



Dear Friends,

*Why are we communicating specifically with **you** about Streams of Hope?*

The answer to that question is really quite simple: we know that you share our interest in urban ministry, and we seek partners in building God's kingdom through community development.

Wait! We aren't just asking for money!

We realize that you invest in other ministries already, and that resources are limited. *Streams of Hope* was launched to reach out to troubled neighborhoods, in ways that a single church or single donor could not accomplish. If you desire, there is much more room for participation than simply making a donation. Your existing ministry and giving plan can fit with *Streams of Hope*, too! We are meeting with several individuals and organizations, seeking those that desire to:

- ❖ Support the growth of current programs
- ❖ Partner to create and establish specific programs
- ❖ Donate to develop a community center property
- ❖ List ministries or programs as part of our referral service
- ❖ Provide others with volunteer service opportunities

Our goal for today is straightforward.

We want to further engage you in the *Streams of Hope* ministry with the following actions:

- ❖ Prayerfully consider what your role could be
- ❖ Advise us on the amount and type of participation you are ready for
- ❖ Educate us on your unique areas of interest
- ❖ Support our efforts with a monetary donation

We are excited about the ministry that *Streams of Hope* is becoming, and hope that you will share our challenge in growing this Christian Community Development Agency. Thank you in advance for your time and effort on this project!

The *Streams of Hope* Leadership Team

For additional information you may also contact Paul Holtrop:

E-Mail: Paul@StreamsofHope.org Phone: 616.915.9393



The Community

The Townline area of Southern Kent County shares many characteristics with other resource depleted, urban areas. The following information sheds light on the situation that community members are faced with daily:

- ❖ 85% of the student population at Townline Elementary comes from families with income that qualifies them for federal assistance.
- ❖ The minority student population has swelled from 15% to 48%. This results in high demand for English as a Second Language (ESL) services.
- ❖ More than 50 Townline Elementary students are waiting for an opportunity to participate in tutoring or mentoring.
- ❖ 40% of area school children live in high poverty neighborhoods, compared to 10% in Kent County.



- ❖ 6 mobile home parks and 3 apartment complexes contribute to neighborhood instability and a high turnover rate at schools.
- ❖ Only 34% of total households consist of married couples. The incidence of child care issues and “latch-key” kids is rising.
- ❖ Predatory businesses have moved into available space in local retail strip malls.
- ❖ Gang activity is increasing, based on recent crimes and neighborhood graffiti.



Streams of Hope is a non-profit organization following the model established by the Christian Community Development Association. Our name reflects the idea of streams that is prevalent in the Bible. God reclaims His lost and dying world by giving them the water of life. Streams of blessing can flow through God's people to the Towlne community.

Our Mission Statement

To demonstrate God's love and foster sustainable change through services that build relationships, meet family needs, and promote a healthier community.

development, not disrespect

Our Community Intent

referral, not relief



Streams of Hope will strive:

- ❖ *To be a community-based agency operated by a board of directors with membership from the greater Towlne community.*
- ❖ *To serve and create community development programs in the urban Towlne area but also including other portions of Southern Kent County, Michigan.*
- ❖ *To seek and promote partnerships with churches, businesses, schools, and other non-profit organizations interested in support and development of the Towlne community.*
- ❖ *To pursue resources through grant proposals, fund drives, monetary gifts, asset provision, and other donations.*
- ❖ *To promote a contemporary and visible kingdom of God by transforming the Towlne community with an influx of services and resources.*
- ❖ *To engage volunteers in the ongoing reclamation and restoration of under-resourced Towlne schools and neighborhoods.*
- ❖ *To develop a dynamic, multi-cultural agency of both program volunteers and beneficiaries.*
- ❖ *To equip partner organizations for improved service through training, service referrals, and leadership development.*
- ❖ *To benchmark with existing Christian community development organizations in order to generate innovative programs and creative delivery of services.*



Streams of Hope is a vital part of the school support network, and is rapidly becoming a part of the Townline neighborhood. We are confident that we can make a difference in the surrounding community as well!



“Streams of Hope can be an extended family unit for the Townline community, encouraging, challenging, and supporting parents and their children with programs that promote life long learning, with both an educational and social focus.”

Barb Cole Teacher, Townline Elementary



“Streams of Hope will be a resource enabling today's families and individuals to realize tomorrow's opportunities; thus influencing generations to come.”

Jeff Ashby Psychologist, Kentwood Schools

We’re just beginning, but our list of partner organizations is growing quickly!

- Bank of America
- The Buist Foundation
- Chemical Bank
- Covenant Church
- D&D Building
- Discovery Church
- Hillside Community Church
- Kelloggsville Community Church
- Kentwood Public Schools
- Pine Rest Christian Health Services
- United Parcel Service
- St. Mary Magdalen Church
- State of Michigan
- Windemuller Electric
- Woodfield Apartments
- YMCA

Our Board of Directors

Fred Bergsma	Sales Manager, Air Components, Inc.
Barb Cole	Townline Elementary School Teacher
Paul Holtrop	Executive Director
Bill Joseph	Kentwood Board of Education
Mark Piersma	Division Manager, Benteler Automotive
Joan Tanis	Director, Kids Hope USA
Heidi Vanderlaan	Director, Kids Hope USA
Keith VanderWeele	Vice President, Bank of America
Scott Wagner	Director, Pine Rest Outpatient Clinics
TBD	Townline Community



Building Site

Through a unique series of events, and much prayer, this unique piece of real estate was purchased in May, 2008. Characteristics include:

- Perfect location near schools and between high-density housing environments.
- Total lot size of 6 acres, including 2.5 acres of green space for outdoor activities.
 - Nearly 12,000 total square feet of building space.
- A multi-purpose building including a small gymnasium and a kitchen.
 - A main building with a gathering area for up to 200 people.
 - A lower level suitable for educational space as well as offices.
- Plenty of parking.

Originally built in the early 1960's as a Baptist Church, the property was vacant for several months, and the buildings have been neglected for many years. The condition of the property, combined with current real estate market conditions in West Michigan resulted in a low initial investment. Both buildings on the site are structurally sound, and the back building is currently undergoing renovation.



<i>Property Purchase Cost</i>	<i>\$225,000</i>
<i>Renovate Back Building</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>
<i>Total Initial Cost</i>	<i><u>\$300,000</u></i>



Current Programs

If you are wondering if we are making a difference yet in the Townline community, the answer is a resounding, “YES!” During our first year of operation, we have reached out to the neighborhood in many small ways, and have also successfully launched several significant programs:



After School Recreation

Neighborhood kids need a safe and supportive place to have a healthy snack, and just hang-out. Consistent and caring program leaders arrange age-appropriate activities, and even help with the homework when necessary!

FLIP!

Relationship building in the summer! This pilot program will combine Fun Learning with Intentional Play, targeting 2nd and 3rd graders from Townline Elementary that need to fill their summer time with productive activities.



Family Wellness

Strengthening communication and teaching survival skills for families of all kinds. Empowering parents in relationships.

Honor Roll Luncheons

Recognizing and appreciating Townline Elementary students (and their parents) that are working hard to achieve solid grades in school.

Tutoring

Remedial learning in math and reading for more than 35 kids throughout the year. Delivered by volunteers and teachers with a healthy dose of encouragement.



We believe that this is just the beginning of what we can offer to the Townline neighborhood. We are working to develop new programs, and are continually cultivating partnerships with other organizations. If you have suggested contacts, or would like to share your ideas with us, they are welcome. We appreciate your feedback!

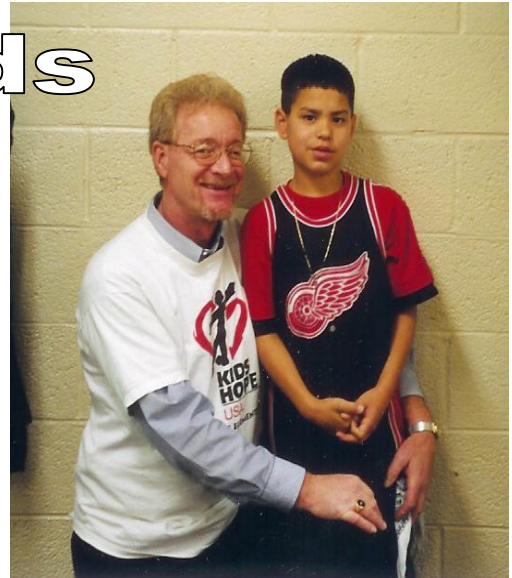


Program Options

This is just a sample list...the sky's the limit! If you have other socio-economic programs in mind for community development, please let us know!

- ❖ Mentoring
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Counseling
- ❖ Learning disability treatment
- ❖ After school activities
- ❖ Summer day camps
- ❖ Substance abuse prevention
- ❖ Abstinence education
- ❖ Scholarships

For Kids



For Adults

- ❖ Budget counseling
- ❖ Substance abuse counseling
- ❖ Family life counseling
- ❖ Parenting skills
- ❖ Home repair
- ❖ Auto maintenance
- ❖ School advocacy
- ❖ Healthy nutrition

For Community

- ❖ Picnics and block parties
- ❖ Neighborhood associations
- ❖ Crime & gang prevention
- ❖ Pediatric health clinics
- ❖ Referral services





The *Streams of Hope* Board of Directors is working diligently, and is ready to make significant progress. Since this is a young ministry in Southern Kent County, building a network of support and gathering additional resources is crucial for our success.

Current financial needs can be outlined as follows:

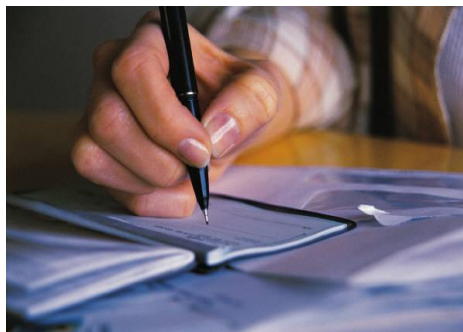
Property-Remaining Loan Balance	\$165,000
Building Upgrades & Construction	\$175,000
Annual Program & Operational Budget	\$115,000

Budget during the next 3 years would include both continuing current programs as well as developing new activities and events in keeping with our strategy. Programs already operational or in development include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Family wellness classes | Student after-school recreation |
| <i>Relationship classes</i> | <i>Economic skills classes</i> |
| Remedial tutoring | Student recognition events |
| <i>Summer day camps</i> | <i>Computer lab & training</i> |
| Food cooperative | Community garden |
| <i>Health clinic</i> | <i>Home services co-op</i> |

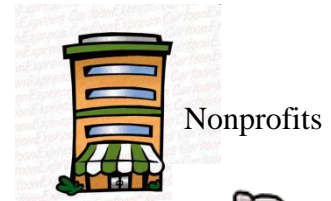
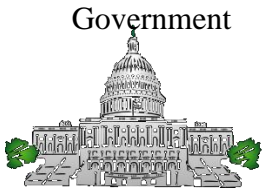
For this campaign, we are seeking initial gifts and 3 year pledges that will cover current property and operational expenses. This will allow *Streams of Hope* to grow our physical presence in the community, maintain a realistic level of service for a new community-based organization, and become debt-free in a reasonable time period.

The total amount required to meet this objective is \$455,000.



Framework for a Healthy Community

The support network collaborates...



Our Mission

To demonstrate God's love and foster sustainable change through services that build relationships, meet family needs, and promote a healthier community.

...to grow a healthy community

Healthy Schools

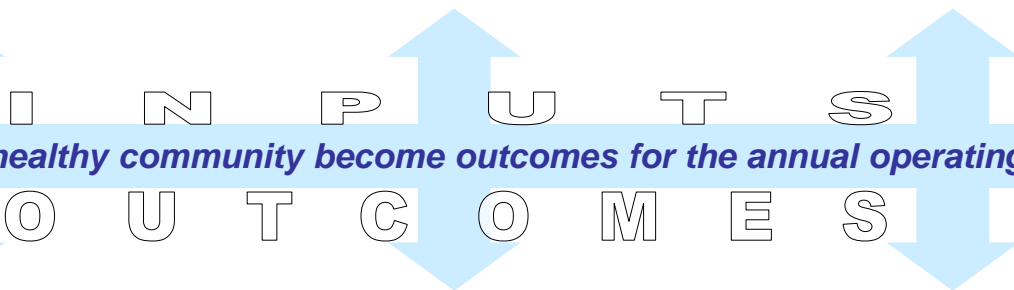
- Solid AYP scores
- Low transient %
- Low staff turnover
- Extracurricular activities
- HS graduate %
- College attendee %

Healthy Neighborhoods

- Low crime rate / "Safe"
- Willing involvement
- Known skills / assets
- Diversity
- Shared resources
- # / Hrs volunteers
- Well-kept properties
- Attractive common space

Healthy Families

- Building relationships
- 2-parent households
- Involved in schools
- Available healthcare
- High employment



Priorities & Programs