

## CSA #3 – Almeda-Genoa Executive Summary

### Demographics:

The Almeda-Genoa CSA is a predominantly African-American area located on Houston's south side. 63% of the population is African-American, 30% is Hispanic, and the remainder of the population consisting of roughly equal proportions of Anglos and Asians. Both the median household income and the median home value are just over half that of Greater Houston. The area is also significantly less educated than Houston as a whole. Almost a third of the adult population has no high school diploma, and only 13% of residents have a college degree. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, nearly 28% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

### Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Almeda-Genoa area reported lower than average levels of satisfaction with their lives. Only 32% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, seventh lowest among all CSAs. 78% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 50% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. Only 30% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, while 42% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

### Spiritual Condition:

Relative to the rest of Greater Houston, residents of Almeda-Genoa are much more spiritually receptive than other CSAs in the Greater Houston area. The CSA ranks near the top of nearly all spiritual categories. 45% of residents attend church weekly, and only 8% of residents never attend church. Both values are significantly different than the rest of the city. When having problems, 59% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 41% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is much more spiritually aware than these statistics would indicate. Nearly 88% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 93% of residents are likely to pray when they have problems, and 85% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

### Interviews with Key Leaders in the Almeda-Genoa CSA:

Key leaders praised the area for its accessible location, friendly and engaged community, and good churches. Most of the problems facing the community are related to development: Gang violence, drug use, poor infrastructure, and low economic growth were among the major problems discussed. Community leaders commented that the Church as a whole is very much present within the community, offering a myriad of programs designed to meet the needs of parents, youth, and those suffering from drug use. However, some leaders also commented that while collaboration is present among area congregations to solve problems, there is little communication among the various ethnic groups. One interviewee went as far to say that some local congregations "can reject the Spanish speaking population." The interviewees seemed to challenge the Church to help fix the local economy. They suggested initiating job development programs for adults, programs for first time homeowners, and programs that assist youth in finding jobs.

