

## **CSA #31 – Southeast Montgomery County Executive Summary**

### **Demographics:**

The Southeast Montgomery County CSA is a predominantly Anglo area located on Houston's northeast side. Over 81% of the population is Anglo, 16% is Hispanic, and 1% is African-American. Both the median household income and the median home value are considerably lower than that of Greater Houston. The area is also less educated than Houston as a whole. About 40% of adults have only a high school diploma, and less than 8% of the adult population has a college degree. Most households consist of married couples with children; however, about 11% of families with children are headed by single mothers.

### **Satisfaction levels:**

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Southeast Montgomery County area reported levels of satisfaction with their lives consistent with the rest of the city. 37% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 74% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 37% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends (third lowest in the city). Only 25% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families; however, 43% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

### **Spiritual Condition:**

Relative to the rest of Greater Houston, residents of Southeast Montgomery County do not frequently attend church, but are much more spiritually inclined than the rest of the city. 27% of residents attend church weekly, and 12% of residents never attend church. When having problems, 39% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and 38% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community is much more spiritually aware than these statistics would indicate. 75% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 93% of residents are likely to pray when they have problems, and 89% of residents (third highest in the city) have no doubts about the existence of God.

### **Interviews with Key Leaders in the Southeast Montgomery County CSA:**

Key leaders pointed to the ample room for growth, good school system, and outreach to the community by congregations as the best attributes of the community. The area suffers, however, from drug trafficking, civil disputes, and high taxes. Leaders lauded the Church for providing assistance to needy families, implementing programs for youth, and contributing to the overall development of the area. One interviewee criticized the Church for allowing some people to abuse assistance programs to buy drugs or other things they don't really need. Leaders commented that congregations could help to solve problems within the community by implementing food drives to help the needy, and keeping better records of financial assistance in order to prevent abuse.

