



MACON PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A preliminary look at the challenges facing the children and families living in the Tindall Heights and Unionville neighborhoods of Macon, Georgia.

Macon Promise Neighborhood

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MACON'S PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

OUR COMMITMENT

WHAT IS PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD?

A PLACE-BASED INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON THE UNIONVILLE AND TINDALL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOODS THAT PROVIDES TARGETED "WRAP-AROUND" EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (BIRTH TO 23 YEARS OLD) WHILE STRONGLY ENGAGING THEIR PARENTS WITH THE SCHOOLS AND WITH THEIR OWN EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND JOB TRAINING.

SCHOOLS OF PROMISE:

-  INGRAM-PYE ELEMENTARY
-  MATILDA WARTLEY ELEMENTARY
-  BALLARD-HUDSON MIDDLE
-  SOUTHWEST HIGH

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



75 PERCENT
GRADUATION RATE



77 PERCENT
POST SECONDARY ATTAINMENT



89 PERCENT
6TH-9TH GRADE ATTENDANCE RATE



90 PERCENT
AT OR ABOVE 8TH GRADE MATH AND SCIENCE LEVEL



78 PERCENT
AT OR ABOVE 3RD GRADE READING LEVEL



86 PERCENT
OF CHILDREN ARE READY FOR K

FOCUS AREAS:

-  POST SECONDARY AND CAREER
-  NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT
-  HEALTH AND SAFETY
-  K-12 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS
-  EARLY CHILDHOOD



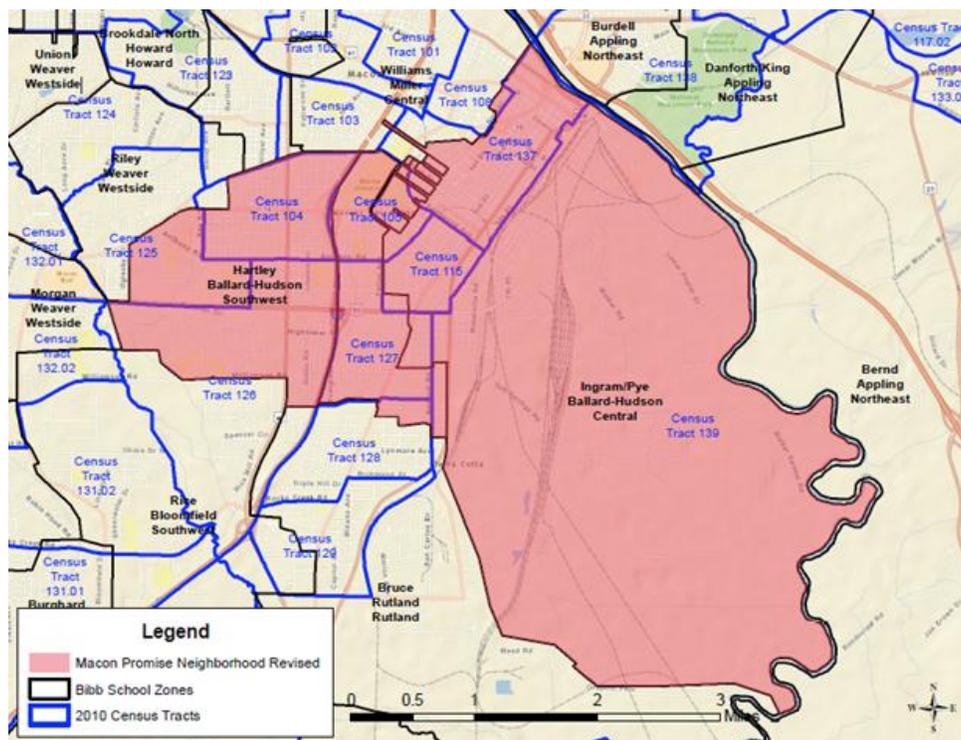
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Introduction

With new initiatives in economic development, downtown revitalization and historic preservation; a thriving arts and culture community; and a church “on every corner” Bibb County would seem to offer a great quality of life for all its citizens. But at stark contrast to its images of cherry blossoms, antebellum architecture and picturesque parks, exist some of the worst conditions for children and families in the state of Georgia. Bibb County lags significantly behind Georgia statewide averages in the indicators of child and family well-being, while Georgia already ranks a disappointing 40 out of 50 states in the 10 national indicators of child and family well-being. While half of Georgia’s 159 counties have areas of concentrated poverty (defined as 30% of the neighborhood), Bibb County has been identified as having areas of concentrated poverty of 70% or higher. Macon Promise Neighborhood is one of these.

Macon Promise Neighborhood (MPN) is comprised of the Ingram-Pye and Hartley Elementary School Attendance Zones. These schools feed into Ballard Hudson Middle School which feeds into Southwest High School. Ingram-Pye and Hartley are both in the bottom 1% of performers state-wide based on CRCT scores. Last year Southwest High School had a 38% graduation rate. The two identified school zones closely align with the neighborhoods of Tindall Heights and Unionville, two of the most distressed areas within our city. Eight different census tracts overlap at least partially with the defined neighborhood. However, three of them were omitted from our analysis due to the locations of Mercer University, the county jail, and a large swath of swamp land. These are census tracts 115, 137, and 139 respectively. Included in the analysis were tracts 104, 105, 125, 126, and 127. The MPN, school zones, and census tract boundaries can be seen in the map below.



Data Sources and Collection Methods

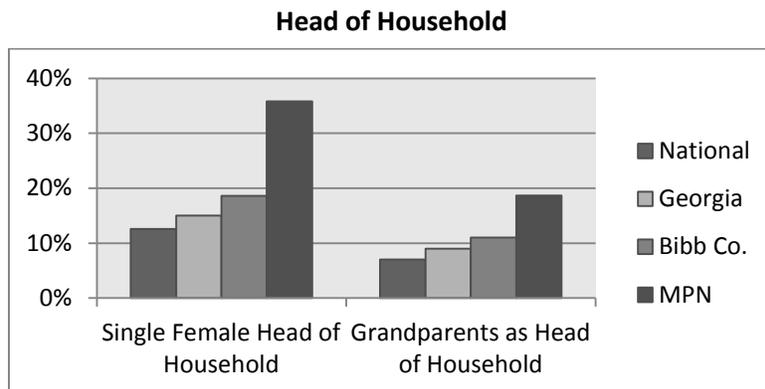
MPN employed multiple methods of data collection throughout the needs assessment process. A school survey was administered online to all neighborhood students 3rd-12th grade in school computer labs. The responses were compiled and analyzed by the school district. Seven MPN residents were trained to administer the community survey door to door. The survey results were then entered by Mercer University graduate students from the paper forms into Qualtrics, the system used by the Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM), for analysis. Analysis was done by Dr. Devereaux of MUSM's department of Community Medicine. Focus groups and interviews were led by staff with assistance from Mercer University professors from the Tift College of Education, trained in qualitative analysis. Mr. Nick Kouloungis of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission played a vital role in collecting and analyzing the community level data which came from multiple sources as detailed below.

- School Survey – 263 surveys of Southwest high school students and 609 from Ingram Pye, Hartley, and Ballard Hudson students.
- Community Survey – 318 community surveys completed in the neighborhood.
- Focus Groups – 13 focus groups complete and they are as follows; 6 student groups, 1 teachers group, 1 parents group, 1 student affairs group, 1 school based administrators group, 1 Health & Safety group, 1 DFCS staff group and 1 Community Leaders group.
- Informant Interviews – 4 key community stakeholders were interviewed.
- In addition, data collected by the Bibb County School District, the United States Census, the Bibb County Health Department, Kids Count of Georgia and other local and state entities were used.

Neighborhood Snapshot

Population

Based on 2010 Census Data, the total population of the neighborhood is 9,599. 29% of those, or 2,771, are children ages 0-18. The neighborhood is nearly 60% female and 36% of homes are led by a single female.



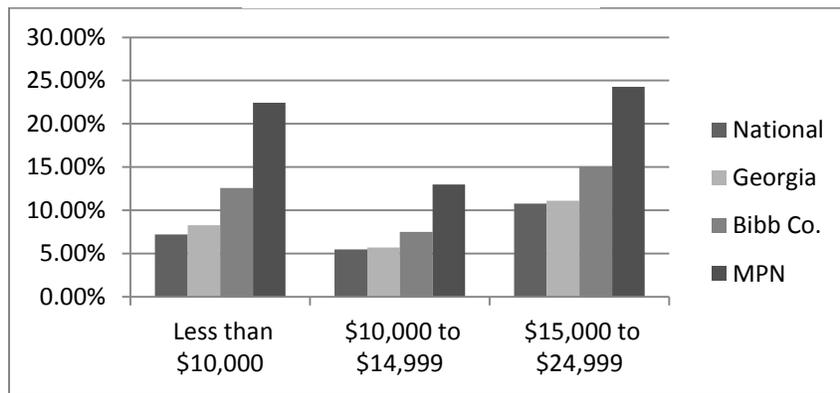
Race & Ethnicity

81.3% of the neighborhood identify as African-American/Black. 16.9% identifies as Caucasian/White and 1.4% Identify as Hispanic/Latino. The remaining 1.6% identify as Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander or another race.

Economic Characteristics

Median annual household income is \$17,921. 64% of homes have an annual income that places them under the poverty level. 97% of students at Ingram-Pye, Hartley, and Ballard Hudson qualify for free lunch. Free and reduced lunch students make up 99% of students.

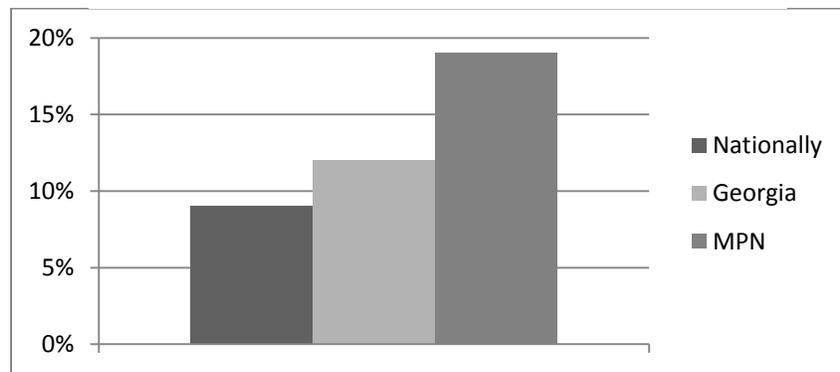
Families Living in Poverty



Education

Based on information from the 2010 census, 39% of adults in the neighborhood never completed high school. That is compared to 19% in Bibb County. Nearly a quarter of males, ages 16-19, from the target neighborhood are not enrolled in school. **19% of young men from the neighborhood are neither in school nor employed. That's nearly one in five and is double the state average.**

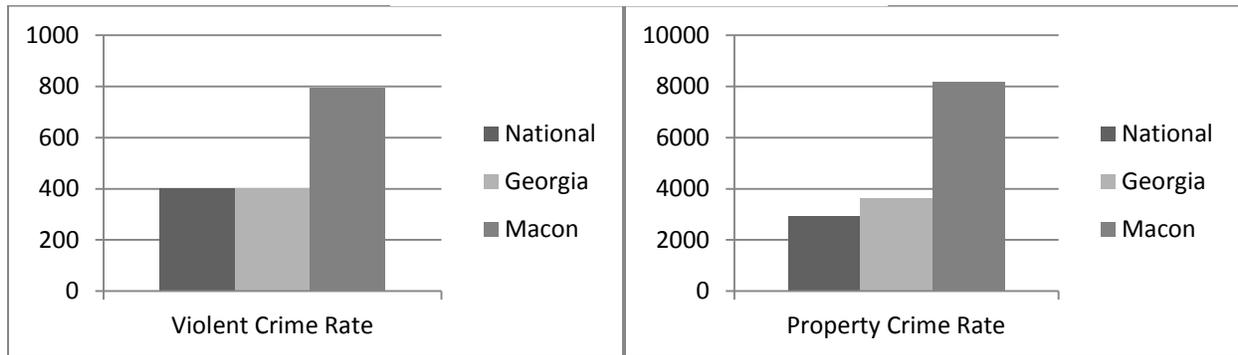
Males 16-19 years old, neither in school nor employed



Neighborhood Characteristics

21% of properties in the neighborhood are vacant. 26% of homes do not have a vehicle and thus rely on alternate modes of transportation. The median home value in MPN is about half of the median home value for all of Bibb County at \$62,550. The Macon violent crime rate is nearly double the national rate.

Crime Rates per 100,000 residents



Residents living in areas of concentrated poverty are more likely to struggle with food hardship, lack health insurance and access to health care, and have difficulty paying their rent in high-poverty neighborhoods. Families are more likely to struggle to meet their children’s basic needs, and children are more likely to have behavioral issues, be expelled from school, have more school absences, and have fewer opportunities for positive youth experiences. When communities struggle with high poverty rates, there is a spiraling economic impact of small businesses closing, crime rates increasing, and real estate values decreasing. Participants speak of a lack of quality childcare and after school activities, low cultural expectations, and still needed racial reconciliations.

Trend Analysis

OUTCOME AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School (Ages 0-4)

NATIONAL TRENDS:

Access to age-appropriate and quality Pre-K/childcare

- Early childhood programs are critical to breaking the cycle of poverty in the United States, and are vital to the country's workforce development, economic security, and global competitiveness. The early childhood programs administered by Administration for Children and Families are designed both to assist low-income working parents with the cost of child care, and to fund programs that provide enriching early childhood experiences that promote the long-term success of disadvantaged children.
- For both young children and those in school, the cost of care and the lack of support too often do not allow families the ability to access high quality care, particularly for very young children. The average annual price of care for an infant in a center ranged from \$4,560 in the least expensive State to \$15,895 in the highest.

STATE TRENDS:

Access to age-appropriate and quality Pre-K/childcare

- The current cost for quality child care per child in Georgia, depending upon age, is \$8,000-\$12,000 per year. Therefore, many parents can't afford to pay for quality child care and have to choose either lower quality care or no child care at all, which puts many children in dangerous situations.
- 223,967 children of single parents in Georgia are in need of care, as that parent is part of the labor force. There are 515,764 children in the state of Georgia whose parent(s) work outside of the home, and need full-time care.

COUNTY TRENDS:

Access to age-appropriate and quality Pre-K/childcare

- According to the Georgia Department of Education Report Card 42 Bibb County students were retained in Pre-K.
- In Bibb County 2,599 children aged 3-5 were enrolled in preschool, representing 38.2% of the county's children.

TARGET POPULATION TRENDS:

Access to age-appropriate and quality Pre-K/childcare

- According to compiled data from a recent Macon Housing Authority Survey, only 21 of 142 respondents had children enrolled in childcare program
- In the targeted neighborhood only 236 children aged 3-5 were enrolled in preschool, representing 43.81% of the area's children.

Promise Neighborhood Impacted Indicator(s)

- A. # and % of children, from birth to K-entry, participating in center-based or formal home based early settings or programs)
- B. # and % of 3-year olds who demonstrate age appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning)

OUTCOME AREA: Proficient in Core Academic Subjects and Persist to Graduation (Ages 5-17)

NATIONAL TRENDS:

Academic Proficiency

- About 72 percent of public school students from the class of 2008 graduated on time, a 6 percentage-point increase from the 1997 rate, and a 3 percentage-point increase from the 2007 rate. However between 2008 and 2009, the number of schools that graduated fewer than 60% of their students declined from 1,746 to 1,634.
- Asian and white students still have the most success in high school—8 in 10 Asians and 78 percent of white students graduated in 2008. Black and Hispanic students both have graduation rates of about 57 percent.

Student Mobility

- The potential impact of mobility on students' education is significant. Students who move often between schools may experience a range of problems such as: lower achievement levels due to discontinuity of curriculum between schools, behavioral problems, difficulty developing peer relationships, and a greater risk for dropping out.

STATE TRENDS:

Academic Proficiency

- Only 28 percent of Georgia's fourth-grade students scored at the proficient or advanced level in reading in 2007.
- Of Georgia's children who are having trouble learning to read in kindergarten, 2/3 will have trouble in third grade and children without reading skills by third grade are unlikely to graduate from high school.
- Just 16 percent of children in Georgia's working families are in after-school programs.
- Georgia's high school graduation rate has fallen to 67.4 percent based on a new federally mandated calculation.

Student Mobility

- For schools, high student mobility rates place a greater burden on resources and budgeting. School mobility can constrain staff time, detract from per pupil resources, and potentially slow school improvement efforts. In the state of Georgia, low student achievement can have a detrimental effect on Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) status. AYP is used to determine the success of school improvement efforts in Georgia schools and student achievement is a primary criteria.

COUNTY TRENDS:

Academic Proficiency

- According to the Georgia Department of Education Report Card, 1,375 Bibb County students were retained in grades K through twelve in 2007.
- Between 2007 and 2008, Bibb County school system reported an average high school dropout rate of 6.6% for students in grades nine through twelve. Statewide, this rate is 3.6% for the same period of time. For Bibb County, this rate decreased over the last three academic school years, with 8.0% of students dropping out in 2006-2007, and 7.2% dropping out in during the 2005-2006 school year.

- Only 24 of the Bibb County School District's 41 schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2010-2011.

Disciplinary Statistics

- Bibb County/City of Macon discipline data reveals that in 2010- 2011, almost 8,000 students were suspended for a total of 48,000 days of missed instruction. Data also revealed that nearly 500 students were expelled, 703 students dropped out of school completely, and the District's 9th grade cohort graduation rate was 44.6%.

TARGET POPULATION TRENDS:

Academic Proficiency

- The most recent graduation rate at Southwest High School, located in the targeted neighborhood, is 38% ranking it as one of the lowest performing high schools in Georgia.

Promise Neighborhood Impacted Indicator(s)

- A. Graduation Rate
- B. Student Mobility
- C. # and % of discipline events
- D. % of suspensions
- E. # and % of students at or above grade level on state math and ELA assessments, 3rd – 8th grade and high school)
- F. # and % of children in Kindergarten who demonstrate age appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning
- G. # and % of students participating in out-of-school time high-quality learning activities

OUTCOME AREA: Ready to Succeed in Post-secondary Education and Careers (Ages 13-17)

NATIONAL TRENDS:

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for youth aged 13-17

- Nationally, students who participated in dual enrollment programs and who entered college within seven months of graduating from high school improved the likelihood that they would receive a BA by 16% to 20%.

STATE TRENDS:

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for youth aged 13-17

- Nearly all of the 17,442 dual enrolled students in Georgia experienced academic success in the technical college courses while in high school as did the 9,358 (unduplicated count) who transitioned into a Georgia public college after high school graduation.
- Ninety-one percent of high school dual enrolled students in Georgia earned an A, B or C in their technical college coursework which indicates that nearly all were capable of successfully completing college-level coursework. Most dual enrollment instructors described their students as successfully using hands-on and work- based activities and thought these students had the ability to succeed in postsecondary education.

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for residents aged 18 or more

- In Georgia 6.1% of adults ages 25 years or older reported an educational level of less than a 9th grade year.
- In Georgia 10.4% of individuals aged 25 and older have accomplished a 9th to 12th grade education yet obtained no high school diploma or GED.
- In 2005, 10.6% of children lived in a family with no adult in the labor force.

COUNTY TRENDS:

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for youth aged 13-17

- According to the City of Macon’s Office of Workforce Development, Bibb County reported an enrollment in its Summer Work Experience/Job Training Program of 56 students aged 14-18.

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for residents aged 18 or more

- In Bibb County 13% of individuals aged 25 and older have accomplished a 9th to 12th grade education yet obtained no high school diploma or GED.
- In Bibb County 5.8% of adults aged 25 or older reported an educational level of less than a 9th grade year.
- In 2005, there were 14,692 children living in poverty in Bibb County, with 15.6 % of children living in a family with no adult in the labor force.

TARGET POPULATION TRENDS:

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for youth aged 13-17

- According to the City of Macon’s Office of Workforce Development of its 56 enrolled students in the Summer Work Experience/Job Training Program, only 3 attended Southwest High School.

Post-Secondary Educational and Economic Development Activities for residents aged 18 or more

- In the targeted neighborhood 671 residents, representing 13.72 % reported an educational level of less than a 9th grade year.
- In the targeted neighborhood 1,218 individuals or 24.91% aged 25 and older have accomplished a 9th to 12th grade education yet obtained no high school diploma or GED.
- According to compiled data from a recent Macon Housing Authority Survey, only 49 of 142 respondents were actively engaged in an employment setting.
- According to compiled data from a recent Macon Housing Authority Survey, only 27 of 142 respondents had received a GED.
- According to compiled data from a recent Macon Housing Authority Survey, only 43 of 142 respondents were actively engaged in a Job Training/Placement Program.

Promise Neighborhood Impacted Indicator(s)

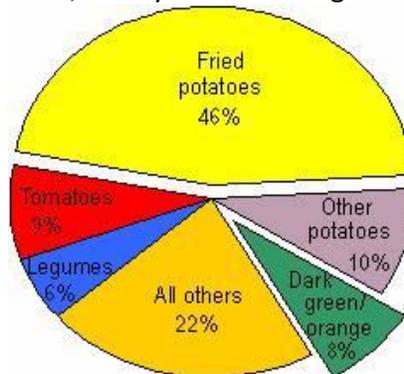
- A. Graduation Rate
- B. For children in 9th through 12th grade, the # and % of parents or family members who report talking with their child about the importance of college or career
- C. # and % of PN students who graduate with a regular High School diploma and obtain postsecondary degrees, vocational certificates, or other certification

OUTCOME AREA: Families are Healthy and Empowered to Succeed

NATIONAL TRENDS:

Health & Nutrition

- Good nutrition and physical activity can help prevent obesity, but opportunities for healthy choices may be limited. Wealthy communities have three times as many supermarkets as poor areas, increasing their access to fruits, vegetables, and a wider selection of healthy foods. Poorer areas also often have less access to places to be physically active.
- Nationally, only 21 percent of young people eat the recommended five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day.
- As shown in the figure below, nearly half of all vegetable servings are fried potatoes.



- Almost 30% of U.S. children do not exercise three or more times a week.
- More than 75% of high school students do not eat the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

Utilization of Public Transportation

- In the United States over 6,922,000 individuals use public transportation as their primary means to get to work.

STATE TRENDS:

Health and Nutrition

- In Georgia 37.3% of its children were overweight and obese

Overall Health and Fitness Education

- The rate of infant mortality in Georgia (per 1,000) was that of 8.1% (per 1,000).
- The percentage of low birth weight in Georgia was that of 9.6%.
- The rate of substantiated incidents of child abuse and neglect in Georgia was that of 16.1% (per 1,000).
- Georgia ranked 43rd for child health among the states and the District of Columbia in the 2011 report card developed by the Commonwealth Fund. The report analyzed 20 indicators of children’s health status in four areas: health care access and affordability; prevention and treatment; potential to lead healthy lives; and an “equity” measure based on income and racial and ethnic disparities.

Utilization of Public Transportation

- In Georgia over 108,198 individuals use public transportation as their primary means to access work.

COUNTY TRENDS:

Overall Health and Fitness Education

- The rate of infant mortality in Bibb County, Georgia was that of 13.6 (per 1,000).
- In 2006, 76.6% of infants born to mothers who lived in Bibb County were born healthy. "Healthy" is defined as a child whose mother received pre-natal care, whose mother did not drink or smoke during pregnancy, and who weighed more than 5.5lbs at birth.
- The rate of substantiated incidents of child abuse and neglect in Bibb County was that of 29.8 (per 1,000) Physical abuse is any injury to a child, other than an injury sustained accidentally, caused by willful cruelty and applied trauma. Sexual abuse is the sexual exploitation of a child by an older person. There were 161 confirmed cases of child abuse for a rate of 3.9 per 1,000.

Utilization of Public Transportation

- Macon/Bibb County averages over 3,000 riders per weekday, with more than 1,500 using the public service on the weekend.

TARGET POPULATION TRENDS:

Utilization of Public Transportation

- In the targeted neighborhood 196 residents use public transportation, representing 6.67% of residents and 25% of the community's percentage of ridership.

Promise Neighborhood Impacted Indicator(s)

- A. # and % of parents or family members who are pursuing adult educational or vocational-training goals**
- B. # and % of neighborhood residents who use public transportation**
- C. # and % of children birth to 5 yrs. old who have a place where they usually go, other than an ER, when they are sick or in need of advice about their health (*medical home*)**
- D. # and % of children who consume 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily**

Segmentation Analysis



Early Learning

Community assessment data, parent surveys, and Macon Promise Neighborhood survey data indicate that, at most, a third of children ages 0-5 are enrolled in a formal daycare program within the neighborhood. Based on source, calculations range from 71% to 87% of children being kept at home by parents, family members or friends.

Why are so many children staying home? Partly due to access: of the 151 licensed daycares in Bibb County listed with Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning, approximately 20-30 are located in the target neighborhood and surrounding areas (search based on zip codes, which do not align perfectly with MPN boundaries). However, our asset mapping team was able to locate only four licensed daycares within the MPN boundaries, two of which have subsequently closed their doors. Also, partly due to cost: average daycare costs in Georgia can

range from \$8,000-\$12,000 a year. And the available Head Start and pre-K slots are limited. For many of our families, private daycare is an impossible cost and it incentivizes staying home with a child rather than going to work.

Unfortunately, staying at home does not always provide the child with the necessary cognitive stimulation. 76% of parents surveyed with children under 5 reported they did not read to their children every day. When the high percentages of low birth weight babies (14% Bibb Co.), teen parents (11% MPN), and children living in poverty (64% MPN) is also considered it's not surprise that 29% of kindergarteners in the neighborhood are not performing at developmentally appropriate levels. It is clear that there is a strong need for affordable, accessible, and high quality early learning programs to help our youngest students get off to the best possible start.



Academic Achievement

Hartley Elementary, Ingram-Pye Elementary, and Southwest High School have all been identified as priority schools. All have been persistently low achieving going back at least 5 years.

Performance data on the Georgia Math Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) reveal that 3rd – 5th grade students in Bibb County performed 38% lower than the state average. 6th – 8th grade students performed 19% below the state average. Performance data on the Math I Georgia End of Course Test (EOCT) reveal students performing 32% below the state average, and the performance data on the Math II EOCT reveal students performing 28% points below the state average.

Performance data on the Georgia Reading Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) reveal that 3rd – 5th grade students in Bibb County performed 18% lower than the state average. 6th – 8th grade students performed 10% below the state average. Performance data on the 9th Grade Literature Georgia End of Course Test (EOCT) reveal students performing 20% below the state average, and the performance data on the American Literature EOCT reveal students performing 17% below the state average.

Performance data on state assessments reveal more than 60% of students attending the target schools are performing below the state and district average in one or more academic areas. CRCT data for certain grades in the targeted schools can be found in the tables below.

Hartley		CRCT Reading Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT ELA Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT Math Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT Science Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT Social Studies Meet & Exceed Standard 2011
Grade 3	All Students	84%	74%	53%	27%	42%
	Black	84%	76%	54%	27%	43%
	Male	79%	69%	42%	26%	37%
	Female	90%	79%	65%	27%	48%
	SWD (9)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	ELL (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Economically Disadvantaged	84%	76%	54%	27%	43%
Grade 4	All Students	64%	66%	50%	30%	28%
	Black	63%	65%	48%	29%	27%
	Male	52%	48%	57%	22%	22%
	Female	73%	81%	44%	37%	34%
	SWD (3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	ELL (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Economically Disadvantaged	64%	65%	50%	29%	27%
Grade 5	All Students	88%	83%	61%	15%	21%
	Black	87%	82%	60%	16%	18%
	Male	84%	76%	64%	16%	24%
	Female	92%	88%	58%	14%	18%
	SWD (5)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	ELL (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Economically Disadvantaged	88%	82%	60%	15%	19%

Ingram-Pye		CRCT Reading Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT ELA Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT Math Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT Science Meet & Exceed Standard 2011	CRCT Social Studies Meet & Exceed Standard 2011
Grade 3	All Students	74%	65%	46%	52%	37%
	Black	74%	65%	46%	52%	37%
	Male	64%	56%	33%	44%	28%
	Female	83%	75%	59%	61%	47%
	SWD (9)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	ELL (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Economically Disadvantaged	73%	74%	45%	51%	35%
Grade 4	All Students	65%	67%	53%	43%	39%
	Black	64%	66%	53%	43%	38%
	Male	50%	50%	42%	28%	31%
	Female	82%	85%	67%	61%	48%
	SWD (3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	ELL (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Economically Disadvantaged	63%	66%	53%	42%	39%
Grade 5	All Students	77%	72%	64%	18%	22%
	Black	77%	72%	64%	17%	21%
	Male	73%	69%	64%	10%	22%
	Female	80%	74%	64%	26%	22%
	SWD (5)	56%	42%	41%	5%	10%
	ELL (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Economically Disadvantaged	77%	72%	64%	18%	22%

2009-2010 data show 11% of students in BCSD have an Individual Education Plan, which indicates a significant mental disability or developmental delay. Southwest High School's graduation rate continues to be the lowest in the school district. Currently there are 23 students (5% of study body) who are 16 years old or older at Ballard-Hudson Middle School, and 43 ninth and tenth graders (7% of the 9th and 10th graders enrolled) who are 17 years or older at Southwest High School with only 6 credits. Several of these students have been retained twice which puts them in jeopardy of not graduating on time.

As already documented in this report, many of our children are struggling, especially during key transitions. Currently, only 71% of Kindergarteners are entering school prepared to succeed. Our older elementary students are consistently performing below the state average on the CRCT and are academically unprepared for middle school. Our 9th and 10th graders are disengaging from school in record numbers as seen in the sudden jump in number of absences from 8th and 9th grade and the high percentage of students dropping out of school between their 9th and 10th grade year.



College, Career, & Adult Education

Southwest High School had a 2011 graduation rate of only 38%. Of those students who graduated, only just over half were accepted into some type of post-secondary program. And

yet, students have indicated that college is important to them, with 81% of surveyed students indicating they were definitely interested in college or other post-secondary training.

According to the Student Survey results for Southwest High School, 51% reported talking almost daily with their parent/family about college, and another 39% at least once a week. Of those surveyed, 81% want to go to college, 4% do not, and 15% are unsure. In reference to obstacles standing in the way of college attendance, 15% claimed it was low grades, 16% did not know the requirements, 18% lack sufficient funds, 4% are uninterested, 7% need help with the paperwork, 6% have family responsibilities, 5% lack understanding, and 24% claim other reasons.

In 2011 there were 994 students enrolled at Southwest High School. Only 16 SWHS students were served in the Upward Bound program in that same year. In the 2012 admissions cycle, 39 Bibb County Public School students were accepted to Mercer University. Only 10 have decided to pursue enrollment. 8 Southwest High School students applied to Mercer; none were accepted. Based on our survey of 261 SWHS students, the top 3 identified obstacles to college were: knowing the requirements to apply to college, high school grades, and not having enough money.

Among the adults over 25 years old in the neighborhood, 38.6% have less than a high school diploma or GED diploma, and 36% have a secondary credential with no education beyond that.



Connectivity

29.3% of elementary/middle school students surveyed do not have home internet access or did not know if they had access. 13.8% of high school students do not have access or did not know if they had access. Another 14.7% of elementary/middle school students only have access through a smart phone and 13.8% of high school students only have access through a smart phone. Additionally, better technology was one of the most commonly addressed topics during our focus groups across all ages, from students to parents to teachers and school staff.

16.8% of high school students surveyed do not have a computer or did not know if they had a computer at home. 24.9% of elementary/middle school students do not have a computer or did not know if they had a computer at home.

The MPN Community Survey found that 17.5% have internet at home, 27.7% have access to internet on a smart phone, 12.3% have a computer but no internet, and an overwhelming 49.7% reported having none of the above. The survey also indicates that 30.8% rely on internet at the library, 37% at a friend/family's home; 8.9% at school, 5.8% at a community center, 5.1% at an employment agency, 3.4% at work, and 2.7% claim other miscellaneous sources.

Additionally, better technology was one of the most commonly addressed topics during our focus groups across all ages, from students to parents to teachers and school staff.



Family & Community

Families exist in and are affected by neighborhoods and communities. When communities have strong social and cultural institutions; good role models for children; and the resources to provide safety, good schools and quality support services, families and their children are more likely to thrive.¹

64% of families in MPN live below the poverty line as compared to 26% in Bibb County and 16% nationally. However, residents are willing and able to become leaders in their community as evidenced by the results from a MHA survey of Tindall Heights in 2010 in which 54% of residents indicated that they were interested in participating in a neighborhood watch program.

MPN data clearly reflects a dropout crisis at Southwest High School. Only 38% of SWHS Seniors graduated from high school in 2012. More than half of those dropouts occurred between the 9th and 10th grades. In addition, many students are held back in the 9th grade. Students who are repeating or otherwise old for their class are at a higher risk for dropping out.

Of 612 respondents of the student survey in 4th-8th grade, 24% did not participate in any after school activities in the last year. Another 52.3% participated in an after school activity 5 times or less in the last year. Of the 261 respondents in 9th-12th grade, 28.4% did not participate in any after school activities in the last year. Another 51% participated in an after school activity 5 times or less in the last year.

The Bibb County School System opened the Welcome Center on February 10, 2012. An assessment of participation in parent workshops revealed that less than 2% of parents participate in parent workshops offered by the targeted schools.

Based on our community survey 60.6% must rely on some form of transportation other than a personal car, with 14.4% reportedly walking to work/school. It is clear that adequate transportation is a barrier to participation in activities, both for parents and students.

¹ Kidscount.org



Economic Well-Being

To help children grow into successful, productive adults, their parents need good jobs with good incomes, access to affordable housing and services and enough assets to build a better future. When parents are unemployed or their incomes are low, they may struggle to meet their children’s most basic needs for food, safe housing, medical care and quality child care. They may be unable to provide books, toys and activities that are developmentally enriching. Inadequate family income and economic uncertainty also increase parental stress, which, in turn, can cause depression and anxiety and increase the risk of substance abuse and domestic violence—all of which can compromise parenting. While the negative effects of poverty on children are troubling in their own right, they also increase the chances of poor outcomes for youth and young adults, such as teen pregnancy, not graduating from high school, poor health and lack of secure employment.²

Median annual household income is \$17,921. 64% of homes have an annual income that places them under the poverty level. 97% of students at Ingram-Pye, Hartley, and Ballard Hudson qualify for free lunch. Free and reduced lunch students make up 99% of students. 21% of properties in the neighborhood are vacant.



Health & Safety

Children’s health is the foundation of their overall development, and ensuring that they are born healthy is the first step toward increasing the life chances of disadvantaged children. Poverty, poor nutrition, lack of preventive health care, substance abuse, maternal depression and family violence put children’s health at risk. Poor health in childhood impacts other critical aspects of a child’s life, such as school readiness and attendance, and can have lasting consequences on their future health and well-being.³

11% of 2010 births in the neighborhood were to teen mothers. 36% of households in the neighborhood are headed by single females as compared to 19% in Bibb County. The North Central Health District (NCHD) has a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) rate of 789.2 per 100,000 from 2006-2010 which is higher than Georgia’s STD rate of 636.8 per 100,000. Bibb County has higher STD rates than both the State and District. In fact, it has the highest total STD, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis rates and it has the second highest Chlamydia rate in the NCHD. Females (1,523) have a much higher infection rates than males (830).

² Kidscount.org

³ Kidscount.org

55% of surveyed families with children ages 0-5 indicated that they do not have a medical home. Surveys of parents, teachers and staff at Ingram Pye cite numerous barriers to a regular source of medical care, including transportation (26% of homes in neighborhood have no car); difficulty for parents getting time off work; and lack of knowledge. The high percentages of low birth weight babies (14% Bibb Co.) and children living in poverty (64% MPN) serve as additional evidence of the need to bring health services on site in order to address these and other barriers to care, and help students be healthy and ready to learn.

Discipline data from the targeted schools reveal a 13% increase in in-school suspensions and 16% increase in out-of-school suspensions from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012 school years. There were a total of 1,132 duplicated discipline events that occurred, meaning that students received at least two office referrals for infractions. Additionally, student behavior and the safety of the neighborhood were the two most prominent themes in our focus groups across the board. In 2010, 100 Bibb County youth were committed to Department of Juvenile Justice. 99 of them were African American. 79 of them were male. Macon's violent crime rate is twice that of the state and the nation.

According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 75% of U.S. state prison inmates are high school dropouts. Pro-Literacy America claims that 20% of adults who have been in prison education programs are re-incarcerated while 49% who have not been in prison education programs are re-incarcerated. Of the males 16 to 19 years old in the neighborhood, 22% are not in school. Unemployment in the neighborhood is 13.3% compared to 8% nationally and 9.7% for the county.

Conclusions and Implications for Our Work

Just as these indicators exist in direct relationship to each other, so too do we, as residents of Bibb county. Therefore, we must share the responsibility for finding solutions to these issues. Aside from being "the right thing to do," engaging children and families in Macon Promise Neighborhood becomes an economic imperative, rather than merely a moral one. Our "at risk" indicators translate into direct and indirect costs for the city and county including those associated with juvenile and adult criminal activity, mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, loss of work, special education services, and increased use of public health care. These burdens exist now, and if not curbed, will continue for generations to come.

Summary of needs assessment with identified solutions

	Needs Assessment	Program Delivery
Ready to Succeed in School 896 children ages 0-5	55% of children in MPN ages 0-5 do not have a medical home. 71% of children ages 0-5 do not attend a formal daycare. 29% of Kindergarteners in the target neighborhood do not demonstrate age appropriate functioning across multiple domains. 19% of Kindergarteners in the target neighborhood are identified special needs.	Development of a Federally Qualified Health Center to be housed in one of the neighborhood schools. Increase reach of Head Start, Early Head Start, and Pre-K. Develop an Early Learning Network to provide training, resources (including digital solutions), and provider certification. Introduce Ferst Foundation childhood literacy initiative into the neighborhood. Planning for development of a demonstration early learning center to provide hands on learning opportunities for teachers in conjunction with a high quality early childhood program for neighborhood residents.
Proficient in Core Academic Subjects and Persist to Graduation 1,664 Children grades 4-12*	Attendance drops off sharply in 9 th grade from 25.5% of 8 th graders to 46% of 9 th graders with more than 10 absences. Student performance on state tests were low overall, but especially in math and especially at the elementary level. Based on overall CRCT performance, Ingram-Pye and Hartley are in the bottom 1% of elementary schools state wide. Bibb County has a 14% suspension rate, which is twice the state average. Nearly 8,000 suspensions were handed out in 2010-2011. 61% of elementary/middle school students and 86% of high school students lack internet access at home.	Coordinate with Bibb County Schools as they roll out the "Macon Miracle," their strategic plan for comprehensive reform including a focus on targeted solutions for special populations, professional development for teachers, drop-out prevention strategies, and enhanced out of school time and enrichment activities. Additional time in Math Lab will be made available to 3 rd -5 th graders with lowest math performance. Attendance, behavior, and course performance have been found to be early warning indicators of children at risk for dropping out. In response to the identified need, CIS will be implementing its proven dropout prevention strategy in the target schools. Newly signed Student Offense Protocol will assist in getting earlier behavior interventions to students. Low-cost broadband solutions will be provided in the MPN zone.
Ready to Succeed in Post-secondary and Career 931 children grades 9-12*	38% graduation rate at Southwest High School in 2011. 57% of graduating seniors are accepted into post-secondary programs, which means roughly only about one in five entering high school freshmen continue on to post-secondary. 19% of males ages 16-19 are not in school or employed compared to 7% of females ages 16-19 who are not in school or employed. According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 75% of U.S. state prison inmates are high school dropouts. Unemployment in the neighborhood is 13.33% compared to 8% nationally and 9.7% for the county.	Expand TRIO programs, especially Upward Bound, for SWHS students. Expand career awareness, internship and employment opportunities for middle school, high school, and drop out students in collaboration with Bibb County Office of Workforce Development, Central Georgia Technical College, and Bibb County GEAR UP program. Increase joint enrollment of SWHS students at CGTC. Provide specialized programming for males such as 100 Black Men's 'Rites of Passage' and Boys & Girls Clubs' 'Passport to Manhood' and focus program recruitment efforts on young men.
Families are Healthy and Empowered to Succeed 697 Families with children under 18	61% of children report that they get less than 60 minutes of activity daily. 79% report that they eat less than 5 fruits and vegetables a day. 56% of students report that they do not feel safe in school and 41% report they do not feel safe going to and from school. 43% of parents report reading to their child fewer than 3 times a week. 7% of parents report never encouraging their children to read. 22% of parents report never talking to their children about the importance of college or career. 91% of parents are not currently pursuing their own educational goals. 29% of 2010 births in the neighborhood were to teen mothers. 82% of households in the neighborhood are headed by single females as compared to 39% in Bibb County. A good number of these women are grandmothers caring for grandchildren (25% of families are headed by a grandparent).	Development of the neighborhood as a Shalom Zone. Increased parent outreach through the school system's Welcome Center. Expand Community Partnership's Family Academy program. Increase the number of CGTC Career Connection Centers in the neighborhood. Provide additional social workers, case managers, site coordinators, and neighborhood advocates who can assist families in accessing resources. Focus on neighborhood revitalization through community gardens, neighborhood watch groups, stricter code enforcement, and increased access to counseling, mental health, and addiction treatment services. Introduce First Steps program using 'Parents as Teachers' curriculum for new parents.

Early Foundations:

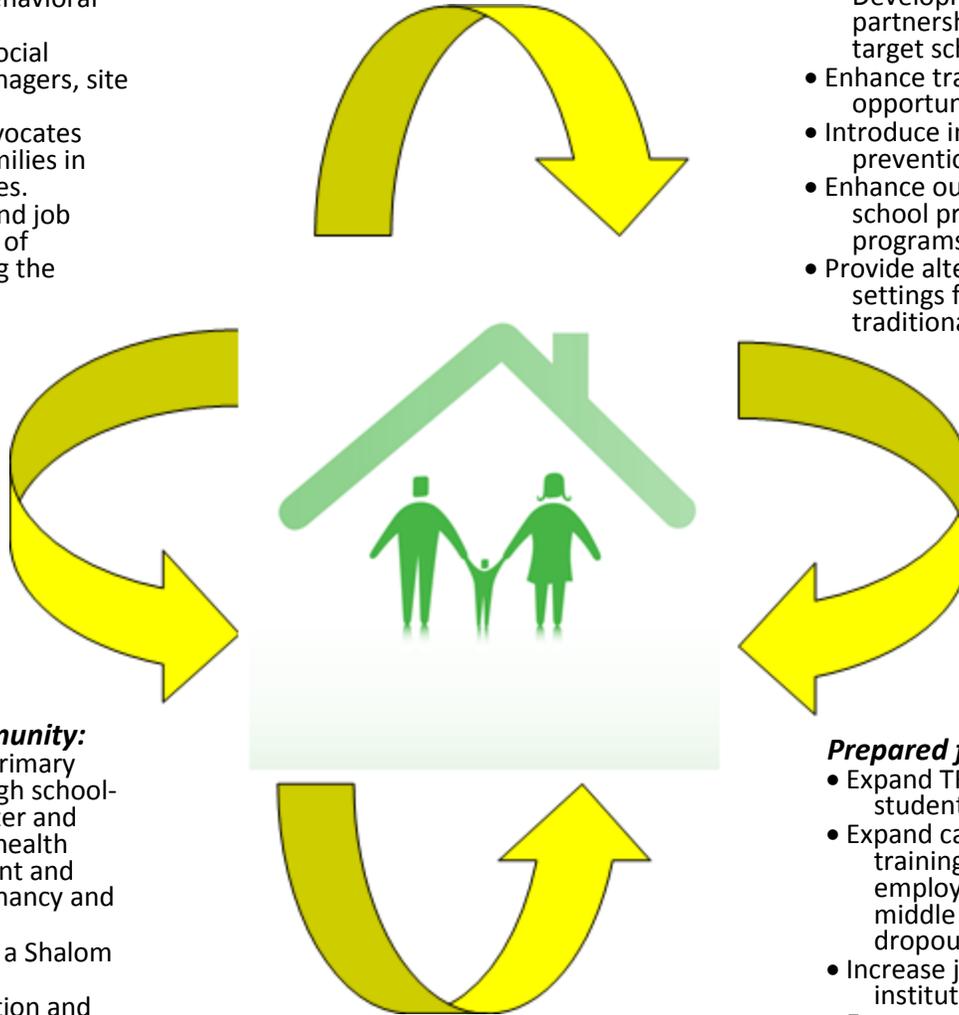
- Expand Access to Quality Early Learning Programs
- Network childcare providers for awareness, training, and resources
- Train and Certify Childcare providers
- Provide early learning resource materials to childcare providers, including digital solutions
- Introduce Childhood Literacy Program

Empowering Families:

- Provide discounted broadband connection and computers to low-income families. Provide computer literacy training.
- Expand access to family counseling and behavioral therapy.
- Provide additional social workers, case managers, site coordinators, and neighborhood advocates who can assist families in accessing resources.
- Provide education and job training for heads of households exiting the justice system.

K-12 Academic Support:

- Continue comprehensive school reform at target schools
- Enhance differential instruction and cultural support for special focus populations
- Establish Professional Development School partnerships between MU and target schools
- Enhance transitional services and opportunities
- Introduce intensive drop-out prevention strategies
- Enhance out-of-school time: after-school programs, summer programs, mentoring
- Provide alternative learning settings for youth struggling in a traditional classroom



Building Community:

- Increase access to primary health care through school-based health center and introduce sexual health program to prevent and reduce teen pregnancy and STDs/HIV.
- Develop the area as a Shalom Zone
- Improve transportation and access to neighborhood services and amenities
- Focus on neighborhood revitalization through neighborhood watch groups, stricter code enforcement, and leadership development for residents.

Prepared for College and Career:

- Expand TRIO programs for SWHS students
- Expand career awareness, training, internship, and employment programs for middle school, high school, and dropout students
- Increase joint enrollment with institutions of high education
- Engage college students with K-12 students in service and volunteer settings

Transitional Supports:

- Pre-K to Kindergarten
- Elementary to Middle School
- Middle School to High School
- High School to College/Career
- Becoming Parents