

Together to Thrive

Reflections on 2015



Edgewater Collective

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY

Thank you for your partnership in 2015!

Last week, I sat down with an Edgewater resident as she told about her dream to encourage local students to read through Little Libraries where they could pick up books throughout Edgewater. She has the leadership to make this dream a reality but just needs some help with communication and behind the scenes coordination. I told her that Edgewater Collective would do everything we could to make this happen in our great city.

This is a perfect example of why Edgewater Collective exists. Whether it is a partnership with a resident or our school district, we bring people together so that every person in our city has a chance to thrive.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work! Keep on reading for more about we did together this year and what we hope to see happen with your help in 2016!

Sincerely,



Joel Newton

Executive Director



Our Mission

Cultivating partnerships to foster thriving Edgewater families, schools and community

Our vision is that our small city of less than a square mile can be a place where everyone has a chance to thrive.

How do we accomplish this?

Instead of starting our own programs, we are committed to bringing people and organizations together to demolish the roadblocks that prevent people from thriving. In a small community like ours, no entity or individual can function alone.



**If you want to go fast,
go alone.**

**If you want to go far,
go together.**

African Proverb

The Education Challenge

Students and families in our area are struggling to overcome the challenges of an inadequate amount of income. Family income is the biggest indicator of success in school. How do we overcome this so that every child can succeed into a great career?

In 2015 Jefferson Success Pathway...

- Released the Jefferson Community Report detailing the status of cradle to career education and baseline data on our six pathway goals
- Provided funds to bring Goodwill's excellent career mentoring program to Jefferson Junior/Senior High School
- Brought together over 30 Community Partners to work together around common goals and indicators of success
- Brought in excellent partners to lead parent workshops on starting a new business and overcoming immigration barriers



5th Grade class at Lumberg received funds for rockets through our Classroom Mini-Grants



Kaiser Permanente and Wish for Wheels assembled and donated bikes for local preschool and elementary students



Lumberg students, families and volunteers celebrated a successful afterschool reading program led by Jefferson Unitarian and school staff



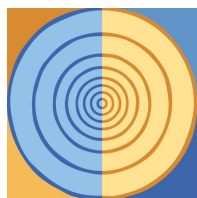
Edgewater Collective
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The Community Building Challenge

In Edgewater we are blessed with excellent city staff and council members as well as highly qualified citizen leaders. Our desire is to help resource citizen-led projects like HEALthy Edgewater and Edgewater Walks through enhancing communication and connecting the dots with other projects in the area.

In 2015 Edgewater Collective...

- Updated and maintained the Edgewater Walks website and Facebook page
- Provided a page on the Edgewater Echo for the HEALthy Edgewater initiative to post relevant news articles
- Managed another successful growing season at the Jefferson Jr/Sr High Community Garden and even started composting
- Organized another successful Edgewater 5k to support local education efforts



Edgewater ECHO
LISTEN TO THE PAST. LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

The Communication Challenge

Do Edgewater residents know about the great small businesses in town? Does our community know about upcoming events where they can meet neighbors and participate in community life? We launched the Edgewater Echo over two years ago to tell the stories and happenings around Edgewater. We believe that informing our community about ways to plug in, find resources and make a difference is an important step toward Edgewater being a place where everyone has a chance to thrive. Visit edgewaterecho.com to find local stories and events.

Looking Forward to 2016

Coming in 2016...

- In January, we will give out Classroom Mini-Grants to Jefferson Area teachers for projects that will inspire student learning
- In February, we will release a Preschool Guide detailing programs and resources available to families with preschool children in the 80214 zip code
- In the spring we will continue our monthly parent education classes around budgeting, healthy cooking and tax help
- In April, we will bring together local gardeners to support the Jefferson Community Garden and work at getting more local produce into the hands of local families
- On May 21, we will sponsor the Edgewater 5k and this year we are planning some exciting community events to surround the 5k
- In June, we will release the follow-up Community Report showing the progress that schools and Community Partners have made in improving cradle to career education in the Jefferson Area
- In August, we will welcome back our Jefferson Area teachers and staff with a delicious back to school breakfast
- And throughout 2016, we will continue to resource and encourage citizen-led efforts like the Little Library Literacy Project



In January, we will move into an office at 5220 W. 25th Avenue which will greatly expand our presence in Edgewater and give us an opportunity to do even more in our great city! Stay tuned for an open house in January.

Thank you for joining us in this work!

- Thank you to those who volunteer with children and families in our area
- Thank you to the Daniels Fund for funding our work on the Jefferson Success Pathway
- Thank you to our Community Partners who buy into the cradle to career vision and do excellent work in the Jefferson Area
- Thank you to our Business Sponsors who support our work and choose to do business in our great city
- Thank you to our board members who provide guidance and wisdom
- Thank you to our donors who financially support our work



2015 Giving Goal

\$110,000

Amount Raised

\$91,172

Edgewater Collective Board

Sarah Clark
Camille Howells
Robert Case
Chris Mendez
Grant Babb
Joan Seivert
Jesus Ornelas

Edgewater Collective Staff

Joel Newton, Executive Director
Germán Zárate-Bohórquez, Community Liaison

Visit our website: www.edgewatercollective.org