

Many Voices Will Drive Community Choices for Human Services Five-Year Plan

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GREENSBORO – If you’ve ever thought, “Something needs to be done about . . . ,” then now is your opportunity to put those thoughts on record as public forums for Greensboro’s human services needs assessment begin October 29. This year’s community needs assessment, dubbed “*Voices. Choices. Greensboro’s Human Services Study*,” is a three-month ‘open-call’ to elicit qualitative and quantitative guidance from diverse groups in the community to determine which urgent needs should be addressed by local human service organizations in the future.

A total of five forums will be held throughout Greensboro. Comments will be recorded, evaluated, prioritized, and ultimately used to determine the major focus areas for a broad range of groups, including the United Way and major foundations, for human service funding through 2014. Forums will be held through November 20. The first public forum is scheduled October 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Doris Henderson Newcomers School (411 Friendway Road).

As soon as the dates and locations of the four remaining forums are confirmed, the information will be posted at www.unitedwaygso.org.

The last community needs assessment was conducted in 2003-2004. It identified 12 priority topics including school readiness, affordable housing, quality child care, employment, mental health, and obesity and fitness, among others, that warranted focused initiatives and funding. During the past five years approximately \$6.2 million has been allocated to address specific issues that emerged from that community assessment. Two specific initiatives; *Partners Ending Homelessness*, which has helped more than 100 individuals and 30 families find permanent housing, and *Thriving at Three*, which today serves more than 120 families with children in Greensboro, were created to address needs related to housing and school readiness.

Greensboro’s Human Service Study “*Voices. Choices.*” is being funded by: the Weaver Foundation; the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro; Moses Cone/Wesley Long Community Health Foundation; the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation; the Toleo Community Foundation; and the United Way of Greater Greensboro.

Each of the forums will be web-cast live by WFMY-TV in Greensboro and questions and comments may be submitted via live chat at www.digtriad.com during the forums.

Public comment on the community needs assessment may also be made at the following locations:

United Way of Greater Greensboro website www.unitedwaygso.org

United Way GSO blog at <http://www.unitedwaygso.org/blog/>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/twitter/?redirect=136760515911#/pages/VoicesChoices/136760515911>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/2329939/>.

Video excerpts from the public forums will be accessible on www.youtube.com.

Anyone may follow the public comment process on www.twitter.com at <https://twitter.com/VoicesChoices>.

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Members of the “*Voices. Choices. Greensboro’s Human Service Study*” Steering Committee and the groups they represent include:

Roger Beahm	United Way Board of Directors, CO-CHAIR
Mona Edwards	United Way Board of Directors, CIC, CO-CHAIR
Addy Jeffrey	Latino Community
Billy Nutt	Bryan Foundation
Cathy Levinson	Toleo Foundation
Crystal Edwards Oldham	Young Leader
David Reeve	Media , WFMY
Gary Palmer	Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender (GLBT)
Gwen Torain	City of Greensboro, HCD
Keith Barsuhn	United Way of Greater Greensboro
Kevin Gray	Weaver Foundation
Laura Mroska	Guilford County Dept of Public Health
Lisa Anderson	Junior League
Margaret Arbuckle	Guilford Education Alliance
Rev. Diane Givens Moffett	Faith Community
Sohnie Black	Neighborhood Leader
Susan Shumaker	Moses Cone/Wesley Long Community Health Foundation
Tara Sandercock	Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro