

THE ZIP CODE CONNECTION'S CORE BELIEF:

The Church is called to be a catalyst for connection in the community.

OUR VISION BY 2025

A vibrant, thriving community recognized as a good place to live, work, learn, do business, raise children, and practice one's faith.

OUR MISSION

Address poverty at its deepest levels through reconciling, strengthening and creating connections.

THEORY OF CHANGE

A vibrant and thriving community is realized when the community is intentional in connection to their faith, committed to building healthy relationships with all neighbors, and deliberate in mobilizing the full community to move towards strong management of shared resources. Therefore, we are compelled to engage as a community to improve the health and wellness of our families, foster a robust education system and transform our community through economic development efforts.

CORE STRATEGIES

Use the power of connection both inside and outside the communities to enhance and build the capacity of those serving the community, by:

Convening neighbors and churches, organizations, and individuals

Learning with our congregations and our neighbors about the issues and best practices

Leveraging financial, political, and decision-making resources needed to support community transformation

OUR FOCUS AREAS



Community Engagement

Intentional collaboration and engagement of all neighbors will educate and equip them to have a greater impact in all areas of community transformation.



Education

A holistic approach to education and training for families and community members will increase their capacity to benefit from all aspects of community transformation.



Health and Wellness

Healthy foods, increased physical activity, accessible quality health care, and education about health and nutrition will substantially improve health outcomes for the community.



Economic Development

New and expanded economic opportunities and development will increase the earning capacity of the neighbors and sustain the community transformation for the future.

THE ZIP CODE CONNECTION KEY ACTIVITIES BY FOCUS AREA

Community Engagement

South Dallas Fair Park (75215)

- Sponsor and support candidate forums and voter registration
- Create internships to serve as community educators
- Create internships as liaisons to city departments on neighborhood issues and concerns
- Engage community using “Friends of the Community” events—“Rock of the Block” and “Table Space”
- Educate and create sense of ownership through Faith Coalition

Red River County (75426)

- Facilitate RRC Community Alliance activities
- Support growth and development of the Hub Community Center
- Engage churches outside the county in missions that exemplify “ministry with”
- Expand on “Bridges to Racial Unity” and other means of addressing race issues
- Partner with interfaith group hosting ecumenical and integrated events

Education

South Dallas Fair Park (75215)

- Out of school time programming with FRI
- Adopt-a-School with Faith Coalition
- Coordinate early childhood education enrollment (paperwork, fees, education, rules, immunization)
- Faith Coalition—various Saturday and off-hours tutoring
- Create Community Educator Program with Information Clearinghouse

Red River County (75426)

- Volunteer programs in Clarksville ISD elementary schools
- Partner with Paris Junior College for GED classes at The Hub Community Center and new job training
- Catalyze development of strong early intervention program for 0-3-year-olds
- Support and grow “Pray-ers for Students”
- Identify and create programs for family education and job training

Health and Wellness

South Dallas Fair Park (75215)

- With Baylor, UTSW, Methodist, Parkland, Faith Coalition and local government provide farm stands, gardens, hire community parish and health workers
- Create community health care educator program, with Clearinghouse
- Create Farmers Market with fresh produce and ways to cook healthy meals for neighbors
- Utilize missional interns to support community gardens

Red River County (75426)

- Work with community health Gatekeepers on chronic and preventable diseases
- Engage the community in programming related to new Northeast Texas Trail
- Support the development of local farmers market
- Leverage health care partners for health education and awareness events

Economic Development

South Dallas Fair Park (75215)

- Create incubator for job training and placement, business creation, entrepreneur support
- Leverage Farmer’s Market creation as locus for other business activity
- Use incubator to connect local artists and entrepreneurs for mini Arts District
- Leverage Habitat for Humanity builds
- Store front development
- Create new industry (green retrofitting construction and solar panels)

Red River County (75426)

- Provide coaching, training, and support for new career paths, especially entrepreneurial opportunities
- Support the return of former residents, particularly young HS and college graduates
- Leverage the North East Texas Trail opportunities for new and expanded business
- Support marketing and communications about economic development in Red River County