



## Description

Families and a sense of community drive the needs required to achieve the Community Vision. The families are the substance of the community; the community is strong only when families are strong.

Families are the backbone of the educational system, the economic engine, and the arts and cultural hub of Abilene. Neighborhoods are where we live, where we reach out to our neighbors in need and celebrate life's accomplishments. Abilene is not perfect, yet strengthening families is one of the highest priorities; caring for each other and the ability to positively impact others' lives are among the greatest strengths. Aligning intrinsic strengths with the high priority needs will help Abilene provide an enhanced quality of life for its residents and achieve its Community Vision.



## Vision Statement Options

- Abilene: A community where everyone is heard, valued, cared for, and given the opportunity to give back to their community.
- Abilene's neighbors caring for each other; caring to make their community thrive.

## Strategies

- Increase access to affordable childcare options
- Enhance childhood activities such as daycare/afterschool recreation programs
- Establish a schedule of regular "Citywide endorsed" block parties
- Institute a program to recruit volunteers to help neighbors who can't take care of the property (e.g., Dyess families, church groups, or other volunteers)
- Leverage the opportunity of sharing messages about family violence and substance abuse available through church/faith communities
- Institute / enforce "First do no harm" in neighborhood/housing development policy



## Key Indicators

- Number of children on daycare waiting lists
- Number of neighborhood associations (and participating members)
- Number of new/renovated affordable units
- Number of organizations for teenagers to go after school

## Supporting Indicators

- Crime statistics
- Number of available affordable housing units
- Number of child abuse victims/domestic violence
- Number of community associations (and participating members)
- Number of community engagement activities at major healthcare service providers
- Number of neighborhood events - i.e. trick or treat in neighborhood, churches, national night out
- Number of neighborhood open forums





## Potential Partners

- Abilene Chamber of Commerce
- Abilene Housing Authority
- BCFS - Our House
- Ben Richey Boys Ranch (Temporary Housing)
- Big Brother Big Sisters
- Bike Police
- Builders/Developers
- Childcare Providers
- Churches
- City of Abilene
- Connecting Caring Communities (CCC)
- Dyess Air Force Base (and Military Families)
- First Responders
- Friendship House
- Hendrick Medical Center
- I-CAN, Sears Neighborhood
- Neighborhood Association(s)
- Non-profits
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Teachers and Counselors



## Cause Area #5: Family Well-being and Neighborhoods

- Address family violence and substance use issues
- Build awareness of young-adult education/life skills training opportunities
- Create a schedule of amnesty days for a neighborhood cleanup
- Create health clinics in higher-need neighborhoods
- Encourage connections with neighborhood associations
- Encourage neighborhood activity (i.e. trick-or-treat)
- Enhance code enforcement
- Enhance public safety in high traffic areas (for walkability/multimodal)
- Expand access to parks with green grass
- Expand afterschool care
- Expand/increase focus of initiatives like Connecting Caring Communities (CCC)
- Focus on intergenerational community need
- Improve access and affordability of childcare
- Improve street lighting in neighborhoods
- Incentivize home beautification/pride
- Increase access to healthful, affordable food
- Increase accessibility to early childhood development programs
- Increase the number of bike paths, walking trails / sidewalks, and handicapped/disability accessible outdoor resources
- Invest in low to moderate-income neighborhoods
- Make current rec-centers more accessible /available to neighbors - more open time
- Partner with non-profits and the City of Abilene to help with utility bills
- Sponsor entrepreneurial events in neighborhoods (City of Abilene)
- Subsidize developers to donate land or incentivize HOA
- Update community center
- Work to break the cycle of poverty -- teach kids/people they are valued