

Mountain Lake Horizon Team

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Mountain Lake is a safe, progressive, family-friendly small town. With strong roots in diverse traditions, we support the spiritual and physical well-being of all our residents. Mountain Lake has a diverse, entrepreneurial economy that grows at least one new business a year. Our young entrepreneurs are leading the charge with businesses that capitalize on our technological, environmental, and infrastructural assets. Our rich culture is reflected in our vibrant downtown.

Horizon Team composition:

Future Squad liaisons, the Local Organizer, and Community Bloggers

This Horizon's Team's purpose is to

- Sustain the vision of poverty reduction and leadership development in the community
- Make decisions on funds distribution based on requests/plans submitted by Future Squads
- Promote and energize the work of Future Squads
- Coordinate Future Squad work to avoid scheduling conflicts or duplicating funder requests

INFRASTRUCTURE

Meeting schedule

- Monthly or as needed
- Initially, meetings will be the third Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at City Hall or the Community Center
 - Next meeting January 17th, 3:30 to 4:30 at the Community Center

Leadership roles

- **Chair**
 - Develop agenda, determine meeting location, reserve room
 - Send out a meeting reminder to all members with meeting location and directions
- **Secretary/Treasurer**
 - Coordinate with City Hall (fiscal agent) and Future Squads to ensure funds distribution
 - Record decisions and key discussions from Horizon Team meetings and give to Communication Specialist to post on the community blog
- **Communication and Technical Support Specialist**
 - Ensure regular entries into community blogsite
 - Work with local media to get articles in newspaper
 - Help to promote Future Squad activities community wide with flyers, etc.
- **Community Organizer:** serve as a chief spokesperson for the Horizon's Team

Member's responsibilities are to:

- Attend meetings prepared to participate
- If members have a discussion item for the meeting, send the Chair supporting materials to distribute prior to the meeting

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS/TEAM CULTURE

Decision making protocol

- A majority-rule vote (i.e. a relaxed form of Robert's Rules) with the intention of striving for consensus prior to the vote

RESOURCE LEVERAGING AND ALLOCATION

Fiscal Agent: Mountain Lake City Hall

Criteria/guidelines

The guidelines include the following: Each project should...

- Fit within the Vision Statement (see below)
- Have a demonstrated impact on reducing poverty and/or promoting leadership in the community
- Benefit the Mountain Lake community (local impact)
- Have a budget and a way to report outcomes
- Include some other funding strategies (a plan for accessing funds/support such as matching funds from corporations or foundations, in-kind contributions, individual donations of money or labor, fundraising events, revenue generating services, etc.)
- Loans: requests will be assessed on a case by case basis
- Horizon Team Meeting Expenditures
 - Administrative costs such as copies will be contributed by City Hall
 - Child care or advertising: Team members will provide these from their own resources (business, home, etc.) or access 'Barrier elimination funds'

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Community Blog: Bloggers will update the community website with information presented at the Horizon's Team meeting. Horizon Team members can also submit material to be posted on the site such as news articles, community event dates, etc.

Newspaper and quarterly Chamber newsletter

VISION AFFIRMATION/SUSTAINABILITY

Regroup and re-energize Future Squads

- Quarterly Community Block Parties—ideas include a potluck, presentations on Future Squad goals and achievements, and 'piggy-back' on other scheduled events such as church gatherings

Training or coaching in specific goal areas

- Currently, team members are requesting training in fundraising and economic development opportunities



**MOUNTAIN LAKE
FUTURE SQUAD PLANNING WORKSHEETS**

Future Squad: **Economic Growth**

Future Squad Co-Leaders: Rob Anderson & Beth Smith

Future Squad Goal(s): To help Mountain Lake become an economically thriving community with a vibrant downtown by supporting diverse, entrepreneurial, and home-grown businesses that capitalize on our technological, environmental, and infrastructural assets.

Connection to Poverty Reduction: Create more and better jobs; Invest in community resources

Projects	Desired Outcomes	Actions	By When Implemented	Details
Small Business	Create one new business a year in Mountain Lake by providing low- or no-cost loans and grants to small business startups with limited access to capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate Horizons funds for initial fund • Formulate eligibility criteria based on business planning and (lack of) access to other sources of capital • Collaborate with city economic development staff to publicize program and identify potential recipients 	June 1, 2009	Additional business development resources will be made available to applicants and fund recipients through the SBA Small Business Development Center, SCORE and U of MN. Microloan Fund Committee will implement the program and provide reporting as necessary.
Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Projects	<p>Give low-income residents equal opportunity to reduce their environmental impact</p> <p>Help residents save money by learning more efficient and lower-impact ways of using and maintaining their homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find local source for lowest-cost compact fluorescent lightbulbs, purchase in bulk • Contact utility company to determine availability of energy education programs • Schedule educational programs and free lightbulb giveaways in conjunction with other summer community events 	June 1, 2009	Mt. Lake Public Utilities, U of M Extension Service and Western Community Action will be replied upon as main resources to facilitate this action plan item.



**MOUNTAIN LAKE
FUTURE SQUAD PLANNING WORKSHEETS**

Future Squad: **Community, Civic, & Cultural Engagement**

Future Squad Co-Leaders: Gloria McKissick & Art Ellingson

Future Squad Goal(s): To help Mountain Lake capitalize on its diverse cultural assets, provide opportunities for residents to engage with one another, and to build positive relationships across the community.

Connection to Poverty Reduction: Focus on early childhood, youth and schools and Help people meet their urgent needs.

Projects	Desired Outcomes	Actions	By When Implemented	Details
Needs, Wants, and Offers	<p>Help residents meet basic needs at little or no cost by connecting them with possible loans, trades, and barterers</p> <p>Provide a non-wasteful outlet for unneeded household items</p> <p>Give neighbors an opportunity to connect with one another through mutually beneficial exchange</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using Horizons community blog site, set up online location for community members to post needs, wants, and offers • Advertise availability of the site • Evaluate use of the system and determine any needed changes 		
Community Garden	<p>Provide space to produce low-cost food for low-income and other residents</p> <p>Capitalize on the skills of elderly residents and engage youth in a community activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure local land, readily accessible to renters, that's well-suited to vegetable gardening, as well as necessary tools and initial labor • Contact and work to collaborate with existing community gardeners • Work with city to secure water and insurance for site, acquire donated and low-cost tools, plant starts, and seeds 	Summer 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With substantial Lao and Latino populations, the potential to use the community garden as a multicultural gathering site is significant • One key source of volunteer gardeners will be the nearby senior center, where many

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit gardeners for Spring 2008, get signed gardening agreements, and begin planting 		residents will benefit from physical activity, fresh foods, and social engagement
Welcome Wagon	<p>Foster a more welcoming atmosphere in Mt. Lake</p> <p>Help new residents build relationships by creating contacts for them in the community</p> <p>Support local businesses by informing new residents of their services</p> <p>Build cultural awareness and exchange with a diverse delegation of greeters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact previous participants in former Welcome Wagon to learn what has been done in the past Contact leaders in Lao and Latino communities to recruit a multicultural team of greeters Work with Chamber of Commerce to gather information from local businesses for inclusion in welcome packets Work with city government to determine best way to gather information on new residents 		
Youth Council	<p>Create a place at the table for youth in the community and in public dialogues</p> <p>Access youth knowledge and ideas in order to better serve their needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss youth needs and possible collaboration with existing local Christian youth center Work with St. James youth council to learn from their successes and determine next steps 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project was formulated by youth who participated in Study Circles After some discussion, it was determined that in addition to the existing youth center, there was a need for a secular youth center and/or council Energy has waned since the Action Forum, but may be rekindled as other youth-focused activities are organized by Horizons, and as youth energy builds in nearby St. James
Activities for low-income children	Provide recreational and educational opportunities for low-income children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Community Education's free summer lunches program to sponsor free open-swim time along 		

		<p>with lunch hour throughout summer months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsor several need-based scholarships for Community Education Swimming Lessons• Work with local independent educators to organize free art classes to children eligible for free and reduced lunch		
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