

CSA #6 – Braeswood Area Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Braeswood area CSA is an ethnically diverse area located on Houston's southwest side. Nearly 40% of the population is Hispanic; Anglos and African Americans both make up 26% of the population each; Asians about 5%. The median household income is slightly less than that of the city as a whole. The educational attainment of the Braeswood area is consistent with Greater Houston as a whole. About 28% of the adult population has no high school diploma (slightly higher than the 23% average for the city), and 29% of residents have a college degree. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, nearly 19% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Braeswood area reported levels of satisfaction lower than the city as a whole. 36% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, roughly average among all CSAs. 73% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 76% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. Only 26% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 46% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

Residents of the Braeswood area show levels of spiritual awareness consistent with the rest of the city. 32% of residents attend church weekly, and 14% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 42% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 29% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is much more spiritually aware than these statistics would indicate. Nearly 75% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 90% of residents are likely to pray when they have problems, and 68% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Braeswood CSA:

Key leaders praised the area for its close-knit community, availability of quality day care, and adequate social services for the elderly. The problems facing the area included high crime, shootings, and inconsistency among educational opportunities for youth in the area. Community leaders commented that the congregations are effective at collaborating and assisting to rebuild the community. One local congregation built homes to help low-income people, and converted an abandoned motel into a women's shelter. Interviewees encouraged the Church to continue to provide care to the homeless population and those addicted to crack/cocaine.

