



NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH CONNECTION, NOC

Strategic Priorities (2019-2021)

The vision of the Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) is to create an even playing field so that people in low income neighborhoods can achieve the “American Dream”.

The mission of NOC is to enhance the quality of life of people who live in poverty by empowering them and creating opportunities so that they can achieve economic independence, personal fulfillment, and self-reliance.

Core Values: integrity, compassion, commitment.

The Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) is a 501 (c)(3) community development organization established in 2008. Its mission is to fight poverty by improving the quality of life of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to achieve the "American Dream."

Over the past 10 years, NOC has played an important role in bringing resources, services, and technology into poor neighborhoods (accounting for some 10,000 people) through its 7 Neighborhood Learning Centers (NLCs): 3 in HHI, 2 in Bluffton, and 2 in downtown Beaufort. NOC's presence in underserved neighborhoods combined with its core programs (education, health services, and workforce development), allows NOC to build strong relationship with people who live there and involve them in its outreach programs.

Once invited to implement its programs in a poor neighborhood, NOC works with partners and residents to transform the community. Through its NLCs located in the neighborhoods, NOC provides easy access and opportunities to children and families to participate in its outreach programs. NOC's bottom-up approach empowers individuals, families, and communities by implementing on-site, sustainable neighborhood projects. NOC plays an important role as a "connector," fostering interactions among people within the community and bringing other service providers into low-income neighborhoods to help people. NOC's flagship education program focuses on after-school, and summer learning for children in K through Grade 8.

Oaks Complex in Hilton Head Island is a good example of how NOC transforms and builds a community over time.

NOC is making a Difference

- (a) NOC serves over **600** students at 7 Learning Centers in Beaufort County.
- (b) NOC brings **teachers** from public schools, **volunteers**, **technology**, and school curricula into

- its in neighborhoods where transportation is a problem.
- (c) Over **95%** of NOC students show progress and growth in reading and math based on MAP (standardized test) scores.
 - (d) NOC achieves these results at a cost of less than **\$1200** per child per year.
 - (e) NOC, together with its health service partners, has screened more than **500** people in the neighborhoods it serves since 2015.
 - (f) **Oaks**, where NOC has operated for more than 10 years, is a showcase of community development resulting from collaborative efforts.

NOC's Development Goals

The primary aim of NOC is eradication of poverty in low income neighborhoods by empowering people and creating opportunities for them to enjoy a better quality of life. To this end, NOC's five goals are:

***GOAL 1.** Reduce the “achievement gap” of children in targeted underserved neighborhoods by 50% by end of 2020 by improving pre-school (4 years) children's readiness to enter kindergarten and by improving academic performance outcomes of children in K through Grade 8 in math, reading, and language arts.*

***GOAL 2.** Improve health of people living in low-income neighborhoods through outreach, health screenings and health education, referrals, public safety, and good nutrition and wellness. (Target: 500 persons annually.)*

***GOAL 3.** Augment skills and knowledge of low-wage workers through NOC's workforce development and social entrepreneurship programs.*

***GOAL 4.** Increase NOC's institutional capacity and capabilities and replicate NOC model in at least 5 to 7 low-income neighborhoods locally, statewide, and nationally.*

***GOAL 5.** Build stronger communities through NOC's outreach programs and community development efforts in low-income neighborhoods served by NOC*

NOC's Priorities for 2019-2021 are to :

- *Broaden and deepen NOC's outreach programs strategically in the existing 6 neighborhood learning centers in Beaufort County, SC, and add another 3 to 5 new centers targeting low-income neighborhoods and new affordable housing developments in HHI, Bluffton, and Beaufort.*
- *Continue building a more substantive partnership with the Beaufort County School District and local schools to reduce the “achievement gap.”*
- *Strengthen NOC's geographical focus through advisory/working committees in Beaufort, Bluffton, and HHI for resource mobilization, marketing, and establishment of new centers.*
- *Increase NOC's institutional capacity and capabilities by building a strong cadre of staff, a volunteer pool, and partnership with other agencies.*

- *Establish 5 to 7 new centers in Jasper County, other areas in South Carolina, and nationally.*
- *Raise a million dollar over the next 18 to 24 months to implement NOC's strategic priorities noted above.*



Neighborhood Outreach Connection

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Together we can make a difference in the lives of children and families who are in need.