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*A Neighborhood Alliance*

GARFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY PLANNING

FINAL REPORT

MARCH, 1989

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## P R E S E N T A T I O N

The geographical boundaries of the Garfield neighborhood are: north of Papago Freeway, South Van Buren Street, East 16th Street and West 7th Street. This neighborhood takes the name Garfield, from the school of the same name which is located almost in the center of the neighborhood.

This neighborhood, which is very close to downtown Phoenix, is at the same time ignored by organizations or institutions that devote time and resources to downtown development. Little by little, as years passed, houses and apartments have deteriorated, creating a sad reflection on the neighborhood that once was. Only a few residents have built and maintained their houses and gardens, struggling with the ghost of deterioration.

Another important aspect of the neighborhood is the wealth and variety of culture we find within its boundaries. The largest percent of inhabitants are of Hispanic origin (65% approximately), mainly from Mexico, with a few families from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Cuba.

Anglos represent the second highest percentage of the population, mainly elderly people who are retired and have lived in the neighborhood for many years. Also living in Garfield are native American and black families adding to this great variety of cultures of the neighborhood.

The needs and problems are an everyday reality. But what's more important and has greater power is the desire to overcome, to change the negative image of the neighborhood, to move ahead; in short, the wealth of the neighborhood is its human resources.

## OBJECTIVES OF TASK

Create a work plan for the future of the neighborhood using information gathered from local residents. Motivate the neighborhood through their participation in planning and organizing to take the future in their hands.

- A) To get a clear picture of the hopes and dreams residents have for the future of the neighborhood.
- B) Identify problems the neighborhood is going through and discern the underlying causes.
- C) Create a strategic plan for the next two years (solutions to existing problems).
- D) Facilitate the organization of a neighborhood committee or council to carry out the actions or strategies.
- E) Coordinate a campaign to begin to change the negative image of the neighborhood through community events such as a clean-up day.

## A P P L I E D M E T H O D

The process of creation of a plan was started with visits to each of the homes in the neighborhood. We held two workshops, one with a group of people (11) from Alcoholics Anonymous and the other with students from Garfield School (16 total). We had the opportunity to talk to about 150 people in all.

The conversations were around three main questions. First, "What are your hopes and dreams for the future of the neighborhood?" Second, "What are the existing problems and what are the underlying roots of these problems?" The last question focused on how to address the obstacles and how to create strategies and practical actions.

We had meetings every two weeks with residents of the neighborhood to organize the information, build a consensus on the categories and make decisions on next steps in the process.

QUESTIONNAIRE APPLIED IN VISITS

PERSONAL DATA

1. Name
2. Address
3. Age
4. Telephone
5. Origin
6. Owner or Renting

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

7. Vision:

What are your hopes or dreams for the future of the neighborhood?

8. Contradictions:

What are the problems existing now in the neighborhood?

9. Propositions:

What are the practical actions that we can take to solve our problems?

OTHER INFORMATION

10. Do you participate in any group?

-- Name of group?

-- What type of activities are held?

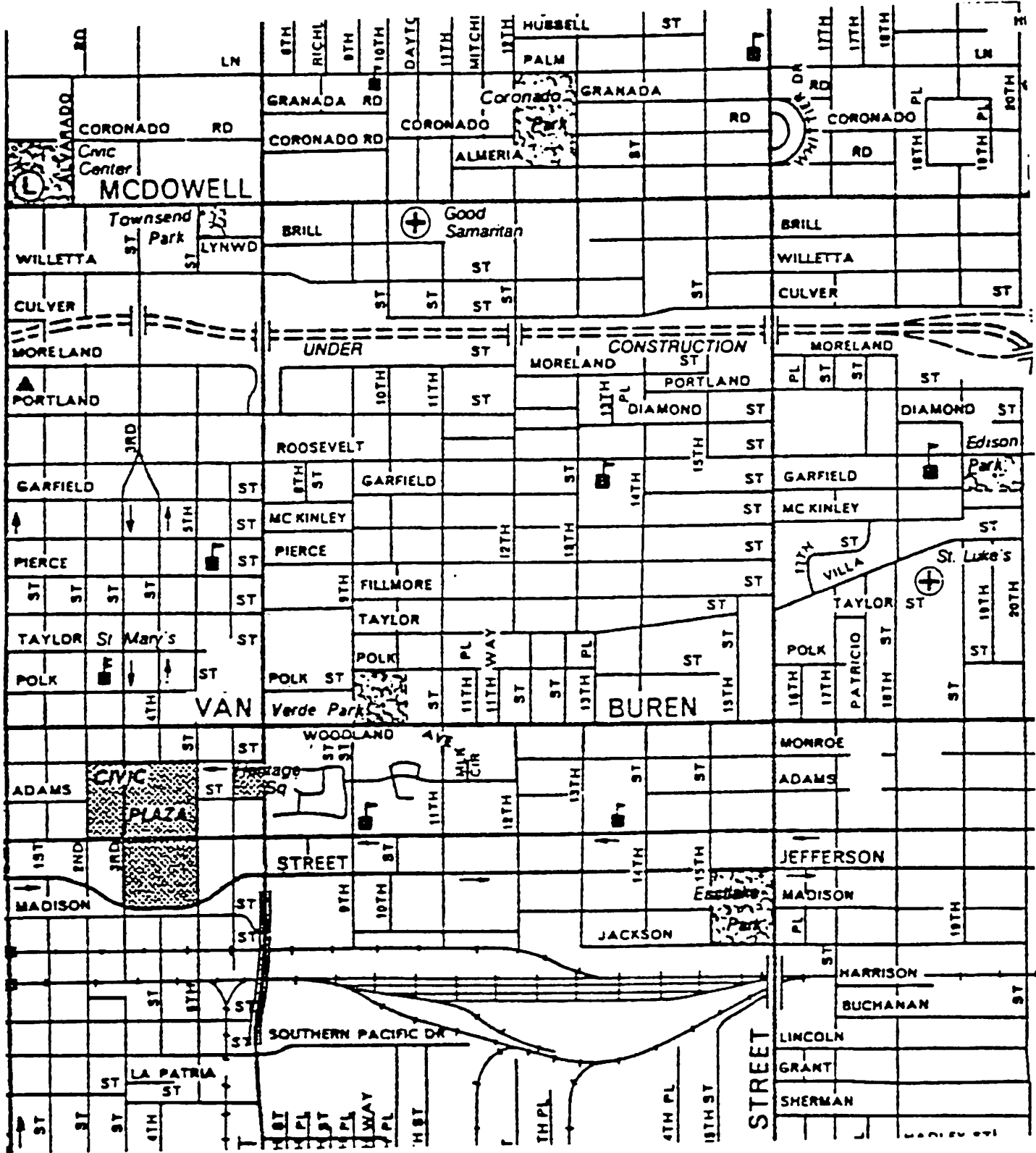
11. Are you interested in participating in any activity in the neighborhood if there were an opportunity?

-- What type of program or activity?

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

MARCH, 1989

PHOENIX, ARIZONA





PUBLIC SERVICES

CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD (25)

- Clean neighborhood (7)
- Cleaner streets (4)
- Clean sectors (2)
- Cleanliness in streets (3)
- Clean walls (1)
- People that are responsible for cleanliness (1)
- Organized neighborhood (1)
- Restored neighborhood (1)
- Prettier neighborhood (1)
- Cleaning of the alleys (1)
- Better neighborhood (clean) (1)
- Repair alleys (1)

SAFE STREETS (15)

- Paved street (1)
- Streets in good condition (1)
- Traffic signal on 12th Street and Roosevelt (1)
- Streets in better condition (1)
- Streets with good drainage (1)
- Paved street (Taylor) (1)
- Paved streets (1)
- Public light (1)
- Finished freeway (1)
- Lights in streets (1)
- Streets in better conditions (1)
- Light in streets (1)
- Alleys with light (1)
- Wide streets (a)
- Light in streets (1)

COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL (9)

- Nursery for children (2)
- Nursery for childcare (1)
- Pre-school in neighborhood (1)
- Kindergarten in neighborhood (1)
- Children's nursery (1)
- Day care center (1)
- Children's care center (1)
- Nursery in neighborhood (1)

REHABILITATION CENTERS (6)

- Retirement homes for elderly (1)
- Youth program about drugs (1)
- Less drugs (1)
- Drug free youth (1)
- Rehabilitation center (1)
- Fewer drunks (1)

EFFECTIVE POLICE PROTECTION (5)

- Police vigilance (1)
- Police patrols (2)
- More protection for houses (1)
- Effective police patrols (1)

NEIGHBORHOOD MEDICAL CENTER (4)

- Clinic in neighborhood (1)
- Hospital nearby (1)
- Medical center (1)
- Medical clinic in the neighborhood (1)

EFFECTIVE SANITATION SERVICES (4)

- More garbage containers (1)
- Care for the city (1)
- Better cleaning service (1)
- Cleaning of neighborhood (trucks to carry out garbage) (1)

TREES ON EVERY STREET (3)

- Trees in all streets (2)
- Streets with trees (1)

PUBLIC PHONES IN SERVICE (2)

- More public telephones (1)
- Public telephones at school (1)

R E C R E A T I O N C E N T E R

COMMUNITY PARK (35)

- Community park (11)
- Recreation park (2)
- Training park (1)
- Parks (1)
- Children's park (11)
- Children's park (4)
- Nearby children's park (2)
- Children's training park (1)
- Playing park (1)

NEIGHBORHOOD GYMNASIUM (15)

- Gymnasium in neighborhood (5)
- Gymnasium (4)
- Children's activity center (1)
- Recreative center (1)
- Recreation center (1)
- Sports center (1)
- Games for children (1)
- Center for youth activities (1)

SPORTS FIELD (1)

- Sports field (1)

N E I G H B O R H O O D O R G A N I Z A T I O N

CLUBS & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (14)

- Youth association (2)
- Recreation for children (1)
- More activities for children (1)
- Movie theater (1)
- Sporting activities (2)
- Soccer league (1)
- Sports clubs (1)
- Recreation activities (1)
- Social club (1)
- Baseball league (1)
- Children's discoteque (1)
- More activities (camping, picnic in school) (1)
- Youth participating in useful activities (1)

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (8)

- Support among youth (3)
- People working with youth (1)
- Neighbors working together (1)
- United people (1)
- More united people (1)
- Joint neighborhood (1)
- Organization of neighborhood (1)

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY CENTER (6)

- Community center of neighborhood (2)
- Center of neighborhood (1)
- Information center (for the community) (1)
- Activity center for neighborhood (1)
- Center for neighborhood (1)

ACTIVE AND MOTIVATED NEIGHBORHOOD (11)

- Easygoing neighborhood (3)
- Friendly people (2)
- Friendly neighborhood (1)
- Adult activities (1)
- Peaceful neighborhood (1)
- Less evil people (1)
- Good relationship among neighbors (1)
- Families with positive actions (1)

## E C O N O M I C I M P R O V E M E N T

### ACCESSIBLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES (20)

- Work for everyone (8)
- Job opportunities near neighborhood (1)
- Job opportunities (1)
- More work (2)
- Work for youth (1)
- Work for people in neighborhood (1)
- More work for people (1)
- Work (raise salaries) (1)
- Better jobs (1)
- People working (1)
- Work (1)
- People with jobs (1)

### COMMERCIAL CENTER IN NEIGHBORHOOD (5)

- Shopping mall (2)
- Grocery store (1)
- Nearby grocery stores (1)
- Food stores (1)

### ACADEMY FOR JOB TRAINING (3)

- Sewing classes (1)
- Academy (1)
- School (adults) (1)

### SELF-EMPLOYMENT (2)

- Locally owned businesses (1)
- Research organizations giving credit (install factory) (1)

### LEGALIZATION FINALIZED (1)

- Have second card 'mica' (1)

## I M P R O V E D H O U S I N G

### HOUSING IN GOOD CONDITIONS (14)

- Houses in better condition (4)
- Houses with better appearance (1)
- Sufficient houses (1)
- Repaired houses (1)
- Repairment of apartments (2)
- Houses in good condition (1)
- Houses in better condition (1)
- Better houses (1)
- Good drainage in houses (1)

### AFFORDABLE RENTS (2)

- Low rents (1)
- Houses to rent (1)

### OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING (1)

- Own House (1)

## EDUCATIONAL CENTERS

### HIGH SCHOOL (4)

- More schools (1)
- Nearby high school (1)
- High school (1)
- Professional degree (university) (1)

### BETTER SCHOOL FACILITIES (4)

- Better education (1)
- Education centers (1)
- New bathrooms at school (1)
- Variety of foods at school (1)

### LIBRARY IN NEIGHBORHOOD (2)

- Library (1)
- Library in neighborhood (1)

CONTRADICTIONS CHART

MARCH, 1989

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

I ABSENCE OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY LEADS TO DELINQUENCY AND DRUG ABUSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.	II LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING RESTRICTS THE POSSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CREATES DISCRIMINATION.	III LOW MOTIVATION IN THE COMMUNITY IS COMPOUNDED BY ABSENCE OF PROGRAMS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MAKING ACTIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD DIFFICULT.	IV ECONOMIC & SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN LATINAMERICAN COUNTRIES RESULT IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.
DELINQUENCY 34	UNEMPLOYMENT 47	UNSANITARY CONDITIONS 25	PEOPLE W/O IMMIGRATION PAPERS 10
DRUG & ALCOHOL 24	ENGLISH NEEDED IN ORDER TO WORK 18	POOR CONDITION OF HOUSES & APARTMENTS 9	UNEMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS AWAITING IMMIG. PROCESS 2
ARGUMENTS BETWEEN NEIGHBORS 11	POOR PREPARATION FOR NEW JOBS 8	LIMITED TRANSPORTATION 8	UNCERTAINTY ABOUT LEGALIZATION 2
PARENTS ASSUME LITTLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN 8	DISINFORMATION 6	NEIGHBORHOOD UNORGANIZED 7	PEOPLE W/O SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DENIED JOBS 1
FEW ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 5	FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY ENGLISH 6	STREET IN BAD CONDITION 4	
GANGS 5	DISCRIMINATION 5	POOR IMAGE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD 3	
INSUFFICIENT POLICE VIGILANCE 5	DEPENDENCY ON DONATIONS 3	LANGUAGE BARRIORS DO NOT PERMIT GOOD COMMUNICATION 3	
ACCIDENTS IN NEIGHBORHOOD 4	TOO MANY PEOPLE SEEKING JOBS 3	DISCRIMINATION BY POLICE 2	
DANGEROUS STREETS & ALLIES 4	TEMPORARY JOBS 3	CITY UNCONCERNED 2	
NOISY PARTIES 3	JOB OPPORTUNITIES FAR AWAY 1	PUBLIC TELEPHONES OUT OF SERVICE 2	
FAMILY CONFLICTS 3	HIGH RENTS 1		
DISRESPECTFUL YOUTH 2	LOW SALARIES 1		
FEAR OF SPEAKING UP ABOUT ROBBERIES & OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD 2			
ENVY 1			
ABANDONED HOMES 1			
PROSTITUTION 1			
CHILDREN DROP OUT SCHOOL 1			
CHILD ABUSE 1			
124	102	65	15

## C O N T R A D I C T I O N S

In the following paragraphs we will describe in detail the contradictions and their causes:

- I. Absence of programs and activities, and opportunities for youth in the community leads to delinquency and drug abuse in the neighborhood.

Without agencies or programs to organize events that involve women, men, elderly and particularly youth and children, the neighborhood finds itself with serious problems.

- II. Limited opportunities for training restricts the possibility for employment and creates discrimination.

If an individual is not trained or has no technical or professional ability, possibilities of finding a job which satisfies his or her needs are very limited. This disadvantage often puts the individual in a situation where they have to perform harder jobs, have fewer benefits and suffer discrimination. In many cases these people are interested in training or studying English but the possibilities are limited or not available to those who most need these programs.

- III. Low motivation in the community is compounded by absence of programs and institutions for community development, making active organization of the neighborhood difficult.

Low motivation, inability to adjust and disorganization are sicknesses that attack many people in our neighborhoods. In many cases this problem is magnified by the absence of organizations who can provide organization and stimulate motivation and create the image of possibility by encouraging the participation of the people.

- IV. Economic and social problems in Latin American countries result in illegal immigration to the United States.

This contradiction describes a reality in many places of the country. Illegal people and others under the process of legalization live under a cloud of uncertainty about tomorrow, and remain afraid of their future.

STRATEGIES CHART

MARCH, 1989

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL & RECREATIVE ASPECT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD		PROMOTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION			STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE	
REGULAR CAMPAIGNS OF REPAIR & MAINTENANCE A	RECREATION CENTER B	ACCESSIBLES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES C	PROMOTE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD D	TRAINING CENTER E	PERMANENT VIGILANCE F	REHABILITATION PROGRAMS G
PROGRAM OF REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF HOMES 1	ORGANIZE SPORT AND RECREATIVE ACTIVITIES 3	CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT OFFICE 7	CREATE A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 10	PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL TRAINING 16	EFFECTIVE POLICE PATROLS 19	SPECIAL PROGRAM OF REHABILITATION FOR DRUG ADDICTS 23
	RECREATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN 4		ORGANIZE TRANSPORTATION FOR WORKERS IN REMOTE AREAS 11			
DEVELOP PLAN OF IMPROVEMENT OF LIGHTING & PUBLIC FACILITIES 2	CREATE AN ORGANIZATION OF SPORTS LEAGUES 5	OPEN SMALL BUSINESSES/WORKSHOPS 8	REGULAR COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS 12	PROGRAM OF ENGLISH INSTRUCTION 17	PROMOTE DRASTIC LEGAL ACTION AGAINST DRUG USE 20	
	PROGRAM FOR SENIORS 6		DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP 13			
			PROGRAM OF LEGAL INFORMATION 9	ORGANIZE YOUTH ACTIVITIES 14	FAMILY ORIENTATION CLASSES 18	CREATE A SYSTEM OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH 21
			VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS 15	RECOMMEND ASSIGNMENT OF SPANISH SPEAKING POLICE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD 22		

## T H E S T R A T E G I E S

A. Regular campaigns of repair and maintenance.

A1. Program of repair and maintenance of homes.

This strategy is related to the establishment of programs and projects to obtain economic or technical resources, to repair and maintain houses and apartments. Also promote sanitation through programs and campaigns for a clean neighborhood.

A2. Develop plan of improvement of lighting and public facilities.

Creation of repair plan, installation of new telephones, repair of streets and public lighting system and more garbage containers.

B. Recreation Center.

B3. Organize sport and recreative activities.

The intention of this strategy is to facilitate the organization of sports and recreation activities in order to provide alternative activities to drugs, alcoholism and other problems.

B4. Recreation programs for children.

This strategy suggests the organization or special programs for children of this neighborhood.

B5. Create an organization of sports leagues.

Through this strategy we want to emphasize the organization of sports leagues in order to assure organized activities.

B6. Program for seniors.

The purpose is to organize recreation, cultural and educational activities for this area; also to create activities that provide new horizons for people, for instance, elders activities with children or training with youth.

C. Accessible employment opportunities.

C7. Creation of employment office.

The idea of this strategy is to employ one or two persons fulltime to search out and negotiate employment opportunities for neighborhood residents.

C8. Open small businesses/workshops.

A major problem existing in the neighborhood is unemployment, temporary employment and remote jobs. This strategy is directed to address this problem through the creation and opening of workshops in the neighborhood.

C9. Program of legal information.

Lack of information and knowledge of legal matters and many other aspects is the cause of problems and misunderstandings. The intent of this strategy is to address the problem through informative lectures and flyers.

D. Promote the organization of the neighborhood.

D10. Create a community organization.

One of the most important and necessary aspects of the neighborhood is the creation of a solid organization that represents the diversity in the neighborhood (Hispanics, Anglos, Native Americans, and Blacks).

D11. Organize transportation system for workers in remote areas.

This idea is to create a transportation system for the workers in the neighborhood who have to travel from the neighborhood to remote places during the week.

D12. Regular community celebrations.

This celebrative element is the key to building community ties in the neighborhood. These activities will give the opportunity to improve communication and understanding among neighbors. It will help maintain customs and promote cultural celebrations of the different groups that live in the neighborhood.

D13. Development of local community leadership.

Any good plan requires someone that will assume responsibility for implementation. This strategy proposes to work to identify local leaders and develop more such leaders through training programs. It also proposes to create activities to engage the artists, poets, sports-minded, etc.

D14. Organize youth activities.

The creation of clubs, programs, contests and other youth activities is the suggestion or intent of this strategy. In order to fill the youths' free time with useful and positive activities.

D15. Volunteer work days.

The work days will be held regularly and will focus on many different areas (clean-up days, paint public places, etc).

E. Training Center.

E16. Program of technical training.

The intent of this strategy is to create training opportunities for the residents of the neighborhood; opening courses such as sewing, carpentry, and others with experienced teachers.

E17. Program of English instruction.

The idea is to give opportunity to everyone interested in studying English through the opening of regular classes at a reasonable price.

E18. Family orientation classes.

The family unit is the nucleus of society and families require a solid foundation. This objective will be achieved with a variety of family-focused programs and lectures.

F. Permanent vigilance.

F19. Effective police patrols.

Delinquency and drug problems affect the neighborhood and this proposal is to increase the number of and have more effective police patrols in the neighborhood.

F20. Promote drastic legal action against drug use.

The promotion of drastic legal actions against drug use and sales is intended to frighten underhanded drug and alcohol consumers and sellers and diminish the problem.

F21. Create a system of neighborhood watch.

A local watch system will help attack the delinquency problem in the neighborhood and as a result it could make the police work and control more effective. This strategy intends to promote this kind of system in the neighborhood.

F22. Recommend assignment of Spanish speaking police in the neighborhood.

The language brings people near and is at the heart of communication. The job of police protection could improve significantly if the police that protect this zone can communicate in the same language with residents of the neighborhood.

G. Rehabilitation Programs

G23. Special program of rehabilitation for drug addicts.

The purpose is to save the people that are addicted to drugs through an intensive rehabilitation program which would include lectures, medical and psychological treatment of drug addicts, and treatment of family members.

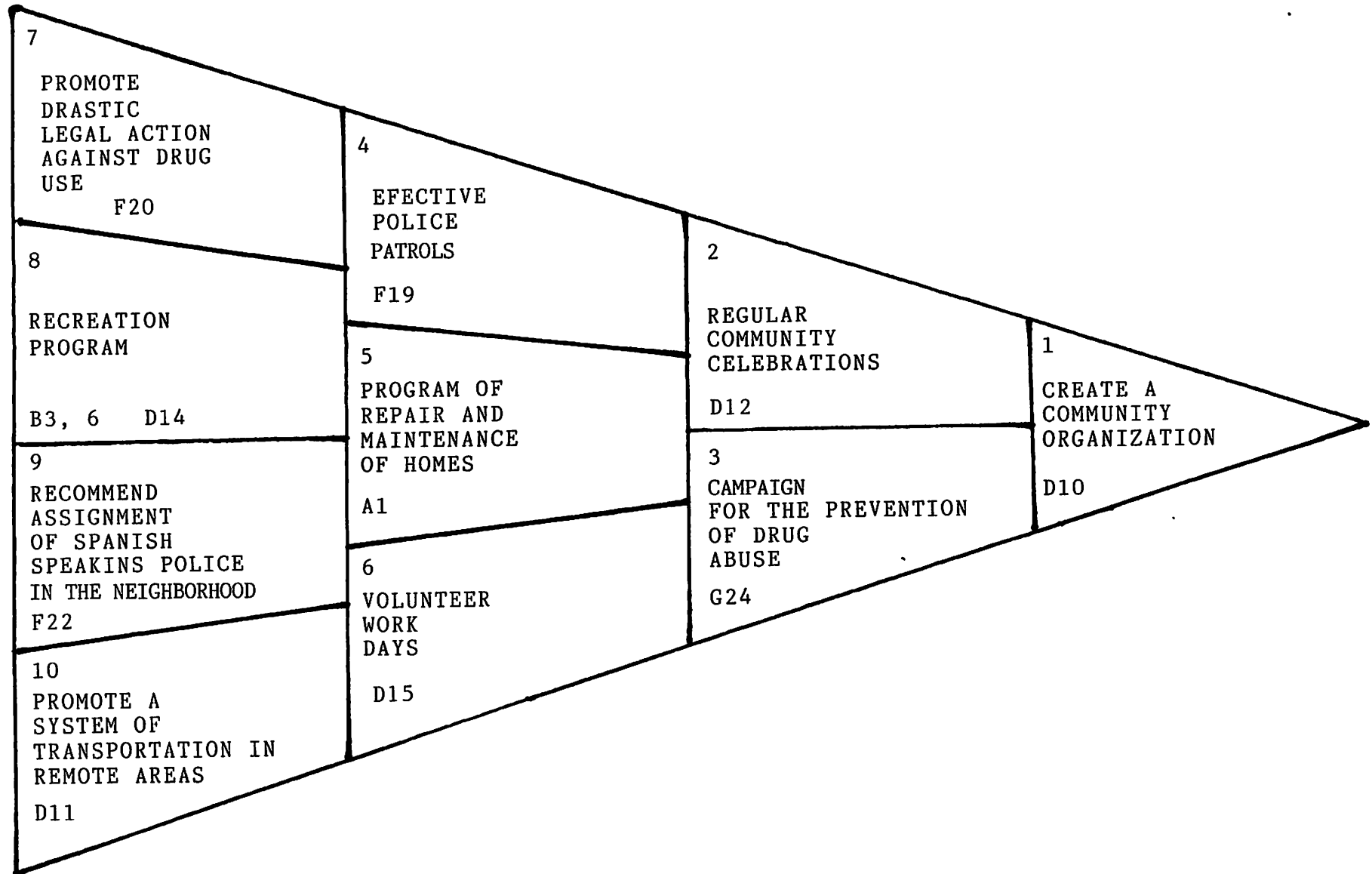
G24. Campaign for the prevention of drug abuse.

There exists a little ignorance about the consequences of drug usage in an individual, his family and society in general. The purpose of this strategy is to inform, prevent and draw away from drugs people that are not going through this problem, but could convert to potential victims without proper information.

S C H E M E O F P R I O R I T I E S

MARCH 1989

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



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## C O N C L U S I O N

This document is the result of four months of work in the Garfield neighborhood. Through visits from house to house and meetings every 15 days, we have come to know the dreams, hopes, problems and the possibilities for community-based change.

Our contribution to this task has been the utilizing of a methodology that honors and respects the knowledge, experience and institutions of the people living in the neighborhood. The experts on the situation of this neighborhood are its own inhabitants and they are also the ones who need to make decisions that directly affect their life. The motivation rises from participation; when the people are motivated, they can fulfill actions and actions create changes.

The next steps to follow are: decide priorities; formalize the creation of a group that assumes the responsibility to assure the carrying out of the actions. This group should be formed by persons of Hispanic origin, Anglos, native Americans, and blacks. These groups represent different cultures, values, and languages, but with some common interests: the progress for individuals and families, a peaceful environment and an active and motivated neighborhood.

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