

## CSA #25 – North Belt Executive Summary

### Demographics:

The North Belt CSA is an ethnically diverse area located northwest of downtown Houston. African-Americans make up about 46% of the population, Hispanics make up 31%, Anglos make up 14% and Asians make up roughly 6%. The median household income and median home value are about half that of Greater Houston. The area is much less educated than Houston as a whole. Only about 14% of adults have a college degree, while 31% of adults do not have a high school diploma. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 23% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

### Satisfaction levels:

The residents of the North Belt area reported levels of satisfaction much lower than the rest of the city. 31% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 76% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 46% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 31% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 42% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

### Spiritual Condition:

However, residents of the North Belt area show levels of spiritual awareness that are much higher than the city as a whole. 40% of residents attend church weekly, while 10% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 54% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 40% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 84% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 92% of residents pray when they have problems, and 83% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

### Interviews with Key Leaders in the North Belt CSA:

According to key leaders, the North Belt area is a diverse, generous, and closely knit community. Interviewees praised the area for its strong faith community as well. Many interviewees said problems in the community included high crime, poverty, uncontrolled growth, and high traffic. Interviewees praised congregations for crossing denominational lines, providing numerous volunteers for Northwest Assistance Ministries, and providing programs to reach out to others. Leaders, however, observed that congregations can do a better job of growing the community rather than growing their congregations. One interviewee warned that if a church does not get involved in its community, then its congregation will not either. Leaders encouraged churches to offer programs that reach out to the youth and attempt to break the cycle of crime in the area.

