



# Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

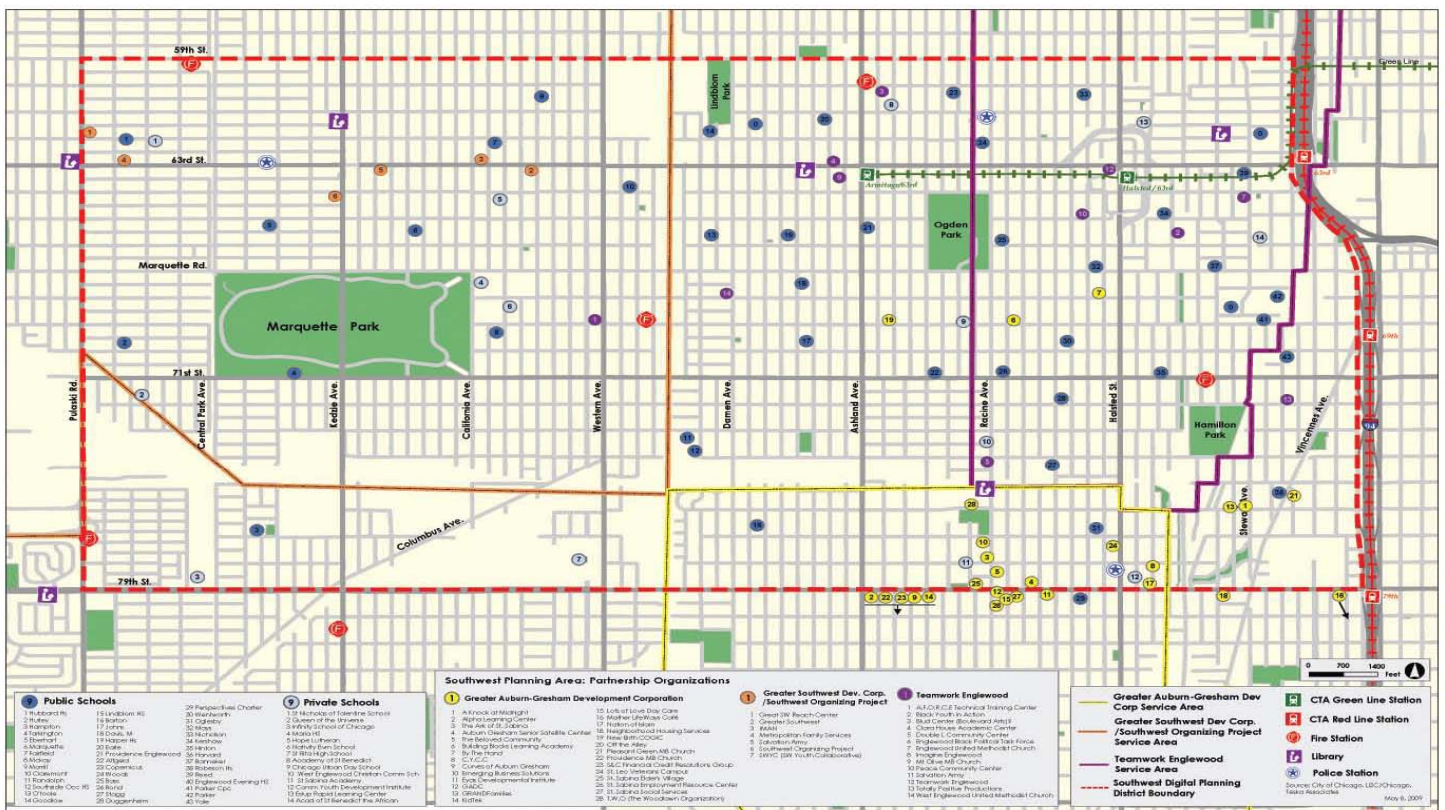
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# The VISION SPRING 2010

## City Receives ARRA for Smart Communities



The shared digital excellence vision of Auburn-Gresham, Chicago Lawn, and Englewood is to expand their physical, cultural, and digital activities, improve access to web, and increase the potential for economic development collectively, thus becoming Digitally & Socially Linked (DSL) communities. Photo: Teska Associates

The City of Chicago has been awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to implement its Smart Communities Initiative in 5 underserved communities.

The Smart Communities Initiative is the City of Chicago's Digital Excellence platform that connects Chicagoans digitally in order to

participate in the global market place.

The underserved communities identified include Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Pilsen. These communities are also part of the New Communities Program, sponsored by Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago (LISC/Chicago) - the administrator of the Smart Communities Initiative for the City.

Locally, this plan provides a roadmap for addressing several barriers so that residents of Smart Communities can take full advantage of digital resources — from online city services and social networking to employment opportunities and online banking. Access to these resources will in turn help make technology another tool in the ongoing development of our communities.

# Auburn Gresham Free Tax Center Puts Recession in Timeout - Big Time!

The first week of free tax services did not disappoint nearly 200 eager income tax filers from arriving early and waiting patiently outdoors in frigid weather, to receive fast, free, and electronic tax preparation services at the Auburn Gresham Resource Tax Center.

Sponsored by the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development

Corporation (GADC), the Saint Sabina Employment Resource Center (ERC), and the Center for Economic Progress (CEP), in partnership with Aldermen Latasha Thomas (D-17) and Howard Brookins (D-21), this free service looked to increase the financial well-being of clients by offering an array of products.

Products varied from free Advent debit cards, savings and checking ac-



US Bank associate Roger Robinson [r] and branch manager Kimberly Jones display promotional items for Auburn Gresham tax site clients at the Auburn Gresham Resource Center. Photo: Ernest Sanders

counts (with the former community banking icon, Park National Bank - now US Bank), to free applications for federal student aid (FAFSA), free financial coaching (with the Auburn Gresham Center for Working Families), and a host of other relevant materials as 2010 Census documentation.

This 2009 free tax service is anticipated to surpass 2008's aggregate tax returns of more than \$2.2 million dollars, serving more than 1300 clients city wide.

# Senior Health & Wellness Rally Teaches Self-Management



Senior citizens participating in Stanford University's leadership chronic disease workshop cheer themselves for completion of the course. They were acknowledged at a health and wellness rally at the Auburn Gresham Senior Satellite Center. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Committed to aging successfully, 16 senior citizens participated in a 6-week leadership chronic disease workshop (developed by Stanford

University), aimed to have them live better-off and teach healthier lifestyles to their peers.

Research indicated that self-management education complements traditional patient education in supporting patients to live the best possible quality of life with their chronic condition.

Self-management education is also known to teach problem-solving skills; set goals; and make positive changes in a person's life.

As a result of this health initiative, several senior citizens are now able to:

- Cope with fatigue, frustration, pain, depression and other symptoms
- Develop an exercise program to maintain & improve strength, flexibility & endurance
- Communicate better with family, friends & health professionals
- Use medications properly
- Practice good nutrition
- Evaluate new treatment options

This educational opportunity was fielded by The Beloved Community's Roz Patton. Patton also invited renowned author and poet, Sporty King to facilitate the wellness rally. He reminds seniors to continue to laugh, learn, and love.

# Cultural Enrichment Permeates Chicago's Thurgood Marshall Public Library

**B**uilding on their commitment to support healthy social interaction and cultivate relationships, the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) hosted their bi-annual cultural enrichment programming at the Thurgood Marshall Public Library.

On a Friday, approximately 80 preschoolers experienced, *The Largest African Empire Revealed*. This act was performed by the Ayodele dance troupe and kept the young audience quite attentive. The dance troupe performed

various lively song and dance while educating the children about the history of West Africa.

On the following day, more than 120 senior citizens, clapped their hands and stumped their feet to the blues melodies of Johnny Drummer and the Starliters.

La'Romelle Catering Services provided a hot and delicious breakfast to the seniors. Breakfast included hot eggs, bacon, biscuits and grits.

(Top) GADC's Aurora Cruz (center) entertains the next generation of leaders for the Auburn Gresham community at GADC's youth cultural enrichment program.

(Bottom) Joseph Burnett and a few Auburn Gresham elites party and swing their hands and bodies to the sounds of Johnny Drummer and the Starliters at the Thurgood Marshall Library. Photos: Ernest Sanders



## P & G Shoe Shines in Auburn Gresham

**J**oseph Payne, a.k.a. preacher man is the heart and soul of Auburn Gresham's P & G Shoe Shine and Repair.

Payne was inspired to bring quality service, while creating job opportunities for local youth. Today Payne employs 5 "boot blacks" or shoe shiners who will essentially put a terry-cloth, shoe polish, water

and a full camel-hair brush to any leather-sole solidifying its superior shine.

Many soles have come to P & G including boots, shoes, skates, and gym shoes. Payne also provides complementary services and products as taps, heels, half soles, full soles.

For more information, please call (773) 483-0558.



## Perspectives' Youth Get Mentored



**R**ay and Christian have been matched for a year and a half through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring Program.

Their relationship has been immensely successful because of the

uniqueness of the programming. Ray and Christian like to hang out, go to the park, and play video games together. Ray says that Big Brothers Big Sisters "is a great experience and it gives you a chance to make a difference in someone's life."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for more volunteers who are interested in making a difference in the life of a child in a fun way.

For more information, please contact Nicole Jurek, Elev8 Program Manager, at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Chicago at (312) 207-5628 or [jurek@bbbschgo.org](mailto:jurek@bbbschgo.org).

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



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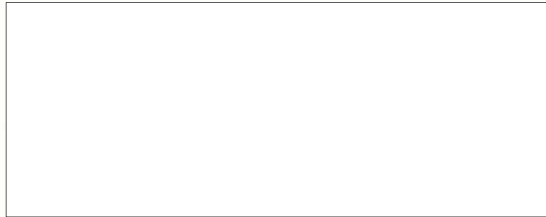
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GADC  
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**Greater Auburn-Gresham  
Development Corporation**  
1159 W. 79th Street  
Chicago, IL 60620

*Deliver To Current Resident:*



*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.*

Summer Food Certification Class | Fifth Third Bank | 8140 S. Ashland | **Monday, May 17th | 9am-12pm** | 773.382.0089 | FREE for businesses located in SSA#32 and \$30 for all others

South Region Delegate Agency Housing Resource Center Workshop | Thurgood Marshall Library | 7506 S. Racine | **Friday, May 21st | 11:30am - 1:30pm** | 773.483.3696

Neighborhood Housing Services Presents | How to Make a Foreclosed Property Your Home | Northern Trust Bank - Community Room | 7801 S. State | **Tuesday, May 25th | 6pm - 8pm** | 773.329.4149 | FREE

Neighborhood Housing Services Presents | How to Make a Foreclosed Property Your Home | NHS of Chicago Central Office | 1279 N. Milwaukee - 5th FL | **Thursday, June 3rd | 6pm - 8pm** | 773.329.4149 | FREE

Health Fair on the Block | 79th & Racine | **Thursday, June 10th | 11 am - 2pm** | 773.358.6330

Perspectives Calumet Middle School Student's - Elev8 Showcase | 79th & Racine | **Thursday, June 10th | 2pm - 3:30pm** | 773.358.6330

Special Service Area (SSA #32) Business Breakfast Session | Northern Trust Bank - Community Room | 7801 S. State | **Thursday, June 10th | 8:30am - 10:30am**

SOS Children's Village and YMCA Children Services are hosting a Youth Resource Fair | 7600 S. Parnell | **June TBD** | 773.783.0500, Ext 426

# Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

# 79TH STREET RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

**Date: September 11, 2010**

**Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm**

**Location: 79<sup>th</sup> & Racine**

**Lots of fun; 100 vendors; live entertainment; food & fun. For more info call (773) 483-3696.**



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Metropolitan Chicago



**GREATER AUBURN-GRESHAM  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**