

# Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

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On the Web : [www.gagdc.org](http://www.gagdc.org)

**August**

# The VISION

**2008**

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The mission of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) is to foster and promote revitalization of the greater Auburn-Gresham community, which includes Auburn-Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham.



**GREATER AUBURN-GRESHAM**  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*Special Service Area #32*

## 3rd Annual Auburn Gresham 79th Street Renaissance Festival



**September 6, 2008** **79th & Racine**  
**10 am - 6 pm**



[renaissancefest.blogspot.com](http://renaissancefest.blogspot.com) \* [www.gagdc.org](http://www.gagdc.org) \* [773] 483-3696



## Maximizing Their Education



# Student Interns Help to Improve Auburn Gresham's Landscape

Sponsored by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Chicago, Chicago Department of Children & Youth Services, and Chicago Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC/Chicago), this year's Summer Youth Internship Program provided jobs for nearly 200 youth, ages 14-21, in the Auburn Gresham community.

In partnership with St. Sabina Employment Resource Center (ERC), the Greater Auburn-Gresham

Development Corporation (GADC) assisted with the interviewing and placement of these youth.

GADC hired 12 youth whom helped to further implement their pilot Litter Free Zone Initiative (LFZI).

The goal of the LFZI is three-fold. First this pilot program seeks to develop a creative solution to deter littering in our community while promoting recycling. This key objective focuses on educating and utilizing the youth to perpetuate a positive habit of



Hubert Newkirk [L] and Carlos Nelson (stripped shirt) pose with Cleanslate and GADC's Summer Youth Student Interns. Photo Ernest Sanders

trash disposal and keeping our community clean. Emphasis is also given to recycling and protecting our environment.

Secondly, GADC looks to change the culture and mindset of the community residents by giving rise to litter prevention.

And lastly, this target area serves as a model for the remainder of this community

and the rest of Chicago.

Thank you Dantrell Barnes, Christian Taylor, Deontae Lewis, Alandrea Mosley, Octaviya Addison Clay, Deandre Nelson, Caleb Tyrone, Zachary Walton, Lakiesha Donaldson, Tisha Prince, Justin Irving and Kyle Nelson for putting Auburn Gresham on the map of one of Chicago's cleanest and finest communities.



## Young Professionals Assist with Façade Improvements Along 79th Street's SSA #32

Pictured left: [L] Nanette Milner, Safiya Hodari, Cheryl Johnson, Alexandra Bohler, LaVarus Campbell, and David Ericsson Photo: Chase Woodward

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) in collaboration with local businesses have been searching for financial options to support efforts to improve the exterior appearance of commercial-use buildings located on the 79th Street Business District or Special Service Area #32 (SSA #32). To address this issue, GADC has partnered with Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago (LISC/Chicago), Harris Bank, and SSA# 32 to launch a pilot Façade Enhancement Program.

This façade enhancement pilot program targets eight local business owners located on 79th Street between Carpenter and Morgan that have been in existence for more than 25 years.

The extended boundaries of the pilot program includes a two block area along west 79<sup>th</sup> Street, between Carpenter and Sangamon. The current businesses include a dental office, daycare center, local lounge, funeral home, barber shop and hardware store.

GADC recruited one high school and four college graduate interns to work with this project. McBride Kelly and Bauer Architecture firm has been retained to oversee and develop the architectural designs for this project. Components of this project include façade and banner designs, and architectural research of buildings located within the 79th

street business district.

A special thanks to our interns, LaVarus Campbell, Alexandra Bohler, Safiya Hodari, Nanette Milner, and David Ericsson. A very special thanks is given to Cheryl Johnson for overseeing this collaboration and historic making facelift.

# Taking Back What Belongs to Our Youth

**E**arly 300 youth and adults attended The Ark of St. Sabina's first annual summer violence prevention program, "The Take

Back." This summit was the brain child of Jocelyn Jones, Auburn Gresham's Liaison for the state of Illinois' Safety Net Works.

The program opened with a presentation by Hip Hop

Detoxx (HHD). HHD used music to engage the youth in a series of exercises designed to produce self-examination, self-analysis, and self correction.

Following HHD, there was a special presentation by 11<sup>th</sup> District Police Department entitled, "Keeping it Real." This highly acclaimed presentation gave rehabilitated offenders the opportunity to serve as panelists and share their stories with youth and encourage them to walk a straight path.

The summit also had a variety of age appropriate workshops for children and adults. Throughout the event, service and violence prevention organizations distributed

information about employment opportunities and programs that were available to youth.

The Safety Net Works is an initiative of the State of Illinois' Department of Human Services (IDHS) designed to prevent further tragic loss of life of our youth here in Illinois. Auburn Gresham's Safety Net Work Coalition has several community stakeholders intimately involved in advocacy and grassroots efforts to stop the violence here in our community.

GADC is also a coalition member in the Safety Net Works of Auburn Gresham.



Jocelyn Jones [R] joins two Auburn Gresham youth at The Take Back Youth Summit. Photo: Tonka Maljevic

# Universal HealthClinics Brings Quality Health Services to Auburn Gresham



Pictured [L] Ald. Howard Brookins (D-21), Amy Appiagyei, R.N., Michael Appiagyei, M.D., Ald. Latasha Thomas (D-17), and Carlos Nelson Photo: UNIVERSAL HEALTHCLINICS

**P**atients' wellness is their top priority. Located at 1243 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, UNIVERSAL HEALTHCLINICS, provides a wide range of services from regular wellness examinations and check-ups to treating acute

and chronic illnesses.

Michael O. Appiagyei, M.D. (Internal Medicine & Pediatrics) and his team of highly trained physicians and nursing staff are caring professionals with the ultimate goal of making sure your family

has access to affordable and quality healthcare.

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCLINICS also provides services for seniors including treatment of, but not limited to, joint problems, hypertension, diabetes, memory problems and routine health maintenance. In order to provide these world-class services at an affordable cost, their exam rooms are furnished with state-of-the-art medical equipment. Patients are examined in a proper, comfortable and safe manner.

This healthcare facility also brings comprehensive pediatric services such as immunizations, wellness examinations, school physicals and care for chronic and acute diseases.

Welcome UNIVERSAL HEALTHCLINICS to Auburn Gresham!

## Important Neighborhood Update

Are your mortgage payments going up? Sign up for a FREE workshop sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS), the City of Chicago, the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), Homeownership Preservation Initiative (HOPI), Equal Housing Opportunity, and NeighborWorks. Please call (773) 329-4185 today to learn what you can do to prevent foreclosure.

Upon completion, workshops participants will receive a free \$10.00 gas/gift card.

*Auburn Gresham: Chicago's Best Kept Secret! We Dare You to Tell Someone.*

Greater Auburn-Gresham  
Development Corporation  
1159 W. 79th Street  
Chicago, IL 60620

*Deliver To:*



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## 79th & Carpenter Street and Block Club Reach a 10 Year Milestone

During the 1990's, 79th & Carpenter was declared the most dangerous block in the city of Chicago with an onslaught of criminal activity. After massive organizing efforts by current block club president Betty Swanson, residents were determined to put a stop to the drug sales, gang activity, and shootings that seized this block.

Tackling the problem head on, residents held rallies, street marches, and neighborhood clean-ups. With an increase in police presence and

Community Alternative Policing Strategies (C.A.P.S.) involvement,

tated, safe, clean and beautiful, displaying a large wooded marquee, reading "Mayor Richard M. Daley's Model Block."

This cornerstone not only speaks highly of residents successful efforts to take back their neighborhood, but it also speaks highly to their commitment and diligence to share a redeeming best practice with other block clubs city-wide.

Thank you Ms. Swanson and the 79th & Carpenter Block Club for contributing to Auburn Gresham's alias, "Chicago's Best Kept Secret."

crime was minimized by an enormous 90%. Now ten years later, in 2008, this block is fully rehabili-



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