

Highlights of our Strategic Plan

What kind of community do we want to live in?

What is the role of our community center in bringing that vision to life?

In the fall of 2006, the Board and Staff of the North East Community Center (NECC) set out to take a fresh look at these questions. We interviewed leaders from our schools, service providers, community and business groups and local government. We listened to seniors, school children and adolescents. We talked to parents, doctors, fire fighters, and business people. We scoured statistics and studies that revealed the changes and needs taking place.

We learned that you love to live and work here. You value our community spirit, natural beauty and small town charms. You worry about losing neighborly connections as this community grows. Young people need more to do and seniors are anxious about the future. You care about families in need and don't want to lose the diversity of people and lifestyles within this region. You'd like to see more people become active in civic life.

And you consider the North East Community Center an important resource in building the future of this community.

We thank you for your thoughts. We have heard you and have crafted a strategic plan that responds to your concerns. We've developed a new mission that expresses your vision and our role in it:

The North East Community Center seeks to build a healthy, caring, responsive and welcoming community for all who live and visit here. NECC acts as a catalyst for that community vision through its partnerships with other organizations and by offering social, educational, recreational and cultural programs and services to help meet community needs.

We've set out the following priorities to guide our work over the next three years:

1. Ensure quality out-of-school activities that support the development and academic achievement of young people and reduce the likelihood of harmful behaviors.
2. Address gaps in family supports and social services.
3. Maintain community cohesion and neighborliness even as the community changes due to increasing numbers of higher income, commuter, weekender and immigrant households.
4. Increase civic participation and responsibility for community problem-solving.

To achieve these goals, we will:

- Seek out strategic alliances with other organizations that already have the expertise, knowledge and capacity to meet identified needs.
- Incubate or add critical services when they do not exist and are within our capacity.
- Ensure that all NECC programs are high quality and reflect best practices.
- Build the internal capacity that allows NECC to be flexible and adaptive to changing community needs.

Our staff and board will start laying a strong foundation for the plan by ensuring that all of our current programs are of the highest quality. We'll restructure our governance and staffing to best meet the strategic plan objectives. We'll recruit more hard-working board members. And of course, we'll need to grow the resources of NECC, both grants and private charitable support, in order to invest in the new capacity that will be needed to roll out the next phase of programs.

We look forward to working with you and on your behalf to realize this vision. We invite you to join us - there are many opportunities waiting for you!