

February 2024
Monthly Report

Executive Summary

“The opposite of poverty is not wealth, its community.” Stephan Bauman

February was a month filled with a lot of love through Community Engagement, Community Empowerment, and Community Awareness. USI has connected with families this month through various program opportunities that opened doors for residents to be empowered to work in the community, gain a sense of knowledge of what it means to be a part of the community, and establish relationships with community partners. The way that USI supports its families has evolved through multiple approaches. The most compelling approach is through compassion. Working together as a unit with the families and not working for them, not only holds families accountable, but it enables one to start up their own car. USI likes to take a passenger seat in the imaginary vehicle to allow families to “DRIVE” to their goals. Many families that are in Family Support Services understand the partnership between USI and their household. There are different ways in which families can look at the support we offer, but the support USI gives is ongoing. The ongoing support provides reassurance that no matter the challenges that one may be up against, we will be in their corner. USI builds relationships, in which most families know, if they ever choose to opt out, there is always a spot open to return. USI has equipped many individuals with the resources, the knowledge, and the key to be able to advocate for themselves and their families and neighbors, if need be.

USI currently has 393 Households and 749 individuals in Family Supportive Services. USI continues to exceed its goal of 80% engagement of eligible families. USI has continued to work with Property Management on and offsite, which includes LMHA, MBM, New Directions and CTE Associates. This work with Property Management is to ensure household stability and sense of community in their respective neighborhoods. There are families who have decided not to relocate. These families have expressed their love for their current neighborhood the schools that their children attend and some who were able to get a larger unit once they moved during relocation. USI has worked very closely with all families, while being transparent about the policies and procedures about the relocation process. There are policies set into place to make any and all transitions smoothly while moving. There is a lot of support needed during this time. There are households that needing guidance through the process. Some of the families have made a decision to move later in the relocation process. While there has not been a lot that has changed, but some of the information has to be reiterated and a reminder to residents what to be expected upon returning to Beecher Terrace or the offsite communities. USI remains up to date with the particulars to be able to communicate with the residents.

February was Heart Health month and Black History month. At the request of the residents, USI partnered with local Doctors to come on site to discuss the importance of Healthy Hearts and how to manage any heart diseases. There was a lot of work put into this month to be effective with resident engagement and to create spaces in which residents can contribute to important conversations, become leaders and most of all, congregate within the community. This report will highlight the moments spent

within the community and uplift the strategies on continuous engagement with Beecher Terrace residents. This month's events include:

Section 3 Recruitment: During this month, USI went on hard recruit for the employment of those who qualifies for a Section 3 job. On February 6th, 8th, 20th 21st and 27th USI was able to gather 69 Section 3 interest forms. USI has partnered with John G. Jones, contractor for Phase IV of Beecher Terrace and Dotted I Alliance to fulfill open positions on the new construction site. USI has been to the Louisville Free Public Library, The Palm Room, St. Johns Men's Shelter, and onsite Community room to do recruiting. Over the past 6 weeks, there have been scheduled recruitment tables to inform the community of the current openings. We have tabled events at Beecher Terrace for the residents to come in to inquire and apply for any job opening, assist with resumes, and to discuss job details along with identifying a good fit for possible candidates. USI has made efforts to work closely with the companies in search of employees and to communicate any information needed for any interested parties. Section 3 jobs are available to Beecher Terrace and Russell residents 1st, Public Housing 2nd and general public who's AMI didn't exceed \$50k in the past 5 years. Resident leaders come out to these events to help with recruitment and to present the jobs to individuals. USI has scheduled more tabling events for the upcoming weeks, this will be ongoing until jobs are filled.

Kentucky Humane Society: February 9, 2024. KHS and USI partnered in 2022 to bring free dog and cat services to the residents of Beecher Terrace. USI observed this need a while back, when a resident wanted a dog companion but was not able to afford vaccinations. KHS offers low-income neighbors affordable pet services which include, vaccines, flea and tick treatment, microchipping, spade, and neuter and even some surgeries, if needed. USI was able to secure KHS onsite who was awarded a grant for services to be free for our families. There were 51 pets that received services. Those services totaled \$3,398 and \$300 in vouchers to receive additional services. USI knows how important pets are in families. Pets become family and these services are needed for them to survive. Many of our families have pets as companions and they exemplify how much these animals have changed or the roles they play in their lives. USI recognizes the love shown for the pets and know what policies are in place to keep the pets in their homes. Those policies vary, in short, vaccinations are listed as policy. KHS has agreed to come back next year to continue to provide services.

Aetna Birthday Celebrations- February 9, 2024. There are not many times where your insurance company acknowledges your birthday other than a card. Aetna has agreed to come out Monthly to celebrate birthdays with refreshments and offer health education along with resources to benefit and educate residents. During this time, the representative educates residents on benefits with their plans as well as ensuring the plan they currently have, is a suitable plan for them. During this session there were 17 participants that were over the age of 55.

Oak Street Health Bingo- February 15, 2024. Oak Street Health brings monthly bingo to Beecher Terrace. Bingo has always been a huge success and staple at Beecher. Bingo comes highly requested, in which we have coined it as "Bingo with a Purpose." "Bingo with a Purpose" includes a good game of bingo, with a component of health education. Bingo is the social aspect, and the education part is the key! Informing residents about staying healthy, best practices on exercising, nutritious diets, and more are the focus

during these game sessions. Oak Street has monthly scheduled events to come to the property to inform residents about specific health care information as well meet with current and prospective members for Oak Street Health. There were 5 participants in this cohort.

Aetna “Muffins and Mingle” – February 19, 2024. D. Murphy visited Beecher Terrace to discuss the difference in Medicaid benefits. The benefits vary from each plan that a resident selects. USI has spent numerous occasions assisting residents with understanding their plans and seeking what’s best for them. USI connected with Murphy to come to BT to discuss health care plans and to answer questions regarding plans. She was able to speak with 7 residents during this session.

Monthly Resident Meeting- February 19, 2024. This month’s resident meeting focused on Heart Health and Safe ways to prevent Drug overdose. U of L Cardiologists, Dr’s, Shetty & Chowdury visited Beecher Terrace to present and open a conversation around Heart Health. Heart Disease is the leading cause in deaths amongst Americans in the US. This can be preventive if it is seen early, eating the right foods, being able to access the best health care and taking other preventive measures. These cardiologist spoke about several causes of heart diseases. We know in our community how Heart disease can affect our life span and how many African Americans suffer from the disease. The local health department also came to visit to inform families on the proper use of Nacain. .The numbers in overdose are increasing daily and it is very important to be equipped with not only the knowledge, but the tools to prevent such. Our community has suffered overdoses in so many ways and USI wanted to bring knowledge and awareness about saving a life in a short time. There were 50 + kits passed out to those who attended the meeting. This meeting held 35 individuals.

Beecher Book Club – February 21, 2024. “God, help the Child” By Toni Morrison was the read for February. This book discussion is lead by Louisville Free Public Library Staff. The Beecher Book club reads monthly and there is a new book for each month. The book is given out at the beginning of the month and the club discusses at the end of the month as collective. The recent meeting, there were 9 participants who read and shared their experiences with the book.

Family Support Services- Outreach and Engagement:

TOTAL HH IN GRANT AWARD: 767	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HH: 451
# AND % OF HH IN CASE MANAGEMENT: 393 AND 87%	# OF INDIVIDUALS IN CASE MANAGEMENT: 749

UPDATES ON OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT:

USI has continued its engagement strategies with home visits, phone calls, texts messages and mailed letters to engage and re-engage residents who actively participate in Case Management. We have been very successful in using these strategies as it has been effective with the increase in participation. Resident engagement is the glue to this work. It allows our team to build relationships through programming, consistent interaction, meaningful in person meetings, one on one home or office visits

and allowing residents to be resilient in spaces where there may have been feared. Our team is equipped with resources which is very vital when engaging with residents. Building relationships with residents is only part of the work we do, the other part is making connections with community partners to be able to talk to residents about what the community has in store for them. We have been strong in numbers when we target specific areas in their life where goals are set. Rather it be employment, earning a GED, getting children connected to programming, obtain better housing, etc, we work alongside to make sure the goal is met. A strategic plan is put into place to keep the individual on track and to stay engaged. The strategies we currently have in place for resident engagement are the following:

- 1.) Provide a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents.
- 2.) Canvass the community to share calendars, flyers and info regarding family support services.
- 3.) Utilize the ONE CALL system to increase targeted outreach to identified populations.
- 4.) Use of social media to engage and promote opportunities and successes of Beecher residents and supporting Choice Partners.
- 5.) Creating and sending a newsletter to our residents each month to highlight past and upcoming events within each pillar, provide contacts to partners and other resources.

Economic Mobility:

# and % of Able- Bodied Residents 210	2024 Target – 150 or 70% Current Employment Rate 122 or 57%
# and % of 18-24 y/o youth in Secondary Education and/or training- 19 eligible.	2024 Target- 19 or 100% 15 or 74 % are employed between the ages of 18-24.

2024 Employment Targets:

1. Increase employment numbers to 150, USI is continuing to push the importance of working a job.
2. Seek candidates that are qualified to work on the Phase IV redevelopment.
3. Assess and identify through survey, jobs that residents are seeking.
4. Focus on residents that have a large gap in employment.
5. Assist residents and make them aware of requirements for those who are awaiting SS Disability.

Usi is currently working diligently to support residents who are unemployed. Many individuals have expressed that they are seeking employment, but challenges still stand in their way. Transportation remains a concern and childcare. There is childcare in the Russell neighborhood, but there is a limited amount of space available for most of our kids in Family Support Services. USI has been in contact in with the Early Childhood program in the community, not only for the wait list on classrooms, but also for employment opportunities for mothers. We are partnering with OVEC to host a family night, to present OVEC and for a hiring fair. There are several opportunities at OVEC, they offer childcare, good paying jobs, tuition reimbursement, and more. There has been an interest in working in childcare as individuals have expressed during case management.

There job market is very broad currently. We are working collectively as a group to help residents seek deeper into the job market. Remote jobs are an option, as families discuss the challenges around transportation. USI has access through LMHA to get computers for those who are seeking to working

from home. Goodwill opportunity campus has agreed to work with our families and connect them with career coaches to get residents focused on what job best suits their needs.

In the upcoming months, USI will set out to develop plans and become intentional with working intimately with this population of individuals. We will start to meet with the individual bi-weekly to build out an "GET TO WORK" plan. This GTW will set a target date in which one should be employed by, what steps it takes to get there, where one would see themselves in 1 year, what can keep you on the job, etc. This plan will be completed by the participant and the FSS. If the participant has not successfully got hired in 90 days, we will discuss an alternative route.

USI is planning to host a "Youth Network". This will be a network of employers that hire individuals 15-24. In April, we will collaborate with Youth Build to set up a night out to bring jobs to Beecher Terrace and the Russell community. Summer Jobs are important so that there will be an early mindset of what it means to have generational wealth.

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES:

1. Target unemployed individuals aged 25-50, set them up to begin the Get to WORK Plan.
2. Plan Youth Network night for those who are 15-24 to secure jobs with YouthBuild and Metro Gov.
3. Create a survey to identify work preferences.
4. Host a resume writing workshop.
5. Build out Map of employment opportunities in 40203 zipcode.

EDUCATION: 2024 EDUCATIONAL UPDATES:

The importance of one having an education, is crucial. Education will take you places only you can imagine. Having an education is wealth! Knowledge is power. These are the phrases that we were taught and raised on growing up. These same phrases apply to this generation. It is very important that USI and our families work together to ensure all our children have a great education, and the best way to do that, is to be there. We have yet to receive data from JCPS. As we patiently wait, the items that were are closely looking at and relying on an honor system from parents is attendance and reading levels. You can't learn if you are not present in class and you can't go too far without being able to read. As we collect data from families we are intentional about asking how many days has their child missed and how many times a week they are reading. Relying solely on parents responses, can be a challenge. We are taking action to help them in areas where they express they are in need of support. We understand the power of a village and have created that space for our families to be comfortable with seeking the help they need.

Reading may not be easy at times, we have provided books during the breaks and will continue to do so in the future. USI provides books to all ages. We are hopeful that the children will read them or the parents will read to their children. Building up reading skills allows students to be more confidence in and out of the classroom, gives them the ability to comprehend better, advancement in school, enhances vocabulary, and encourages more conversations with peers.

The summer is slowly approaching, and we are eager to get children connected to summer programs. In the next month we will introduce summer program options to our families. We are working with Metro United Way to get more camps on the roster to secure spots across the county. We are hopeful to send and support 50 kids to summer camp this 2024-year season. Summer camp is where most kids develop friendships, learn while they're on break, swim, and be able to choose the activities they would like to partake in.

This month's strategies include:

1. Identify families that would like to participate in Summer Programming
2. Speak with parents to identify any concerns with their child's education.
3. Connect with JCPS to visit Beecher Terrace and discuss 2024/25 school plan.
4. Partner with "I would rather be reading" program to get children enrolled in JCPS backpack league.
5. Seek out youth who may want to participate in Leadership Council for BT.

Updates on Health and Wellness: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving health and wellness outcomes for residents this month)

Number and Percent of Residents who have Health Insurance:	749 and 100%
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Targets:

- Engage Residents in Activities that promote mental and physical health, ie: book club, exercise with Silver Sneakers at local YMCA.
- Residents that would like to participate in activities outside of Beecher Terrace, ie; Gilda's Club.
- Gather more individuals to participate in Beecher Terrace Walking Club.
- Senior Population -Bring more awareness to the 55+ about using the onsite gym.
- Kids that want to get FIT- connect kids with Kids First to participate in exercising and sports.

Beecher Terrace walking group is awaiting the change in weather to start putting those miles in and around the neighborhood. Walking is a good exercise for all. Walking around has many health benefits and we want to include everyone that is wanting to get out and get FIT. Last year USI celebrated its 3rd year with the walking group, and we are looking forward to another season. Resident leaders are taking this opportunity to get residents out and working on any health goals to support one another. This year, a resident has taken on the role to be able to support the group in any way. Walking is the most effective way to increase blood flow, safe way to exercise, easy to manage and promotes good health. USI looks at health as the primary focus when it comes to your well-being. To be stable, you must be mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially healthy at some capacity. Your health affects all parts of your body, with, we like to raise awareness when it comes to promoting good health. We serve a population in which chronic illness is generational. We make sure that families are connected to the care they need to

stay healthy. USI addresses the stress or psychological distress that are reported during assessments. We are partnered with agencies to help combat these issues if residents make us aware. USI has continued its monthly health chats to discuss any health issues that residents want to discuss. Health Chats are informal and it is way to capture any health concerns that we can assist or find resources to get residents connected too. This month's Health Chat is Heart Health, which is why USI collaborated with U of L health to come out and speak with residents.

This month's Health Strategies:

- Continue Monthly Health Chats
- Recruit more members for BT's walking group.
- Get kids connected with Kids Finish 1st.
- Introduce Chair Yoga to 55+
- Bring in YMCA to get Seniors signed up with Silver Sneakers