

## **CSA #28 – Northside Executive Summary**

### **Demographics:**

The Northside CSA is a predominantly Hispanic area located north of downtown Houston. Hispanics make up about 71% of the population, African-Americans make up 14%, and Anglos make up about 12%. 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 4% of adults have a college degree, while 58% of adults do not have a high school diploma. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 15% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

### **Satisfaction levels:**

The residents of the Northside area reported levels of satisfaction considerably lower than the rest of the city. 35% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 64% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families (lowest in the city), and 33% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends (second lowest in the city). 23% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families, and 41% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

### **Spiritual Condition:**

Residents of the Northside area show levels of spiritual awareness lower than the city as whole. 32% of residents attend church weekly, while 20% of residents never attend church (third highest in the city). When having problems, 34% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 31% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is more spiritually aware than these statistics might indicate. 70% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 91% of residents pray when they have problems, and 79% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

### **Interviews with Key Leaders in the Northside CSA:**

According to key leaders, the Northside area is a warm community in a very strategic location. Many interviewees said problems in the community were a deteriorated neighborhood image, high crime, and a lack of parental involvement. Interviewees praised the Church for being civically involved and for providing assistance to those in need. Leaders, however, observed that congregations in the community can be narrowly focused, and unwittingly exclude people by language or race. Interviewees encouraged congregations to increase unity in the area by initiating community oriented projects that are cross denominational and cross cultural.

