

S. Marshall Super Pop-up

It wasn't long after the June 25th Annual S. Marshall Block Party was cancelled due to rain that discussions began about what to do instead. There was no rain date, nor could the 30+ non-profits who had volunteered to come participate reserve a second day in their schedule just in case. On the other hand, there were a lot of books, backpacks and other items, some of which were kind of time sensitive, like summer reading that wouldn't wait until Fall. It's usually at that time that they organize a "pop-up" which is just a two hour event when a dozen or so people come to meet with the neighbors and bring food (cider and donuts) and seasonal hand-outs (pumpkins & house plants) to the kids and parents. The date chosen was Tuesday July 23rd, and once again on Monday the weather was looking dicey.

But this time it worked and more than a dozen non-profits joined in to entertain the children and inform the parents about things available to make their lives better. Immanuel Congregational, Trinity Episcopal and Grace Lutheran were the three Churches in attendance, followed by Wheeler Clinic who passed out the Back Packs they had donated, each filled with fun age



appropriate items as well as important literature for their parents. Other health organizations included Atlas Behavioral Health, Community Health Network CT and Hartford Health Care at Home. Schools included Trinity Academy and OPP. Other neighborhood partners such as The Hartford, who donated more than 500 books after challenging their employees to see which department could donate the most books, and CT Public that contributes hundreds of summer reading workbooks. Also attending were the World Affairs Council, Stowe Center, the YWCA and HARC. And of course, AHNA was there as well.

As Nancy Rion said in a thank you note to the participants "Many of you indicated that you made some good connections with some of the residents and with each other! We're thrilled that it was a positive experience."

That really sums up the purpose of these events, making connections and building trust. For the hundreds of children living on S. Marshall St and their parents, is the goal of every outreach event we have. It seems to be working.

For more photos of the event go to <http://bit.ly/SMICpop-up>