

DULUTH AT WORK IS WORKING



(Left) Tyler Palmer, an enrollee in Duluth at Work, says it's nice to know there will be resources and people available to help as he moves from graduation into the workforce. (Right) Duluth LISC and the City of Duluth announced a \$400,000 grant from the Northwest Area Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation's Northwest Area Foundation Fund at a press conference in July.

Tyler Palmer was bursting with pride as he and nine classmates graduated August 6 from a 12-week Fast Track Welding program at Lake Superior College (LSC).

Not long ago, this scene seemed impossible to the 29-year-old Hermantown native. He was living in Saginaw without a job, transportation, or a clear plan for the future. SOAR Career Solutions helped him focus his interests, enroll in the welding program, and find a home with relatives in Duluth on the bus line.

Tyler will continue to work with SOAR as he searches for a job, enters the workforce, and begins to build a successful employment history. That extended support comes through a new workforce development

and poverty reduction program called *Duluth at Work*, a partnership between the City of Duluth and Duluth LISC.

Modeled after the Economic Opportunity Initiative of the City of Portland, Oregon, *Duluth at Work* employs intense case management and one-on-one mentoring to help low-income people secure and maintain jobs, increase incomes, and strengthen small neighborhood businesses. Approximately 80 individuals and small businesses will participate in the first year, with a goal of 240 employees and businesses assisted over three years.

"We're positioning people and businesses for success by supporting them through the challenges of employment or entrepreneurial growth," said Emily Larson, coordinator, *Duluth at Work*. "It is an intentional and strategic attempt to move people forward, address barriers, and connect resources."

A \$400,000 three-year grant from the Northwest Area Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation's Northwest Area Foundation Fund, an \$80,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and \$383,000 in City of Duluth Community Development Block Grants are funding the program. SOAR is one of four initial grantees.

Measurable goals include increasing participants' income by 25% and helping small businesses in Duluth's five *Creating Neighborhoods That Work—At Home in Duluth* neighborhoods add a total of at least eight new jobs for low- to moderate-income residents. Those neighborhoods are Central Hillside, East Hillside, Lincoln Park, Morgan Park, and West Duluth. All have created detailed quality of life plans that identified jobs and economic growth as high priorities.

NORTHLAND KIDS SCORE INDOOR TURF

Area youth will have new indoor turf for football, soccer, and other sports, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the National Football League (NFL)/LISC Grassroots Program. The Boys and Girls Club of the Northland received the funding to enhance facilities at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center, which is under construction in Lincoln Park, a neighborhood becoming known for its sports and recreation opportunities.

The Minnesota Vikings, the NFL Youth Football Fund, and LISC awarded the grant as part of \$5.42 million in nationwide field refurbishment funding.

Duluth LISC has been a key partner in the Duluth Heritage Sports Center and assisted the Boys and Girls Club in applying for the grant.



Photo by Naomi Yeager-Bischoff

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* Provided a minimum of \$5,000 per year

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LISC SEEKS FEDERAL FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

National IISC's Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is remarkably successful at reducing crime and attracting businesses in cities across the country. Now, IISC and the communities it serves are asking Congress for permanent funding through the U. S. Department of Justice. This effort has strong local support from Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsay, the *Creating Neighborhoods That Work—At Home in Duluth* partners, and neighborhood residents.

In Duluth, the CSI program has brought residents, police, property owners, and community organizations together through training, activities, and events.

"Neighbors are building relationships with each other and with their community police officers," said Debbie Isabell Nelson of Neighborhood Housing Services of Duluth, which is a lead organization along with Churches United in Ministry (CHUM). "It is having a huge impact on the health and safety of our neighborhoods, and federal funding would ensure continued success."



Photos by Naomi Yeager-Bischoff



Left: Debbie Isabell Nelson (NHS Duluth), Ben Small (formerly of CHUM), and Barry Midthun (Duluth Police) at a CSI block party in Central Hillside. Right: Duluth Mayor Don Ness with neighborhood kids at a CSI block party.

"A SPARK IN LINCOLN PARK..."

Lincoln Park residents and business owners made a "Clean Sweep" of their neighborhood July 15, ridding their streets and sidewalks of cigarette butts and other litter. The event kicked off a streetscape beautification campaign that will focus on removing litter, planting flowers and trees, purchasing new holiday lights, and obtaining banners for light poles.

The Lincoln Park Business Group (LPBG) received a \$1,500 grant from Keep America Beautiful to purchase cigarette-butt containers and pocket ashtrays. Duluth IISC matched the grant with \$1,500 in seed money for a new Lincoln Park Streetscape Beautification Fund, which is now leveraging private donations.

"A spark in Lincoln Park is igniting community pride and action," said Heath Hickok, executive director, LPBG. He cites a citywide effort to rebuild the fire-damaged Harrison Community Center, construction of the Duluth Heritage Sports Center, planned commercial development at Clyde Park, and the donation of bricks for new monumental entry points as evidence.

Many current activities were identified in a neighborhood revitalization plan, funded in part by Duluth IISC. LPBG is collaborating with the lead organizations (NHS Duluth and CHUM) and other members of *Creating Neighborhoods That Work—At Home in Duluth* to implement the plan.

DULUTH LISC INVESTMENT SUMMARY- April 1, 2008 - June 30, 2008

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTERNSHIP GRANTS \$16,886

- American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)—\$2,500 for development of a Web site and informational packets
- Center City Housing Corp. (CCHC)—\$3,000 to hire VIVA Consulting to strengthen asset management functions
- CCHC—\$1,100 to assist with grant writing of an application to the Corporation for Supportive Housing for workforce development
- Lincoln Park Business Group (LPBG) and Spirit Valley Citizens' Neighborhood Development Association (SVCNDA)—\$2,354 for the executive directors to attend the 2008 LISC Urban Forum
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Duluth (NHS Duluth)—\$875 to send eight (8) "At Home" neighborhood residents for training at the National Community Leadership Institute
- NHS Duluth—\$2,600 internship grant to assist with outreach and marketing of NHS Duluth's loan and homeownership products and services, and information about the "At Home" plan implementation in four neighborhoods
- Northern Communities Land Trust—\$2,600 internship grant to assist up to 17 Land Trust homeowners with home and yard maintenance by partnering with volunteer organizations
- NHS Duluth, SVCNDA, Churches United in Ministry, Community Action Duluth, and the City of Duluth—\$1,857 for representatives to attend the *Getting It Done* conference in Chicago

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS: \$20,000

- AICHO—\$10,000 to assist with design costs related to the historic preservation of the Gimaajii Mino-Bimaadiziyann project
- NHS Duluth—\$10,000 to provide design costs/assistance through the *Creating Neighborhoods That Work-At Home in Duluth* Storefront Enhancement program.

OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS \$5,000

- SVCNDA—\$5,000 to assist SVCNDA in its role as a lead organization in *Creating Neighborhoods That Work-At Home in Duluth*.

<i>Total First Quarter 2008</i>	\$141,770
<i>Total Second Quarter 2008</i>	41,886
<i>Total Direct Financial Assistance in 2008</i>	<u>\$183,656</u>
<i>Total Local Funds Invested to Date</i>	\$7,850,818
<i>Total National LISC/NEF Invested or Committed to Date</i>	\$45,400,929
<i>Total New Markets Tax Credits Invested to Date</i>	\$16,500,000
Total LISC Investment	\$64,050,366



Duluth LISC seeded the new Lincoln Park Streetscape Beautification Fund with a \$1,500 grant, announced during the "Clean Sweep" event.

WELCOME

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Duluth LISC is pleased to welcome Angie Miller, executive director of Community Action Duluth, to its Local Advisory Board

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Lesley Kersten joins Duluth LISC as an administrative assistant.

new members



LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION

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DULUTH LISC STAFF

Pam Kramer Executive Director
Nan Stubenvoll Program Officer
Rusty Brown Assistant Program Officer
Lesley Kersten Administrative Assistant
Brendan Hanschen Intern
Patty Beech Program Consultant
Emily Larson Duluth at Work Coordinator/Consultant

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 4
2nd Annual "Connecting the Dots"
Showcase and Assembly
9:00 a.m. to Noon
First United Methodist
(Coppertop) Church

November 6
LISC Annual Awards Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn Duluth
Great Lakes Ballroom

VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE
WWW.LISC.ORG/DULUTH

**COMMUNITY PARTNER:
THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION**

The Home Depot Foundation is making Duluth neighborhoods healthier and more livable with a \$70,000 grant, distributed through Duluth LISC, for projects that advance green practices in housing, green space development, and tree planting. The funds are being distributed as follows:

- \$25,000 to Women in Construction Training Program/Women in Construction Company (WiCTP/WiCC) for energy-efficiency upgrades in 10 units of affordable housing
- \$25,000 to Northern Communities Land Trust (NCLT) for windows in a 13-unit project that will create permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans
- \$20,000 to the Spirit Valley Citizens' Neighborhood Development Association for landscaped green space at two sites, including the NCLT veterans' housing



The Home Depot Foundation assists nonprofits throughout the United States and Canada to increase awareness and demonstrate the connection between housing built responsibly, the urban forest, and the overall health of communities.

"Rendition of planned veterans' housing development."



Around 60 students researched topics and made displays for a recent health fair at Duluth's Morgan Park Middle School. The event was funded through a State Farm Service-Learning grant, secured by Duluth LISC and Spirit Valley Citizens' Neighborhood Development Association.

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THANK YOU!