

Harmony Oaks

New Orleans, Louisiana



USI | URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.
Families at the Center of Results

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Central City/Harmony Oaks

Harmony Oaks Community formerly known as the Magnolia Housing Development is a Choice Neighborhood Community serving tax credit, and market rate residents. It is also the largest public housing site with 193 of 460 units serving public housing and section 8 residents.

\$18,292 is the average annual household earned income



172 residents are connected to a primary care provider



10 youth are engaged in enrichment programs



146 families are enrolled in Family Support



Propelling Educational Success:

We had 17 K-5th grade youth register and participate in our Children Overcoming Obstacles of Learning program (COOL) designed to increase literacy. To assist youth in their learning we partnered with 15 Tulane volunteers. We also had a high participation rate of 25 youth engaged in our Prime Time Program held over the course of 6-weeks and funded by the Louisiana Endowment for Humanities. USI also provides an intensive summer camp for youth ages 12-17 years old. Through a partnership with the City of New Orleans, youth are afforded the opportunity to attend a career camp introducing them to entrepreneurship and earning up to \$15 a hr.

Improving Health & Wellness:

USI offers "Feel Good Fridays" as a health initiative for our seniors in partnership with health providers such as JenCare and Oak Street Health Centers. We are also collaborative partners with United Health Care and the Housing Authority of New Orleans to assist in strengthening preventative health care options for our residents. Our fall programming engaged 100+ households and community residents in our Night Out Against Crime in our city-wide community Health & Wellness event. Residents were engaged through over 20 community partners addressing several public health concerns.

Moving Families to Economic Self-Sufficiency:

Residents are connected to several resources that offer a wealth of information regarding career advancement to promote livable wages and stability, financial literacy, and build intergenerational wealth. USI partnered with South MS Telecom to provide 64 residents with free tablets to assist with job search, email accessibility, open savings accounts, strive towards increase livable wage, and sustainability. As well, over the holidays we were able provide over 25 seniors and residents with warm meals through our Thanksgiving potluck dinner. We also provided 65+ families with toys through our Christmas Toy Give-away including bikes, tablets, books and gift cards.



Family Support Services:

Urban Strategies, Inc. supports Harmony Oaks with an onsite Associate Project Manager and a Family Support Specialist. We work to assist and support families to ensure they are stable and thriving through 5 key pillars of engagement; Education, Housing Stability, Health & Wellness, Economic Mobility, and Policy Influence. USI Family Support Specialists work with our residents to minimize and eliminate barriers that prevent individuals and families from reaching their full potential. We are strong collaborative partners working to maximize resources to promote intergenerational legacy building.



All Families are Stable and Thriving



Our Experience with Choice Neighborhoods

USI partners with a diversity of stakeholders in Choice Neighborhoods sites to create and implement comprehensive neighborhood plans with a focus on human service needs. We owe our success with Choice Neighborhoods to our commitment to using a Results-Based Accountability framework that governs our approach to service delivery. We are using data to constantly measure and improve our

programs for children and families in real time. Using our LEARN (Learning for Effective Actions to Revitalize Neighborhoods) performance measurement system, Urban continuously builds evidence on what works best for the more than 30,000 families we serve. We aim to further build upon early successes with Choice to realize our organizational vision that "All families are stable and thriving".