



GRACE HILL

Grace Hill was established by the Episcopal Diocese (Grace Church and Holy Cross Church) in 1903 to provide a comprehensive and coordinated complement of services and resources to immigrant populations, helping them “settle” into their new community. With the goal of supporting their integration into American society both socially and economically, the services and resources offered were health care, material assistance (food and clothing), English as a second language, housing, and employment readiness. Today, that spirit of support -- of neighbors helping neighbors -- in geographically-bound communities is working to improve lives. Grace Hill brings together a full range of resources through two sister agencies: Grace Hill Settlement House and Grace Hill Health Centers, Inc.

Grace Hill Settlement House is rooted in the philosophy of the Settlement Movement which began in America in 1889 with the work of Nobel Peace Prize winner Jane Addams, who founded the Hull House in Chicago. The movement, locally, nationally, and internationally, strives to create a strong core within communities which supports and improves the social and economic status of individuals and families. The goal is to reduce barriers and increase opportunities for equitable participation in the pursuit of the American Dream, while engaging people in defining their course toward self-reliance at the individual level and interdependence at the community level. The work of the movement in the United States is produced by more than 750 settlements and millions of volunteers.

Grace Hill Settlement House works in partnership with neighbors and stakeholders to identify the social and economic challenges in North and South St. Louis, and establish families and communities that are strong and self-sustaining. Thousands of St. Louis residents are impacted each year by the multitude of resources and services that Grace Hill Settlement House offers which include early childhood, youth and family supports, aging and special needs, and community and economic development.

Our facilities are located at the core of several neighborhoods consisting of approximately 20 to 30 blocks in all directions. The role of Grace Hill is to build the skills of residents, and to create opportunities for their personal advancement and that of their neighborhood. Each year approximately 1,440 neighbors are engaged and trained, and they in-turn are able to provide a direct resources to other neighbors. Last year more than 1,440 resident volunteers created 122,000 man hours of labor.

Much of the Grace Hill service delivery system is supported by neighbor volunteerism. Unique to Grace Hill, labor provided by neighbors drastically reduces the cost of staffing. Further, Grace Hill has greater impact than specialty organizations because services are accessible within the neighborhoods and bring together a coterie of services and resources in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion. Comprehensive and coordinated service delivery is necessary to address complex issues faced by families in poverty.

Our success is measured by a variety of indicators:

- Reduction in unemployment
- Increases in graduation rates
- Reduction of evictions and foreclosures
- Increased median household income
- Volume of resident engagement
- Reduction of crime

Our sister organization, **Grace Hill Health Centers, Inc.** provides primary and preventive health care through five community health center locations in the City of St. Louis, primarily to uninsured and underserved residents of St. Louis and surrounding communities. Of the nearly 38,000 patients Grace Hill serves, 31 percent are children, 24 percent are homeless, and another 18 percent are public housing residents. The majority of those served have no health insurance and greater than 90 percent have household incomes under 100% of the federal poverty level. Services include pediatrics, family and internal medicine, OB/GYN, dental, mental health, optometry, pharmacy, transportation, and a Children's Developmental Center. Grace Hill also contributes to overall community health through its chronic disease, health education, lead prevention and remediation, and homeless services. Staffed by highly qualified physicians and other practitioners, the Health Centers serve neighbors who face numerous barriers to receiving access to appropriate preventative and primary care.

Through the provision of a broad safety net and a thousand helping hands, Grace Hill's purpose is to assist our neighbors residing in impoverished neighborhoods by equipping them with the necessary survival tools to achieve independence, thrive and live with dignity. Grace Hill curtails the cycle of dependence through the stabilization of families and the neighborhoods in which they live.

May 2011

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