

# **Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative Annual Report**

**July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011**



**Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative**

**Board of Directors / Junta  
Directiva /  
Junta Diretiva 2009 - 20011**

**Residents/Residentes**

Jolivia Barros  
Keila Barros  
Simoa Barros  
Paul Bothwell  
Phaedra Bruton  
Belinda Cardoso  
Evelyn Correa  
Diane Dujon  
Catherine Flannery  
Rosa Galvao  
Theresa Glynn  
Erika Guerra  
Carlos Henriquez  
Mayari Hernandez  
Alexandra Knowles  
Glenn Knowles  
Akeem Mooltrey  
Indira Pereira  
Richard Prophete  
Sam Tavares  
Lauren M. Thompson  
Ron Verna  
Kay Williams  
Fred Woodard

**Agencies/Agencias**

Children's Services of Roxbury  
Dorchester Bay EDC  
Madison Park Development Corp.  
Project HOPE  
Quincy Street Missional Church  
The City School  
The Food Project  
WAITT House  
YouthBuild Boston

**Religious Institutions/Institución  
Religiosa/**

**Organização Religiosa**  
Crosstown Church  
Saint Patrick's Church

**Businesses/Negócio**

Ideal Sub Shop  
Suffolk Construction

**DSNI Staff**

John Barros  
Jose Barros  
Ros Everdell  
Robert Haas  
May Louie  
Alicia Mooltrey  
Travis Watson  
Jason Webb

**Interns**

Belinda Cardoso  
Kyle Fagan  
Kelly Fontes  
Noemia Nunez  
Rachel Pszonak  
Joana Rosa  
Sharon Sabin

Dear Neighbors & Friends,

What an eventful year this has been! Last year, DSNI brought together an effort to apply to the US Department of Education for a Promise Neighborhoods Initiative planning grant. We were awarded that grant in the fall 2010 and have been convening an extensive community and collaborative listening, learning, and planning process as the Boston Promise Initiative (BPI). Our vision is that, through our joint efforts, we will realize a neighborhood in which all our children and young adults, from 0 to 24, have access to excellent education and the family and community supports they need to successfully launch in life. This effort builds on 27 years of innovative community revitalization and community building. This new phase is captured in the theme of this year's Annual Meeting, "*The Promise of an Urban Village: Where all Children are our Children.*"

The ongoing work of DSNI remains focused around our 3 strategic areas: (1) Youth Opportunities and Youth Development; (2) Community Empowerment; and (3) Sustainable and Economic Development. This past year has seen some very visible progress. Most of our neighborhood's formerly vacant lots are now filled with new housing or other improvements. The Dudley Community Greenhouse is now in full production, operated by The Food Project. Dudley Children Thrive is distributing "Talk, Read, Play" materials throughout the neighborhood. The Dudley Youth Council is unfolding important topics on the radio airwaves as well as making short films. CommunityScapes youth have been doing outreach and clean-up. GOTCHA Youth Jobs Collaborative has met, rallied, and marched to maintain funding for youth jobs. Our partnerships with local schools have improved supports for students "achieving, connecting, and thriving." The Salvation Army's new Kroc Community Center is open, built by creating construction opportunities for residents, women and construction workers of color.

Now, Boston Promise gives us the chance to link all these efforts for greater impact, so that families and children have good education, stable housing and jobs, healthy food and environment, supportive relationships, and much more. This neighborhood, as an urban village, will be a fertile environment for all.

*Gaining Ground*, a new documentary about DSNI and this community, will be released in the fall. It picks up the story from the award winning *Holding Ground*.

The fountains in the rebuilt Dennis Street Park are a symbol of DSNI's journey from trash to treasure. Please continue to contribute to this collective effort.

Thank You,  
Carlos Henriquez,  
President, Board of Directors

John F. Barros,  
Executive Director

**Organizational History**

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative is a nonprofit community-based planning and organizing entity birthed in 1984 out of the passion, ingenuity and determination of Dudley residents seeking to reclaim a neighborhood that had been ravaged by disinvestment, arson fires and dumping. DSNI's mission is ***to empower Dudley residents to organize, plan for, create and control a vibrant, diverse and high quality neighborhood in collaboration with community partners.***

When many had given up, DSNI dared to gather neighbors to create a comprehensive plan and a shared vision for a new, vibrant *urban village*. To fulfill the community mandate for *development without displacement*, DSNI gained eminent domain authority, purchased vacant land, and protected affordability and family stability through a community land trust. The once garbage-strewn vacant lots have been rebuilt with quality affordable houses, parks and playgrounds, gardens, community facilities, and new businesses.

Through our Board structure, residents lead an effort that includes all neighborhood stakeholders in a democratically-elected, community accountable process. Together, we have created greater civic participation, economic opportunity, community connections, and opportunities for youth. We have built community across our diversity –of language, race & ethnicity, age. We have invested in our young people and the youth in turn have invested in the community.

Today, the community is entering into a new phase, in which our efforts can come together for much greater impact. In the fall of 2010, the US Dept. of Education awarded DSNI a planning grant to plan a Promise Neighborhood, to work towards community strategies for children's academic and life success.



## **Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative Accomplishments and Highlights July 2010 – June 2011**

### ***Boston Promise Initiative (BPI)***

Our vision is that, through mobilizing and coordinating our best efforts, we will realize a neighborhood in which all our children and young adults, from 0 to 24, have access to excellent education and the family and community supports they need to achieve, connect, and thrive (ACT).

With a US Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods planning grant, we have been convening an extensive community and collaborative listening, learning, and planning process. Public agencies, non-profit and community-based organizations, community developers, advocacy groups, schools and educators have joined the community in this work, bringing their best thinking and commitment to the children.

We are taking a whole child, whole family, and whole community approach. Emerging themes include:

- the development of a 21<sup>st</sup> century multi-generational learning campus
- no child goes homeless
- no child goes hungry
- every student is connected with extended learning opportunities in and out of school
- young children and their families are connected to quality early learning and supports
- addressing environmental conditions leading to poor health
- 21<sup>st</sup> century technology tools
- Creating a supportive and connected community with gathering places and spaces
- Mutual accountability for our efforts

The concentrated effort here in the Dudley neighborhood will develop successful models, relationships, and lessons that can be used in other neighborhoods and in the City of Boston's entire Circle of Promise. We will share with others in this work, just as we did on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the UMass Boston convening, "*Lifting up Voices from the Field.*"

The BPI plan will be submitted to the US Department of Education within the next 2-3 months. DSNI and our partners are committed to implementing this plan regardless of whether or not we receive a federal implementation grant.

***Dudley Children Thrive (DCT)*** is connecting families and caretakers of young children with information and resources. Sign up for DCT! Pick up 1) Boston Children's Museum's Home Edition family activity book; 2) Talk, Read, Play's children's growth chart; 3) a calendar of summer family events. Join us for a trip to the Boston Children's Museum, Fri. evening, Aug. 19. Bring your children to one of the local StoryMobiles: SMILE Pre-School on Tuesdays at 10am, July 5 – Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>; Children's Services of Roxbury on Tuesdays at 11:15 AM July 5 - Aug 9; Project Hope Fridays 11:15am July 8 - Aug. 12; Orchard Gardens Community Center Fridays at 1:15 pm July 8 - Aug. 12. We will be assisting families with the Kindergarten registration process.

### ***Partnering with our local schools:***

Three schools in our neighborhood – Dearborn Middle School, Orchard Gardens K-8 School and the Burke High School - are working hard to turnaround their schools! DSNI is proud to be working with them to develop strong meaningful partnerships, extend learning time for students, develop resource plans and make this a learning community. The Haynes Early Education Center received an Innovation School designation to develop an Arts and Culture school. The Boston Teacher Residency Program also received an Innovation School designation to develop a new school which will open in the fall of 2012.

### ***Youth Opportunities & Development:***

***GOTCHA (Get Off The Corner Hanging Around) Youth Jobs Collaborative:*** During this school year over 50 teens were working through GOTCHA and helped to retain state and city funding for youth jobs. GOTCHA's Youth Jobs Fair in March drew over 300 youth. Preparation for the summer is underway with over 200 youth hired, thanks to the Boston Youth Fund, and working at over fifteen different organizations. To stay up to date on GOTCHA! [gotchayouthjobs.org](http://gotchayouthjobs.org).

The ***Dudley Youth Council (DYC)*** creates and hosts a monthly radio show on Radio Nha Terra 107.1 FM. Tune in on the second Tuesday of every month for a probing exploration of relevant topics that range from youth jobs to racial stereotyping. And, if you aren't able to tune in, listen online at [www.radionhaterra.com](http://www.radionhaterra.com). DYC created, developed, and filmed a five minute video entitled "Live It Up or Give It Up: A Story of a Dropout." You can view it on YouTube or at the Roxbury Film Festival. DYC also organizes college trips in the fall, workshops on college financial aid and much more.

### ***Sustainable and Economic Development:***

***The Dudley Workforce Initiative*** surpassed our subcontractor goal for minority and woman owned business enterprise (m/wbe) participation on the Kroc Center. Our goal was to have the total value of subcontract awards for the center be made up of 35% m/wbe. The total value was actually 55% m/wbe; 30% going to minority owned businesses with a total value of approximately \$8 million and 25% going to women owned businesses with a total value of approximately \$7 million! Our total workforce goals for the Kroc Center fell just short of our goals of 51% minority, 51% female and 15% female. The project ended with the total workforce being comprised of 44% minority, 45% resident and 8% female. We are now preparing a Best Practices Manual to guide future projects.

Legislation has recently been filed in the State Legislature to cap the fees that can be charged by check cashiers.

### ***A Greener Healthier Dudley:***

***Families Growing Food:*** DSNI worked closely with The Food Project to develop a shared vision for growing in the neighborhood and the operation of the ***Dudley Community Greenhouse***. The Greenhouse is now a vibrant urban grow center operated by The Food Project. They've made it possible for 27 local families to grow food in the greenhouse, along with the hundreds who are growing through The Food Project's Build-A-Garden program.

DSNI participated in a collaboration of non-profit agencies in Roxbury, Dorchester and Hyde Park to plan for green open spaces in the Fairmount Commuter Rail Corridor.

### ***Community Empowerment***

DSNI continues to mobilize neighbors to be informed about candidates and policies, and to increase the neighborhood's collective power through voting. In the fall of 2010, we joined with statewide efforts to defeat 2 ballot questions which would have hurt funding sources for important community priorities. In November, the President of DSNI's Board of Directors, Carlos Henriquez, was elected to the State Representative seat formally held by Marie St. Fleur. In March, the community elected Tito Jackson to fill the District 7 City Council seat formally held by Chuck Turner. While DSNI is non-partisan and does not support candidates or political parties, we work with RoxVote & Mass Vote to provide candidate information and candidate forums. City Council elections are this fall.

## Partners and Collaborators

Access Painting  
Action for Boston Community Development Inc. (ABCD)  
Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE)  
Artists for Humanity  
Associated Early Care and Education  
Berklee City Music  
Best Buy  
Big Sister Association of Greater Boston  
Bird Street Community Center  
Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston  
Blue Hill Avenue Task Force  
Boston Afterschool & Beyond  
Boston Arts Academy  
Boston Centers for Youth and Families  
Boston Children's Museum  
Boston Children Thrive in 5 / Dudley Children Thrive  
Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness  
Boston College Graduate School of Social Work  
Boston Community Capital  
Boston Housing Authority  
Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN)  
Boston Parent Organizing Network  
Boston Plan for Excellence  
Boston Police Department  
Boston Private Industry Council (PIC)  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Boston Public Schools  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
Boston Teacher Residency  
Boston Tenant Coalition  
Boston United for Students  
Boston Youth Fund  
Bottom Line  
Bowdoin Street Health Center  
Casa Esperanza  
Career Collaborative  
Center for Law and Education  
Child Witness to Violence Project  
Children's Health Watch  
Children's Services of Roxbury  
City of Boston  
City Connects  
City Fresh  
City Life/Vida Urbana  
City Year  
Civic Engagement Initiative  
Community Servings  
Community Ventures Consulting  
Crosstown Church  
CVC Unido/Catholic Charities Teen Center  
Dearborn Middle School  
Discover Roxbury  
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation  
Dorchester/Roxbury Labor Committee  
Dotwell  
Dudley Neighbors, Inc.

Emerson Elementary School  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Fairmount Greenway Task Force  
Family Independence Initiative  
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts  
Family Service of Greater Boston  
Foreclosure Roundtable  
Franklin Park Coalition  
Full-service Schools Roundtable  
Gordon College  
GOTCHA Youth Jobs Collaborative  
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization  
Greater Four Corners Action Coalition  
Harvard University, Graduate School of Education  
Haynes Early Education Center  
Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures  
Homes for Families  
Interaction Institute for Social Change  
Jeremiah E. Burke High School  
King and Son Affordable Construction  
La Alianza Hispana  
LIFT - Boston  
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute  
Madison Park Development Corporation  
Mason Elementary School  
Mass 2020  
Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development  
MA Alliance for Portuguese Speakers  
MassVote  
Massachusetts Department of Mental Health  
MassHousing  
Mothers for Justice and Equality  
Net Work  
NetAge  
Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation  
Orchard Gardens Pilot School  
Project Bread  
Project HIP-HOP  
Project Hope  
Project RIGHT  
Quincy Street Missional Church  
ReadBoston  
Renew Boston  
Roxbury Builders Guild  
Roxbury Community College  
Roxbury Cultural Network  
Roxbury Master Plan Strategic Oversight Committee  
Roxbury Neighborhood Council  
Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center  
RoxVote  
S.A.W. (Sisters At Work)  
Smart from the Start  
St. Kevin's Area Planning Collaborative  
St. Patrick's Church  
Strategy Matters  
Suffolk Construction

Tech Boston  
Technology Goes Home  
The Action Center for College Educational Services and Scholarships (ACCESS)  
The City School  
The Food Project  
The Jones Payne Group  
The Salvation Army  
Thompson Island Outward Bound  
Tufts University  
University of Massachusetts, Boston - College of Public and Community Service  
University of Massachusetts, Boston - Center for Community Democracy & Democratic Literacy  
United States Department of Education/  
Promise Neighborhoods  
University of Massachusetts, Boston - Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy  
University of Massachusetts, Boston - McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies  
Urban Edge Housing Corporation  
Vine Street Community Center  
Vital Pictures  
WAITT House  
Winthrop Elementary School  
WriteBoston  
Youth Hostelling International  
Youth Violence Systems Project  
YouthBuild Boston

## Funders

Barr Foundation  
Boston After School & Beyond  
Boston Opportunity Agenda  
Boston Private Bank  
Citizens Bank  
Cox Family Foundation  
Culture For Change  
Emmanuel Gospel Center  
Health Resources in Action  
Ida S. Barter Trust  
Klarman Family Foundation  
Ludke Foundation  
Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation  
Roxbury Trust Fund  
Sovereign Bank  
State Street Bank  
TD Charitable Foundation  
The Black Ministerial Alliance  
The Boston Foundation  
United States Department of Education/Promise Neighborhoods  
United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley  
Uphams Corner Community Center Youth Grants

\*Cover artwork created by an Orchard Garden K-8 student



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