

**HOW DOES NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS
HELP CHILDREN FROM HISPANIC
BACKGROUNDS ASSIMILATE TO U.S.
CULTURE?**

Sarina Basile, Becca Bosch,
Gabby Haddad, Evan Jager,
Libby Robinson

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

Free after-school program that provides assistance with daily homework and builds character for students

Offers a fun, safe environment for under-resourced students during after school hours



VISION



- Vision: to serve as a community-wide catalyst for expanding the opportunities for the next generation of Greenville's at-risk students and their families to experience productive, Christ-centered lives

OUR QUESTION

How does Neighborhood Focus help children from Hispanic backgrounds assimilate to U.S. culture?

- Intellectually
- Socially
- Emotionally

INTELLECTUALLY

- Disadvantaged:
 - Parents' lack of English skills
 - Example: parents at Neighborhood Focus
 - Lack of funding in public schools
 - Rural background (Mexico)
 - Previous lack of structured school system

HOW DOES NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS HELP?

- Help with homework
- Individual attention
- Structure (and brain break)
- Field trips during summer program
 - Greenville Parks, Water Parks, Table Rock, the Greenville Museum



SOCIALLY

- Disadvantages
 - Many of the students are from a Latin American background and are a minority
 - May have feelings of discrimination or inferiority
 - May come from a rural background
 - Have likely spent their lives surrounded by extended family

HOW DOES NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS HELP?

- The students get to interact with other kids
 - The other kids may be from similar or different backgrounds
 - Making friends at school and at the after-school program
- Families get to know each other and help each other

EMOTIONALLY

- There is a strong traditional Hispanic focus on family
- The role of the Hispanic family
- These strong family connections can be broken in the US communities



HOW DOES NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS HELP?

- Provides basic needs
- Role Models
- Family support
- Emotional support



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Interview with program director, Will Fallaw
- Our view on how NF helps these children

WHAT ROLE DO YOU SERVE IN THE KID'S LIVES?

- I hope that NF serves a lot of purposes for the kids – basic needs like snacks and a safe place to be each day, academic needs in terms of homework help and building literacy, spiritual needs in terms of exposing them to what a healthy faith life can look like. On a personal level, I hope I'm a role model and a non-threatening authority figure, and I hope that a variety of benefits come from that. I hope the kids learn to respect their leaders and each other, I hope they learn that they can aspire to do big things.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS?

- I love working at NF because I feel like our program is a big part of the lives of the families that are a part of NF. Whether it's the Friday Night program, the after-school program, summer program, or any connections to services like health fairs or clothing drives, the people that attend NF experience life-change in different ways. We get to fulfill basic needs, but I think the relationships people build at NF are so important – volunteers to parents, volunteers to kids, kids to other kids, parents to other parents. Working at NF has given me a chance to be a part of this culture and see these meaningful relationships bud and flourish.

CONCLUSION OF OUR EXPERIENCE

- In our experience, Neighborhood Focus is a program that benefits the schoolchildren that are involved in an intellectual, social, and emotional way, which helps them to assimilate better than they might have been without NF.