



Village Chats

EDEN PARK

The **Eden Park Village Chat** was one of five conducted to gather the ideas and visions of residents in neighborhoods across Baton Rouge. There were commonalities across communities; however, each community had a unique viewpoint when considering the questions being asked. Below, we present the comments from the Eden Park community members that represent the issues that differ from other communities.

Family Dynamics

Community members in Eden Park talked about family dynamics more than any of the four other village chats. These conversations centered on a return to *classic family values*, including traditional and nuclear family formation. Many Village Chat participants offered critiques of young community members and the youth. This made for a robust conversation about the necessity for classes for parents with young children because “some parents are practically children” and need guidance in raising their children. This sentiment was almost always expressed in tandem with “it takes a village to raise a child.” Community members also suggested the “**foundation in community starts at home**” – suggesting community building efforts actually begin with the children.

Additionally, community members expressed concern about the lack of discipline for children, which they used as a means of explaining the current state of their neighborhoods. To the Village Chat participants, behavioral issues at home inevitably seep into children’s educational experiences, ultimately leading the youth into the streets where they experience or participate in crime or deviant behavior. Principally to the Village Chat participants, the issues surrounding family dynamics in Eden Park have a significant relationship with community members’ ability to participate in community-building efforts or see success in their neighborhood.

Community Building

In Eden Park, one of the most prevalent areas of discussion was **community building**. Community building is the process of community members working together to **develop** or **maintain relationships** with one another. Commentary about community building often returned to issues surrounding family dynamics. One participant noted, child rearing requires efforts from not only the nuclear family but also the extended family and the community at large. Because of the community’s concerns about changing family dynamics, Eden Park participants spoke openly about the obstructions they were experiencing to build community amongst one another. To the members of this neighborhood, it is essential that child-rearing be consistent throughout the families in the neighborhood as a means of achieving the community they envision.

Strengthening the family institution appeared to be central to the Eden Park vision of a thriving community. They see the family core as part of the community and assistance with family issues as an avenue to strengthen their community. Ideas about family assistance can translate to all neighborhoods.

To read the full Village Chat Report, click [here](#).

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