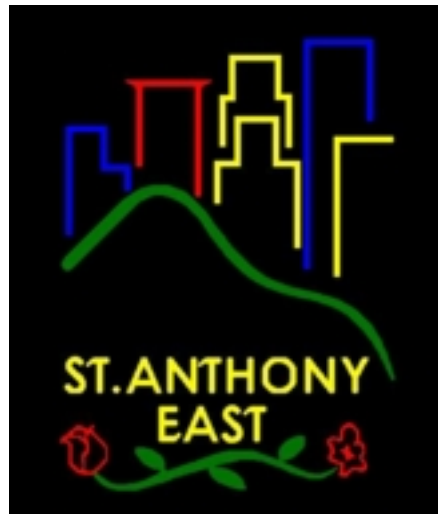


NRP Phase I Plan Review



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Contents

History and Overview.....	Page 3
Housing.....	Page 5
Crime and Safety.....	Page 8
Environmental and Public Spaces.....	Page 10
Youth, Seniors, and Family.....	Page 12
Implementation.....	Page 16
Evaluation.....	Page 17
Conclusion.....	Page 20

**Approved by St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association Board of
Directors on May 23, 2011.**

History and Overview

The people of St. Anthony convinced the state legislature to incorporate their little village as a city, and they received their town charter in 1855. When Minneapolis' milling industry and population began to surpass that of Saint Anthony, it merged with its larger neighbor in 1872. St. Anthony East is a neighborhood where the old city of St. Anthony is remembered quite well and residents take pride in living in the oldest, and what to them is the best, part of the city.

The neighborhood extends from Broadway Street NE on the northern border to Central Avenue NE on the east and southeast, Second Avenue NE on the south, and then Fifth and Washington streets NE on the west. St. Anthony East is composed mostly of residential properties, with Webster Open School, St. Anthony Park, Community Commons Park, the SAE Community Garden, and several local businesses all contributing fabric of the community.



Though St. Anthony East was traditionally composed mostly of working class

Eastern European Americans, it began seeing growing diversity by the mid-to-late 1990's. The overall population in St. Anthony East grew 18% from 1980 to 2000 compared to the citywide population increase of 3% in that same time. Further, many of St. Anthony East's residents have lived in the neighborhood for most of or all of their lives. This multi-generational loyalty to the neighborhood is indicative of the culture in Northeast Minneapolis; it is a culture that values its history and roots.

With an old housing stock and a growing population, the neighborhood needed to formally put into place programs that would retain the historical essence of St. Anthony East, while also adapting to modern changes. The City of Minneapolis' initiative to invest in its neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program allowed St. Anthony East a chance to increase its capacity and achieve healthy, sustainable neighborhood growth.

In any neighborhood development initiative, it is paramount to keep the community members at the center of the planning. Between 1994 and 1997 SAENA gained input from residents, business owners, and other community members through a multitude of surveys, town hall meetings, focus groups, and neighborhood events. After much discussion and deliberation from St. Anthony East constituents, four categories were identified to be the focus of NRP Phase I activity. These four categories were (1) Housing, (2) Youth, Senior, and Family Programs, (3) Crime and Safety, and (4) Environmental and Public Spaces.

Housing

When the Neighborhood Revitalization Program began in 1989, housing was identified as a central component to the vitality of Minneapolis neighborhoods. Thus, the State of Minnesota dictated that NRP project funding focus on improving neighborhood-housing stocks by requiring 52.5% of invested revenues to be used for housing and housing related programs, projects, services and activities.

St. Anthony East was a clear beneficiary of this direction, as residential properties make up the vast majority of all properties in the neighborhood. Most of the homes in St. Anthony East were built between 1900 and 1930, making it one of the oldest residential areas in Minneapolis.

From 1999 to 2007 St. Anthony East experienced a steady rise in property values and a decrease in home foreclosures. The recent economic downturn has since reversed some of these positive trends, making further investment in the neighborhood's housing essential. The Phase I housing programs have given SAENA a foundation to build on for Phase II housing initiatives and will undoubtedly help regain the remarkable improvements seen in years past.

GAP Housing Program

SAENA allocated \$300,000 of NRP Phase I funding towards the GAP housing program. The GAP program targeted homes in the neighborhood that were identified as at-risk properties. This included properties that were dilapidated, crime centers, and properties with absentee landlords, etc. The GAP funds allowed the neighborhood to purchase these homes and either remodel the property or

demolish and rebuild the property. If there was a gap between the purchasing or remodeling cost and the actual closing sale cost the GAP fund was used to make up the difference.

Seven properties in total were remodeled and sold using GAP program funding to advance the effort. This helped stabilize the housing market in St. Anthony East by preventing these properties from becoming blighted or acquired by owners who are interested in merely profit rather than the good of the community. These properties continue to be well maintained and add to the attractiveness of their respective streets. Further, it is interesting to note that the greatest amount of Revolving Loans and Last Resort Deferred Loans have been used on the streets that GAP funds were used on. This is an indication that investment in one property may actually act as an incentive for surrounding homeowners to improve their own properties.

Revolving Loan Program

The Revolving Loan Program had the greatest impact of all NRP Phase I housing programs in St. Anthony East. These loans were made at a 4% interest rate, allowing the neighborhood to cover the administrative costs of the loan program, generate program income, and reissue loans in perpetuity. The program was intended to create an incentive for homeowners to invest in their properties by making the necessary funding for such home-improvement projects accessible and affordable.

St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association originally allocated \$310,000 to the Revolving Loan Program. Additional funds were allocated to the program twice thereafter, leaving a total loan pool of \$435,015.26. The maximum loan amount for a single family home was \$10,000 and for a duplex or multi-family property was \$20,000, with a 7 year loan term for loans under \$10,000 and 10 years for loans over \$10,000.

Allowing residents to improve their houses not only increased the sense of pride in home-ownership; it also helped significantly to restore the general housing stock in the neighborhood. As of 2011, forty-four Revolving Loans were given to St. Anthony East property owners, resulting in a total of \$378,718.55 loaned. \$293,588.57 of this has been repaid and \$10,464.51 of interest has been generated, making the total program income \$304,053.08 (see appendix).

Last Resort Deferred Loan

The Last Resort Deferred Loan was established to allow very low-income residents access to funding for home improvement projects. The loan provides up to \$4,000 for owner-occupied single-family properties and \$6,000 for owner occupied homestead properties with no more than four dwelling units. Borrowers applying for this loan had to have a gross income that was at or below 50% of the area median based on household size.

The loan was structured to allow residents to make long-term investments in their homes. The deferred loan was forgiven with no payments and no interest if the property ownership did not transfer after five years. Thus, the loan was provided at no cost to the homeowner if they retained ownership for five years.

So far, five Last Resort Deferred Loans have been given, leaving the program loan pool with \$48,069 in unused funds. SAENA will continue to promote the program and encourage low-income homeowners to take advantage of the opportunity to improve the quality and value of their home. This program allows SAENA to directly reach out to low-income residents by increasing access to funding for home investment projects.

Crime and Safety

SAENA board members and residents reviewed various community-based safety initiatives that would help decrease crime and unwanted activity in the neighborhood. Like any neighborhood St. Anthony East strives to be a safe community, conducive for residents to raise families and support one another in community life. The three strategies chosen to foster greater community-based safety were: (1) Cops on Bikes program, (2) development of block clubs, and (3) street level lighting.

Cops on Bikes

NRP Expenditures: \$45,000

Contract Administrator: Minneapolis Police Department

The Cops on Bikes program funded part-time police bike patrol officers for St. Anthony East Neighborhood in collaboration with the St. Anthony West and Nicollet Island-East Bank neighborhoods. In several surveys, St. Anthony East residents identified an increased police presence as a priority, as it increased their feeling of safety. Its objective was to increase police presence in the months that experience higher levels of unwanted and criminal activity. The Cops on Bikes program was altered to have extra police officers monitor the neighborhood in patrol cars rather than on bikes. This proved to be a more effective way for the officers to monitor activity and concentrate on problem areas.

Block Clubs

Block clubs are a direct community-based effort to increase security in the neighborhood, allowing residents to look after the well being of each other and create strong community bonds. Several block clubs were formed which increased the level of communication between neighbors regarding safety issues. Along with block clubs, several neighborhood safety workshops were held to provide useful information on the usage of 911, home security measures, and personal and bicycle safety, etc.

Street Lighting

Original Allocation: \$96,300

Actual Expenditure: \$0

NRP Phase I money was never allocated to street level lighting because it did not receive enough support from the affected residents. Funds for street lighting were redirected toward St. Anthony East Park renovations.

Environmental and Public Spaces

After gauging neighborhood input, it was determined to focus effort on traffic calming initiatives by implementing traffic circles and speed bumps on streets with concentrated traffic. Reducing the speed and concentration of motor traffic was intended to decrease noise pollution and increase pedestrian safety in the neighborhood. Both efforts proved not to meet their intended objectives and were discontinued.

Traffic Circles and Speed Bumps

NRP Expenditures: \$1,500

Implemented By: Minneapolis Public Works Department

Traffic circles and speed bumps were chosen to reduce traffic speed and provide additional green space for beautification in the neighborhood. Temporary traffic circles were implemented along Adams Street and Summer Street using pylons to form a circle in the middle of the intersection and slow traffic. This ended up causing some confusion with motorists not knowing how to navigate the traffic circles, and the program was thus discontinued. Speed bumps were also placed along Spring St. The temporary speed bumps were taken by the City to be used in North Minneapolis. This program was never re-implemented.

Fence Replacement

NRP Expenditures: \$2,000

Implemented By: Minneapolis Public Works Department

New fencing was installed along the Broadway and Central corridor to increase safety and add to the aesthetic beauty of the neighborhood. The fence successfully achieved both intended functions and is still in pristine condition. It is a good example of how NRP has allowed necessary and desirable infrastructure projects to be executed, with the residents themselves facilitating the decision.

St. Anthony East Neighborhood Street Signs

NRP Expenditures: \$2,000

Implemented By: St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association

SAENA used metal street signs containing the St. Anthony East logo design to demarcate the entry points of the neighborhood. These signs were implemented to promote neighborhood beautification and pride.

Bike Route Signs

Original Allocation: \$2,000

Actual Expenditures: \$0

This idea was intended to help bicyclists from surrounding neighborhoods navigate the St. Anthony East with greater ease and help connect communities. This idea never came to fruition and may be revisited in the future.

Youth, Family and Senior Programs

It is important for community development efforts to pay particular attention to their youth and senior populations. For different reasons, these groups are invaluable to the community, and their well-being is often shaped by the care and consideration of those around them. The St. Anthony East community recognized the need for effort to be focused on direct services to residents, allowing the community to work together to improve opportunities for learning, support services, recreation and the environment for the neighborhood. After much examination, the three projects that were chosen to address these needs were: (1) the Community Health Program, (2) the Seniors Program, and (3) renovations to St. Anthony East Park.



Community Health Program

NRP Expenditures: \$87,100

Contract Administrator: Northeast Senior Resource Center

The Northeast Community Health Program began in 1999 as a collaboration of the Northeast Senior Citizen Resource Center, Hennepin County, and the neighborhoods of Logan Park, Holland, and St. Anthony East. Its objective was to improve the health of individual residents and the community as a whole by providing financial assistance, matching volunteers up with neighbors in need, partnering with home health agencies participating in and sponsoring community events, and serving as a resource for health-related concerns. More specifically, the program was designed to achieve the following:

- Provide individuals with help for their health and well-being, regardless of age, through specific programs, i.e. immunizations for school children, prescriptions for seniors, baths, foot care for disabled adults
- Improve community health through neighbor to neighborhood visitations, volunteer projects of various sorts, and community health awareness projects like the asbestos clean up and use of chemicals and pesticides seminars
- Strengthen and expand the capacity of the community health care network and all of its disparate parts, Federal, State, County, City, and local neighborhood, community, business, individual, and organizational to attend to personal needs and community trends

Hundreds of residents, over the three-year contribution period benefited from community health and wellness fairs, home visits to seniors, immunizations, flu shots, foot care to diabetic seniors, baths, transportation, and assistance with medical forms and prescriptions. Many volunteers, both youth and adults, helped to

provide these services as well clean the community gardens, shovel seniors' driveways, and do yard work.

The impact of the initiative can be seen in the following statistics:

- 39 clients received 162 foot-care visits from Spectrum Community Health, Inc.
- 64 clients received more than 356 prescription reimbursements
- 48 clients received over 435 rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and to other appointments
- 128 St. Anthony East residents responded to a 2005 Quality of Life Survey that helped identify neighborhood priorities, needs, and demands
- 110 clients received over 339 home chore and/or yard work services

** These numbers include clients and services for all three neighborhoods involved in the Community Health Program.*

Senior Programs

NRP Expenditures: \$22,000

Implemented By: East Side Neighborhood Services

The Senior Programs were designed to provide financial support to expand senior transportation, meal assistance, and recreation programs available in the neighborhood to meet the social and nutritional needs of residents. It was intended that these services would enable seniors to age with dignity within the community and remain close to their loved ones, while maintaining their health and independence.

East Side Neighborhood Services conducted a significant amount of outreach to seniors in St. Anthony East to gain input regarding what services they would like to

have, and encouraged them to them to make use of the services that the organization offered.

There was a positive increase in participation, as dozens of seniors were given rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, outings and other social trips. These services were invaluable due both to the direct services provided to the seniors themselves and also to the alleviation of responsibility to family members who would otherwise have had to assist their loved ones with these tasks, draining them of time and resources.

Upgrading St. Anthony Park

NRP Expenditures: \$124,247.69

By 1998 St. Anthony Park had fallen into disrepair and significant investment was needed to revitalize the neighborhood's largest public green space. The park, located at Webster Elementary School, is a neighborhood gathering point, an area of common recreation and interaction, and a safe environment for community members to feel at home. However, the amenities of the park had become run down and lacked accessibility for elderly and disabled individuals. Through a series of town hall meetings in 1997 and 1998, residents showed strong support for St. Anthony East Park renovations. It became one of the neighborhood's largest and most successful non-housing NRP project.

It was determined that SAENA would upgrade St. Anthony Park playground equipment and seating and implement other park renovations including picnic tables, accessibility for wheelchairs, trees, plantings, arboretum walk, basketball and tennis courts. These changes enhanced the beauty and functionality of the park, making it a vibrant center of the community where persons of all ages could enjoy it.

The addition of a walking path on 3rd Avenue made the park accessible for persons using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers. Teamsters Manor, which is located two blocks south of the park, is rental housing for the physically challenged. The high rise located two blocks north of the park had many seniors who previously had difficulty accessing the park. The walking path helped mitigate this problem. Furthermore, the path and the updated equipment made the park safer and more enjoyable for youth and families to use.

Computer Equipment for Webster School

Original Allocation: \$8,000

Actual Expenditures: \$0

The objective of this idea was to help provide computers equipment to be located in Webster School, which would be accessible to the entire neighborhood. The project was never actualized due to logistical complications.

Implementation

Implementation funds were used to carry out all Phase I projects to completion and engage the community through meetings, newsletters, events and workshops. This section was concentrated primarily on hiring staff to conduct activities and distributing newsletters that would allow SAENA to effectively disseminate information to the community. Several health and safety workshops were also held to inform the community of important issues impacting the neighborhood.

Evaluation

The impact of NRP Phase I on St. Anthony East was significant and positive. Evidence of its impact can be seen both in tangible structures, such as renovated houses and an updated park, as well the community capacities that have created social bonds, trust, and cooperation. Each of these components must be considered in the evaluation of the program, as the social capital of a neighborhood lays the foundation for its health, and the tangible projects are the manifestation of that social capital. When the NRP developed its vision over twenty years ago, it laid out four specific goals. These goals were to (1) build neighborhood capacity (2) redesign public services (3) increase inter-governmental and intra-governmental collaboration and (4) create a sense of community. By this criterion, St. Anthony East's Phase I neighborhood action plan was indeed successful.

Build Neighborhood Capacity

- Surveys and research studies conducted by CURA, Northeast Senior Resource Center, and SAENA contributed valuable information about the community in St. Anthony East, revealing information about the neighborhood's history as well as issues that residents are facing.
- Various housing loan programs allowed residents to make vital investments and improvements to their homes, empowering them stay in their homes and improve their living conditions.
- Money was leveraged through the Revolving Loan Program, making the neighborhood less reliant on outside funding, and allowing the residents to reinvest in the housing stock for years to come.

Redesign Public Services

- The Community Health Plan provided direct social services to vulnerable elderly residents at low costs using volunteers to do much of the work.
- Last Resort Deferred Loan Program assisted a number of low-income residents to address structural housing problems that posed safety risks.

Increase Inter-governmental and Intra-governmental Collaboration

- SAENA collaborated with the Minneapolis City Council, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and 2nd Precinct Police Department to advance neighborhood priorities.

Create a Sense of Community

- Neighborhood meetings and events (e.g. Ice Cream Social, Plant Give Away, National Night Out) helped create long lasting bonds between community members.
- Newsletters, postcards, surveys, and the SAENA website created a network of communication between community members to allow residents to be aware of issues and opportunities that will impact them.
- Investments in our neighborhood parks provide a space for the community to come together and enjoy neighborhood green space.



Conclusion

NRP Phase I was a great opportunity for residents to learn how to effectively plan, organize, and implement projects that improve the neighborhood. Participation in neighborhood events and projects rose significantly, and it increased the sense of identity for St. Anthony East. Further, the various programs had a dramatic effect on the quality of the neighborhood. Over 50 houses were renovated, dozens of senior citizens received needed medical assistance, St. Anthony Park was updated to be made safe and accessible for persons of all ages, and the Cops on Bikes program brought three Northeast neighborhoods together to invest in their safety. St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association values the opportunity to take part in this resident driven effort, and looks forward to applying the knowledge and skills learned in Phase I to NRP Phase II, to expand on the improvements that have already been made to make St. Anthony East a great place to live, work, and play.

A Year in Review

St. Anthony East: Where Downtown Meets Hometown

St Anthony East is a safe neighborhood with a wide range of housing options, two parks, a community garden, a few local businesses, and is in close proximity to the river (and that community with businesses and restaurants) as well as downtown. The neighborhood extends from Broadway St NE to the north, Central Ave NE to the east, 2nd Ave NE to the south, and 5th and Washington streets NE to the west. With a population of 2,038 people, it is the sixth smallest out of the 13 neighborhoods in Northeast Minneapolis, and it is the 14th smallest neighborhood out of the 86 neighborhoods citywide. The overall population fell by 110 people from 2000 to 2010 but became more ethnically diverse with increased Hispanic and African American populations.

Although the population declined by 110 people, 14 housing units were added from 2000-2010. There are 1,141 total housing units in St. Anthony East. Approximately 36% of these are homestead properties. The remaining 64% of non-homestead properties shows the high proportion of residents who rent a housing unit. Like many other neighborhoods in Minneapolis, St. Anthony East was hit hard by the significant housing decline in the past five years. The estimated market value for 1-3 unit homes fell over 22% from 2006-2010. Sale prices for single-family homes also decreased between 12%- 30% in that same time. The value of residential property permits was lower than the Minneapolis average and the number of residential properties with housing violations was higher than the Minneapolis average. However, St. Anthony East has fewer foreclosures in the past 5 years than most Northeast neighborhoods. Only 48 of the 1,214 foreclosures that occurred in Northeast came from St. Anthony East between 2006 to April of 2011.

With the new Old Third Town Homes project, we will have five low-income housing developments; two public housing buildings on Spring St, Clare Housing, and Teamster Manor making up the rest. Most of the homes in St. Anthony East were built between 1900 and 1930 and many are in the Craftsman Foursquare, Colonial, and Bungalow style. Newer single-family homes as well as townhomes make up the southern border along 3rd Avenue as this land was once cleared for a proposed freeway (livemsp.com). There are also several medium-density apartment buildings scattered throughout the neighborhood

Since Webster Open School closed, there are no K-12 schools in SAE, though Webster is still used for early education classes and community events. Only 13% of St. Anthony East residents are under 18 years old, making its population slightly older than other Northeast neighbors, some of which have over 25% of residents under the age of 18. However, the neighborhood's abundant green space and low violent crime statistics make it an attractive destination for families. 86 crimes were reported from May 2010 to May of 2011. Part 1 crimes include murder, robbery,

rape, assault, larceny, arson, burglary, and theft of motor vehicle. There were 30 reported Part 1 crimes in 2011. Most of the 30 reported crimes were larceny or other property crimes. These statistics are comparable to other Northeast neighborhoods of similar size. Initiatives such as increased safety street lighting, neighborhood walks, and block club involvement are important steps to minimize criminal activity in the neighborhood.

What is SAENA's role in the neighborhood?

SAENA's purpose is to promote the betterment of the community and improve the human environment within the neighborhood boundaries and surrounding area(s), through plans and projects as may be appropriate to accomplish these purposes.

Over the last year, SAENA has sought to effectuate its purpose primarily by increasing communication with residents to identify issues of concern and to identify opportunities to increase SAE resident involvement in community building for the purpose of improving our neighborhood. Our activities fell under the umbrella of two main functions: (1) Neighborhood Revitalization and (2) Community Engagement and Development.

Neighborhood Revitalization

SAENA receives funding through the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) to improve the neighborhood's infrastructure and housing needs, and address other resident priorities. The majority of NRP funds are allocated to housing programs that help improve the quality and safety of homes in St. Anthony East. Other revitalization efforts have gone towards updating parks, calming traffic, Cops on Bikes, neighborhood infrastructure, and community health programs for senior citizens. NRP funds help allow residents to shape the kind of neighborhood they want to live in.

Community Engagement and Development

It is our goal to strengthen the community and improve the lives of those who live and work here. We want to know what problems or issues residents are facing and direct them to resources that can help them. SAENA also wants to know what kind of activities residents enjoy so we can plan events that make the neighborhood a fun place to live. We want to know what makes you tick and we will incorporate that into our activities. Further, we want to build strong networks in the community that bring together people with common needs, interests, or goals. We do this through a variety of communications outlets, direct engagement with residents, and neighborhood events.

What did we set out to do in 2010-2011?

Since we were in between NRP Phase I and Phase II, we focused much of our attention on community engagement efforts. Our three main roles were to:

- Increase communication and collect information from residents and community members about any issues, concerns, or needs that exist in St. Anthony East.
- Identify resources in local government and non-profit organizations that can address these neighborhood issues and direct that information to residents.
- Engage residents and begin development of active networks that build support and cooperation in the community to improve our living environment.

What did we do and how did we do it?

Increase communication and collect information from community members about issues, concerns, and needs in the neighborhood

Community Meetings

- Residents voiced concerns on problem properties
- Landlords provided input on what they need. They showed particular interest in a landlord workshop and our home improvement loan programs.
- Residents gave input on what projects they are interested in for NRP Phase II

Neighborhood Events

- Talked with many residents about neighborhood issues at the CEE energy reduction workshop, Ice Cream Social and Plant Give Away

Direct Engagement

- Door knocking for neighborhood improvement initiatives, including an energy reduction workshop and safety street lighting petition
- Neighborhood walks
- Meeting with business owners
- Responded to emails and phone calls from residents about questions and concerns

Identify government and non-profit resources and direct to neighborhood

The following is a list of partners we worked with in the past year:

- Minneapolis Police Department, Council Member Diane Hofstede, NRP, NE Housing Resource Center, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, NE Farmers Market, Center for Energy and Environment, TC Habitat for Humanity, Rep. Dianne Loeffler, Senator Larry Pogemiller, NCR, NCEC, Public Works Department, Housing Inspections, Beltrami Neighborhood Council, St. Anthony West Neighborhood Organization, Audubon Neighborhood Association, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, and All Saints Church (Clearly we worked with some of these more than others, but this shows the breadth of our collaboration with other partners)
- SAENA participated in the 2nd Precinct Advisory Committee (2PAC), East Side Court Watch, NE Network, and Community and Resource Exchange Committee (C.A.R.E.) meetings to help bring information on issues in the community and local government resources directly to residents in St. Anthony East.

Resources and information provided to community members?

- How to effectively use 311 and 911
- NRP Housing Loan Programs
- Foreclosure assistance programs
- Block Clubs
- Eastside Court Watch
- Crime alerts and statistics
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Transition from NRP to NCR
- Landlord workshop in SAE
- Community Energy Services program through CEE
- Ability to use EBT at NE Farmers Market
- New developments on dog park
- Community garden
- Public Events

Community Engagement and Development

- Ice Cream Social and Plant Give Away - Dozens of people attended the Ice Cream Social and Plant Give Away - in spite of cold and rain!
- Neighborhood Walks - held every Tuesday at 6:30. They provide regular gatherings and give residents the opportunity to meet with and get to know one another. It also increases visibility, safety, and beautification in the neighborhood.
- Increased communication with landlords and scheduled a landlord workshop at Webster on June 30th
- Community Meetings

- Energy Reduction Workshop - 13 residents made their homes more energy efficient through Community Energy Services (Center for Energy and Environment)

Organizational Accomplishments

- Community Participation Program (CPP) application submitted and approved bringing \$26,450 to St. Anthony East
- NRP Phase I Report submitted
- SAENA office was updated and in the process of being organized
- Maintained attractive and usable website
- Increased regular communication with neighborhood residents by sending newsletters and more frequent email and postcard communication
- Increased 311 calls and reports
- Growing interest and support in community garden (5 people are on a waiting list)
- Made many new connections with residents
- Made progress on neighborhood dog park
- 2011 Policing Plan
- Worked with the Minneapolis Parks and Rec. Board to remove tree stumps and plant new trees in St. Anthony Park.

Evaluation

This past year was a fantastic opportunity for SAENA to increase outreach in the neighborhood and continue the ongoing efforts that help build community. Through various communication outlets, neighborhood events, and community meetings, we addressed the needs of the neighborhood and its individuals. However, this year was not without difficulties. We had to adapt to changes in the way the City supports neighborhoods, with the transition of the NRP to NCR and reductions to NRP Phase II funds taking place. We were in between NRP Phase I and Phase II, so we did not roll out any new, large projects. Even the weather was a challenging factor in our efforts. We went door-to-door in the coldest weeks of the year for the CEE workshop, had our first neighborhood walk in 102° weather and were rained out of two others, were rained out of our original Plant Give Away, and got rain toward the end of the rescheduled Plant Give Away and Ice Cream Social. Despite the unfavorable weather, our residents braved the elements and came out to participate in these events with their family, friends, and neighbors. We are proud of our accomplishments and want to continue to build our capacity. Our goals include increasing involvement in our neighborhood association, community engagement and community building, use of our NRP home loan programs, enroll more block club leaders, increase 311 and 911 calls, and commencement of our NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan.

We are excited to have made connections with many residents and look forward to building on the progress made this next year. We will continue our forward

momentum, but to be truly successful, we need your involvement. We want your ideas and your commitment. It is your neighborhood, and it can be as great as you want it to be.

Plan for the Coming Year

NRP Phase II

We will submit our Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and begin implementing programs and projects this year. As of right now our funding for Phase II is \$239,336. At least 70% of this needs to go to housing programs, so we will be making decisions on how to distribute the remaining \$71,800. We intend to use part of this money to develop a master plan for the neighborhood and will solicit your input as we move forward on that. After gauging input in a neighborhood meeting, residents identified neighborhood priorities and provided input on projects they would like to invest in. This is a list of priorities that were identified:

- Safety Lighting
- Master Planning
- Housing Loan Programs
- Professional newsletter
- Increase Neighborhood Involvement
- Focused Inspections
- Neighborhood Beautification
- Public Safety (overtime police)
- Traffic Calming
- More Youth Programs
- Encouragement of home ownership of multi-unit dwellings

We have begun pursuing some of these areas already and have found promising results in the following:

- Implement housing programs that positively impact the safety, livability, and value of properties in St. Anthony East. We will continue to work with the Housing Resource Center to establish housing programs that fit the needs specific to our neighborhood.
- Develop a master plan for the neighborhood. This would help the neighborhood shape future decisions in land use, housing and business development, and ensure that the neighborhood's interest is always accounted for. Appointment of Task Force to lead the effort.
- Add safety street lighting in the neighborhood, starting with Madison and Jefferson Streets. These streets were selected for the pilot project based upon recommendations by our Crime Prevention Specialists. We have received the required initial indication of interest by obtaining the required 35% approval from residents on these Streets.

Our next step is to send this petition to the City. The City will evaluate the project and advise of next steps. The next phase will require support from 70% of affected property owners.

Dog Park

- The dog park has the unique benefits of promote community building and safety by utilizing a space that is currently unused. It will increase activity in Community Commons Park and reduce the opportunity for crime. We are speaking with residents that live next to the proposed dog park location through door-to-door conversations and will establish a process for dealing with issues that may arise.

New Annual Event

- SAENA will establish a new Annual Community Event this year. We want your ideas on what you want for this event and your involvement in making it happen. Good food, entertainment, and games will be offered.

Increase Block Club Involvement

- Facilitate block club activity by recruiting individuals to become block club leaders and increase communication with existing block clubs

Restructure Meetings, Add Committees and Advisory Board

- Our regular meetings will better serve the neighborhood by using the full time allotment for community discussion and presentations focused on a single issue that is important to the neighborhood. We will have time before the community meetings to have a snack and socialize with each other. My recommendation to the board at our next meeting will be to hold board meetings on a quarterly basis.
- We are adding committees and have sign-up sheets available in the back of the room. Initial committees include annual event, community builder awards, block club leaders and Master Planning.
- In addition, to avail ourselves of the wisdom of people who have a long history of community involvement and leadership, but are stepping down from the Board, I am establishing an Advisory Board and will ask for continued service in this format, perhaps with meetings 2x per year, although details have yet to be finalized.

Communications and Reach in the Neighborhood

- Continue quarterly newsletters, increase email database, use phone banking to promote initiatives, increase traffic on SAENA website, and use public space and local businesses to post information.