

HILLBROW



“RE-MAKING A NEIGHBOURHOOD”

HILLBROW, JOHANNESBURG



- Located in Downtown, Johannesburg
- High-rise middle class neighbourhood built-up in the 1960's and 1970's
- Suffered consequences of racial segregation
- Previously, the black community only resided in Jo'Burg if qualified (for labour purposes for whites)
- Became a hub for violence and crime
- Collapse of laws governing rent control, health and building safety and relationship between landlord and tenants
- Buildings deteriorated; many were “high-jacked” (building is taken over by thugs and tenants forced to pay them rent)

JHC (JOHANNESBURG HOUSING CORP)



- A non profit social housing provider
- Formed in the mid 1990's
- Purchased some of the deteriorating buildings and began to reclaim the neighbourhood
- Currently have 3,000 units



INTRODUCING JOSIE ADLER

- Lived in Hillbrow
- She was an early Apartheid fighter
- Member of the Black Sash (a non-violent white women's resistance organization)
- Uses a hands on approach
- Communicates with all stakeholders
- Focuses on prioritised issues of stakeholders
- Stakeholders include: Residents, Property Managers,, Property Owners, Business Owners, Workers, Police, Financial Institutions, Badboyz (security and cleaning), City Officials and Councillors
- First coordinator of eKyaha



JOSIE ADLER



- A community organiser / social activist?
- A leader?
- A professional community organiser supports the development of a broad-based leadership group which builds on their successes in addressing their issues
- A extensive (lengthy) process
- eKhaya: Has taken eleven years to reach this point in its neighbourhood development
- One informal settlement (Josie works with) has taken over 30 years to first secure "their place" and then to develop and sustain a community school

EKHAYA



- Founded in 2004
- Deep meaning for 'place' in isiZulu
- Domicile – Shifting from insecure settlements; eKhaya evokes a resonance for a place which is safe - secure - clean- & - friendly
- A neighbourhood regeneration project
- Partnership between property owners, housing managers and caretakers in the Pietersen Street Precinct (in Hillbrow)
- Support from JHC, City and Rooftops Canada
- Primary goal: Make the neighbourhood safe, healthy and clean



A CLEAN START

- **Break Anonymity; Promote Community;**
- **Caretakers and managers began greeting residents**
- **Formal security and cleaning project was initiated in 2007 (Crime and Grime)**
- **BadBoyz Security now regularly patrol**
- **Unattended lanes, once littered with garbage and drugs dealers have now been cleaned up (Pikit-up)**



PARKS ARE FOR PLAYING

- **Added extensive program of community activity including: eKhaya StreetSports Project, Annual Kidz Day and Neighbourhood Networking**
- **The Dutch International Soccer Team has sponsored the new prized sports field**
- **This progress helped leverage municipal resources for lane upgrades**



DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

