

Winter 2010

# THE VISION

Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

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Visit us at [www.gadc.org](http://www.gadc.org), [www.auburngreshamportal.org](http://www.auburngreshamportal.org) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr



(L-R) Father Michael Pflieger (St. Sabina Church), Alderman Latasha Thomas (17<sup>th</sup> Ward), Desiree Rodgers & Linda Johnson-Rice (Johnson's Publishing Company), and John S. Myers & Hank Myers (BJ's Market & Bakery) celebrate Operation Hope in Auburn Gresham. Operation Hope provided 2200 dinners to local residents for the holiday season. Photo: Ernest Sanders

## Operation Hope Brings Key Leaders to BJ's Market & Bakery



It's only logical that during the holidays our trusted community organizations and established businesses give back to the community that gives so much to them during the year. Without our tax dollars, donations, or patronage our local not-for-profits and businesses wouldn't be able to succeed.

BJ's Market and Bakery, along with Saint Sabina Church and Johnson's Publishing Company are just a few businesses and institution that believe in giving back. In December these establishments had a spectacular holiday celebration and treated the local residents and passer-byers to free, gourmet, BJs-style Christmas dinners with all the trimmings. The options were plenty and mouthwatering: braised country beef ribs, sweet cornbread stuffing, honey glazed ham, luscious macaroni and cheese, savory greens, buttery mashed potatoes, and perfectly seasoned roasted vegetables.

Judging by the long line of people waiting out in the cold to get a plate – this holiday celebration was received well its participants.



Three Auburn Gresham veterans and community organizers participate in Operation Hope. Photos: Ernest Sanders



Johnson's Publishing Company employees help to give back to local residents at BJ's Market and Bakery as part of Operation Hope.





Father Michael Pflieger, pastor of Saint Sabina Church gives a divine thumbs-up to the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation's introduction of Skype to the community. Photo: Ernest Sanders

**Auburn Gresham Portal**  
News from a Chicago Smart Community  
[www.auburngreshamportal.org](http://www.auburngreshamportal.org)



## Auburn Gresham Skypes for Divine Intervention

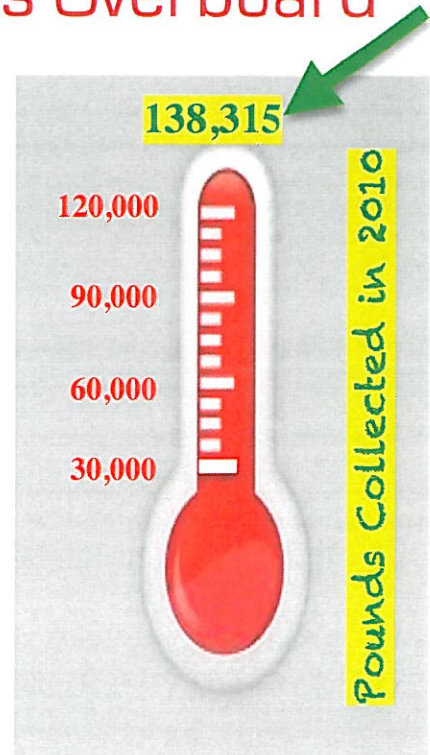
## Litter Free Zone Goes Overboard

A federal government Broadband USA program, the Smart Communities Initiative was launched in Auburn Gresham in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Innovation and Technology and Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago (LISC/Chicago). With nearly 400 attendees, people of all economic and social make-up learned about Auburn Gresham's digital platform and the resources made available, striving to make this community one of digital excellence.

Event highlights included remarks from 17th Ward Alderman Latasha Thomas, Susana Vasquez of LISC/Chicago, Father Michael Pflieger of Saint Sabina Church, Southwest Smart Communities partners, Auburn Gresham residents and students, GADC staff and executive director, Carlos Nelson. This celebration also featured GADC's Business Resource Network and digital literacy classes, and the Family Net Center (administered by Saint Sabina Employment Resource Center).

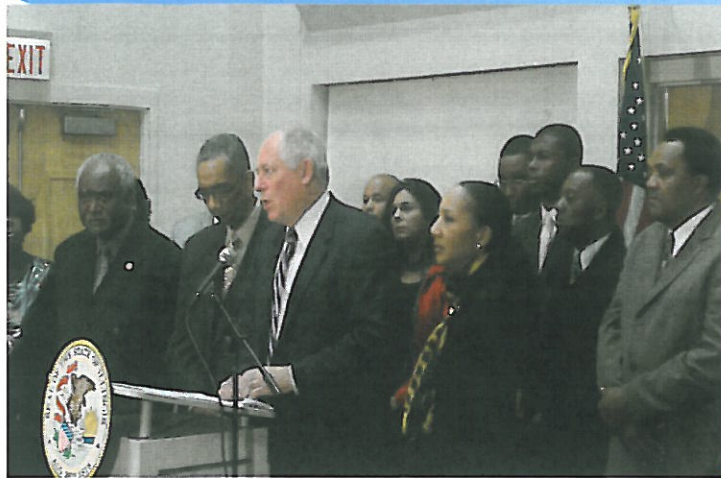
The Smart Communities Initiative aspires to enable full participation in meaningful digital activities for households, businesses, institutions to increase knowledge, expand economic and educational opportunities, while enhancing and redressing issues among residents and businesses.

Five Chicago neighborhoods were chosen through a competitive process to participate in this initiative. They include: **Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Pilsen.** For more information, please contact the GADC offices at (773) 483-3696.



**Auburn Gresham's Litter Free Zone Recycling Results**





## Illinois Strives for Peaceful and Resources Communities

Governor Pat Quinn announced at Kennedy King College the launch of The Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Initiative. This is a collaborative project between Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) and Governor's Office to implement five program components in 20 communities in the Chicago area and 3 suburbs. GADC is a lead agency for this initiative.

## Students Get Connected

Cellular giant, Sprint Nextel provided free Virgin Mobile Broadband2Go units (mobile Internet access) to 12 Auburn Gresham high school students in partnership with the City of Chicago's Smart Communities Initiative. According to its Press Release, Sprint Nextel said a partnership with the City of Chicago marks the first phase of an innovative commitment to help the Smart Communities program. Photos: Ernest Sanders

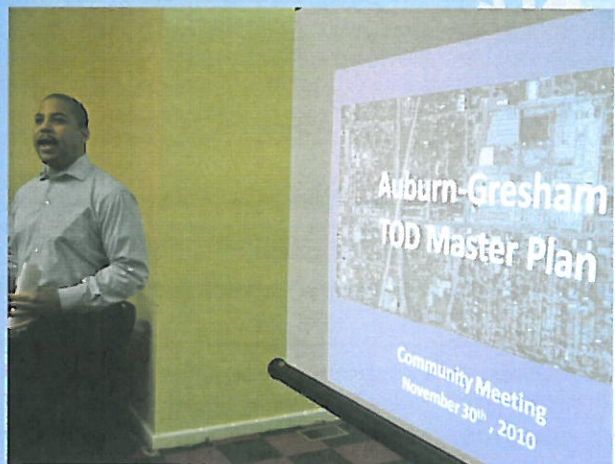


## Auburn Gresham Increases Its Stake as a Transit Oriented Development Community

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) and Camiros, LTD. together with the Illinois Department of Transportation, is committed to involving community residents and business owners in a historical and important planning process regarding a transit-oriented development community.

This planning process was birthed from Auburn Gresham's Quality of Life plan with specific emphasis of developing a transit village near Winneconna Parkway. The meeting of about 35 residents and business owners provided an opportunity to discuss current successes, while expounding upon developmental opportunities such as creating compact business clusters on 79<sup>th</sup> Street, making them pedestrian- and transit-friendly.

The meet was convened at Three Chefs Restaurants, Inc., a new eatery in the Auburn Gresham community. Three Chefs Restaurant is conveniently located at 8125 South Halsted.



GADC's executive director, Carlos Nelson presents Auburn Gresham's Transit Oriented Development plan to Auburn Gresham civic and community leaders at Three Chefs Restaurant. Photo: Ernest Sanders





### GADC Board Members

Interim Board President

**Deborah Moore**

Neighborhood Housing Services

Vice President

**James Miller**

Park Boulevard Chicago

Treasurer

**Amanda Norman**

75<sup>th</sup> & Parnell Block Club

Secretary

Vacant

**Byam Alexander**

Synergy Force

**Alberta Brooks**

Resident

**Kham Beard**

Wahlomak Property Management

**Ron Martin**

The Johnsson Group

**Michael Pflieger**

Faith Community of  
Saint Sabina Church

**Willard Payton**

New Birth Church of God in Christ

**Betty Swanson**

77<sup>th</sup> & Carpenter Block Club

**Alderman Latasha Thomas**

Board Advisor, 17<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Carlos Nelson**

Executive Director

*Auburn Gresham: Chicago's Best Kept Secret! We dare you to tell someone!*

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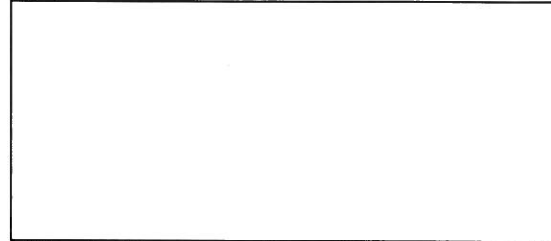


**Auburn Gresham**

Smart Communities Program

A Chicago Digital Excellence Initiative

**Deliver to or current resident:**



## Illinois State University CONNECTS To Westcott Elementary School

The Illinois State University, ISU-CPS CONNECT initiative is a mentorship program designed to promote positive development in youth who attend a Chicago Public School in underserved communities. CONNECT solicits ISU teacher education majors who eventually teach in an underserved communities. ISU and Westcott students are able to CONNECT through Skype technology. This mentorship program was also made available through ISU's donation of web cameras to Westcott Elementary School. CONNECT

is a nine-month volunteer, service-learning program designed to empower both mentors and mentees in the following areas:

1) Competence, 2) Confidence, 3) Connection, 4) Character, 5) Caring/Compassion, and 6) Contribution

Through these six core competencies, CONNECT is designed to be a positive, character building and interactive skill building activity that builds relationships between the mentor and mentee. Are you CONNECTED?

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