COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PI CO NATIONAL NETWORK

- Founded 1972
- 50 Affiliated Federations
- 150 Cities/Towns
- 18 States
- Local, State, Federal Policy Change
GOAL

- Build Community Power to Shape Public Policies that Affect Member-Institutions
Camden Churches
Organized for People
CAMDEN CHURCHES ORGANIZED
FOR PEOPLE

- 20 Years
- 30 Member-Institutions
- Diverse Constituency
- Multi-Issue
- Regional Expansion: Tri-County Congregational Organizing Project
METHODOLOGY

- Build Relationships & Capacity through 1-1 interviews
- Leadership Development
- Research & Analysis
- Action
CAMDEN GOALS

- Move residents’ priorities onto policy agenda of City, County and State
- Build capacity of City government to deliver essential services
- Bring new Public & Private investment to neighborhoods
HOST COMMUNITY BENEFIT

- Compensation for providing sewage treatment service to region
- 4-Year Campaign
- 2 Actions with 1000+ people
- State “enabling legislation” passed
- $3 million x 12 years = $36 million
HOUSING CAMPAIGN

- Link between Vacant Units & Crime
- Partnership with Non-Profit Developers
- Action with 800 people & Mayor
- Reframing: Can’t afford not to address problem
- Housing Task Force
REFRAMING

- One house at 29th & Mickle (3 years)
- 3 Fire Department “runs”: $6,000
- Boarded up 6 times: $9,000
- Uncollected Tax Revenue: $9,000
- 300 Calls for Police Service: $30,000
- TOTAL: $54,000
OUTCOMES

- 2000 units sealed
- 800 units demolished
- $2.7 million for acquisition & site prep
- Over 100 units built new or rehabbed
- Drop in crime rate
RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

- Lack of human & financial capital
- Structural budget deficit
- City unable to deliver basic services
- 3 of 5 Mayors convicted
- State takeover looming
RESPONSE

- Vision for the Recovery of Camden
- 8 Actions over 4 years
- 2 Actions with more than 1200 people
State recovery legislation passed in 2002
5-year recovery period
State-appointed Chief Operating Officer
$175 million in new state investment
$7.5 million home improvement grant program