



# Revitalizing Milwaukee

Volume 1 Issue 2

Winter 2003

## Good news on **innovative** strategies in community **revitalization**

Revitalizing Milwaukee is published by the Milwaukee Community Outreach Partnership Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. The newsletter offers a look at local programs that bring the university and the community together to build strong inner city neighborhoods. A federal New Directions grant supports a number of these efforts, including student internships in economic development organizations, community learning projects and youth development activities.

This issue highlights a youth program called PUPS for PUPS that gives kids hands-on experiences in urban planning.

*For more information, call Stephen Percy, Community Outreach Partnership Director, 414-229-5916 or email [percy@uwm.edu](mailto:percy@uwm.edu).*



Milwaukee Community Outreach  
Partnership Center  
Center for Urban Initiatives and Research  
PO Box 413  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 864



Revitalizing Milwaukee

**n**ew program  
gives **kids**  
a chance to learn  
the ropes of **Urban Planning**

Using a lot of  
**imagination** and  
some basic urban planning  
principles, a group of **10-14**  
**year-olds** from Milwaukee  
spent several days last summer  
mapping out new neighbor-  
hoods for the vacant Park East  
freeway land.

# In their hands, this

tract of prime real estate was transformed into a vibrant community. Apartments, restaurants, workplaces, schools, libraries, parks and even a river walk—along with the necessary zoning for all of it—found a place on their maps.

The kids were participating in an innovative program called PUPS for PUPS (Pre-Urban Planners Preparing for Urban Problems), a youth development effort created by UW-Milwaukee urban planning professor William Huxhold and administered by the university's Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. PUPS is supported by a federal New Directions grant that is funding several neighborhood revitalization projects.

PUPS aims to help local inner city youth understand and respond to neighborhood issues, develop problem-solving skills, build computer proficiency and gain exposure to urban planning and such tools of the trade as Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS is a computerized mapping system widely used for land use planning and other municipal information needs.

Two sessions of the PUPS program were offered: one at the Hillside Resource Center



in downtown Milwaukee, a site with easy access to the Park East redevelopment area and another on the UWM campus where participants had a chance to learn about college life as well as tour the School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Practical experience was key in preparing the kids for their final project. A visit to the Park East site, demonstrations of GIS software, a field trip to Milwaukee's Department of Redevelopment, the computer game SimCity and even a video clip from the crime drama "The District", which demonstrated the use of GIS data in crime prevention, were all part of a hands-on approach.

"Practical applications went a long way in developing the student's interest," said Tom Schlei, a UWM graduate student in urban

## "Practical applications went a long way

education who helped teach the PUPS course with lead instructor Brian Clarke "Using SimCity as a tool to help the students learn about urban planning was remarkably effective."

Equally important was a chance to walk the redevelopment site where the students got a good sense of the scope and magnitude of the project. They also got an aerial perspective from the seventh floor of a nearby parking structure. "The ability to see adjoining occupancies helped them in deciding what they felt should be added to the area," Schlei said. "The excursion was a good time to talk further about zoning concepts and land use issues."

Students also checked out several web sites for more on how GIS data is used in urban planning. They probed the city's Map Milwaukee site on which they ran through several exercises

## Revitalizing Milwaukee

that took them from finding their own homes, to locating the city's oldest residence and pinpointing its most expensive one.

Huxhold and Schlei term the program a success and say the PUPS in PUPS were very



proud of their work and eager to talk about their maps. "The students absolutely thrived on the opportunity to employ their creativity and demonstrate their understanding of the

concepts of urban planning and neighborhood development," Schlei said. "They enjoyed the sense of empowerment they felt from being able to decide how the area would be redeveloped."

## in developing the students' interest."

*PUPS for PUPS will be offered again in summer, 2004. To learn more about the program, please call Patricia Torres, 414-229-2814.*

« Plotting a new neighborhood for the Park East freeway land

» Taking a look at a city redevelopment model

» Smiling about a great program with instructors Brian Clarke (left) and Tom Schlei

