Expanding Community Awareness of Food Resources in Avondale through the Distribution of a



Food Resource Guide

T.S. Arbough, L.M. Boeckermann, J.A. Detrick, A.O. Flowers, A.J. Gordon, S.M. Gustafson, K.S.

Iles, D.E. McDuffie, U.R. Oji, K.M. Sracic, T.F. Troy III, J.M. Zimmerman

Introduction

Avondale is a neighborhood in Cincinnati with a population of 12,466, 77% of which live in rented housing and 40% live at or below the poverty line. The Community Builders (TCB) is a non-profit real estate developer that works to promote asset building, community engagement, childhood education, workforce development, and youth development in Avondale. Despite TCB's housing efforts, a significant portion of Avondale falls under the food desert classification.

Objectives

- To provide TCB residents with a food resource guide in order to increase awareness of available resources.
- To determine the effectiveness of the resource guide and optimize it for the future

Methods

Our goal was to create a resource that would connect Avondale residents with the available food resources. We researched the resources and confirmed their locations, hours, and any other eligibility criteria (ie. 'mothers and children only', photo I.D. required, etc.). We then compiled this information into a handout, which was distributed by TCB. After the initial positive feedback we received, we have planned to distribute additional copies to the community through local churches to facilitate widespread distribution.





Results

- 13 residents were surveyed at the spring quarterly TCB community dinner. 3 of 13 had previously seen the resource pamphlet. Attendance was much lower than anticipated (50-80) because heavy storms made transportation exceedingly difficult for families with young children.
- Residents surveyed reported learning about new food resources regardless of receiving the flyer before or during the dinner.

Conclusions

Despite lacking quantitative measures of the usefulness and utilization of the resource guide, positive feedback by residents and Health Champions indicated this was a meaningful resource for the TCB community.

Overall, we have been able to complete our goal of designing and determining the benefit of a resource for neighborhood residents regarding alternative access to food, which will allow other LCs in our wake to continue to advocate for additional resources in food deserts such as Avondale.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Tina Brown, Jennifer Foster, Jeneya Lawrence, Reggie Harris and Jodi Cunningham, without whom this work would not be possible.

This project was funded through the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.





