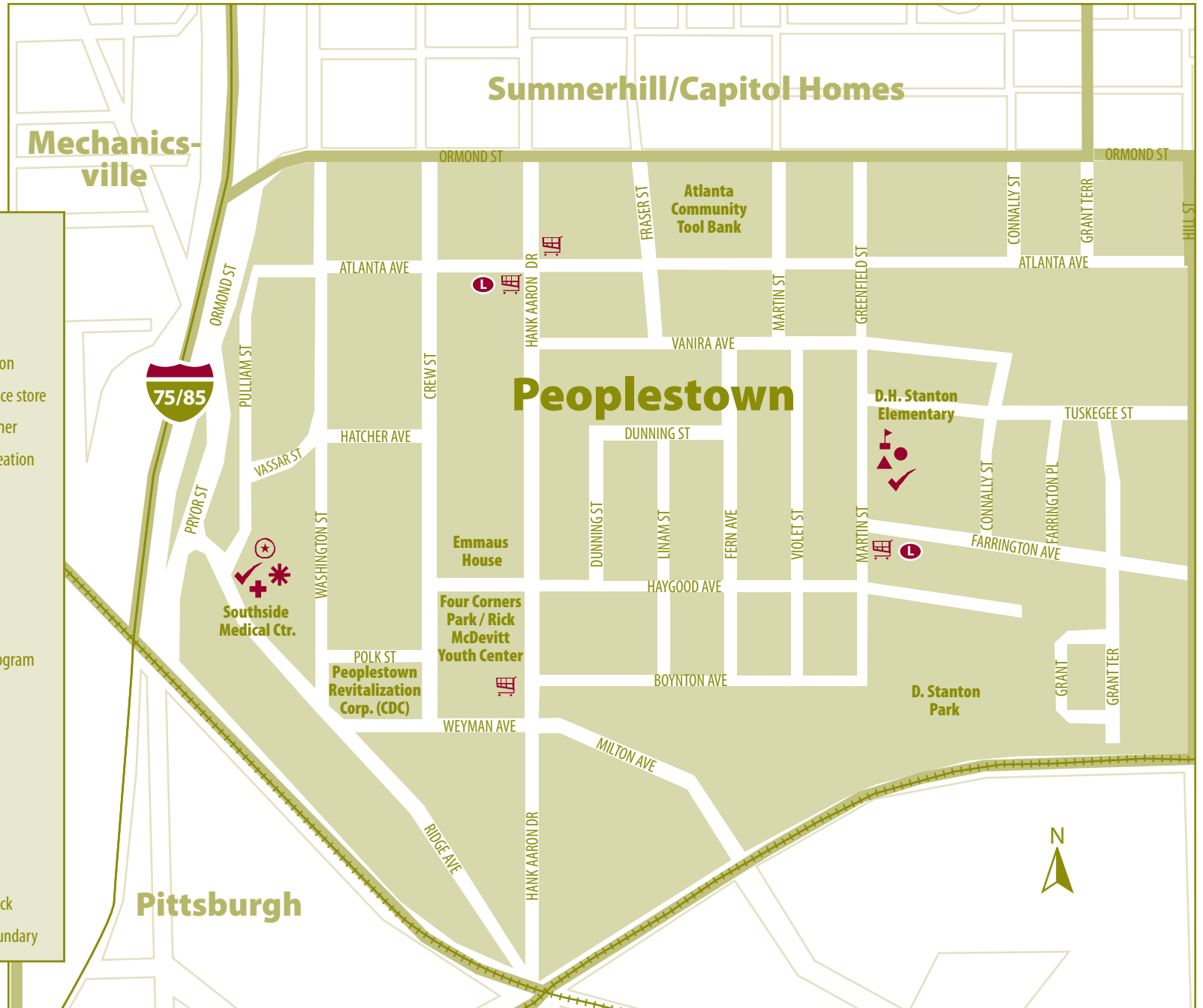
One Sophisticated Lady talked about how she was able to overcome her addictions to drugs and alcohol and become a gospel singer. A financial planner

see **MOVING AHEAD**, page 6



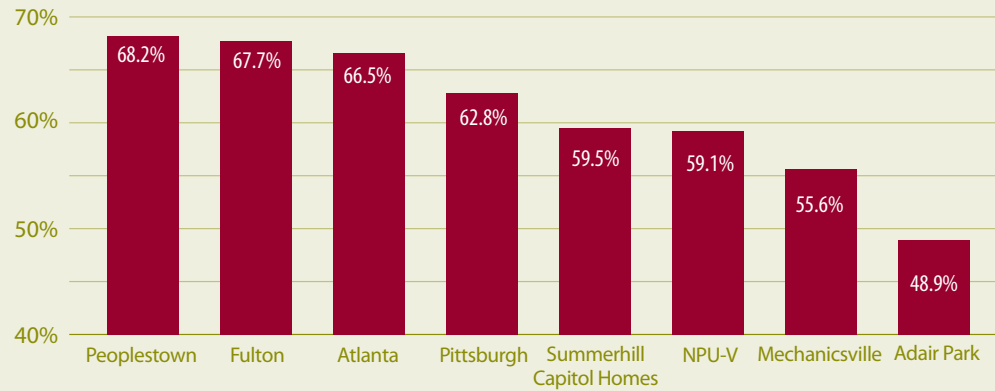
# PEOPLESTOWN RESOURCE MAP

	School
	Child care
	Pre-K site
	Head Start site
	Financial institution
	Grocer/convenience store
	Laundry/dry cleaner
	Community/Recreation center
	Polling station
	Post office
	Health facility
	Substance abuse treatment center
	Mental health program
	Library
	Restaurant
	Hotel
	Rail line
	Interstate
	Public transit rail (MARTA)
	Neighborhood block
	Neighborhood boundary



Desired Result: Residents Increase Their Civic Participation  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . residents participate in the electoral process*

**Percent of Adults Who Are Registered to Vote (2000)**

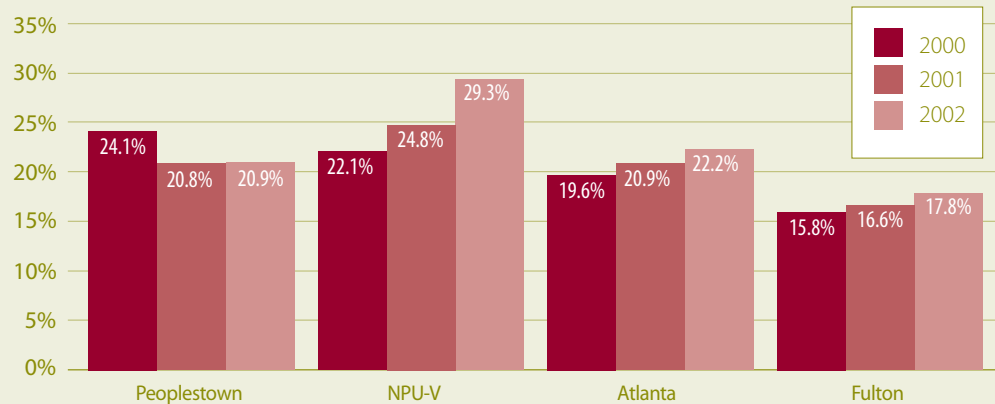


Before one can vote one must be registered to vote. In the 2000 presidential election year 68.2% of the 1,635 adults in Peoplestown were registered to vote. While only half actually went to the polls that year, the registration rate was greater than in any of the other areas.

Data Sources: University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Legislative Reapportionment Services Office; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Desired Result: Children Are Prepared to Enter School and Are Ready to Learn  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . babies are born healthy*

**Percent of Babies Born to Mothers Who Received Late or No Prenatal Care (2000-2002)**



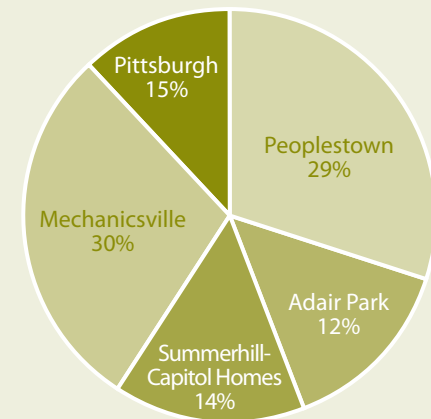
Babies born to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care are more likely to suffer from a variety of health problems than those born to mothers who receive proper and timely medical attention while pregnant. The rate of late or no prenatal care has declined from 24 percent in 2000 to 20.9 percent in 2002. In contrast, the rates for NPU-V, Atlanta and Fulton County increased during this time period.

Data Source: Georgia Division of Public Health, OASIS database

Data Note: Prenatal care is considered to be late if the mother begins such care more than three months into her pregnancy.

Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . barriers to employment are overcome*

**Percent of Probationers in NPU-V by Neighborhood (Feb. 2004)**



For many ex-offenders their criminal background is a formidable obstacle to gainful employment. Of the 475 probationers shown as living in NPU-V in February 2004, Peoplestown had the greatest number (140) and rate (86 per 1,000 adults). Looked at another way, while the neighborhood has about 17 percent of all adults in NPU-V, it is also home to nearly 30 percent of the area's probationers.

Data Source: Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis



## PEOPLESTOWN

*continued from page 1*

sponsors a neighborhood book club, and has begun to renovate D.H. Stanton Park for residents' use.

**Among the most notable of the assets and resources of Peoplestown** is the relatively large number of well-established programs geared towards children and families – in particular Emmaus House and the nearby Rick McDevitt Youth Center. Peoplestown is also home to the largest health care provider in the NPU – Southside Medical Center.

**Since 1990, the neighborhood population has begun to grow slowly** and, in 2000, 2,656 people resided there, an increase of 129 residents. Despite all of the displacement and destruction of the last

50 years, many residents have lived there for most of their lives and continue to work together to strengthen their neighborhood.

Data Source: K.N.I.T.(Keeping Neighborhoods Informed and in Touch) Neighborhood Directory, by Peoplestown Revitalization Corporation.



## MOVING AHEAD

*continued from page 3*

came to talk to the group and told of how she had been in jail and felt that her life was going nowhere, but she had been able to start her own grant writing business after her release. "We cried together. We laughed together. But, we respected each other. We were just like sisters," Prather reflects. They also listened to presentations from representatives from the Enterprise Foundation, Atlanta Technical College, the Atlanta Police Department, and Weed and Seed.

Currently, Prather is leading a fourth project, called "Walk In, Walk Out." The group, which includes people of all ages, signs a pledge to commit to walking regularly and improving their individual health. Some are trying to improve their nutrition; some are seeking to stop smoking; some are trying to increase their metabolism or strengthen their heart. Soon, they will receive pedometers and will try to make walking a regular part of their everyday life by walking at least 10,000 steps each day.

Some of the members walk in the morning three days a week at 6 a.m., while others walk in the evenings at 6 p.m. At the end of the six-month program, they will participate in a three-mile neighborhood walk. "We empower women around health," explains Prather. "I had major surgery this year and I am 44 years old. I decided I needed to lose weight and I needed to stop smoking."

Next year, Prather hopes to organize a long-term project to support young people in the community, but she continues to encourage those around her to take part in the Family Investment Cycle. "This is a good way to meet your neighbors and get involved in a positive way in the community," she says. "It's all about moving ahead with your life. You don't need to be stuck in a hole. You need to move ahead."

### The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Atlanta Civic Site



# Pittsburgh

**Pittsburgh developed in the aftermath of the Civil War as citizens moved away** from the dirt and congestion caused by the convergence of three railroads near Five Points in downtown Atlanta. In 1883, the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railway completed construction of extensive shops in the area. Because the areas surrounding the shops were polluted and dirty, much like those around steel mills, the community was nicknamed Pittsburgh after the Pennsylvania steel town. Many of its residents worked there as railroad laborers.

**The neighborhood was founded as a predominantly African-American community** where steady employment and segregated conditions gave birth to many black-owned homes, businesses, churches, and schools, especially along McDaniel Street. Four streetcar lines served the Pittsburgh neighborhood, providing convenient access to downtown and other neighborhoods.

**Carrie Steele Logan, a former slave and a maid at the Atlanta Union Railroad Station**, used funds raised from the sale of her autobiography and other contributions to purchase four acres of land in Pittsburgh during the late 1800s. There she founded the Carrie Steele Orphan Home, which continues to care for abandoned and neglected children at a new site in northwest Atlanta.

**Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church helped found the community's first school** – the Pittsburgh School – by housing it in the church's basement. The school later moved into a two-room rented building and became part of the Fulton County School System. In 1908, 200 students were

enrolled. The following year, residents raised money to construct a wooden building to house the school and renamed it Croghan School in honor of Dr. William H. Croghan, Clark College's first African-American president. The Fulton County School Board contributed a meager \$75 towards this new construction.

**In 1922, the current structure of Croghan Elementary School was built** at the request of Carrie Badger Pittman. Croghan continued to educate young residents until 1979, also offering academic and vocational classes to adults in the evenings. While the former Croghan School has now been converted into apartment homes, senior housing and a community center, today's students attend Charles L. Gideons Elementary School and Parks Middle School (the only middle school located in NPU-V), both located in the Pittsburgh community. The Atlanta Theological School was founded on Pittsburgh's western border and continues today as the Salvation Army College for Officer Training.

**For the past 30 years, Pittsburgh has seen a great deal of property disinvestment**, loss of population, and a general decline in the neighborhood economy. Many longtime residents point to integration and redlining as significant factors in the decline of the

neighborhood. Integration caused the decline of black-owned businesses as their customer base dispersed. Redlining by financial institutions prevented residents from selling their homes and, as African Americans moved farther west into transitional areas formerly occupied by whites in the 1940s, 1950s and, increasingly in the 1960s, they vacated their homes. The homes quickly fell into disrepair.

These negative impacts were increased in the 1960s and early 1970s by the construction of Interstate 75/85, which cut off the southeast section of the  
*see **PITTSBURGH**, page 6*



## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 3,286 people resided in Pittsburgh in 2000, a decrease of nearly 10% since 1990. By comparison, the number of persons residing in NPU-V decreased by less than 1% while the City of Atlanta increased by nearly 6%.
- The number of children under age 18 increased by 18% to 1,063 between 1990 and 2000.
- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 31% to 406.
- Pittsburgh remains predominantly African American (97%).
- Pittsburgh had 1,152 households in 2000.

- The total number of households decreased 23% since 1990, compared to a decrease of less than 1% in NPU-V and an increase of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- On average, there were 2.9 persons per household, up from 2.4 persons in 1990.
- Nearly 31% of households included one or more children under the age of 18.
- Single-parent households increased 15% to 291 since 1990 and made up 25% of all households.
- Married couples with children declined by nearly half to 61 households in 2000 and comprised 5% of all households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Pittsburgh had 1,152 occupied housing units in 2000 (81% of all housing units).
- The number of owner-occupied housing units (which made up 27% of all housing units) decreased 24% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- Renter-occupied units dominated in Pittsburgh. For every one owner-occupied housing unit in 2000 there were two that were renter occupied.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 1,093 Pittsburgh residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – a decrease of just over 200 persons since 1990.
- The unemployment rates of 15% in 1990 and nearly 20% in 2000 were both more than 5% higher than the rate for the entire city during those same time periods.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)

# Gideons Elementary NBA Team Shoots for the Stars

Charles L. Gideons Elementary School in Pittsburgh is an ideal place to chart the challenges and successes of urban youth. The school's Never Been Absent (NBA) Program and partnership with the Salvation Army are important parts of Gideons' successes.

One evening earlier this year, an eager boy entered the school gymnasium and impatiently waited for his mother, who was a few steps behind. He was not there to play; he was there to celebrate his school attendance. Everywhere were proud parents and family members who attend the bi-monthly ban-

quets sponsored by the Salvation Army to recognize students with perfect attendance.

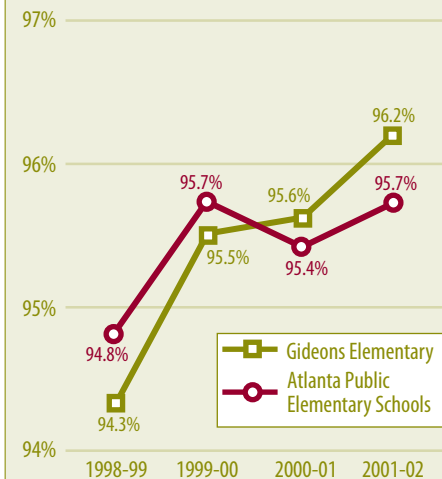
The Salvation Army College for Officer Training has been a strong presence in the community for more than 15 years. Years ago Salvation Army staff met with school staff to ask how they could help.

*"If my children aren't doing what they're supposed to, I expect someone to let me know. At Gideons they do that, and it has made a difference to my children and me."* — Sonya Jenkins

After that conversation, Gideons and the Salvation Army developed a multi-faceted partnership that includes drug awareness, parenting enrichment programs and an after-school mentoring program to increase the achievement scores of fourth graders.

Since 24 percent of the children at Gideons were missing more than 10 days of school a month, the school developed the NBA Program, a truancy reduction initiative that recognizes attendance. The Salvation Army partnered with Gideons to support the NBA Program, providing goodie bags and sunshine dollars the students use to purchase child-friendly items. Tiffany Momon, Gideons program coordinator, reports that the Salvation Army's incen-

**School Attendance Rates**  
(1998-99 through 2001-02)



Data Source: Atlanta Public Schools

Data Note: Attendance rate represents the percent of days during the 180-day school year that the average student attended school.



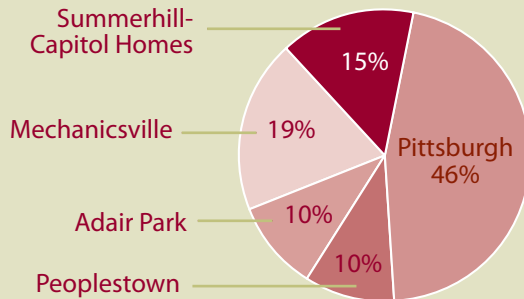
# PITTSBURGH RESOURCE MAP





**Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living**  
*We will know we are making progress when ... barriers to employment are overcome*

**Percent of Probationers in NPU-V by Neighborhood** (Nov. 2003)

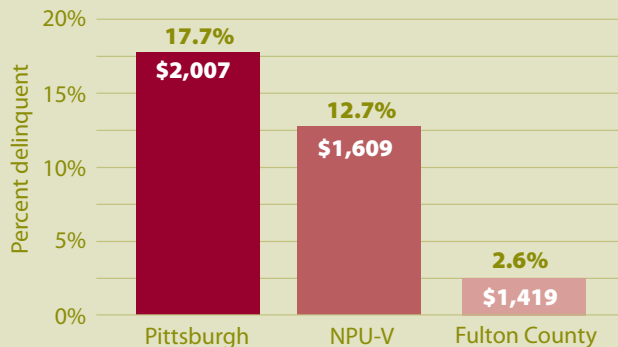


For many ex-offenders their criminal background is a formidable obstacle to gainful employment. As of November 2003, there were an estimated 48 parolees living in NPU-V. Nearly half (46%) resided in the Pittsburgh neighborhood.

Data Source: State Board of Pardons and Paroles (Georgia)

**Desired Result: Neighborhoods have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities**

**Percent of Properties That Are Tax Delinquent** (Nov. 2003)  
(with Median Amount Owed)

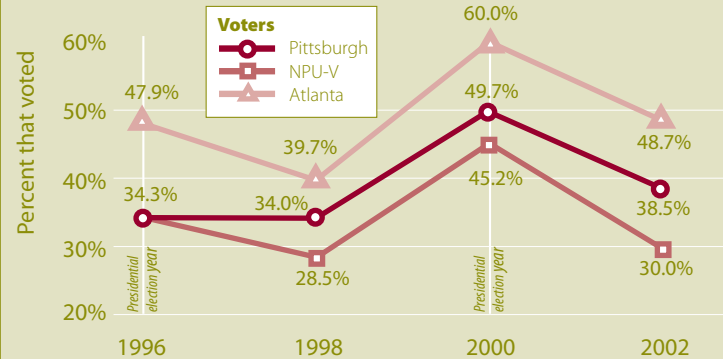


Of the approximately 1,784 known properties located in Pittsburgh, an estimated 315 (17.7%) were tax delinquent in late 2003. Not only was that more than six times the rate for the county, but the median amount owed was also higher, as well as the number of years for which property owners were in arrears (5.4 years compared to 4.6 for NPU-V and 3.9 for Fulton County).

Data Source: Fulton County Tax Commissioner, Fulton County Geographic Information System Department.

**Desired Result: Residents Increase Their Civic Participation**  
*We will know we are making progress when ... residents participate in the electoral process*

**Percent of Register Voters Who Voted** 1996-2002

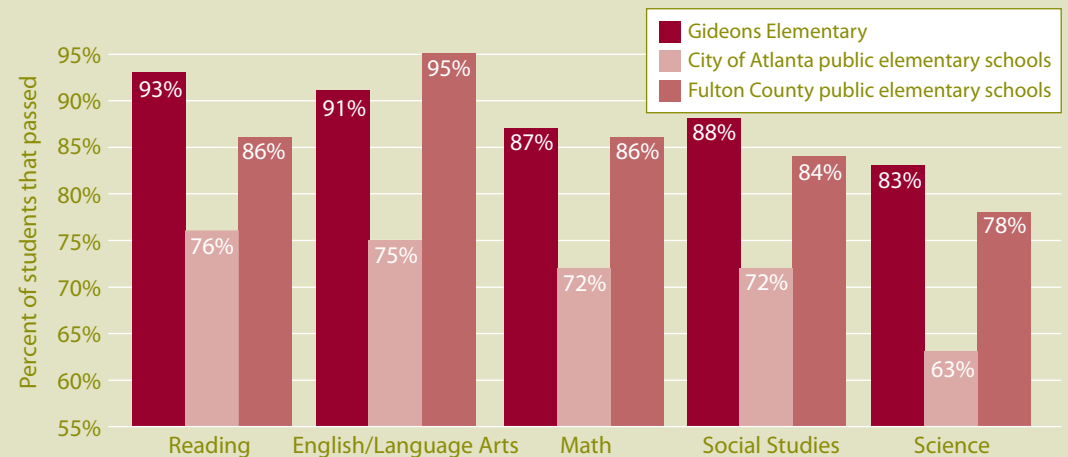


Like its overall population, the number of registered voters in Pittsburgh has steadily declined in recent years (from 1,589 in 1996 to 1,204 six years later). Those still on the voter registration rolls, however, tend to turn out to the polls at a higher rate than most other NPU-V neighborhoods and the NPU as a whole. Despite such a relatively good turnout, however, the turnout rate is still notably lower (by about 10% in recent election years) when compared with the City of Atlanta as a whole.

Data Source: University of Georgia, Carl Vincent Institute of Government, Legislative Reapportionment Services Office

**Desired Result: Youth have Opportunities for Positive Development**  
*We will know we are making progress when ... students succeed in school*

**Percent of 3rd Grade Students Passing Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests** 2001-02



Third grade students at Gideons Elementary School performed remarkably well on each of the five Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) given during the 2001-02 school year. In fact, with one exception, Gideons' students outperformed third graders in both Atlanta and Fulton County public school systems overall.

Data Source: Georgia Office of Student Achievement



**PITTSBURGH***continued from page 1*

neighborhood from the rest of the city; the construction of Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, which widened roads and brought heavy traffic to the neighborhood; and the Model Cities Program that brought unfulfilled hopes and the replacement of many single-family homes with multi-family units. From 1970 to 2000, the population of Pittsburgh dropped by more than half from 7,276 to 3,286.

**The Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA) was reorganized** by residents of the community in 2001 to combat this decline and is now spearheading neighborhood revitalization efforts. PCIA has lobbied the city to

demolish neighborhood homes that have fallen into disrepair. They have also organized a neighborhood garden and are beginning a neighborhood watch program to increase safety and build relationships among the residents. PCIA is also working with developers to rebuild the Pittsburgh Civic League Apartments. The Salvation Army supports community efforts through training and school programs. The area includes several dozen churches of various sizes as well as a large stock of relatively affordable homes and recently completed or planned apartment complexes.

Data Source: Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association pamphlet.


**The Annie E. Casey Foundation**

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Atlanta Civic Site



# Summerhill/ Capitol Homes

## SUMMERHILL

**Summerhill began as Atlanta's first African-American real estate development** soon after the Civil War, when attorney William Jennings subdivided the property and it was settled by freed slaves. During the early 1900s, the neighborhood was home to a diverse group of residents, including African Americans, Jews, and Greeks. Over the years, many influential people have called Summerhill home, including developer Herman Russell, boxer Evander Holyfield, and singer Gladys Knight. The neighborhood continued to thrive and

grow through the first half of the 1900s and, in the mid-1950s more than 20,000 residents, primarily African-American and Jewish, lived there.

**During the 1950s and 1960s, as many of Summerhill's more affluent residents** began to move to the developing northern sections of the city and to the western neighborhoods around the historically black colleges and universities, the neighborhood began to decline. The construction of Interstate 20 and the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium led to the demolition of numerous housing

units and the exodus of many residents and neighborhood businesses.

**The area where the stadium was built, called Washington-Rawson**, had once been home to wealthy families living in ornate homes. City leaders viewed the area as a "buffer zone" between Summerhill, where many African-Americans lived, and the commercial business district downtown. While African-American leaders pushed for much-needed housing for black residents to

be constructed there, white business leaders were nervous about having blacks living so close to downtown. Building the stadium became a way to compromise and for then-Mayor Ivan Allen to fulfill a campaign promise to build a stadium to attract a major league baseball team.

see **SUMMERHILL/CAPITOL HOMES**, page 6



## Two Neighborhoods

For the purposes of *Neighborhoods Count*, the neighborhoods of Summerhill and Capitol Homes have been combined. While residents of the two areas consider them to be different neighborhoods, the City of Atlanta defines them as one "statistical neighborhood" and reports data for them together. For planning purposes, the City of Atlanta was divided into 139 distinct neighborhoods years ago. These neighborhoods fit exactly into the city's 24 Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU's). In 1980 and 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau provided data to Atlanta at the statistical neighborhood level rather than the less well-known census tract level. Data and Policy Analysis at Georgia Tech prepared Census 2000 data for the city at the statistical neighborhood level. The consistency of these statistical neighborhood lines is beneficial for looking at neighborhood change over time and is, therefore, the way data will be presented in *Neighborhoods Count*.

## Quick Look

### Population & Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- 4,320 people resided in Summerhill/Capitol Homes in 2000, an increase of 3% since 1990. By comparison, the population decreased by less than 1% in NPU-V and increased by nearly 6% in the entire city.
- Children under the age of 18 increased by 4% to 1,587 between 1990 and 2000.
- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 38% to 289.
- Summerhill/Capitol Homes residents were predominantly African American (95%) with whites comprising 3% and persons of other races making up 2%. Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) made up 1% of the population.
- There were 1,717 households in Summerhill/Capitol Homes in 2000, an increase of 15% since 1990, compared to a decline of 1% in NPU-V and growth of 8% in Atlanta as a whole.
- On average, there were 2.5 persons per household in 2000, down from 2.8 persons in 1990.
- Nearly 36% of households included one or more children under the age of 18.
- The number of single-parent households increased 10% to 538 since 1990 and made up 31% of all households.
- Married couples with children increased 22% to 77 in 2000 and made up 5% of all households.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- Summerhill/Capitol Homes had 1,717 occupied housing units in 2000, comprising 92% of all housing units.
- The total number of occupied housing units increased 11% since 1990 compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- Owner-occupied housing increased 71% to 303 homes and accounted for 16% of all housing units.
- Renter-occupied housing increased by 3% to 1,414 units and accounted for 78% of all units.

### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 1,516 Summerhill/Capitol Homes residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 250 more persons than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 15% in 2000 is below the NPU-V rate of 20% and nearly the same as the 14% rate for the entire city.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau -- Census 2000, Census 1990 and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)





## The Capitol Area Mosaic: A Community Partner

The Capitol Area Mosaic (CAM) has always had its finger on the pulse of the Capitol Homes public housing community. The organization began when groups of ministry students from the Central Presbyterian and Trinity United Methodist churches brought small wagons through the neighborhood to assist residents. They helped with clothing and rent; they gave children candy; they did everything they could to help residents in need.

This small mission soon grew into the Trinity United Methodist Church Parish House, a facility eventually redeveloped as a community center in 1994. Just as

the word mosaic is often used to describe artwork that is made of many pieces, the community center came to be known as the Capitol Area Mosaic because of the many people and faiths who supported its redevelopment.

CAM's programs have grown with the people. "They asked the community what else they wanted," explains Gary Wright, the center's executive director. "They said they wanted school services for youth. That began in 1958. It became an after-school program for children ages 5 to 18, and the program grew from there. Now we also serve adults and seniors."

Today CAM is a comprehensive center that serves youth, adults and seniors. Through the center's after-school and summer programs, youth participate in a variety of leadership activities, some of which have focused on community action, voting, the media and juvenile justice issues. Adults can access programs focusing on GED preparation, employment and parenting.

Much of CAM's work has focused on supporting neighborhood families. Since 2001, the center has been one of the nine Atlanta Families First sites. Families First began as an orphanage at Spelman College in 1910 and has grown to focus on foster and adoptive support, family counseling, parenting, transitional housing

for pregnant mothers-to-be, and support for sexually abused girls.

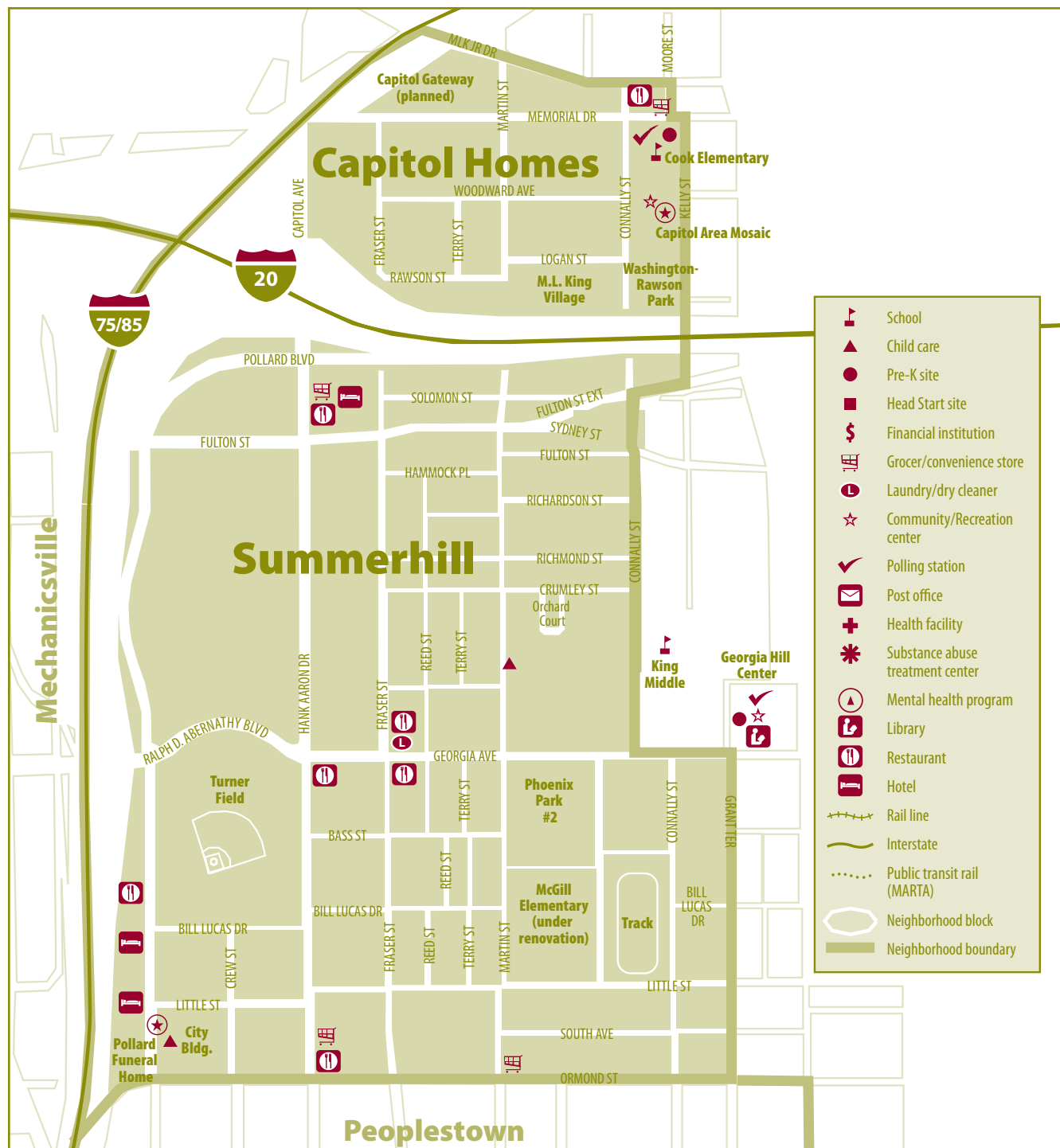
As the Capitol Homes complex is redeveloped, Capitol Area Mosaic is committed to serving its community. "Location is crucial to our work at Capitol Area Mosaic," Wright explains. "Being located in the community we serve gives us legitimacy. We are part of this community – a fixture in the community. Really, it is their facility. The images on the wall are the people who live here. It is an extension of their community."

*"We are part of this community, a fixture in this community . . . the pictures on the wall are the people who live here. It's an extension of their community."*

— Gary Wright, Director  
Capitol Area Mosaic



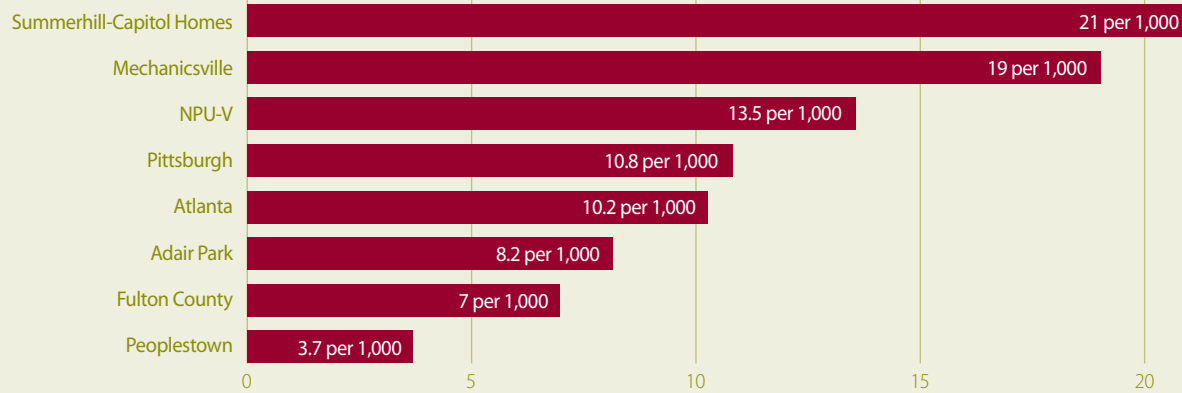
#### 4 • NEIGHBORHOODS COUNT **NPU-V** 2004





Desired Result: Families Are Stable  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . children are safe*

**Number of Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children (Jan.-June 2003)**

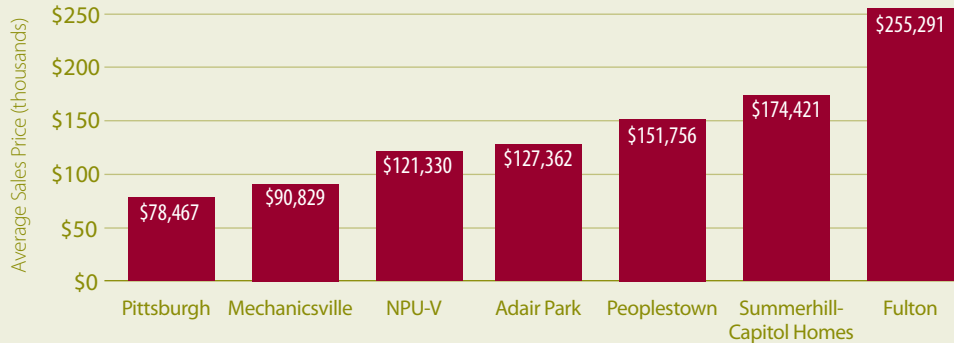


A stable family is one where children can grow up without fear of abuse and neglect. Between January and July 2003, 26 children in Summerhill-Capitol Homes were involved in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. While that is one less case than the neighboring Mechanicsville, because there are fewer children in Summerhill-Capitol Homes (an estimated 1,237 in 2003), the rate of abuse and neglect is the highest of all NPU-V neighborhoods and is two times that of Atlanta and three times that of Fulton County.

Data Sources: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services; Atlanta Regional Commission

Desired Result: Neighborhoods Have Quality Housing, Business and Recreational Facilities  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . neighborhoods have an adequate mix of housing, business and recreation.*

**Average Sales Price of Most Recent Residential Sale in 2003**



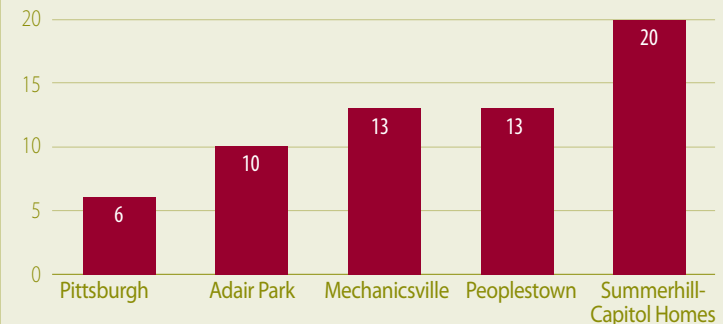
An adequate mix of housing is affordable housing. With its proximity to downtown Atlanta and a large residential development project built around the 1996 Olympics, Summerhill-Capitol Homes had an average residential sales price of \$174,421 in 2003 – the highest of any NPU-V neighborhood.

Data Source: Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors, 2003 Digest

Data Note: Because of limitations of the source data, figures for the City of Atlanta are not available.

Desired Result: Families Are Stable  
*We will know we are making progress when . . . parents are able to care for their children*

**Number of Children with a Parent in State Prison (Feb.-2004)**



As of February 2004 nearly half of the 48 state prisoners from NPU-V reported being a parent. These 21 inmates were parents to a total of 62 children in NPU-V. About a third (20) are from the Summerhill-Capitol Homes neighborhood.

Data Source: Georgia Dept. of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis

Data Note: Figures based on the self-reported address of inmate parent which may be different than the actual address of their children. Even if this is the case there is likely to be a family tie to the neighborhood.

## SUMMERHILL/CAPITOL HOMES

*continued from page 1*

**Even before the stadium became a part of the neighborhood**, groups of residents had been organizing demonstrations, calling for public services such as street cleaning, health and educational facilities, improved housing, and increased employment opportunities. Frustrations increased when highway and stadium construction in Summerhill crowded more than 10,000 people into 354 acres. Officials sought increased city services and federal funding for Summerhill, but by the summer of 1966, residents began street protests against the conditions. On September 6, 1966, tensions heightened when an African-American resident fleeing arrest was shot by a white policeman. The ensuing riot lasted for several days.

**In 1967, in response to the frustrations in Summerhill**, the Episcopal Church founded

Emmaus House in neighboring Peoplestown as a neighborhood mission committed to civil rights and working with the poor. Today, Emmaus House continues to provide services for the area's seniors and children, including monthly shuttle bus service to the Reidsville State Penitentiary for friends and family members of inmates.

**In 1988 residents came together at a neighborhood reunion** to form the Summerhill Neighborhood Development Corporation (SNDC), a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved nonprofit corporation. SNDC develops, owns, and manages affordable rental housing and promotes economic revitalization. When Atlanta constructed the Olympic Coliseum in Summerhill to host the 1996 Olympics, residents gained funding and support to construct 100 new townhomes and houses. As of the 2000 Census, the population of Summerhill had begun to rebound, totaling 4,320 people, up from 4,201 in 1990.

be completed in 2006, will offer more than 1,000 residential units and 45,000 square feet of offices, shops, and restaurants, as well as youth development centers. In 2002, Capitol Homes residents were offered subsidized housing vouchers to relocate. Many of the families moved outside of the neighborhood, causing Cook Elementary School's enrollment to drop from 560 in spring 2001 to 422 in fall 2002.

**Since 1958, Capitol Area Mosaic, a community center founded by area churches**, has served residents of Capitol Homes and Martin Luther King Village through summer and after-school programs for youth and emergency assistance and services for area seniors. They recently built a new 10,000-square-foot facility where they provide additional services and programs, including a reading lab, karate, sports teams, dance, math and technology programs, library and computer, and Internet access.



### The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Atlanta Civic Site

## CAPITOL HOMES

**Capitol Homes was a public housing complex constructed in 1941** in the shadow of the state Capitol. The project provided nearly 700 rental units for low-income residents. The complex is currently being developed into a mixed-income complex called Capitol Gateway. The new complex, to

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

**Divided by Interstate 20, the assets and resources of Summerhill and Capitol Homes** are essentially distinct from one another. What resources there are in each area are concentrated in pockets. In Capitol Homes the elementary school and adjacent Capitol Area Mosaic house most of the area's community services and programs. Summerhill to the south comprises a large new residential development, large parks, and underutilized commercial development around Turner Field. Its primary community center, however, is located just outside the neighborhood boundary in Grant Park.

# NPU-V

**Neighborhood Planning Unit V (NPU-V) includes the six intown Atlanta neighborhoods** of Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, and Summerhill/Capitol Homes. (For the purposes of Neighborhoods Count, the neighborhoods of Summerhill and Capitol Homes have been combined. While many residents of the two areas consider them to be different neighborhoods, the City of Atlanta defines them as one “statistical neighborhood” and reports data for them together.)

**These neighborhoods are some of Atlanta’s oldest residential areas**, with a rich history that mirrors much of Atlanta’s history. The neighborhoods were formed during the decades following the Civil War. As Atlanta regained its importance as a railroad crossroads for the Southeast, the NPU-V neighborhoods grew up around the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia rail yard.

**Today, the CSX and Southern rail lines continue to form portions of the borders of NPU-V** neighborhoods while also serving as the dividing line between some of the neighborhoods. In their developing years, these neighborhoods were served by horse-drawn trolleys that were replaced by electric street cars in 1893. These cars carried residents to and from jobs and shops in downtown Atlanta.

**The five neighborhoods were home to a diverse array of residents.** Adair Park became a predominantly white neighborhood of blue collar workers near the turn of the 20th Century. Mechanicsville became a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse neighborhood with western and eastern European Jews, Greeks, and African

Americans settling there. Peoplestown was also home to Jewish immigrants, African Americans, and native whites while Pittsburgh was founded as an African-American neighborhood to provide a haven for black residents and businesses during segregation. Summerhill was also diverse, with African Americans, Jewish immigrants, and native-born whites.

**While the neighborhoods of NPU-V thrived from the 1870s to the 1940s**, they began to decline during the 1950s. The northern expansion of Atlanta’s business center lured many wealthy and powerful white residents northward. Middle-income African Americans moved to the suburbs and closer to the developing black colleges and universities – Atlanta University, Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University), Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College. The diversity of the neighborhoods declined and by the 1950s, they were becoming predominantly working-class African-American communities.

**The negative impact of this residential migration was compounded** by decades of misguided federal, state, and city policies and programs, beginning with the 1949 Federal Housing Act, which provided communities with funding to support “urban renewal.” This urban renewal in Atlanta gave the city power to acquire tracts of land that were deemed physically or economically depressed.

**The 1950s Rawson-Washington project sought to connect the downtown area** to Atlanta’s suburbs with a major highway and to move all African Americans out of the downtown

area, targeting NPU-V neighborhoods. In the 1960s, city leaders sought to make Atlanta a “national” city by constructing a new civic center, convention center, and baseball stadium within walking distance of downtown that could also serve as a buffer between downtown and the African-American neighborhoods to its south.

see *NPU-V*, page 6

## The NPU System

Adair Park, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, Mechanicsville, and Summerhill/Capitol Homes became known as NPU-V when Mayor Maynard Jackson instituted the city’s Neighborhood Planning Unit system in 1974. The NPUs are Citizen Advisory Councils that make recommendations on questions of zoning, land-use, and other planning issues.

It was Mayor Jackson’s hope that the NPU system might provide citizens the opportunity to participate actively in the Comprehensive Development Plan, the city’s vision for the next five, 10, and 15 years. The NPU system is also a channel through which residents receive information concerning all functions of city government. The system has helped Atlanta’s neighborhoods become a powerful force in Atlanta’s government.

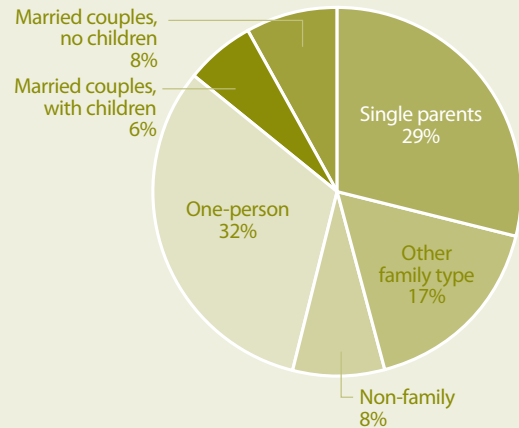
NPUs meet on a monthly basis to consider community concerns. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older whose primary residence is within the NPU, or any corporation, organization, institution, or agency that owns property or has a place of business or profession within the NPU. Today, NPU-V has a strong core of resident involvement, attracting an average of 57 residents to its monthly meetings in 2003 as compared to an average of 39 attendees at other NPU meetings in Atlanta that year.

## Quick Look

### Population & Household Trends 1990 – 2000

- 15,825 people resided in NPU-V in 2000 – a decrease of 1% since 1990. By comparison, the City of Atlanta increased by nearly 6% during that same time frame.
- Women outnumbered men 8,497 to 7,328 in 2000 and comprised 54% of the total population, compared to 50% citywide.
- 92% of NPU-V residents were African American, 3% white, and 4% other races. Residents of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) doubled to 289 in 2000.
- Children under age 18 increased by 3% to 5,548 between 1990 and 2000 and accounted for 35% of the total population, as compared to 22% in the City of Atlanta.

#### Households in NPU-V by Household Type (2000)

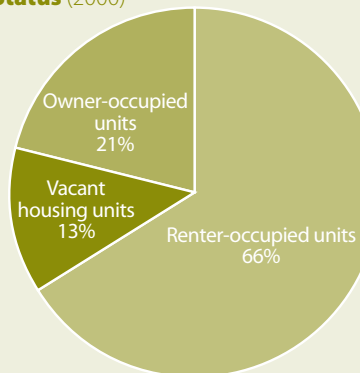


- Adults age 65 and older decreased by 29% to 1,316.
- There were 323 grandparents (age 30 and older) who were responsible for raising their grandchildren under the age of 18 in 2000.
- There were 5,729 households in NPU-V in 2000 – virtually the same as in 1990. The number of households in Atlanta increased by 8% during that same time period.
- The number of persons per household remained unchanged between 1990 and 2000 at 2.8.
- 35% of NPU-V households included one or more children under the age of 18 in 2000, compared to 22% in the City of Atlanta.
- Single-parent households remained essentially unchanged at 1,637 in 2000 and accounted for 29% of all households, compared to 13% citywide.
- Married couples with children decreased 5% to 359 in 2000 and accounted for 6% of all households, compared to 9% citywide.

### Housing Trends 1990 – 2000

- NPU-V had 5,729 occupied housing units in 2000, comprising 87% of all housing units, compared to 90% in the City of Atlanta.
- The number of occupied housing units remained essentially unchanged since 1990, compared to an 8% increase for Atlanta as a whole.
- Owner-occupied housing increased 8% in NPU-V to 1,374 homes in 2000 and accounted for 21% of all housing units, compared to 39% citywide.
- Renter-occupied housing decreased 3% to 4,355 units in 2000 and accounted for 66% of all housing units, compared to 51% in the City of Atlanta.

#### Housing Units in NPU-V by Occupancy Status (2000)



### Employment Trends 1990 – 2000

- An estimated 5,495 NPU-V residents were in the labor force (working or looking for work) in 2000 – 94 more residents than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of 20% in 2000 is higher than the 14% rate for the entire city.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000, Census 1990, and User Defined Area Profile for Atlanta (1990)

# A Healthy Start for Babies Can Be a Healthy Start for Teenage Moms

Teenage mothers face many medical and emotional challenges. The Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative and its Resource Moms Program are an effort to give infants a healthy start and to start young mothers on the right track too.

Eight years ago, Shavien Dennis was a teenage mother working in a fast food restaurant and wanting a job that would be more meaningful. "I was 17 when I had my first child. I had four sisters. My mother wasn't around and most people wanted to talk about the baby. I needed someone to talk to me about me and what I was going through," explains Dennis.

When she saw fliers in the neighborhood three years ago, advertising openings for Resource Moms, she applied, and was hired. Since then she has provided support to other young mothers in her Pittsburgh neighborhood. "I like helping teen mothers because I can relate to them. I am more supportive because I have been there," she says.

Resource Moms are part of a case management team that provides trained community outreach and health care support. They conduct home visits, coordinate care, and provide assistance to new and expectant mothers. They discuss sexual health and child immunization, help homeless or unemployed mothers, and encourage early and regular prenatal care. They link families to health and social services, including well woman and pediatric care, child care, education, and employment opportunities.

Dennis sees about 10 women regularly, sometimes three times a month. One of her clients

was a teenage girl who was afraid to tell her mother that she was pregnant. "I was with her when she told her mom. She is still in school and on schedule to graduate this June. She hasn't had any other kids and she is so much better now."

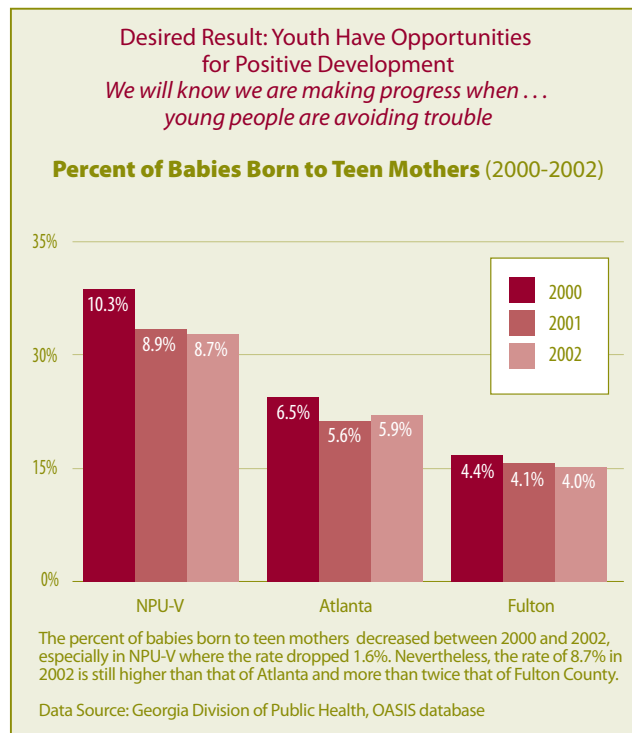
Resource Moms teach young mothers about parenting and life. Dennis' mother was a drug user. Their relationship was hampered by her mother's absence and her resentment. Today, their relationship has grown. "I understand more now since I am a mother too. Being a Resource Mom has not just helped me be a better mom, but a better daughter."

The work of Atlanta Healthy Start extends well beyond the toddler's first steps. After a brief pause, Dennis almost whispers, "I see that I'm changing people's lives."

For more information on Atlanta Healthy Start and the Center for Black Women's Wellness, visit: [www.cbwww.org/programs](http://www.cbwww.org/programs).

*"I like helping teen mothers because I can relate to them; I am more supportive because I have been there."*

— Shavien Dennis

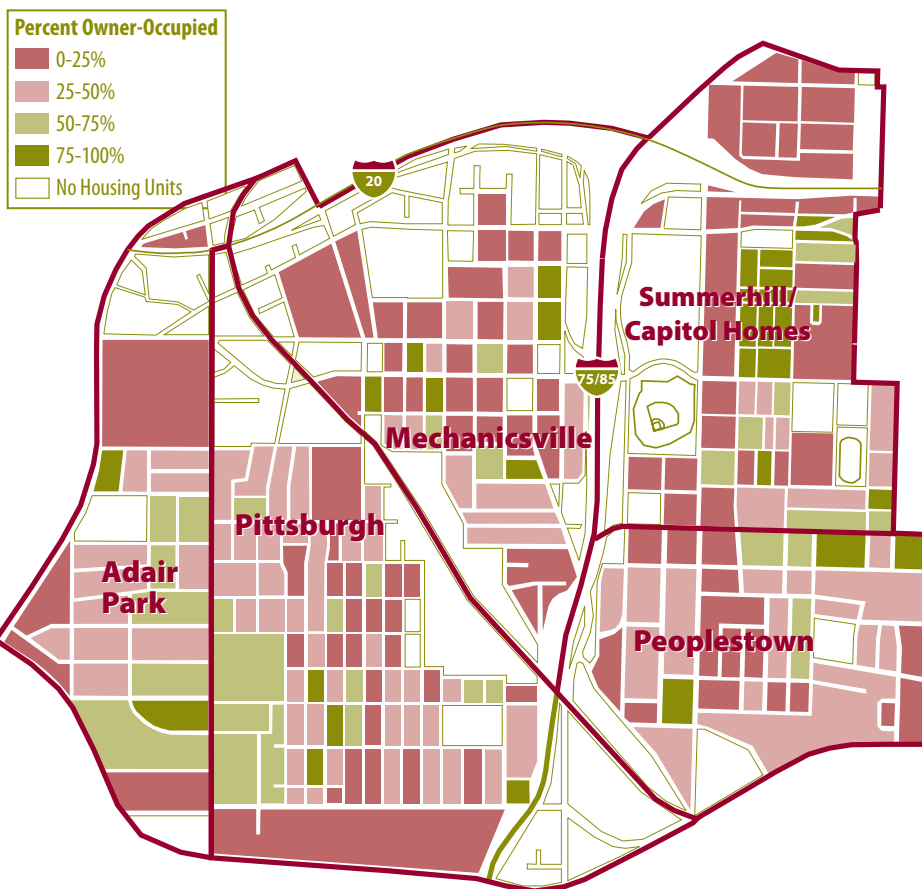






Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living  
*We will know we are making a difference when . . .  
families have increased levels of assets*

### Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units by Census Block (2000)



For many adults homeownership represents the pinnacle of personal asset development. Of the 5,729 occupied housing units in NPU-V in 2000, however, only about one in four were lived in by the unit's owner. Concentrations of owner-occupied units are also few and far between. Only in Summerhill-Capitol Homes – the site of a large-scale housing development project around the 1996 Olympics – does one find a sizeable group of blocks that have predominantly owner-occupied housing.

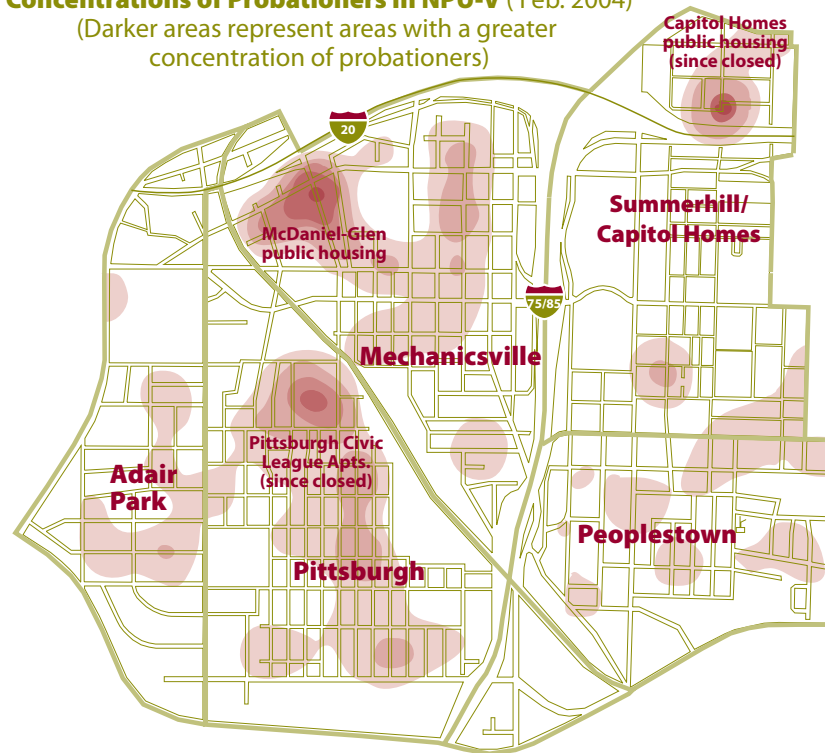
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Data Note: Data does not capture instances where a renter may own property elsewhere.

Desired Result: Families Have an Adequate Standard of Living  
*We will know we are making a difference when . . .  
barriers to employment are overcome*

### Concentrations of Probationers in NPU-V (Feb. 2004)

(Darker areas represent areas with a greater concentration of probationers)



For many, a criminal background is a serious obstacle to gainful employment. As of November 2003 NPU-V was home to 475 active probationers with 140 of these coming from Peoplestown – the most of any neighborhood. Most of the high concentration areas in the map above are around public or quasi-public housing sites, some of which are now closed.

Data Source: Georgia Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis

Data Note: The high concentration seen in the northeast corner of NPU-V is likely lower than shown due to the handful of probationers reported as living at the since-closed Capitol Homes. Concentrations depict weighted geographic densities based on location of geocoded address of probationers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the exact location of probationer residences.

## The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

50 Hurt Plaza, 4th Floor  
Suite 449  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2946  
T: 404.688-5525  
F: 404.688-3060

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Atlanta Civic Site.

© 2004

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Atlanta Civic Site

## NPU-V

*continued from page 1*

### The construction of Interstates 20 and 75/85

(also known as the “Downtown Connector”) and of Atlanta Fulton County Stadium and its replacement Turner Field, resulted in thousands of residents being displaced and historical structures being demolished. The neighborhoods of NPU-V are now divided by the Downtown Connector traveling north-south, and are skirted to the north by Interstate 20, separating most of NPU-V from downtown Atlanta.

**According to the 2000 Census**, the population of the NPU-V neighborhoods totaled 15,825, slightly less than the 15,960 residents in 1990. With 42.8 percent of NPU-V families living in poverty, as compared to only 26 percent of families in the City of Atlanta, the neighborhoods have a high concentration of poverty.

### More than 92 percent of NPU-V residents were African American

in 2000. In recent years, NPU-V has been becoming more diverse. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of races other than African American and white more than tripled. During that same time the number of Hispanics more than doubled. While racial diversity is increasing in all neighborhoods except for Summerhill/Capitol Homes and Peoplestown, and ethnic diversity is increasing in all of the neighborhoods, the increases were most dramatic in Adair Park. The number of people in that neighborhood who defined their races as other than white or African American on the 2000 Census increased from 18 to 405 while the number of Hispanics increased from 8 to 41.

### Much of this increase in diversity in Adair Park is the result of immigrants

making their homes in the neighborhood. Since 1990, approximately 450 foreign-born residents have settled there, the large majority (355) from Vietnam.

### The neighborhoods have been changing rapidly since the 2000 Census.

Capitol Homes, the 700-unit public housing complex in Summerhill/Capitol Homes, was demolished in 2002 in preparation for the construction of Capitol Gateway, a mixed-income complex that will include 1,000 residential units, 45,000 square feet of offices, shops, and restaurants, and a youth development center. All of the families who lived in Capitol Homes have been relocated since the census. Similarly, the Pittsburgh Civic League Apartments in Pittsburgh were vacated in 2004 in preparation for redevelopment, displacing the largest concentration of families with children in the neighborhood.

### Several schools have served the neighborhood of NPU-V

during its history. Before Atlanta's schools began the process of integration in the 1960s, however, there was only one public school in the neighborhoods that served African-American students. That school began in the basement of Pittsburgh's Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church in the late 1890s and was called the Pittsburgh School.

### The Pittsburgh School later moved into a two-room rented building

and became a part of the Fulton County School System. In 1909, area residents raised their own money (receiving only \$75 from the school board) to construct a wooden school building, renaming it Croghan School in honor of Dr. William Henry Croghan, the first

African-American president of Clark College. In 1922, a brick structure was built to house Croghan School, which educated youth and adults until 1979. Today, that building serves as a community center, senior housing, and an apartment complex.

**Perhaps the biggest asset of NPU-V** is its location to the immediate south of downtown Atlanta and north of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. And in keeping with its roots as a rail transportation hub, the NPU is also strategically located at the crossroads of two of the area's largest interstates. Conversely these interstates (I-20 and I-75/85) can also be viewed as a detriment to the NPU since they effectively separate neighborhoods from one another.

### The area overall has a healthy mix of residential, commercial, and industrial space

— some of which is already utilized, and some of which is vacant and holds potential for future community development. Such development could include a large supermarket or other commercial amenities that local residents currently lack in their neighborhood. The area offers several important community resources, including Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative in the Center for Black Women's Wellness, which sends Resource Moms to expectant and new mothers in the neighborhoods in order to connect them to health care and other supports.

### Today's NPU-V youth are served by six schools located inside the neighborhoods.

They are Dunbar Elementary in Mechanicsville; D.H. Stanton Elementary in Peoplestown; Gideons Elementary in Pittsburgh; Parks Middle School in Pittsburgh; and McGill Elementary and Cook Elementary in Summerhill.