

AHNA 20th Anniversary Gala Successful

On February 12th, AHNA officially began our yearlong celebration of our 20th Anniversary with a Gala hosted by The Hartford at their 22nd floor Tower suite. The highpoint of the event was the award presentation to 20 “Neighbors With A Heart”, Volunteers and organizations whose efforts have made a difference over the last 20 years in the neighborhood. More on that will follow in a special edition.

The second part of the program was the unveiling of our new strategic plan which we have been developing over the last year with the help of the *Building on Success* grant that AHNA received from The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. This is that plan.

MISSION

The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA) empowers and connects residents and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in Asylum Hill.

VISION

AHNA is a stable, neighborhood catalyst for improving the quality of life in the neighborhood.

VALUES

AHNA values collaboration as the key strategy for building a healthy, vibrant community. AHNA values diversity of population, commerce, employment and housing. AHNA values public safety, both real and perceived, and opportunities for self-expression, neighborhood connections and personal advancement.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Increase AHNA’s capacity to work in the neighborhood
 - Leverage AHNA’s 20th anniversary celebration
 - Increase communications through newsletter, website and social media
 - Increase memberships and grants
 - Create plan for increased staffing
2. Promote *Economic Development* that produces jobs, prevents blight and creates a sense of community
 - Promote revitalization on Farmington Ave
 - Monitor I-84 reconstruction plans and advocate for SMART transit development
 - Promote home ownership and market rate housing
 - Cultivate awareness of the arts and cultural assets in Asylum Hill
3. Promote *Public Safety* to assure that Asylum Hill is a safe neighborhood
 - Work with the City and community to address panhandling
 - Work with Community Service Officer to increase public awareness of crime and police awareness of trouble spots
 - Advocate for traffic safety, improved street lighting and more security cameras
4. Promote *Education* opportunities for children, youth, adults and new arrivals
 - Promote involvement in West Middle School Volunteer Resource Center
 - Publish directory of educational and training resources in Asylum Hill

Support community initiatives that welcome new arrivals and support immigrant populations through education and outreach.