Neighborhood House

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**Mission:** Neighborhood House will create opportunities for area residents to strengthen the quality of their community by making connections, building relationships and embracing diversity through social, educational and recreational activities. The House has limited programming that it operates itself and tends to rely on community groups to create and schedule activities.

**Target Population:** Recent immigrant families, newcomers to Madison seeking cultural connections, diverse populations of Madison, and the Vilas and Greenbush local neighborhoods. These are two distinct populations, though. Much of the Vilas/Greenbush area is culturally/ethnically homogenous whereas other participant populations (including Nepali, Ugandan, Bolivian, Nigerian groups) come from all over the Madison area.

The Neighborhood House is located nearby Hamilton Middle School and Franklin (pre-k-2) and Randall (3-5) kindergarten schools. They have a working relationship with both much a stronger draw with the latter. They currently have about 12-14 outside groups that use their space on a regular basis and another 10 groups that book intermittently.

**Current Programs:**
- Mentoring program puts UW-Madison undergraduate students in mentoring relationships with neighborhood children to introduce them to the university
- Day Camp program that has been increasingly popular

**Project Development Guidelines:**
- Scheduling in advance is a must since they have many regularly scheduled groups using their space.
- Working with students to build programming though and will assist in recruiting and in developing programs.
- Space is somewhat limited
- Educational programming for families in particular instead of activity/sports programs
- Anything that will help to foster a sense of community for the diverse population they cater to.

**Program-Design Needs:** See above. Students could talk to the NH about surveying attendees to other groups (especially their movie night) with interests about different possible projects in
order to get an advance sense of what people would attend. Recruitment of participants would be collaborative and NH is interested in assisting students with programs, not only in renting the space to them.

**Former Projects:**

Performing Media/Performing Ourselves; Liz Foster-Shaner (2012-13)  
Media Literacy Project; Cydney Alexis and Keith Woodhouse; (2004-2005)

**Keywords:** Central Madison; Kindergarten; Middle School; Families; English language-learners; Spanish; African languages; Citizenship and Migration/Immigration; Continuing Education; After-School Programming; GED and Higher Ed development; Literacy; Arts/Humanities and Math/Science partnerships; Music and music cultures; theater/playwriting and/or theatre of the oppressed