CLARKSTON **COMMUNITY** TRUST
NEXT **STEPS**

On October 13, 2013, 18 individuals, including six (6) Community Trust Trustees selected by community residents, gathered at the Clarkston Community Center to continue the Next Steps process of identifying a Community Trust project in the area of Education-- the Community Trust theme chosen by residents at the Trust Meeting that occurred on August 15th, 2013.

Participants met to brainstorm potential education initiatives or projects for Trust consideration in the areas of early learning and literacy, elementary education, and middle/high school education.

The attached **Appendix** contains the notes recorded during the October 13th meeting.

CDF has provided the notes in the form generally found on the flip charts used at the October 13th, 2013 meeting; however, some editing has been done for ease in reviewing the notes. Facilitator notes/explanations, if any, have been bracketed. Typographical edits have not been so noted. CDF has made every effort to limit modifications to non-substantive edits.

APPENDIX A
Notes

Early Learning

- Exposure to language and reading is important

- Cognitive development is important

- Need to teach parents how to help their kids with reading and literacy

- Story-telling by "local celebs", bi weekly, give out binder with stories at the end. "Stories on   the Green" is an idea (to be done at city hall or other public place).

    o Parents and local leaders rather than celebrities could lead the sessions by telling stories from different cultures
    o Stories could be collected into a book for kids in the Clarkston area

- Distribute reading materials to homes (or parents & kids)

    o Develop a lending library

- Children need exposure to learning by watching others in the home

- Teach sign language so kids can communicate early on

- Seek matching grants for early learning programs

- Locate in a central place around town (CAFÉ)

- Shift responsibility from organizations to families

    o Train families/community members how to teach literacy

- Develop daycare curriculum

- Find ways to use of technology effectively

Elementary

- Technology workshop at the library ("tech cart") made available to kids after school and on weekends

- Teach kids how to use tech resources to do research for school

- Supply the equipment (Library in Tucker has this) – a tech cart

  - could supply 5-6 laptops to teach kids how to use technology

- Develop the CCC after-school program further by hiring more teachers and bringing in more kids (provide transportation from schools to CCC) Expand the program, make accessible to older kids, too.

- "Sharing" own tech access in community at tech colleges

  o Maybe through service hours -> piedmont tech could provide mentors/trainers/tutors to assist with after-school tech education (in use of computers, etc.)

- Involve seniors/elderly in encouraging kids to get to and stay at school, help teach the kids good school practices- "senior literacy police"

- Train community leaders and families to stress the importance of reading and make sure the kids practice

  o Empower illiterate parents
  o Develop student/parent forums – coffee conversations at Indian Creek (an example)

- Visit Willow Branch after-school program (Mr. Bennett)

  - Use as a *model* because kids who go there do very well

- Have interactive educational buses come on Saturday (bi) weekly (science bus/chemistry bus, etc.) = fun!

- Rebrand PTA: parents, teachers, *after-school* association

- Coalition of after-school programs (ASPs) sharing resources

- o Support existing programs with qualified staff/specialists & resources that are made available to all ASPs, rotate staff and resources among existing programs. Do needs assessment
- o Recruit quality/trained tutors

- Could the fund serve as seed to grow more money?

- Kids taxi service so they can get to extracurricular activities

    - o Transportation is not generally grant fundable; transportation is one of the most difficult things to fund/provide

    - o tremendous need for transportation to/from extra-curricular activities and after-school programs

    - o Transportation from Freedom Middle School to Clarkston activities may help middle school students feel more connected

Middle/High School

- Use empty school district administration buildings on N Decatur for middle school and international school

- Work *with* Freedom MS (to increase kids' identification and ownership of Clarkston)

    - o After school expansion to target middle school students
    - o Organize group to engage Freedom Middle School
    - o Work on programs to increase parent involvement

- Find ways to get best leaders possible in schools and keep them

- Develop system (website?) for teachers to make available their materials for after-school programs

- Provide sex education that crosses linguistic and cultural barriers

- Making sure homes have appropriate homework spaces ("learning centers")

- High Schools students to be mentors to Middle School students, holding all accountable for grades

Other Items

- Could we establish an online bulletin board so that people can share other ideas?

- Do we need to add some meetings to continue the conversation and discuss more ideas?