

Community Weatherization

A Community Coalition

The Process

- GRU convened a “community” discussion to provide basic weatherization services to low income customers
- Included
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Action Network to get churches involved
 - City and county divisions
 - Local businesses
 - University
- GRU facilitated and underwrote the coalition’s first nine months
- The Community Weatherization Coalition was formed

The Mission

- *“A community coalition focused on improving weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income homeowners through education and volunteer work projects.”*

CWC's Goals

- Collaborate on weatherization
- Increase efficiency of low income homes in greater Gainesville area*
- Engage volunteers
- Educate, engage and empower homeowners to be more engaged with managing their energy consumption.

* GRU funds are restricted to its service area

CWC's Progress

- Formed an executive council
- Named a chairperson
- Decided to work with existing nonprofits—to avoid duplication of services
 - Gainesville Community Ministries—fiduciary agent for United Way grant, partner in Project Share
 - Rebuilding Together—programmatic implementation for volunteer recruitment, training, home inspections, materials and service coordination
 - ACTION Network--grant writing and volunteer recruitment

CWC's Progress

- Created case management coordination process between partnering organizations
- Developed and implemented the volunteer recruitment
- Developed and implemented a 3-session technical training program (included cultural sensitivity training)

CWC's Progress

- Approximately 20 volunteers certified through three-step training
- Developing systems for screening and matching volunteers to homes
- Identified need for central coordination, liability coverage and quality assurance
- Completed initial audits of homes to receive services







CWC's Progress

- Identified possible funding sources
- Received grant from UCG of \$2,500
- Received one-year commitment from GRU for \$35,000, staff and professional support time and training

Participants

Non-profit agencies:

- Central Florida Community Action Agency
- Gainesville Community Ministries
- NHDC
- Rebuild Gainesville

Businesses:

- James Moore & Co.
- Nationwide

University of Florida:

- IFAS
- Engineers without Borders
- Student volunteers

Government:

- City of Gainesville through GRU and Block Grant Division
- Alachua County Growth Management Planning Division,
- Alachua County Housing Authority
- Alachua County Social Services

Faith based community:

- United Church of Gainesville
- ACTION Network
- Christians Concerned with the Community

Next Steps

- Volunteers begin hands on services
- Formalize relationship between CWC and Rebuilding Together and Gainesville Community Ministries
- Rebuilding Together hires volunteer/operations coordinator
- GRU funds initial grant
- Submit applications for funding:
 - United Way
 - City
 - County
 - Businesses
 - Other funders/granting sources

Questions?