

## **CSA #10 – Deer Park Executive Summary**

### **Demographics:**

The Deer Park CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located on Houston's southeast side. Over 80% of the population is Anglo, about 15% is Hispanic, and the rest of the population is made up of very small proportions of African-Americans and Asians. The median household income is slightly higher than that of Greater Houston; however, the median home value is slightly lower. The area is somewhat less educated than Houston as a whole. More than half of adults have only a high school diploma, and just over 15% of the adult population has a college degree. However, there is a lower percentage of high school dropouts here than in Greater Houston as a whole. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 10% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

### **Satisfaction levels:**

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Deer Park area reported levels of satisfaction with their lives higher than the rest of the city. 49% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 83% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 57% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 41% of adults (highest in the city) successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 50% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

### **Spiritual Condition:**

Relative to the rest of Greater Houston, residents of Deer Park are considerably more spiritually active than the rest of the city. 34% of residents attend church weekly, while 14% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 38% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 36% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is much more spiritually aware than these statistics would indicate. 77% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 85% of residents are likely to pray when they have problems, and 83% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

### **Interviews with Key Leaders in the Deer Park CSA:**

Key leaders praised the area for its safe, family oriented community, good school system, strong church participation, and recent economic growth. Most of the problems that interviewees spoke of were related to issues of youth substance abuse, and the tension between blue and white-collar workers within the community. Leaders lauded the Church for its strong youth ministries, benevolence ministries, and mentoring programs. However, interviewees criticized the Church (and members of the community at large) for not addressing problems of substance abuse directly. This lack of discussion can perhaps scare some people from seeking help within the church for fear of judgment. Leaders commented that congregations could help to solve problems within the community by offering programs that help address these issues, such as marriage and parenting conferences. One interviewee also encouraged congregations to address the issue of changing demographics, and hopefully raise awareness about prejudices in the community.

