

## **HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN**

**Community/Team Name:** Operation ER (Elk River)

**Geographic Area:** City of Elk River

**HCP Round/Years:** Round 5, April 1999 – April 2001

### **Project Focus:**

Involving the Elk River community in a “great conversation” to identify and implement a shared vision.

### **Vision/Purpose Statement:**

To create a community that meets the needs of all people.

### **Priorities:**

- To connect the various and disparate parts of the community
- Integrate efforts already in place to improve the community and avoid duplication
- Accentuate and build on existing positive aspects of the community

### **Follow Up Grants and Loans:**

- Valspar, Picture It Painted Grant
- \$5,000- Initiative Foundation planning grant for Arts/Early Childhood Center (June 2004)
- Start-up loan for Raymond P. Chock Trucking, an independent truck driver (2001)
- Expansion loan for Cymbet Corporation, a manufacturer of lithium-ion rechargeable batteries (2001)
- Start-up loan for K-Netica for software development (2003)
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- Expansion loan for CDC Enterprises, a plastic duct and insulation development (2005)
- Expansion loan for PK Partners, Inc., a distributor of wastewater treatment systems (2006)

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Meeting of Associations (May 2000)
- “The Great Conversation” visioning meeting (Oct. 2, 2000)
- Worked with other Community groups to save existing High School Theatre (Oct. 2001)
- Business Expo (April 2000)
- Flower Box and Mural projects (Summer 2001)
- Ongoing work on Community / Arts center to be located near downtown Elk River.
- Discussions with community stakeholders in process. (Spring/Summer 2002)
- Housing Study by CMHP completed.
- Building of widespread community support for the passage of the school bond referendum. The Handke Center will be able to house Community Education, Early Childhood Family Education, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education and the Elk River Area Arts Alliance (2004)
- Architects are currently winding up the schematic design for the balance of the renovation of the historic Handke building, including the arts center spaces: classrooms, studios and the “Atrium” exhibit space and community gathering space (2006).
- The ERAAA has operated in partnership with ISD 728 Community Education for two full years in providing arts programming through “ArtScape”.
- The Arts Alliance is searching for a new Executive Director to help move to the next level of development (2006).

**Date Updated:** September 18, 2008