

Report In Progress

Children get new space to play



Sojourner House MOMS kids enjoy the tires in their new play yard on opening day.

Sojourner House MOMS opens play yard Sept. 9

Sojourner House MOMS, a partnership of ELDI, Sojourner House and the Negley Place Neighborhood Alliance, recently opened a new play yard on land that once sat abandoned on Black Street in East Liberty.

Two vacant lots, assigned to ELDI by the City of Pittsburgh for development, sat adjacent to Sojourner House MOMS facilities. Seeing a need for the children to have a safe place to play, community members worked to transform the lots with the help of volunteers who contributed over 5,000 hours of work over 18 months.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 9th included a dedication of the yard and an opportunity for the kids to break in their new play space.

Everything in the space is recycled, with the exception of one bench and a portion of fencing. Even the pathways around the yard are made from stone

found when volunteers dug up debris from the old foundations on the site. Recreation items in the play yard include a sandbox, slides and a boardwalk with a place to display artwork.

The yard is the latest enhancement for Sojourner House MOMS, which began its journey in East Liberty six years ago.

When concerned residents wanted to see two troublesome apartment buildings in their neighborhood turned into something positive, they approached East Liberty Development, Inc. and the first six apartments were purchased. Four years later three more buildings were added, bringing the total number of families to 16.

Sojourner House MOMS (Motivation, Opportunities, Mentoring and Spirituality) offers dual-diagnosed women the opportunity to live independently with their children.



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In other news...

Community Garden

The Enright Park Community Garden was featured in a video on Whole Foods Market's blog, The Whole Story. The garden is a partnership of ELDI, Whole Foods, the Kentucky Avenue School and Enright Park neighbors.

HHS Grant

ELDI recently received a Health and Human Services (HHS) grant to aid in the development of the East Liberty Target store, which recently began construction. The store on Penn Avenue is slated to open in July 2011.

Tree Plantings

In the past year, East Liberty has planted 30 trees and will plant 183 more this fall.

East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) is dedicated to revitalizing East Liberty. We are a Community Based Organization (CBO) that plans, advocates, facilitates and invests in our neighborhood.

