

**Evaluating the Impact of Community Engagement: The JPMorgan Chase Foundation - IUPUI Near Eastside
Legacy Initiative**

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In early 2011, the IUPUI Solution Center received a \$75,000, two-year grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to facilitate faculty and student involvement in Near Eastside neighborhoods to promote community health and wellness. A comprehensive assessment to measure the program efficacy, cost-effectiveness and impact yielded that over the two years of the grant, 80 students and 13 professors from 12 IUPUI degree-granting schools, as well as 11 local organizations were engaged in the development of 17 research and internship projects in the Near Eastside community. Population was selected using comprehensive and convenience purposeful sampling methods. Baseline data was collected through participatory community asset mapping and needs assessments conducted by students in class projects. Post-intervention data collection methods were structured and semi-structured interviews, observations, online surveys and document analysis. Program outcomes included social work projects involving Near Eastside residents in mapping and envisioning their future community; communication-related projects and strategies to support the mission of local nonprofit organizations; innovative green solutions that contribute to create vital neighborhood spaces; and health and fitness projects that created conditions for the improvement of the Near Eastside residents' integral wellness and health.