Partners for Places Project Lessons Report

**Project Name:** Building Connections between Sustainability Efforts and Neighborhoods in Need

- **Year Complete:** 2015
- **Local Government:** City of Dubuque, IA
- **Local Foundation:** Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

**Project Purpose**

To build new connections between Dubuque’s sustainability efforts (Sustainable Dubuque) and low-income families living in at-risk neighborhoods through the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI).

**Key Lessons Learned**

*Lessons learned about tools and tactics through the project that other sustainability directors could use to advance their work.*

- Be sure to streamline information about the various programs from various agencies to avoid concerns about differing definitions of the information and use.
- Thoroughly train the home advocate and partners to navigate the all programs.
- Engage the community personally. Home visits greatly increased success in obtaining enrollment in the program.

*Lessons for developing a collaborative process between a local government sustainability director and local place-based foundation(s).*

- Sustainability programs need to have clear, effective tools/information geared for diverse audiences to increase access and participation. Families in poverty often need direct assistance to learn about the programs and register.
- The network-mapping project informed Sustainable Dubuque’s work, connected to the city's STAR Community work, and supported the Sustainable Dubuque Collaboration.

**Additional Information and Resources**

The Community Foundation engaged Sustainable Dubuque in the network mapping project and has future plans for a comprehensive community needs assessment. Funding from this grant has leveraged additional funding and in-kind resources that will continue to support the network-mapping project going forward. More information on the Green & Healthy Homes initiative can be found [here](#).