

Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- To provide orientation to the Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ partnership project
- To request that ASU provide consent to a pending Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action to become a publically committed project partner
 - Consent is not a request for financial support. The project is already on the path to securing funding and consent will empower expanded fundraising.
 - Formal consent has already been provided by the following partners:
 - Ramsey Social Justice Foundation
 - City of Tempe
 - Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona
 - Habitat for Humanity Guatemala (HFHG)
 - A New Course

2. Background

In January 2013, the Ramsey Social Justice Foundation (<http://www.ramseyjusticefoundation.org>), in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona, launched construction of their 51st, 52nd, and 53rd LEED-certified sustainable and affordable homes - this time in their hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

The City of Tempe enthusiastically supported the project and, along with 500 volunteers, the homes were completed and dedicated to their families on June 1, 2013. During the ceremonies, Tempe Council members committed to building more sustainable affordable homes within Tempe and, with specificity, on City-owned land.

In June 2013, the directors of the Ramsey Foundation and members of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) attended CGI-America's third annual meeting regarding Commitments to Action for USA geographical boundaries. During conversation at a sustainability workshop about their fifty-three LEED-certified Habitat homes, the directors were asked to attend a special breakout session regarding sustainable neighborhood building.

By conference's end, Reverend Jenny Norton, representing the Ramsey Foundation, had a tentative plan and a pledge for a new CGI-America Commitment to Action: Two Sustainable Neighborhoods. Quickly, she organized several meetings and gained project partners: Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona, the City of Tempe (including council members, Community Outreach and the Neighborhood Services Department), Habitat for Humanity Guatemala, A New Course and the Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives at Arizona State University.

Reverend Norton, along with financial support from The Ramsey Social Justice Foundation, proposed to build and certify two sustainable and revitalized neighborhoods: one in a Tempe barrio, another in the sister city of Zacapa, Guatemala. Immediately after the proposal was complete, all the above team members met, including Mr. Mick Dalrymple, from the Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, Global Institute of Sustainability at ASU. Mr. Dalrymple immediately emerged as our project's leader, and soon brought to the table our new coordinator and leader, Dr. Scott Cloutier, Walton Fellow and Assistant Research Professor.

The proposed CGI Commitment to Action project has now merged into the Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ Tempe and Guatemala partnership. The partnership's pilot program is projected to last three to five years. Within Tempe, the project focuses on revitalization of a current neighborhood, while developing a new neighborhood for the housing-insecure is the focus in Guatemala. Together the partners will develop a strategy to engage locals to improve the happiness of the neighborhoods' residents, while increasing sustainability. The strategy will be developed into services such as improvement of vacant lots, building social capital, homeowner education, curb appeal upgrades, weatherization, green renovations, green infrastructure development and new home construction. A tiered set of financing packages through Habitat for Humanity will facilitate access to services for a wide range of income groups and the implementation costs will be supported through donations, existing incentive programs, and grants.

3. Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ Approach

The Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ (SNFH) approach, developed by Dr. Cloutier, is a systems-based community development program that promotes opportunities for residential happiness through sustainability interventions. The program involves development within nine subsystems: water, waste, energy, transportation, neighborhood design, business and economic development, food, buildings and community governance. Specifically, a neighborhood is engaged and involved in a design and revitalization program within all nine subsystems that maximized opportunities for happiness. The program has been developed to be transferrable across cultures, geographical locations and any neighborhood globally.

The SNFH approach is an iterative community development process (Figure 1), summarized in Table 1. Specifically, the project team works closely with residents and community stakeholders to determine what aspects of sustainable development might improve their opportunities for happiness. Tangentially, happiness, demographic, and secondary data (i.e. water consumption, transportation accessibility) are collected to assess baseline conditions. Next, sustainable interventions within specific subsystems are planned and made. The process begins again with a focused discussion on opportunities for happiness and so on. Data is continuously collected and changes are assessed and evaluated to guide the process as well.



Figure 1. Sustainability Through Happiness Framework (Cloutier & Pfeiffer, In Press)

Table 1. Sustainability through Happiness Framework Stage Description

Framework Stage	Description	Actors
Happiness Visioning	Visioning how a future community focused on happiness might look (first step) within subsystems of overall project system and refining visions for happiness (on subsequent iterations).	Project staff, city planners, local institutions (e.g. churches), community leaders
Participant Engagement	Involving residents within a sustainability project for feedback and input on targeted objectives from visioning stage.	Residents, project staff, city planners, local institutions
Profit Inventory	Assessing and collecting profits that contribute to happiness visions for a project.	Project staff, city planners, community leaders
Systems Planning	Identifying subsystems within a sustainability project system and potential interventions contributing to happiness.	Project staff, city planners, community leaders
Sustainability Interventions	Sustainability actions with the intent of meeting happiness visions within the subsystems of interest.	Residents, project staff, city planners, local institutions

4. Roles & Responsibilities

Reverend Jenny Norton of the Ramsey Social Justice Foundation serves as the visionary and moral heart of the project. Dr. Scott Cloutier serves as subject matter intellectual lead, manages the day-to-day project activities and coordinates and engages with project members, students, community leaders and residents. LEED-Accredited Professional Mick Dalrymple provides intellectual collaborator expertise on sustainability, building science, green building, Latin America and utility programs, as well as administrative oversight of the project. ASU students play a significant role in evaluation design and implementation through their classroom and volunteer experience. Project partners provide key expertise, services, resources and engagement to help design and implement the portfolio of appropriate solutions.

Current Project Partners

- Ramsey Social Justice Foundation: <http://www.ramseyjusticefoundation.org/>
- Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona

- Habitat for Humanity Guatemala
- A New Course, Seattle, WA
- City of Tempe, Arizona
 - City Council
 - Community Outreach
 - Neighborhood Services
- Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, GIOS, ASU
- ASU Students – 30 total
 - SOS494/598 – Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™
 - Study Abroad summer, 2015 course SOS 494/598 - Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ in Guatemala
 - Graduate Research Assistants in Urban Planning
 - Engineering Projects in Community Service
- ASU Faculty and Staff
 - Mara DeFilippis, Engagement Manager, WSSI
 - Deirdre Pfeiffer, Assistant Professor, School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning

5. Project Timeline and Status

The Tempe project, which began in July, 2014, is in the baseline data gathering and analysis phase and has recently entered the implementation phase. To date, several community meetings have been held and multiple projects have been completed: a neighborhood church overflow parking lot has been leveled and improved, project team members participated in a Tempe Cares clean-up and repair event at neighborhood homes, an architectural wall has been designed for a neighborhood church and a neighborhood artist has developed a water/garden feature for installation at a later date. The Guatemala project is in the formative and analysis phase. Students and team members will gather exploratory systems and planning information during a Study Abroad course in May, 2015.

We would like to submit the CGI application in the next three to twelve months and hope to have all letters of consent at that time. Our goal is to lead the project through to its targeted three-to-five year end. At that point in time, we will hand the project off to the residents with expectations that they will operate as self-sustaining and happy neighborhoods.

6. CGI Commitment to Action Benefits and Currently Contributed Project

Resources

CGI Commitment to Action support that benefits consent partners:

- 1) CGI will provide media support for the project, creating exposure for all partners (including ASU and Walton Sustainability Solutions/GIOS)
- 2) CGI association raises the profile of project with potential funders
- 3) CGI annual and quarterly events provide connections to additional funders through Ramsey Social Justice Foundation

CGI Benefits that are extended to CGI members (Ramsey Social Justice Foundation):

- 1) Ability to attend Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting of world leaders
- 2) Year round participation in conferences. (Green building conference in June in Denver)
- 3) Full staff support for commitment
- 4) Media support (1000 media outlets)

Contributed Resources:

- Ramsey Social Justice Foundation: Gift to ASU Foundation for ASU project leadership and research - \$42,200 (2014-15) and \$21,200 (2015-16)
- Ramsey Social Justice Foundation: Commitment to Habitat for Humanity for construction costs in Tempe and Guatemala - \$210,000
- Walton Global Sustainability Solutions Services: Staff wages and ERE for summer 2015 Study Abroad prep and co-instruction (Mick Dalrymple, Mara DeFilippis) - \$15,000
- Walton Sustainability Fellowship Program: Wages and ERE for Dr. Scott Cloutier - \$73,600 (2014-15) and \$84,800 (2015-16)
- Walton Global Sustainability Studies Program: Study Abroad Scholarships: \$32,300
- Lightworks: Emerge grant - \$5,000
- Students: 26 students in Spring 2015 Course, 10 in Summer 2015 Study Abroad and more in Fall 2015

TOTAL: \$417,800 + student hours

7. Contacts

Program contacts:

- Scott Cloutier, Assistant Research Professor, Walton Fellow, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability | scott.cloutier@asu.edu (603) 285-2296
- Mick Dalrymple '98, Practice Lead and Senior Sustainability Scientist, Walton Global Sustainability Solutions Services, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability | mick.dalrymple@asu.edu (480) 727-1993
- Jenny Norton '93, 2015 Founder's Day Alumni Achievement Award and Director, Ramsey Social Justice Foundation | jenny@ramseysocialjusticefoundation.org (480) 831-5591
- Patricia Reiter, Executive Director, Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability | patricia.reiter@asu.edu (602) 402-0857

ASU Development contacts:

- Jill DeMichele '81, CFRE, Senior Development Officer, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | demichele@asu.edu (480) 965-2617
- Connie Eggert, Sr. Development Officer, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability | connie.eggert@asu.edu (480) 727-8864



City of Tempe
P.O. Box 5002
31 East Fifth Street
Tempe, AZ 85280
480-350-8225

April 29, 2015

Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Jenny Norton
Bob Ramsey, Chairman/CEO
Ramsey Social Justice Foundation
1501 West Fountainhead Parkway, Suite 501
Tempe, AZ 85282

Dear Jenny and Bob:

I am pleased to write this letter to affirm the City of Tempe's wholehearted support of the Two Sustainable Neighborhoods: Tempe, Arizona and Zacapa, Guatemala project as your Foundation prepares to apply for a Commitment to Action for the Clinton Global Initiative – America.

We are prepared to be a full participating partner as we work together towards building two sustainable neighborhoods.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for the project.
Sincerely,

Mark W. Mitchell,
Mayor



February 6, 2015

*To Jenny Norton and Bob Ramsey
Ramsey Social Justice Foundation*

Dear Jenny and Bob:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona will partner with you, as your Foundation prepares to apply for a Commitment to Action for the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI America).

It is our pleasure to offer our consent as full participating partner as we work together towards building two sustainable and happy neighborhoods, within two geographies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger G. Schwierjohn".

Roger G. Schwierjohn
President/CEO

Cc: Karen Cordy
Todd Rogers

Corporate Office

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Reasonable accommodations
will be made upon request.

We proudly work with
Arizona Relay Service (TTD)
711 to provide access to the
hearing impaired.



*To Jenny Norton and Bob Ramsey
Ramsey Social Justice Foundation*

Dear Jenny and Bob:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Habitat for Humanity Guatemala will partner with you, as your Foundation prepares to apply for a Commitment to Action for the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI America).

It is our pleasure to offer our consent as full participating partner as we work together towards building two sustainable and happy neighborhoods, within two geographies.

Sincerely,

Julia Rao
Director of International Resource Development
Hábitat para la Humanidad Guatemala



718 Jean Nelson Lane NE
Rainierbridge Community Center
302-434-9000
info@anewcourse.org

To: Ramsey Social Justice Foundation
From: New Course
Date: April 28, 2015
Re: Clinton Global Initiative Commitment

Dear Jenny and Bob,

New Course is very excited to participate with the Ramsey Social Justice Foundation as you develop and implement your Commitment to Action for Clinton Global Initiative America.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your efforts. We look forward to working with you to help build sustainable happy cities in the US and in Guatemala.

Warmest Regards,



Jamie D. Bechtel
CEO New Course



May 4, 2015

Rev. Jenny Norton
Mr. Bob Ramsey
Ramsey Social Justice Foundation
1501 West Fountainhead Parkway, Suite 501
Tempe, AZ 85282

Dear Jenny and Bob:

The Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™ partnership is an excellent example of how Arizona State University as the New American University is dedicated to enhancing local impact and social embeddedness.

This letter confirms that Arizona State University supports the partnership and the leadership efforts of the ASU faculty and staff in the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives of the Global Institute of Sustainability.

We are pleased to be a participating partner, providing consent to the Ramsey Social Justice Foundation for the upcoming submission of the Commitment to Action for the Clinton Global Initiative application to the Clinton Foundation.

Thank you for your vision and commitment to making a difference for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Crow".

Michael M. Crow
President

MMC:jd
/c

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