

Background & History



The 1st Choice Neighborhoods Program focuses on education, outreach, and revitalization for the entire City of Plano. The 1st Choice Neighborhoods Program (formerly known as the Neighborhood Planning Program) was established by the Plano City Council in 1998. Since the program's inception, the City of Plano recognized the city's transition from growth and development to maturation and at that time determined there was a growing need to engage and connect with residents in newer as well as older subdivisions in hopes of sustaining great neighborhoods.

In 2007, the Plano City Council established the Great Neighborhoods – First Choice to Live! strategic plan goal, and charged staff with the task of developing a neighborhood evaluation model. The 1st Choice Neighborhoods Program embraced the challenge of helping the City of Plano realize this goal through an annual evaluation of property standards conditions, crime statistics, and changing housing values within city limits. The program's "Love Where You Live strategy" focuses on: community outreach, community renewal and physical rehabilitation, community engagement, strengthening social fabric, enhancing community cohesiveness, and helping neighbors establish a communication network to help ensure the quality of life in neighborhoods sustain over time.

Love Where You Live (a core function for the 1st Choice Neighborhoods Program) is administered by Community Services Planners as a neighborhood revitalization initiative that strives to enhance and significantly impact the social and physical conditions of maturing Plano neighborhoods. Love Where You Live also acts as a hub for community partnership building and it unifies municipal organizations, faith-based organizations, neighborhoods, businesses, and non-profits around one goal to transform Plano neighborhoods.

1st Choice Neighborhoods presented the Love Where You Live concept of service projects and a kick-off event (block party style) to departments and community partners at a community outreach meeting in August 2010. The meeting was designed to help all stakeholders understand the need for this initiative and how the City of Plano envisioned merging the ideals from the City of Plano and faith based groups to create a greater Plano. To date, two projects (Fall 2010 and Spring 2011) are complete. The city plans to implement one or more Love Where You Live projects annually.