

# Community Assessment: A Step Toward Expansion

By John Stoeckle  
Summer Intern OCMC Member



OCCDA is at a pivotal point in its three-year-young history. Engaged in accomplishing Child and Youth Development (Phase 1 of OCCDA's Three Year Development Plan), we are poised to begin Family Enrichment and Support (Phase 2) and eventually Employment/Economic Development (Phase 3).

More staff and increased grant funding will be needed in the future to sustain these new phases. Current research on our target community is a vital component to obtain grants and fund more staff positions. Additionally, the community has undergone a rapid demographic change over the past ten to fifteen years, leaving published data, and our own most recent community assessment, outdated.

For these reasons, OCCDA decided to perform an

extensive community assessment. With the help of several short term summer work teams, just under one-hundred households were surveyed; a number of community leaders were interviewed; and a focus group was held with parents of the Summer Enrichment and Arts Program to reflect on the major outcomes of the survey.

Significant interest was shown for nearly all programming that OCCDA is considering. Respondents indicated the highest level of interest in Youth Programming, Health Education, Job Search Assistance, and Money Management.

With 68.8% of respondents indicating interest in Money Management, OCCDA decided to move forward with a partnership in this area. Winning Wealth Services will be conducting five financial seminars this fall for church and community members with monthly, in-home follow-up by a professional financial counselor. OCCDA will also be beginning GED classes for adults and young adults with the help of a volunteer instructor this fall as well.



## God Gives the Increase

By Bianca Prunes



This summer I had the pleasure of working in my own community directing a summer camp for kids both in the neighborhood and from the church. Every day I would arrive at the church nice and early, and I was almost always beaten by kids already there, eager to start the day. We received a grant from the Philadelphia Summer Reads Program. This grant enabled us to hire a teacher for our younger kids, so they could have daily instruction on subjects such as literature and science and civics. This left the older kids. We utilized MCC's Hello Magazines enabling us to learn about different countries, and get the kids thinking about different places and cultures, not just our own.

This year we were blessed with a larger amount of volunteers than ever before, and so we decided to increase our numbers. Our goal was about thirty-five to forty children, and the first day we had less than half of that. This was a challenge,

because we had done more publicizing and distributing than ever before. The dilemma was that starting this summer, summer school in Philadelphia is all day long and very strict. We feared our goal for more children was already being destroyed. However, by the second week we had the amount we wanted. My favorite part of any day is when we play games. We are all very competitive and so this is a great way to get everyone involved together, being silly and playing together. We play games, the kids challenge us, and we show them what happens when they cheat. I love to see their art, their creativity, and they love to show it to me.

Besides being a responsibility, this camp was, and is always, a great experience for me. It gives me a chance to practice being a leader, and also just be a kid for a while. I am very thankful for all these times.  
-Bianca is a freshman at Eastern Mennonite University.



*Love your enemies*

*And when they try to hurt you*

*God will save us and watch over us*

*I love God even when I have the flu*

*I love God even when I got my crew*

*I love angels too*

*I love juice*

*I love moose  
--Quentin, 8*

**OXFORD CIRCLE CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

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*To extend healing and hope in the Oxford Circle community, believing that God's purpose of reconciling all people to Jesus leads us to minister on spiritual, physical, social & economic levels.*



**NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

We have the following ministry and resource opportunity opportunities and welcome your participation!

**Human resources:**

- After School volunteers and instructors—Contact Anita Lyndaker-Studer @ occcda@verizon.net or (267) 265-1709
- Volunteers for our Annual Community Festival – Contact Karen Jantzi @ drkaren55@gmail.com
- Computer technician to assist in setting up computers and network.
- We are excited to have a new IVEP intern from MCC who will be joining us from Cambodia in August. We have the first 6 months covered but still need housing for the last 6 months.

**Financial/material resources:** Contact Anita Lyndaker-Studer @ occcda@verizon.net or (267) 265-1709

- Sponsors for children in after school and summer camp program. Cost for OCCDA is approximately \$25/week per student of which families provide \$5/week per student.
- Funding for our family support programs beginning this fall!
- Thanks to the generosity of the Broadcom Corporation, we have all the laptops and computers we need! We are asking for your donation of monitors and keyboards to go with the computers.
- Funding for Moveable Partitions for Sunday and After School Classrooms (total = \$21,000)
  - a. 2 moveable partition @ \$6600 each
  - b. 2 moveable partition @ \$4000 each
- Funding to begin to pay down our loan debt

**Board of Directors**

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- Leonard Dow, President
- Hong Tran, Vice President
- Karen Jantzi, Secretary
- Carlos Rodriguez, Treasurer

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- Janelle Junkin
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- Tiffany Shoup
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- Ken Rush
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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

**NOTES FROM THE  
BELOVED COMMUNITY**

SEPTEMBER 2010

**A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."*  
--2 Corinthians 4.7

I was reminded again that this is God's work. This summer we had an intern from our congregation who worked with volunteers to complete door-to-door surveys in the community. We anticipated it would be a way to guide our development of programs for adults for this fall (we received funding from MANY, Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth and Families for program development). But beyond that, it became a ministry opportunity in that almost 50% of respondents also shared prayer and ministry requests for follow up.

Someone asked me recently what our vision was for Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association. While I think we know what that is, to be a place of holistic ministry through youth programs, family support, community and economic development, I continue to be reminded that God's vision is way beyond ours.

This fall we look forward to our incoming MCC intern who will help create youth programs. We are also continuing our after school program and in-school conflict resolution program for elementary students. Please pray that we would find the needed funding for a part-time staff member to run these programs this fall. In response to the community survey, we are currently scheduling both Money Management and GED classes for adults to begin in October.



As we end a great summer where we saw new camp programming (thanks to funding from Philadelphia Reads) and new campers (thanks to our community survey volunteers),

We are also exploring ways to partner with Bridge of Hope (housing/mentoring for



homeless women and their children) and additional ways we can assist with housing needs in our community.

When I think about all of this and pray about the year to come, I confess to feeling overwhelmed at times. But then I am reminded about how far we have already come in such a short time. Paul used this beautiful and profound metaphor "for we have this treasure in clay jars." Yes we are fragile, ordinary people, but this is also proof of the truth of the gospel, that the treasure, the love of Christ is revealed in ordinary people. In simply spending time with kids, doing arts and crafts, singing, helping them with their school work, the "extraordinary power" of God is at work. Which reminds me that we are not here because of our efforts but because of the grace of God - and that it is by his power that the kingdom is at work within us. Please pray with us that he would continue to provide "as needed" and that we would continue to know his extraordinary presence here at Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association.

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**UPCOMING DATES**

- 9/11 - Oxford Circle Community Festival, 12:00-4:00pm. Come and join the fun!
- 9/18 - 2nd Space Arts – 2nd Exhibition Opening, 6-9 PM
- After School Program, October 2010: Monday-Thursdays 3-6 pm
- Financial Literacy for Financial Freedom, 10/19/10 - 11/16/10: Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm
- GED Classes, Beginning October 2010: Tuesday evenings – time to be decided
- Board Meeting, 4th Tuesday of each month: 7:00-9:00pm