

CSA #37 – Villages/Galleria Executive Summary

Demographics:

The Villages/Galleria area is much more affluent than the rest of Houston. Anglos make up 72% of the population, Hispanics 16%, Asians 6% and African-Americans 5%. The average income is significantly higher than the rest of Houston, and the total per capita income is over twice that of the Greater Houston area. The median value of a home is 2.5 times that of the rest of the city. Not surprisingly, the area is significantly better educated than the rest of Houston. There are more per capita high school graduates, college graduates, and professional degree holders than Houston as a whole. The area has a high number of single people, followed by traditional families with children. There are significantly fewer single parents in the Villages/Galleria CSA than in other areas of Houston.

Satisfaction levels:

Compared to the rest of Houston, the residents of the Villages/Galleria CSA reported higher than average levels of satisfaction with their lives. 55% of residents reported a great deal of satisfaction with their neighborhoods, 76% reported high levels of satisfaction with their families, and 95% reported high levels of satisfaction with their friends. The population within the Villages/Galleria is the second highest ranked CSA in Greater Houston when it comes to being successful balancing work and family. Nearly 38% of adults successfully manage the demands of their careers and families. However, this means that over 60% of adults have trouble balancing the two demands. Just over 50% of residents reported being happy with their lives as a whole.

Spiritual Condition:

Relative to the rest of Greater Houston, residents of the Villages/Galleria CSA have little to do with the church. The CSA ranks near the bottom nearly all spiritual categories. Only 1 in 5 residents attend church weekly, compared to 40% of all Houstonians. Similarly, residents in the CSA have one of the highest percentages of people who never attend church – around 17%. This percentage is almost twice that of those in the Greater Houston area. Even in the midst of problems, the church is still not a popular choice for residents. When having problems, only 31% would be likely to see a religious counselor, and only 23% would seek help in a place of worship. However, the community remains very spiritually aware. While the CSA ranks fourth from the bottom in this category, nearly 63% of residents are likely to read the Bible or other inspired literature when they have problems. Likewise, 80% of residents are likely to pray when they have problems. This last statistic is remarkable, especially when only 29% of residents have no doubts about the existence of God.

Interviews with Key Leaders in the Villages/Galleria CSA:

Nearly all key leaders pointed to the wholesome family environment, involved community, and strong school system as high points for the community. The Villages/Galleria area is also free from high crime rates – although there were numerous mentions of pervasive alcohol and drug use among youth. One interviewee suggested that this is caused by a refusal of parents to address the issue. Another particularly striking issue is the large mix of ethnic, economic, and social disparity among different pockets of the community. This disparity creates an attitude of snobbishness and stratification among the neighborhoods that makes it difficult for different pockets of the communities to intermingle. The Church has had laudable success with implementing programs and services that are beneficial to the poor within the community; however, leaders overwhelmingly criticized the Church as a whole for being ethnically segregated, isolated, and for not educating and empowering members to form relationships with those individuals different from themselves.

