

# Leander Court residents study Southeast neighborhood and advocate for improved health amenities

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Partners:



**Healthy Kids,  
Healthy Communities**  
Supporting Community Action to  
Prevent Childhood Obesity



- I. Photovoice method & process
- II. findings: health amenities at a multi-family housing site
- III. findings: community health
- IV. advocacy

# 1. take photos



residents photographed to “record and reflect their community’s strengths and concerns”- Carolyn Wang



## 2. analyze data



resident participated in small and large group discussions and interactive activities to analyze the photos, code and categorize concepts and themes, and write captions, developing a critical consciousness of their community

# 3. engage in actions

“to reach policymakers”

- Carolyn Wang

# examining health amenities at a multi-family housing site

January-March 2011

# play structures not designed for older kids



There are two girls playing on the playground and even though they are different ages and different races, they are getting along-  
Alishia



Even when it is not raining, the playground is mostly unused. -Tina



There is no kid outside. The question is why. -Che



# smoking areas next to children's playground



The smoker didn't see the children; didn't realize the kids playing so close. Can't you see the smoke? -Mary



# open cigarette receptacle



This photo is important because it shows what could happen when there's no lock or thought when leaving a "cigarette receptacle" open. The kid in the picture can always get access to the left behind cigarette butts and they could pretend to smoke; I've seen this happen a few times. I even did it when I was small. -Angelica



The tiny handprint inside the cigarette holder demonstrates that it is within reach of children who play in the nearby playground.

-Blanca

What I see in this picture is a garden with a broken wood that is on the front of our complex apartments, that is not healthy because people walk by or ride their bikes and could fell and get hurt on the broken wood. A lot of people pass by the little garden- it's a good impression but also bad because the wood is broken. Not many people would like to be hurt by the piece of wood. Another thing is that there are pieces of cigarettes around the garden and isn't good because people may think that our apartments are dirty or that we don't take care of our community. The community don't care about our garden and they should because that give us a lot of impression of what our community is. -Carmen



## flower garden in front of Leander Court



The garden is not healthy where they put it. It's next to the streets and pollution can get into the plants. The neighborhood doesn't respect it because they pass through here. The Leander Court residents worked together to put in this garden. -Cristina

affects on health

**discourage physical activity, which may lead to health problems such as “getting fat”**

**secondhand smoke**

- smoking areas close to children

- having benches outside helps residents get out more

**encourage being outside and socializing**

- bikes and bike storage not regularly utilized because of a lack of bike lanes and completed sidewalks

- flower garden damaged by kids in the community; need space for vegetable garden

**poor nutrition**

**a mother has concerns about teenagers “feeling depressed”**

- play structures not designed for teenagers

- poor lighting in play areas

**“people feel scared and unsafe”**



# examining community health

April-June 2011





We don't have sidewalks. People think that because we don't they can throw garbage. We need to put the sidewalks that way our community would look better. -Gorethi

transportation  
and connectivity:  
sidewalks



How can our kids walk safely to school when the sidewalks end and they are forced to walk into the busy street. -Kathy



This picture shows that there are no sidewalks and students have to walk around or on this just to go to school. This place is close to where I live as well as other people. You feel like you don't wanna go to school, also you don't wanna get dirty. -Blanca

# transportation and connectivity: crosswalks and bike lanes



In this picture what I see is a boy crossing the street. But I don't see anything that is safe for him, there are no crosswalks or something safe that can help him, also I don't see adults that watching him by crossing the street. -Carmen



Bike next to the road: the person riding the bike doesn't have enough space to ride safely and this road goes to the elementary school. -Cristina



# transportation and connectivity: streets



On this “road”, the street next to ours is used for walking to and from school. When we walk by this “road” we can’t wait to get to the other side. -Mary

# transportation and connectivity: safe route to school

How can we safely send our kids to school on the bus, when we don't know who is waiting at the Trimet bus stop? The safety of our kids is important to me as a mother. Putting our school bus stop at the same location can, as is, putting our kids at risk for abductions, or other safety issues. -Michelle

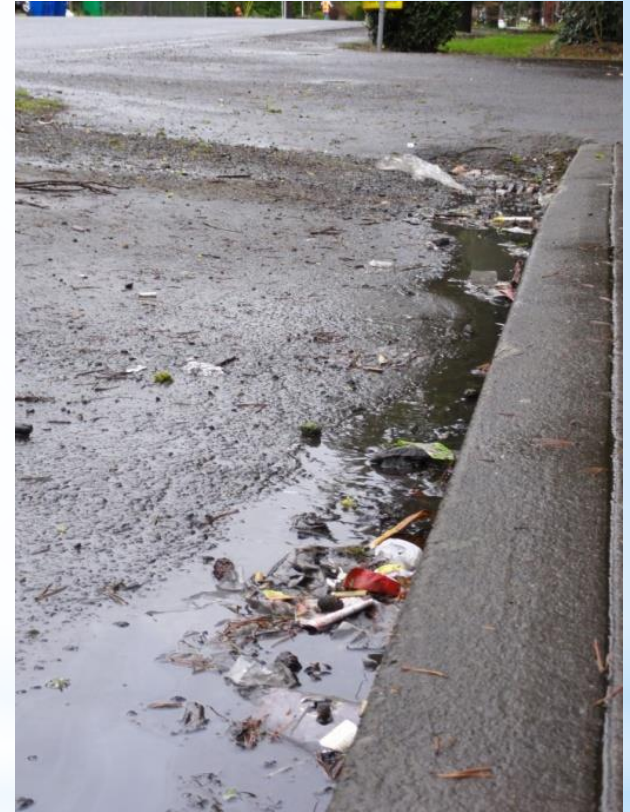




# garbage



This shows that we need to maintain our roads clean. By maintaining our roads clean we prevent floods when raining. By cleaning it would show pride. If we don't clean this would look bad. -Gorethi



Garbage on the streets, what do you think of this picture? the garbage is next to a bus stop and bus trash and people have to wait and be standing and seeing all this. The elementary kids pass through here when some kids walk. -Cristina



# vandalism

## empty spaces

We have children, brothers and sisters. We don't want to give them this example. We need to clean this and give a good role model. This is vandalism and we don't want our children to learn this. -Gorethi



I see space that can benefit our community like a market of veggies, business, and more jobs. We have a lot of empty space that benefits everyone. -Paula



# food



The Plain Pantry food store: this food market is the closest food store in the community. Often kids go into this store to buy junk food because there is no healthy food. I hope for the community to have healthy food stores for children and everyone. -Cristina



The right, wrong food. Having a plaid pantry in our community makes it easy for people to buy junk food and this affects our health because if we're only buying junk food we're not getting any healthy food. -Angelica

# lighting



There are not enough light in the community here. It is dangerous at night, you feel scared to go outside or lights getting jammed. We need more lights in the community. -Kelsi

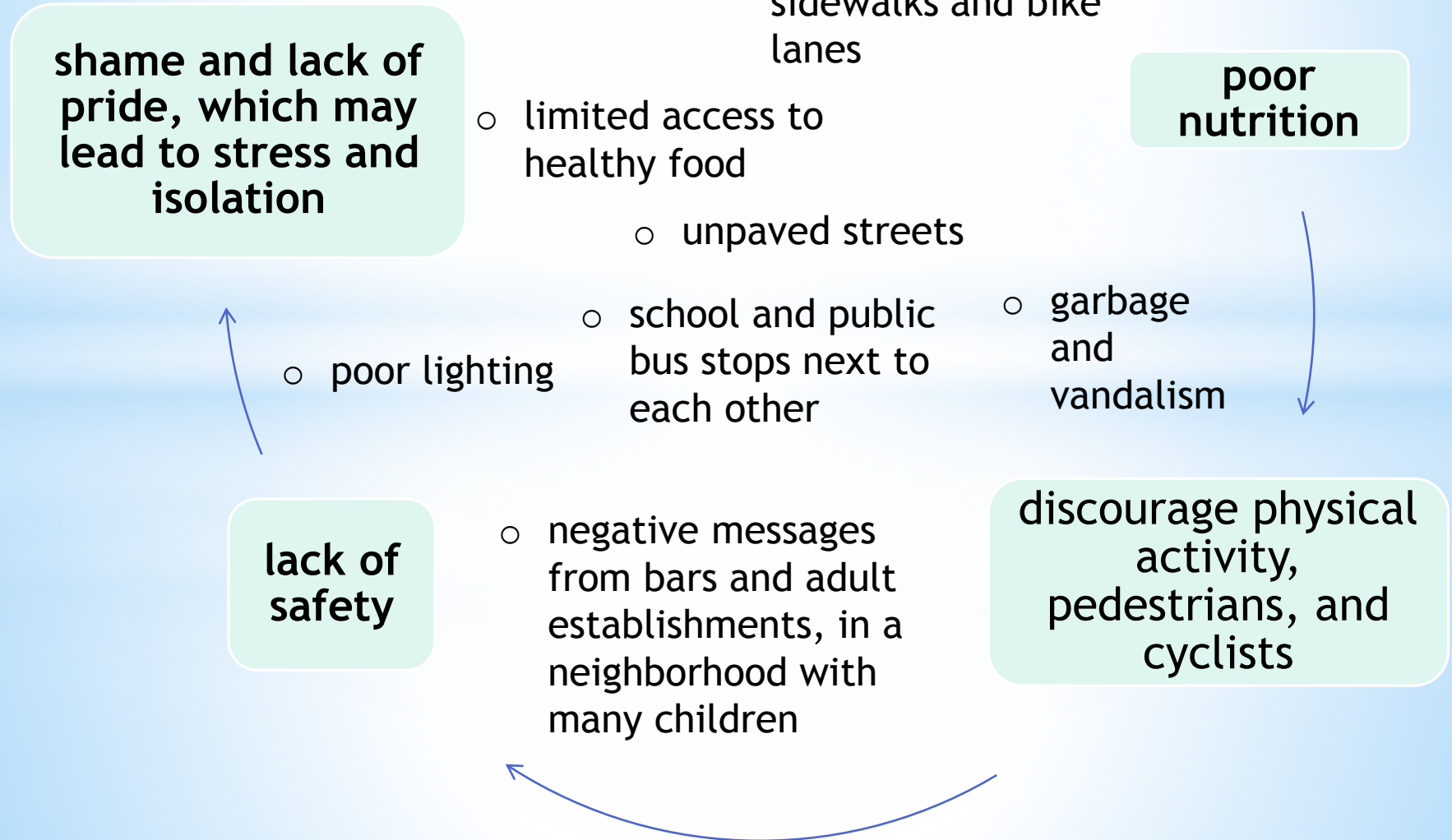


# negative messages

They say it takes a village to raise a child...so is this village raising our kids? And when your child asks you, “mom, what does that sign mean?” what would you say? -Michelle



# affects on health



action: raising awareness about community concerns  
exhibit at Leander Court community room  
June 2011



## next steps

1. photo display at Metro Regional Center for 2 weeks in September 2011
2. “continuing to speak up”- Mary