

First Community Investment Conference Unites 19 Different Municipalities in South East Pennsylvania

(October 2008, Collegeville, PA) The day long conference brought together concerned individuals and groups who learned about the region's tremendous change over the last five years:

- Crime has increased to astronomical proportions, not only in our larger urban areas but also in cities such as Allentown, Reading and Lancaster.
- From Philadelphia to Reading, our farmlands have been replaced with housing developments and shopping plazas, including what is soon to be the largest mall in America.
- Residents of the Commonwealth as a whole have fallen victim in record numbers to the current national credit crunch and foreclosure crisis.
- Our region's prices for gasoline, oil and fossil fuels are among the highest in the nation.
- According to census statistics, the population of Philadelphia has decreased by 50,000 folks.
- The impact of the pharmaceutical market on our Open space and the politics of everyday life are resonating locally as well as globally.



Special thanks to CIC Sponsors and Contributors:

SUN Consulting & Associates, Abington Bank, Independence Planning Group, Our Town, PZP Consulting, Richard Hopkinson of Keller Williams Real Estate, Salient Strategists, Inc., Ursinus College, Concrete Impressions, Mortgage Network Solutions

Congratulations to Traci Huang (I) of Garnet Valley High School - winner of SUN Consulting's first student scholarship award.



"Claiming Our Village"



Plenary speaker Dr. J. Otis Smith reaches out to CIC participants



At the first ever Community Investment Conference of the South East Pennsylvania region, plenary speaker **Dr. J. Otis Smith** asserted that people, government, businesses, and community organizations need to come together in the region in order to "claim our village".

Poverty, foreclosures, and environmental degradation were among some of the key issues discussed. "*Now is the time to organize in a positive way and promote a quality of life that will enhance us all,*" stated Dr. Smith during the conference.

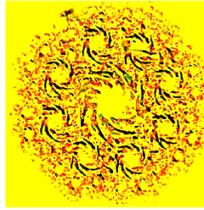
Municipalities represented:

Bluebell, Abington, Chester Springs, Collegeville, Eagleville, Ft. Washington, Germantown, Glenn Mills, Green Lane, Limerick, Maple Glen, Perkasie, Philadelphia, Reading, Richboro, Royersford, Schwenksville, Spring House, and Trappe.



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"The conference worked well because it brought different people from the community who all had the mutual goal of bettering the community itself." *Samuel Alexis, a 3rd year student at Ursinus College.*

**A look into
The first
Community
Investment
Conference**

Paula Planthaber shares her experiences and what "really matters" to her.



Ron Miller of NHS of Reading is greeted by registration volunteers

"One word to describe (the CIC): 'Indispensable'...it opened me up to new ideas, new people, and new perspectives..."
Tracy Huang, high school student of Glen Mills, PA



In one of the workshops, CIC participants discuss ways youth and adults can work together

CIC participants start to file in to Ursinus College