

CSA #27 – North Forest Executive Summary

Demographics:

The North Forest CSA is a predominantly African-American area located northeast of downtown Houston. African-Americans make up about 76% of the population, Hispanics make up 19%, and Anglos make up about 4%. The median household income and median home value are about half that of Greater Houston. The area is also much less educated than Houston as a whole. Only about 9% of adults have a college degree, while 40% of adults do not have a high school diploma. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 26% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

Satisfaction levels:

The residents of the North Forest area reported levels of satisfaction considerably lower than the rest of the city. 29% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 71% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 37% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. 22% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 37% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole (both values are lowest in the city).

Spiritual Condition:

However, residents of the North Forest area show some of the highest levels of spiritual awareness in the city. 43% of residents attend church weekly (third highest in the city), while 6% of residents never attend church (second lowest in the city). When having problems, 55% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 42% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 90% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 96% of residents pray when they have problems, and 90% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God (both values are second highest in the city).

Interviews with Key Leaders in the North Forest CSA:

According to key leaders, the North Forest area is a quiet, warm community with a good deal of growth potential. Interviewees praised the area for its strategic location and its readiness for ministry. Many interviewees said problems in the community were a deteriorated neighborhood image, an absence of business, high crime, and a lack of parental involvement. Interviewees praised the Church for fulfilling the spiritual needs of its people, praying for the community, and becoming increasingly involved in bringing business to the area. Leaders, however, observed that congregations in the community do not always lead by example, and do not always show love to those in the community. Interviewees encouraged congregations to implement job training and parenting workshops for residents, and also to initiate roundtable discussions with civic and religious leaders to collaborate on how to best solve problems within the community.

