Building Stronger Neighborhoods
General Information

Purpose
The Building Stronger Neighborhoods program, through neighborhood development and grantmaking, supports Greensboro neighborhoods as they mobilize assets to enhance community quality of life.

Philosophy
Building Stronger Neighborhoods community-building strategy is based on the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. ABCD seeks to build on the existing strengths (assets) of a community, rather than simply focusing on problems that need to be solved. BSN believes that this approach will:
- Promote investment in neighborhood leaders and organizations; and
- Encourage resident participation that improves the quality of life and strengthens the civic infrastructure of Greensboro’s neighborhoods.

Objectives
The program objectives of the BSN program are to help Greensboro neighborhoods to:
- Organize and assess their neighborhood goals;
- Identify and mobilize the many resources within their own neighborhoods
- Increase the base of resident participation and leadership in developing solutions to neighborhood problems;
- Strengthen links between neighborhood organizations and other institutions capable of providing support; and
- Bolster financial and other resources available for neighborhood self-help efforts.

Characteristics
BSN identifies the following as characteristics of a neighborhood organizations that are successful:
- Having an identifiable organizational structure or infrastructure;
- Having demonstrated success in completing neighborhood projects;
- Having recognized leadership;
- Having a clear set of priorities that outlines assets and needs of the neighborhood;
- Having a set of agreed upon boundaries of the neighborhood.

Description
BSNs is a program for neighborhoods in Greensboro with two components:

1. Neighborhood Development – providing support to neighborhoods in the form of advocacy, encouragement, education and training, and support services as they seek to achieve for themselves the objectives of the program. For additional information, please contact Donna Newton with the Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center at the Glenwood Branch of the Greensboro Public Library at (336) 851-2748 or bdnewt@yahoo.com.

2. Grants – a program of grants awarded to neighborhood groups for activities leading to the achievement of program objectives. This program includes technical assistance directly related to grant application and reporting processes provided by the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. For additional information on the BSN grants program, please contact Melissa Johnson at (336) 379-9100 or mjohnson@cfgg.org.

Coalition Members
The program is supported by a coalition of organizations seeking to sustain neighborhoods’ self-development as healthy building blocks of the community.
The BSN Coalition includes the Cemala Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Greensboro Public Library, Moses Cone–Wesley Long Community Health Foundation, and Weaver Foundation.