

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

New Beginnings at Year's End

December 2011



Dear Neighbors and Friends,

In the 27 years since DSNI's founding, we have worked together to rebuild the landscape of the Dudley Street neighborhood. Today the affordable housing, parks greenhouses, and community democracy we've fought for are realities, yet the effort to make Dudley the vibrant urban village residents envision continues. I hope you'll enjoy reading about some of our latest successes below.

DSNI is your organization and needs your support—through your participation in one of our upcoming events and through a financial contribution. Any amount is the right amount—we just hope for your investment and involvement in our shared efforts to make change.

Thank you so much,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Knowles', written over a white background.

Glenn Knowles, Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Barros', written over a white background.

John Barros, Executive Director

Save the date for DSNI's Open House Friday, January 27, 2012!

New School in Town: Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School



Residents contribute their ideas for a great school at a recent community meeting.

The Boston Teacher Residency program and DSNI are working to open a new Boston Public Schools (BPS) elementary school on Dudley Street this fall. Pending approval by the state and city, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School will move into the former Emerson School building and will be a centerpiece of the Dudley Village Campus. Because DSNCS will be a BPS "in-district charter school," its principal will have broad power to implement a re-imagined school structure including an extended day and new ways of grouping students. Following the teaching hospital model, teacher residents will be mentored as educators while they help support students' learning.

Since July, more than 100 residents have attended four Community Meetings at DSNI to give their input. There will be additional opportunities to participate in the planning. Stay tuned.

617.442.9670 | www.dsni.org | urbanvillage@dsni.org

About DSNI

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative is a resident-led community change collaborative in the Dudley area of the Roxbury and North Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston.

Our mission is to empower Dudley residents to organize, plan for, create, and control a vibrant, diverse, and high quality neighborhood in collaboration with community partners.



Boston
Promise
Initiative

DSNI Leads Boston Promise Initiative

As the lead agency for the Boston Promise Initiative, DSNI is working to align the efforts and resources of families, community and faith-based organizations, schools and universities, businesses, government agencies, and private funders to create a Dudley Village Campus—a community that supports students as whole people, preparing them to attain excellent educations. Currently we are making use of a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant; our application for a \$6 million implementation grant is pending with the US Department of Education. We expect a decision by the end of the year.

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

Dudley Children Thrive When they Talk, Read, ...Paint Pumpkins!

Dudley Children Thrive aims to support all neighborhood children holistically beginning at birth—or even before. Part of a larger, city-wide effort known as Thrive in 5, Dudley Children Thrive's mission is to strengthen the Dudley community's capacity to develop high-achieving and healthy children. Another of DSNI's recent hires, Organizer Ayesha Rodriguez, is reaching out to and engaging parents with children in the 0–5 age group and supporting them to "Talk, Read, Play" with their kids. The Talk, Read, Play program offers fun activities, information on child development and nutrition, help finding play groups, and more. Ensuring that parents have opportunities to develop themselves is another important goal. Currently, three Dudley Children Thrive parents are participating in a ten-week leadership training through Boston Parent Organizing Network.



In October, children and parents enjoyed literacy activities along with pumpkin and face painting at Dudley Children Thrive's Pumpkin Party.

Dudley Children Thrive organizes family events every other month, including parties, movie nights and more. To sign up for Dudley Children Thrive, contact Ayesha at arodriguez@dsni.org or call 617.442.9670 x 240. Be on the lookout for a February event!

Supporting Students Every Day

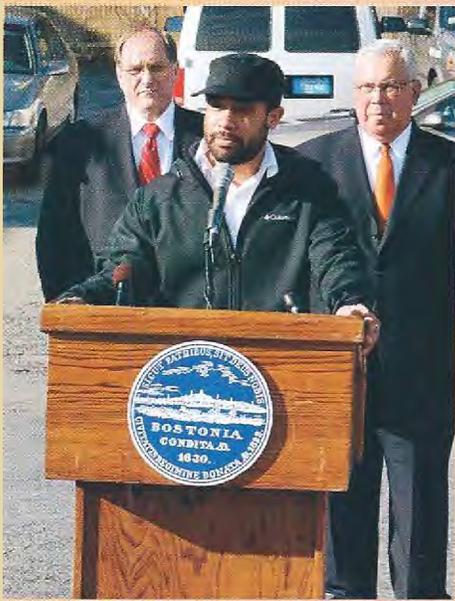
As part of our multi-pronged effort to support increased school achievement among neighborhood children, DSNI and Roxbury Presbyterian Church hosted the fall session of the Dearborn Middle School's Saturday School from October 15th - November 19th. Partner, Fidelity Investments, offered financial support and helped recruit tutors. Thirty-three students spent three hours each week working with volunteer tutors trained by Dr. Holly Carter of Northeastern. Valerie Vasti, a new Teach Plus teacher and coach at the Dearborn, developed our Saturday School curriculum around Seed Folks, a book about reclaiming urban areas by planting gardens in vacant lots.

Another session of Saturday School will be held from March 3-April 7, 2012. Our goal is a tutor ratio of 1:3, but we need more tutors! A high-school level Saturday School and SAT/ACT preparation classes are also in the works.



Email Ros Everdell (reverdell@dsni.org) or Alicia Mooltrely (amooltrely@dsni.org) or call 617.442.9670 to volunteer or for more information. Dial x150 for Ros; x200 for Alicia.

Saturday School students work with their tutor.



DSNI Organizer and Planner, Travis Watson

A Winning Team: Sustainable and Economic Development

In September, Harry Smith joined DSNI's staff as the Director of Sustainable and Economic Development and of Dudley Neighbors, Inc. Harry is applying more than 20 years' experience in organizing and community planning in supporting residents as they participate actively and make decisions around planning, land use, and design.

Harry's colleague, Organizer and Planner Travis Watson, was appointed by Mayor Menino to the Boston Employment Commission, which sets goals for resident and minority employment on city-assisted construction projects. The Kroc Center project has been recognized for setting a high standard for inclusive employment. DSNI's Kroc Center Construction Best Practices booklet will be available as a resource for other projects soon.

For more information, or to get involved, email Harry (hsmith@dsni.org) or Travis (twatson@dsni.org) or call 617.442.9670 x220 for Harry; x180 for Travis.

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