



# MEASURABLE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

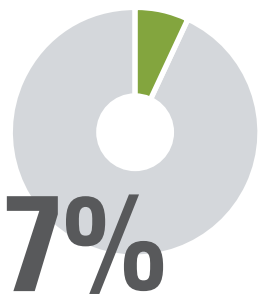
## PRESCHOOL: a child's foundation

### What we KNOW

PRESCHOOL IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT for children from low-income households who have fewer books, watch far more television, and are much less likely to visit museums and libraries than kids from more affluent families (Duncan, Ludwig & Magnuson, 2007). A quality preschool program prepares children who would otherwise enter kindergarten already behind their peers.

### What we FOUND

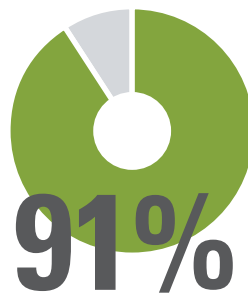
IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY:



National CORE families with children in licensed preschool (National CORE research)



Preschool slots available (California Child Care Portfolio, 2007)



National CORE families who would use a licensed preschool if an affordable, accessible preschool were available (National CORE research)

At least half the educational achievement gaps between poor and non-poor children exist at kindergarten entry; the larger the gap, the harder it is to close.

National School Readiness Indicators Initiative

## WHAT HOPE IS DOING



In 2008, Hope Through Housing Foundation will open three licensed preschools, and has three more in development, at National CORE properties. In total these preschools will provide high quality educational experiences and increase the school readiness of up to 112 children at no cost to their families.



## AFTERSCHOOL: the vital hours

Today, 14.3 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost 4 million middle school students in grades 6 to 8. Just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs – but the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate in afterschool – if a program were available.

*Afterschool Alliance*

### What we KNOW

**CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATE** in after school programs show improved academic performance in school, fewer behavior problems, and gains in self-confidence (Charles Stewart Mott Foundation).

### What we FOUND

**MORE THAN 50% OF PARENTS** with children in Hope after school programs report they can't help their children with homework, either because they do not have time or do not know how to help. More than 50% of families do not have a computer or internet access in their homes.

## WHAT HOPE IS DOING

Hope offers convenient access to after school programs for more than 800 children— right in their own apartment community. Being located where families live is an important factor in providing children with access to this important service. After School and Beyond children and youth are supported by caring adults, get help with their homework, have access to computers, and complete hands-on activities that reinforce in-school learning. Early evaluation results suggest that Hope is having a positive impact. Among program participants,

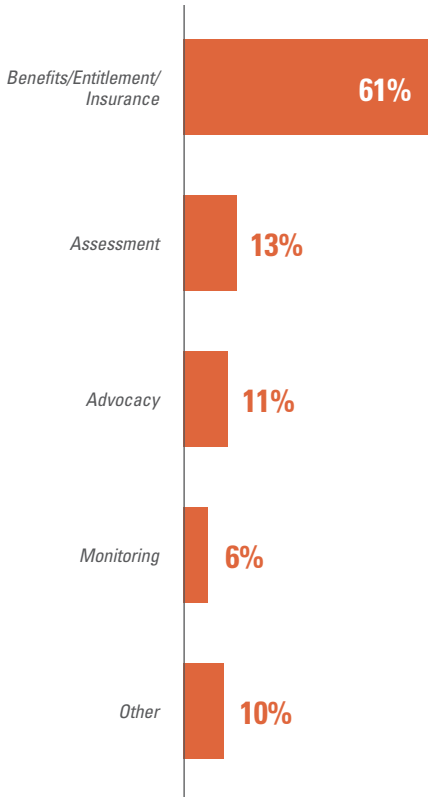
- 81% report high levels of homework completion
- 68% report stronger math skills
- 63% report an increased interest in school





# SENIORS: our nation's treasures

**Service Coordinator  
One-on-One Assistance**



## What we KNOW

**KEY TO MAINTAINING HEALTH AND INDEPENDENCE** for older adults is their level of physical activity and social engagement. No other group of factors predicts quality of life better than these. Lower income seniors are more at risk than those with higher incomes.

Many seniors find themselves isolated due to multiple factors, including increased likelihood of living alone, death of family members or friends, retirement or poor health. Isolated seniors are 2–3 times more likely to die prematurely than others who have strong social ties (Adler & Towne, 1999).

## What we FOUND

**MORE THAN 47% OF SENIORS** who come to live in National CORE affordable housing are considered “frail elderly” or “at-risk” due to at least one major personal limitation that affects their ability to meet their personal needs.

# WHAT HOPE IS DOING

Hope Through Housing provides services proven to aid older adults live independently longer and better. Group activities are designed to break down social isolation and loneliness for approximately 400 seniors each month. In addition, Hope service coordinators provide one-on-one assistance monthly to almost 200 seniors. The result is seniors accessing basic needs such as housing, health care and food. More than 1,500 residents are screened each year for health status and needs assessment in order to develop strategically-targeted community service plans.



# CREATING COMMUNITIES: building hope

## What we KNOW

**LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS** traditionally are neglected, resulting in unsafe physical conditions that offer havens for crime. Well-maintained communities foster interactions among residents, build community pride, and as a result experience less crime (National Institute of Justice).

## What we FOUND

**CITRUS GROVE (RIALTO, CA)**, generated the highest number of police calls for service than any other neighborhood and cost taxpayers more than \$160,000 annually in extra city resources. After a comprehensive revitalization by National CORE, violent crime in the area plummeted 79%, and overall crime fell 68%.

# WHAT HOPE IS DOING

Hope and National CORE work together with communities to change the physical and social conditions that invite crime. This includes everything from a design that maximizes safety, consistent property management, and services and activities that increase social connection and community pride. Together Hope through Housing and National CORE have a proven record of effectiveness in creating and maintaining safe communities.

**Neighborhood crime prevention efforts must not neglect deeper factors that create crime in the first place—lack of economic opportunities and weak social bonds between residents. In practice, efforts to create safer neighborhoods must go hand in hand with other community development activities such as attracting jobs and increasing access to affordable housing.**

*Solutions for America*



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