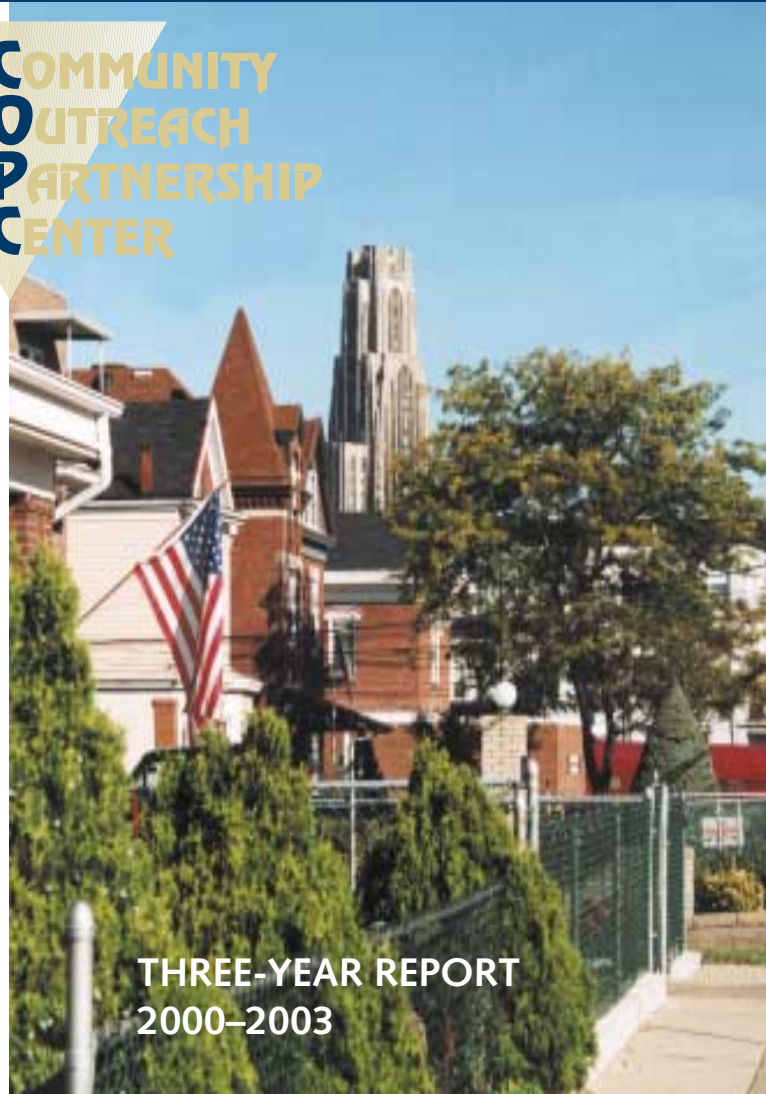


UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
PARTNERSHIP
CENTER



**THREE-YEAR REPORT
2000-2003**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Chancellor Mark Nordenberg	1
Message from Provost Jim Maher	1
History and Background	3
Building Partnership and Collaboration	4
Community Development and Capacity Building	5
Service Learning and Student Development	6
Faculty and Student Scholarship	7
Neighborhood Impact	8
COPC Program Impact	
Housing	10
Neighborhood Revitalization	11
Economic Development	12
Job Training	12
Education	13
Health and Wellness	14
COPC Planning and Management	15
Toward the Future	16
Acknowledgments and Appendices	17

MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR MARK NORDENBERG

The University of Pittsburgh has a long history of service to the region. Our commitment is embedded in our mission, which directs the institution “to make available to local communities and public agencies the expertise of the University in ways that are consistent with the primary teaching and research functions and to contribute to social, intellectual and economic development in the Commonwealth, the nation and the world.”

In 2000, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided us with an opportunity to take some of our local initiatives in a new direction that would allow us to extend our services to the community. Through a grant provided by HUD, the University created the University of Pittsburgh Community Outreach Partnership Center—COPC.

For the past three years, COPC has provided the link for the University and surrounding communities to work together in new ways. The projects that operate under the COPC umbrella all started with the community organizations assessing needs and then working with the University to identify the faculty, staff, and students that might address them. COPC has demonstrated that this type of partnering results in both progress for communities and rich learning experiences for the students.

It is with pleasure and pride that I congratulate the University and Community Partners on the many successful accomplishments of their three-year grant.


Mark A. Nordenberg
Chancellor

MESSAGE FROM PROVOST JAMES MAHER

At the University of Pittsburgh, we recognize our responsibility to prepare students who can serve as contributing citizens in an increasingly diverse world. Our students need to understand the socio-economic issues that people in this region face and interact with people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. Effective service learning can help students gain the exposure, insights, and experience required of our strongest citizens. Our faculty and students are actively committed to improving the communities in which we live through their efforts and expertise—and to learn from these experiences.

COPC has been an extremely effective venue for providing students with experiences that enhance their skills and with opportunities for reflection on those experiences. Whether the projects involve

urban planning, workforce development, education, or management consulting for entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations, COPC has offered students excellent learning opportunities. The positive impact on the communities is truly complemented by this emphasis on student learning. The benefit to both the students and the communities is at the heart of COPC.

As the third year of COPC—and the HUD grant—comes to a close, I extend my congratulations on a job well done.


James V. Maher
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP CENTER

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The University of Pittsburgh received a three-year, \$400,000 Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the fall of 2000. Chancellor Mark Nordenberg provided \$100,000 in funding, and University and community partners contributed in-kind support. HUD's Office of University Partnerships (www.oup.org) administers the COPC grants and other University-community programs. Since 1994, over 125 colleges and universities have received these very competitive COPC grants. COPC grants provide a catalyst to mobilize university resources to address community-identified needs. The University received this grant to apply its knowledge and resources to issues in its surrounding communities and to demonstrate its capacity to continue this work.

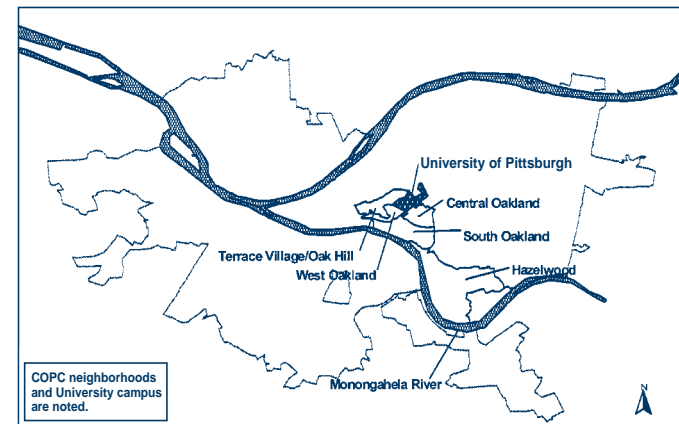
The University of Pittsburgh COPC provides a campus forum for promoting and increasing community outreach as a means for better connecting the University's teaching and research with its service mission. This COPC synergy has drawn the University closer to realizing "the City is our Campus."

The COPC links University schools and units with community partners in Hazelwood, Central Oakland, South Oakland, West Oakland, and Oak Hill (formerly Allequippa Terrace

Public Housing Community) to address issues of housing, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, job training, education, and health/wellness. (See Appendix for listing of University and Community Partners.) This community outreach and civic engagement initiative has helped to:

- **Build partnerships and collaboration** within the University and with our surrounding communities;
- **Support development and capacity building** in neighborhoods, community organizations, and grassroots leadership;
- **Promote service learning and student development** both on and off campus;
- **Enhance faculty and student scholarship** through applied research, dissemination of knowledge, and forums for dialogue and exchange.

The following report details the impact of the University's COPC in these four areas and summarizes the outcomes in our partner neighborhoods and across our major program areas. Additional background information and documentation are available on the University COPC's Web site at www.pitt.edu/~copc.



BUILDING PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

The COPC has helped to establish collaborations of community outreach among diverse disciplines in the university, including: Public and International Affairs, Social Work, Medicine and the Health Professions, Business, Education, Law, Public Health, General Studies, Urban Studies, and others in the College of Arts and Sciences. This internal partnership has also engaged the resources of other important University units (see appendix) and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. In addition, this effort to build partnerships and coordinate efforts has enjoyed the active support and encouragement of the Offices of the Chancellor and the Provost.

Partnership and collaboration have been demonstrated in such efforts as:

- Regular COPC coordinating forums—partners have met monthly (2000–2003).
- COPC supported the 2001 Senate Plenary “Service in the University Mission: The University in Civic

Engagement” and has disseminated the report locally and nationally.

- COPC helped HUD’s Office of University Partnership plan and co-host a National COPC Conference in Pittsburgh in April 2002. We showcased our COPC to the largest audience of university and community partners in HUD COPC grant history.
- Revitalizing the Community Relations Committee of the University Senate.
- Developing a community outreach survey and database for the University (2003).

In the community, COPC has established new partnerships and enhanced existing ones among University units, neighboring community organizations, and community-wide interests. These partnerships demonstrate a long-term commitment to working together. They have developed new funding and attracted other community interests to efforts that build upon our partnerships. Our COPC includes:

PROGRAM AREA	TARGET COMMUNITIES	UNIVERSITY UNITS
Housing	Oakland, Hazelwood	GSPIA, Social Work, Law, Housing Resource Center
Neighborhood Revitalization	Hazelwood, Oak Hill, Oakland	GSPIA, Social Work, Urban Studies
Economic Development	Oakland, Oak Hill, Hazelwood	Business School
Job Training	Oakland, Oak Hill, Hazelwood	Social Work
Education	West Oakland, Oak Hill	Education
Health and Wellness	Oakland, Hazelwood	Medicine, Health Professions, Public Health, Bridging the Gaps



University-Community partners from Pittsburgh and the United Kingdom visit the Hill to discuss health disparity.



University-Community partners meet in Hazelwood to study development plans during 2002 COPC International Conference hosted in Pittsburgh.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Our COPC provides information and tools to community organizations to help in their planning and revitalization efforts. These activities create a longer-term investment in the capacity of our community partners to address better their issues and concerns.

COPC partnerships include the following community development and capacity-building efforts:

- Urban Studies faculty and students worked with the Oak Hill Residents’ Council to stabilize and improve the community food pantry and its organizational leadership.
- The Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business trained a corps of Oak Hill residents as self-employed, neighborhood entrepreneurs.
- Faculty and students from the School of Education worked with Breachmenders Ministries Inc. to enhance its youth mentoring program and increase funding for these activities.

- The Computer Learning Center under the University’s College of General Studies provided publishing software training to Hazelwood Initiative board members to help them publish their monthly newspaper, *The Hazelwood Homepage*, that is distributed to 2,700 households.

- Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) students updated a housing inventory for Oakland Planning and Development Corporation and created a housing inventory for the Hazelwood Initiative. This provided these organizations with accurate databases and GIS support to plan better housing development and revitalization strategies for the years ahead.

- GSPIA, the School of Social Work, and the School of Law joined with Oakland Community Council, Oakland Planning and Development Corp., HUD Fair Housing Partnership, and Community Human Services to work on local code enforcement and other landlord-tenant issues through our Working Group on Housing.

- The School of Social Work also collaborated with United Way to leverage foundation funding for grassroots leadership training.



Oak Hill Resident Council leaders and volunteers worked with Urban Studies faculty and students in revitalizing the Oak Hill food pantry.

SERVICE LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

COPC aims to enrich the student learning experience through applied community research and opportunities for outreach service. The University COPC has been successful in enhancing service learning and student development. All University partners have engaged students in internships, and some have provided classroom links to community experiences. Students have gained new skills and insights by "making the City their Campus."

During its first three years, the University COPC has:

- Provided internship opportunities for nearly 50 students in many academic disciplines and professional schools: GSPIA, Social Work, Education, Business, Law, Medicine, Health Professions, Public Health, Pharmacy, Nursing, Urban Studies, Journalism, and Public Service.
- Incorporated service learning through applied research undertaken in four GSPIA courses and one Social Work course that examined COPC neighborhoods (Oakland and Hazelwood) and produced five professional reports for community partners.
- Provided tutoring experience to dozens of students from education and other academic disciplines through collaboration between Project Tutor (School of Education) and Student Volunteer Outreach that targeted after-school and pre-school settings in Oakland, Oak Hill, and West Oakland.
- Helped three students secure post-graduation employment through COPC community partners, including one who has recently advanced to a position in Washington, D.C., connected with a community partner (Housing Opportunities Unlimited).



Students in Bridging the Gaps summer health internship program present their work at a formal poster session on campus.



Graduate School of Public and International Affairs classes prepared reports on the Oakland Square area and the Hazelwood community.



Todd Ridley, a CGS/GSPIA undergraduate student, works with the Hazelwood Initiative.

FACULTY AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Through community outreach and civic engagement, faculty and students contributed to advancing knowledge to benefit both the academic and broader community. The University COPC has provided an active forum for faculty and students to work and learn together with community partners. Through applied research, faculty have enhanced the teaching and learning experience, and they have generated scholarship that has relevance to many fields and disciplines, as well as immediate use to the community. The COPC has helped reinvigorate a campus-wide dialogue on "service in the University's mission" and "the University in civic engagement" and how these inform our scholarship. This dialogue has involved the University Senate, Faculty Assembly, and Senate Community Relations Committee. Faculty and students involved in the COPC have disseminated their research and knowledge on campus, in the local community, and in professional and higher education communities. These efforts include:

- Faculty, students, and community partners have submitted 30 proposals for projects, programs, and research directly related to or stemming from COPC. Funding obtained has reached over \$1 million, mostly for community partners.
- Faculty presented papers related to COPC work at six national conferences. COPC University Partners were also panelists at eight other conferences, and faculty, staff, and students attended 16 national and regional conferences related to COPC work and research, as well as five local events.
- COPC helped HUD's Office of University Partnership plan and co-host a National COPC in Pittsburgh in April 2002. We showcased our COPC to the largest audience of university and community partners in HUD COPC grant history.
- Ken Thompson, MD, in the School of Medicine, along with COPC colleagues in public health and the University Center for International Studies, organized and conducted a symposium for colleagues from the United States and the United Kingdom on "University-Community Partnerships Addressing Health Disparities" (April 2003). Conference proceedings from this symposium have been published online.
- COPC supported the 2001 Senate Plenary "Service in the University Mission: The University in Civic Engagement" and has disseminated the report locally and nationally.

- One GSPIA doctoral student organized and led a special seminar on grants-making for community partners (2001).
- One GSPIA doctoral student received a HUD Early Doctoral Student Research Grant (2002–2003).
- To date, COPC work has produced five professional reports—including one on the Oak Hill HOPE VI program—six student class reports, and three other publications (brochures and newsletters), as well as one class video and a COPC slide show.
- Two faculty members are publishing a book chapter based on the University-Oakland connection.
- A faculty member is co-editing a national journal special issue on university-community partnerships (2004) and for which the publisher is considering book options.
- A COPC Web site was developed and used to disseminate reports and publications related to COPC work.



COPC Web site: www.pitt.edu/~copc

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT

COPC has provided support to its community partners to build their organizational capacity and revitalize their neighborhoods.

Working with the Hazelwood Initiative in **Hazelwood**, COPC has:

- Helped to support and stabilize the Hazelwood Initiative's (HI) efforts to publish a monthly community newspaper, the *Hazelwood Homepage*, through software training and intern support in community organizing and journalism.
- Provided capacity-building support to the Hazelwood Initiative to grow organizationally through membership, staff, and funding development.
- Established a state-recognized community health partnership, HI-HOPE, and helped develop and fund a community health outreach center in the neighborhood.
- Provided Hazelwood with housing and community development studies to aid their neighborhood revitalization and housing agenda.

In **Oakland**, working with Oakland Planning and Development, Oakland Community Council, Peoples Oakland, and Community Human Services Corporation, COPC:

- Rebuilt a housing database for the community to track properties and property conditions.
- Established a state-recognized community health partnership, Health Oakland People (HOP).
- Initiated a Working Group on Housing that brought community and University partners together to address landlord-tenant issues, monitor and revise building code and zoning processes, and engage students and long-time residents in community clean-up activities.



Hazelwood Initiative Board Member Lisa Kunst Vavro hands out 5K race awards.

- Opened a storefront Community Housing Resource Center to provide information on housing and community services and to promote homeownership to residents and potential residents.
- Supported focus group research and conducted street studies that underscored issues of absentee landlords, lack of youth recreation, and health and safety concerns of the neighborhoods.



COPC storefront community resource office at Atwood Street in Oakland was opened with support from Community Partners, Oakland Planning and Development Corporation, and the Oakland Community Council.



Leadership of Breachmenders Ministries Inc. Left to Right: Dorothy Flowers, Scarlett Morgan, Karla Stallworth, and Ann Solic. The partnership between COPC and Breachmenders Ministries in West Oakland has resulted in several important youth programming initiatives.

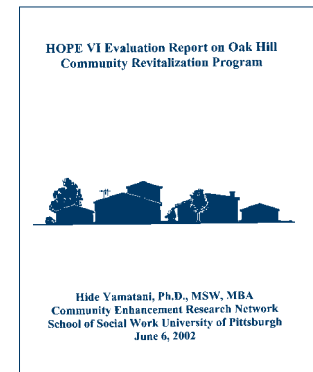
In **Oak Hill**, where the former Allequippa Terrace Public Housing Community was redeveloped as a new HOPE VI mixed-income community, COPC:

- Established a base for undergraduate student involvement with Oak Hill residents and their Residents' Council.
- Provided student support and organizational capacity building to enable the Oak Hill Residents' Council to better operate a food pantry for the neighborhood.
- Provided student volunteers for assisting elderly shut-ins and tutoring children within the neighborhood.
- Conducted an evaluative study of the HOPE VI conversion of this community, using participatory research approaches that involved residents and Resident Council leaders and helped to provide residents with skills in community assessment.

Through these efforts COPC has built a strong foundation to continue its work with these surrounding communities and demonstrated its ability to extend this work to other neighborhoods.

Through a partnership with Breachmenders Ministries Inc. in **West Oakland**, COPC:

- Reinvigorated a youth mentoring and career development initiative that expanded the ages of youth involved and engage parents and local educators in the effort.
- Helped secure over \$450,000 in funding for Breachmenders to sustain and build these youth initiatives.
- Trained and developed staff capacity to operate expanded youth programming.
- Provided an ongoing cohort of college student tutors to work with elementary students during the school year.



Oak Hill residents worked closely with School of Social Work faculty in assessing the HOPE VI revitalization of their community.

COPC PROGRAM IMPACT

The University addressed a range of community-identified issues. By combining applied research and outreach activities, the COPC has had the following outcomes.

HOUSING

Inadequate and poor housing conditions in Oakland, especially in the Central Oakland student core, have long been a concern of both the University and Oakland community groups. In Hazelwood, where the city's last steel mill recently closed, the economic decline is reflected in declining quality of the neighborhood housing stock. Addressing homeownership and rental housing needs as well as related landlord-tenant, code enforcement, and zoning issues are long-term strategies in both Oakland and Hazelwood. Working with key community partners (Oakland Planning and Development, Oakland Community Council, Community Human Services, and Peoples Oakland in Oakland and Hazelwood Initiative in Hazelwood), COPC University partners (Graduate School of Public Health, the School of Social Work, Urban Studies Program, Community and Governmental Relations, and the Housing Resource Office in Property Management) realized the following outcomes:

- Housing inventories were conducted in both Oakland and Hazelwood, and databases with useful Geographical Information System (GIS) support were developed for both Oakland and Hazelwood community partners to use in ongoing planning and revitalization activities.
- Both communities are now equipped with new computers to operate these databases and to use online housing resource services to assist residents and potential residents with homeownership and rental housing.
- A Community Housing Resource Center was established in a storefront below OPDC and OCC offices in Oakland to provide housing, homeownership, and community service information, both printed and online, to residents and potential residents.
- Three street studies were conducted in Central Oakland of Meyran Street, Pier Street, and Oakland Square. These studies are available on the COPC Web site along with the student-produced Pier Street video.
- A Working Group on Housing was established among University and community partners



National and regional officials from HUD, Fannie Mae, and the Federal Home Loan Fund pose with congressional and university representatives to recognize recent homeowners honored at the Homeownership Express event on campus.

that has helped community partners address a number of issues, including:



GSPIA students completed a study of Meyran Avenue in Oakland for a Neighborhood Development course.

- Zoning revisions for Oakland to differentiate commercial from residential and multi-unit from single-family units, to reduce and control further student density.
- Revisions to and monitoring of housing code enforcement processes in the neighborhood to provide for a system that is now working more effectively to protect residents from substandard housing.
- Successful legal actions against absentee slum landlords that have brought together students and long-time residents to clean up and correct deficient properties and prevent zoning and code violations.
- Seven students have now completed HUD-sponsored homeownership training and have been involved in conducting community homebuyer/homeownership workshops.
- Five GSPIA and one Urban Studies student worked as student employees/paid interns in housing activities.
- Two former COPC graduate students are now employed with community partners.
- COPC sponsored the HUD Homeownership Express on campus to help bring this national touring bus to Pittsburgh and provide homeownership information and resources to Pittsburgh residents.



Youth from Project Blueprint of YouthWorks participate in Catalyst for Community Builders youth leadership training academy.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Activities included in this program are those that build community capacity for organizations and their leaders, provide applied research for planning and evaluation, assist in developing strategies to address community development, and help in organizing activities and mobilizing residents to address community-identified issues. Primary academic support for neighborhood revitalization has come from the School of Social Work, Urban Studies Program, GSPIA, and the School of Education, as well as involvement from the University's Community and Governmental Relations Office. Key community partners in neighborhood revitalization have included Oakland Planning and Development, Oakland Community Council, Hazelwood Initiative, Breachmenders Ministries Inc., and Community Human Services. Activity highlights of this program include:

- Community development and planning studies conducted by students in GSPIA and social work courses for Oakland and Hazelwood. Reports were presented to community organizations, published and distributed, and made available on the COPC Web site.
- An economic baseline survey and a Main Street application were prepared with Hazelwood.
- Student interns assisted OPDC and OCC in conducting neighborhood focus groups of long-time residents, students, ethnic groups, international residents, youth, and faith-based groups and prepared the research report. Absentee landlord issues emerged as the top concern among all



A social work class studies Oakland's development planning for OPDC.

- groups, and youth recreation, health, and safety concerns were also priorities.
- An evaluation study of the HOPE VI conversion of the Allequippa Terrace Public Housing Community to the mixed-income community of Oak Hill was conducted by the School of Social Work. Oak Hill residents and Resident Council leadership were active participants in planning, conducting, analyzing, and preparing this study and the report that is available on the COPC Web site.
- The Oak Hill Residents Council, with Urban Studies Program student and faculty support, established a stable core of leaders to operate a regular food pantry for the community and developed funding that enhanced the quantity, variety, and quality of fresh and stored commodities in the pantry.
- COPC assisted the Hazelwood Initiative in maintaining and stabilizing its monthly community newspaper, the *Hazelwood Homepage*, by providing University-sponsored publishing software training to Hazelwood Initiative board members working on the paper, assigning community organizing students to help in business outreach and marketing, and providing a journalism intern to help staff the newspaper during its early publication. COPC interns continue to work with the *Hazelwood Homepage* and contribute articles for the newspaper. The *Hazelwood Homepage* is now distributed to 7,000 households in the Greater Hazelwood area.
- Faculty and students in the School of Education conducted a series of family workshops in West Oakland to help build parent participation in Breachmender Ministries' youth mentoring program.

- Grassroots leadership training was provided to teams of Oak Hill Resident Council and HI-HOPE leaders through the School of Social Work's *Catalyst for Community Builders Project*, a 20-week community organizing course for neighborhood workers and resident leaders.
- A GSPIA doctoral student organized and conducted a grant-writing training for eight community partners, and more than a dozen other community partners received COPC scholarships to ongoing grantsmanship workshops conducted through the School of Social Work.

COPC PROGRAM IMPACT, cont.



Oak Hill residents complete a neighborhood entrepreneurship training program.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, through its Small Business Development Center and Center for Entrepreneurship, recruited residents from the COPC communities who were interested in self-employment and willing to participate in an entrepreneurship academy. While recruiting and training residents for self-employment or establishing neighborhood businesses, the Katz School also consulted with Oakland and Hazelwood groups on business planning and encouraged undergraduate student internships in the COPC. Through this program's efforts:

- Three classes on neighborhood entrepreneurship were conducted. One of these classes targeted Oak Hill residents, and the others were mostly composed of COPC community residents.
- Eighteen neighborhood residents received training to develop business plans.
- Six residents developed formal plans; four of these residents have worked on developing their own neighborhood businesses.
- One undergraduate business student interned with Oakland Planning and Development Corporation and was hired directly from his internship into a position as a community loan officer for a regional bank active in homeownership financing in low/moderate income neighborhoods.



Children of UCCDP participants attend the annual family picnic.

12

JOB TRAINING

The University-Community Career Development Partnership (UCCDP) project within the School of Social Work was linked to and supported under COPC to provide welfare-to-work assistance to primarily African American female heads of households. Special recruitment was targeted to COPC community residents needing job training support in collaboration with Housing Opportunities Unlimited (HOU) in Oak Hill, Job-Links of OPDC

in Oakland and the Hill District, and in Hazelwood. UCCDP also receives funding through the Pittsburgh Partnership, the City of Pittsburgh's workforce development agency. During the first three years of COPC, the UCCDP project accomplished all of the following.

- It provided work experience and job readiness training to 65 women.
- Forty-five of these job-ready women moved from welfare to work in positions at the University or the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
- During this period, UCCDP maintained one of the highest wage and work retention rates in the Pittsburgh Partnership.
- UCCDP received the 2002 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award for its contributions to the overall University workforce. UCCDP also received the Goodwill Award in 2002 and was nominated for the Governor's Workforce Excellence organizational award. Two UCCDP participants received the Governor's Workforce Excellence individual award, one each in 2001 and 2003.
- UCCDP is now funded on an ongoing basis, independent of COPC.



UCCDP participants at work in the Office of Child Development.

EDUCATION

The School of Education partnered with Breachmenders Ministries Inc. and the communities of West Oakland and Oak Hill to address needed youth mentoring and career development and tutoring for elementary school children. Project Tutor linked the School of Education faculty and graduate students with Student Volunteer Outreach (Student Affairs) to provide training and matching of undergraduate student volunteer tutors with children in COPC communities. Faculty and graduate students from the School of Education also worked with Breachmenders in enhancing its youth mentoring and career development program for high school students in the neighborhood, training staff in program methods, and expanding this mentoring and career approach to middle, elementary, and pre-school children.



West Oakland youth work on team projects in Breachmenders Ministries' mentoring program.



West Oakland youth explored health careers at University hospitals.

In addition to program development, faculty and graduate assistants helped with funding development to stabilize and grow youth programming at Breachmenders. During COPC:

- Over 50 student volunteers tutored more than 80 children from West Oakland and Oak Hill during the school terms.
- Youth mentoring and career programming expanded to serve children and youth of all ages, and the number of youth participating in this neighborhood program increased from fewer than 20 to 53.
- Nearly 20 youth annually were placed in summer career mentoring opportunities within the University of Pittsburgh.
- All staff were trained in the enhanced curriculum developed by the School of Education for this program.
- A parent and community component was added to the mentoring program with new funding secured.
- Over \$450,000 in funding was developed for ongoing Breachmenders youth programs.
- A former COPC graduate student was hired as an educational consultant for a community partner's youth programs.

13

COPC PROGRAM IMPACT, cont.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

COPC neighborhoods reflect a range of individual and community health and wellness issues and needs. Health disparities are a concern, especially for minority residents, who live in the shadow of major health care and education institutions. COPC brought together the Schools of Medicine, Public Health, and the Health Professions to work closely with the then UPMC Health System's Department of Community Health Initiatives and community partners in Oakland and Hazelwood. COPC focused on assessing and prioritizing local health issues and needs. Then, residents and organizations in the neighborhoods were mobilized to respond to the identified health and wellness agendas. COPC also sought to have these communities recognized under the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) so that it might provide future funding support for community health efforts. COPC highlights included the following:

- Health inventories were conducted during the first year in both Oakland and Hazelwood, and these inventories engaged diverse sectors of the community in assessing neighborhood health needs.
- Community health partnerships were established in Oakland and Hazelwood, and both were state-recognized under the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP): *Healthy Oakland People (HOP)* and *Hazelwood Initiative—Health Opportunities Promoting Empowerment (HI-HOPE)*.
- UPMC assisted HI-HOPE in securing more than \$200,000 in PA Welfare Department funding to establish a community health outreach storefront and program in Hazelwood in 2001.
- HOP continues as an ongoing community health partnership to address health disparities in the neighborhood and publishes a regular community health newsletter.



Storefront community health outreach office established by HI-HOPE in Hazelwood.

- The Catalyst for Community Building project collaborated with the Center for Minority Health in the Graduate School of Public Health to train local and regional SHIP community health partnership teams in grassroots leadership and mobilization on minority health disparities in their neighborhoods.
- Through the University's Bridging the Gaps Project, 14 medical and health professional students—four to six for each of three summers—conducted summer health outreach and research projects in COPC neighborhoods in cooperation with community partners.



Community youth attend Bridging the Gaps health information program.

COPC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

In addition to grant oversight and management, the University is responsible for ensuring the institutionalization of the COPC effort after the three-year grant, disseminating the information and knowledge gained through the COPC



COPC partners from across the country visited Hazelwood during the COPC National Conference in Pittsburgh (2002).

experience, and supporting community engagement and civic engagement on campus, in the region, and as part of a larger national effort. COPC adopted a leadership team model for the combined faculty and administration experience in research, planning, and program management. The leadership team consisted of COPC co-principal investigators and co-directors—Sabina Deitrick of GSPIA for research oversight and Tracy Soska of the School Social Work for outreach and grants administration—and a COPC manager, John Wilds, who is the community relations director in the Office of Community and Governmental Relations. University administration guidance and liaison for the COPC were provided by B. Jean Ferketish, assistant chancellor and secretary of the board of trustees. Administrative and clerical support came from Tamara "Tami" Hirth in Community and Governmental Relations, and financial oversight was extended by Michael Peterson and George "Skip" Bradburn, financial managers in the School of Social Work and GSPIA, respectively. The following are planning and management key efforts and highlights.

- Established and maintain a COPC Web site at www.pitt.edu/~copc as a communication mechanism locally and nationally. This Web site is linked with HUD's Office of University Partnerships Web site at www.oup.org.

- Disseminated all COPC reports in print publication and on the COPC Web site, including six-month program reports on COPC progress and outcomes and financial reports.
- Conducted regular COPC partner meetings over the three years, with all partners meeting every other month to provide oversight and guidance. University partners generally met in intervening months to address administrative and program issues.
- Established biweekly management team meeting to support grant operations, outreach, and research activities, and to develop program and center funding.
 - Worked with the Senate Community Relations Committee in conducting the March 2001 Faculty Senate Plenary "Service in the University Mission: The University in Civic Engagement."
 - Worked with Duquesne University and HUD's Office of University Partnerships to co-host the 2002 HUD COPC National Conference in Pittsburgh.
- Conducted ongoing public relations and outreach through University and local media and with grantmakers, local and state public officials, and other community initiatives, e.g., County Data Warehouse project, PA Service Learning Alliance, among others.



COPC management team (l-r): John Wilds, Community and Governmental Relations; Sabina Deitrick, GSPIA; and Tracy Soska, School of Social Work.

In addition, COPC received the following recognition:

- COPC was featured in the Showcase of Knowledge alumni kick-off event to open the new Petersen Events Center on campus (2002).
- COPC participated in an alumni event in Harrisburg, the "University on the Road" showcase (2003).
- COPC co-hosted HUD's "Homeownership Express" national touring bus on campus for its visit to Pittsburgh (2003).
- COPC and COPC activities were featured in *Pitt Magazine*, the *Campaign Chronicle*, the *University Times*, and the *Pitt News*.

TOWARD THE FUTURE

The University COPC has been granted a no-cost extension to sustain program efforts in surrounding neighborhoods, to identify activities and neighborhoods for a potential HUD New Directions COPC grant, and to work with University leadership to institutionalize community outreach and civic engagement. The University mission recognizes the need to "make available to local communities and public agencies the expertise of the University in ways that are consistent with the primary teaching and research functions and contribute to social, intellectual, and economic development, in the commonwealth, the nation, and the world." COPC has demonstrated the University's capacity to connect its teaching and research with its public service efforts. Establishing an ongoing center for community outreach and civic engagement would provide an ongoing mechanism for addressing the University's public service mission.



Hazelwood Initiative leadership spruces up a community garden.

Program and funding development efforts are now underway toward establishing a center to continue and enhance the work of the COPC. This community outreach and civic engagement center would address these key goals:

- Provide a clear doorway for and into the community;
- Enhance scholarship of faculty and students working in community service;
- Support communities and University units seeking funding to develop projects; and
- Increase the visibility of the University's community impact.



Children and student interns learned from one another during summer Bridging the Gaps community health projects in South Oakland and Hazelwood.

Thanks to all our community and University partners for a successful 3 years. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND APPENDICES

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Office of the Chancellor
Office of the Provost
Community and Governmental Relations
Housing Resource Center—Property Management
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Graduate School of Public Health
School of Social Work
Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
School of Education
School of Law
School of Medicine
Bridging the Gaps—Health Sciences
Urban Studies—College of Arts and Sciences
School of General Studies
Institute of Politics
Student Volunteer Outreach
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
University Center for Social and Urban Research

PUBLICATIONS

Meyran Avenue Study (2000)
Hazelwood Making New Connections (2001)
University in Civic Engagement: Service in the University Mission (2001)
Hazelwood Housing Study (September 2001)
Hazelwood Housing Study Supplement (April 2002)
A photo essay of Hazelwood housing stock from past to present (2002)
Oakland Connections (2002)
Oakland Square Study (2003)
Pier Street Project (Report, Video, and Brochure 2002)
HOPE VI Evaluation (2003)
Oakland Housing Focus Groups Report (2003)
Housing and Law Report (2003)
Policy Analysis of Oakland Housing Complaints (2003)

Key Staff and Web site (includes directory of all partners)

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Hazelwood

Hazelwood Initiative
Office of the Mayor—Weed & Seed

Oak Hill

Oak Hill Residents Council
Housing Opportunities Unlimited
Beacon Cochran Jennison Partners

Oakland/South Oakland

Community Human Services Corporation
Oakland Community Council
Oakland Planning and Development Corporation
Peoples Oakland

West Oakland

Breachmenders Ministries Inc.

Community-Wide

Pittsburgh Fair Housing Partnership
United Way of Allegheny County
Fannie Mae Corporation—Pittsburgh Region
Department of Planning—City of Pittsburgh
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—Pittsburgh Region

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