

Fostering Synergy

Syn er gy *noun*

Two or more things working together to produce a result not independently obtainable; the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements or contributions

From the Greek word synergyia from synergos, meaning "working together"

Fostering Synergy supports women in their most difficult stages of life. A young mother exiting the foster care system will be paired with a matriarch to form a living pod. The pair will help each other with daily activities and provide companionship and support. The senior woman will provide childcare services and parenting advice, while the young mother attends classes and/or works. In return the young mother will help with cleaning and grocery shopping. The development will be comprised of multiple living pods to create a support community. The community will provide a network of resources that go beyond the individual pair, branching out to other members of the community as needed.

The intention of the project is to create a community that fosters and supports social interaction and personal growth. The support of the community also helps by providing safe child care and help with daily activities such as cooking and cleaning. The intention of the development is to provide a safe living environment for all age groups that helps the inhabitants develop a sense of financial security and personal growth.

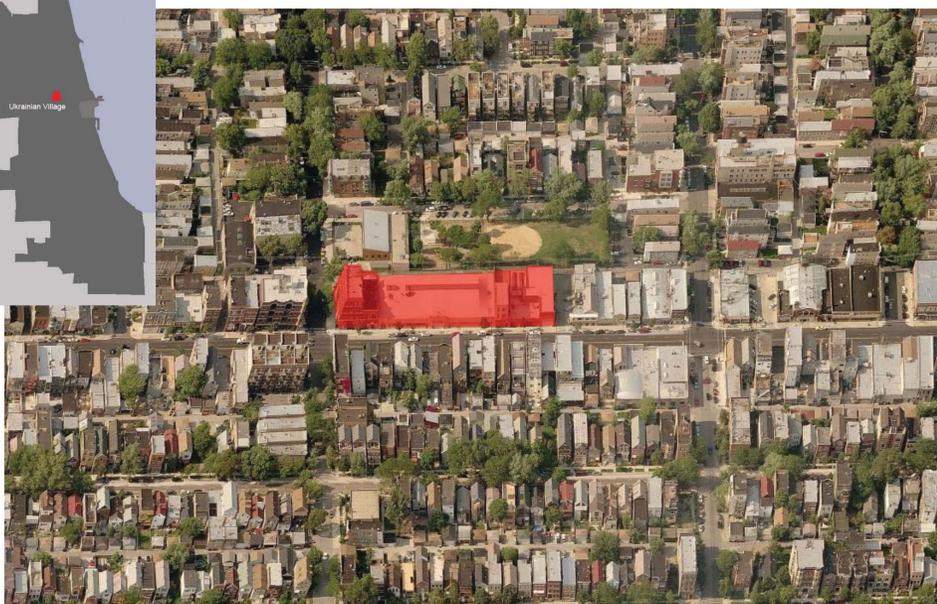
The Matriarch is an experienced, independant woman. Her role is to provide guidance and support to the young mothers. She acts as a role model for the young mothers' children, while strongly influencing the upbringing of the children both in the family unit and the community.

The Young Mother is a young woman, recently emancipated from the Foster Care system. She has one or more children. Her rold is to provide companionship to the Matriarchs, provide a safe family atmosphere for her child(ren), and become a fully functioning member of society.

The Children of the Young Mothers are being raised in a collaborative community in hopes of breaking the cycle of the children of foster care children. They are under the direct care of the Young Mothers and the Matriarchs.

The Staff are directly responsible for community center operations. They provide direct support and care for the occupants, while also offering services to the surrounding neighborhood.

The Community includes those living in teh development and those living in the surrounding neighborhoods. They stand to benefit from the success of the development. Their participation in events is encouraged and appreciated.



Project Site: Chicago Ave and Wolcott Ave in Chicago IL



Project Asset Map: Showing transportation, parks, retail, and community buildings within 1/2 mile

7% of Foster Kids are in foster care for **5 years** or longer

20% of Foster Kids are **16 years** old or older

In 2008, 10% of youths exiting foster care, or **29,000** teenagers were emancipated from the system with no permant home or steady source of income.

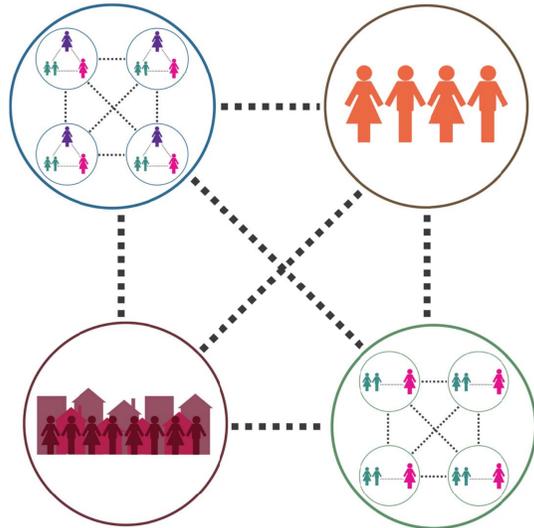
Only **1%** of Foster Kids are transitioned into supervised independant living.

As of 2008, **51%** of young women in the foster care system had one or more children before age 19.

Over **25%** of children whose parents were in the foster care system for 1 year or longer are placed in foster care for some length of time.

A household of two or more in the United States living below the federal poverty level makes less than **\$14,710** each year.

In the United States **26.6%** of single parent households live below the poverty level.



User Relationship Diagram



Collaborative Housing Unit: 3+ occupants, 19 units in development, 1,054 square feet



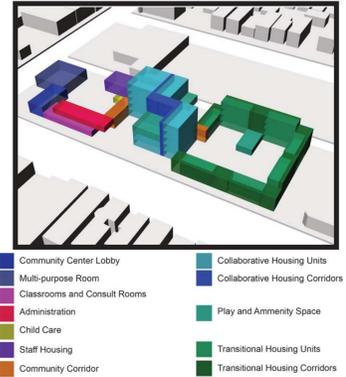
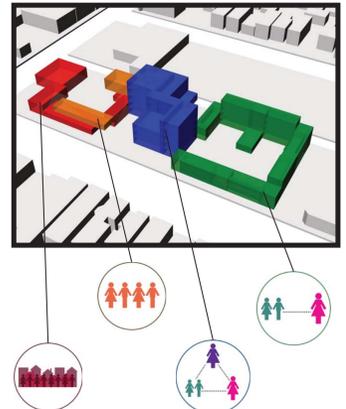
Transitional Housing Unit: 2+ occupants, 18 units in development, 790 square feet



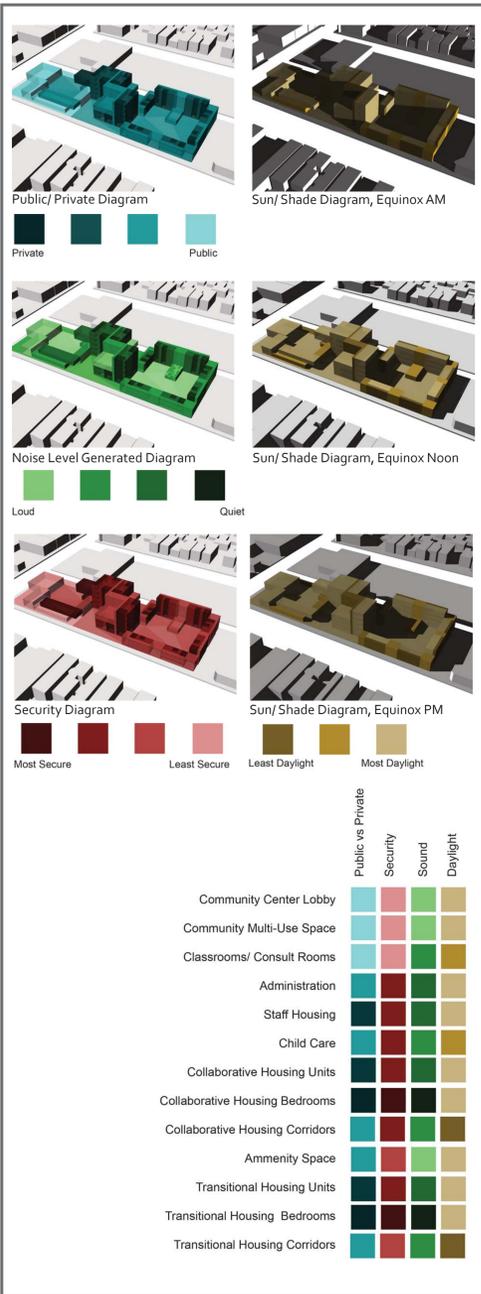
South Elevation: showing brick facade with wood screens



Section: showing Community Center Courtyard, Collaborative Housing Building, Residential Play Courtyard



Fostering Synergy



Birds Eye View with neighborhood context



Site Plan with First Floor Plan



View A: Residential Entry Courtyard, looking east



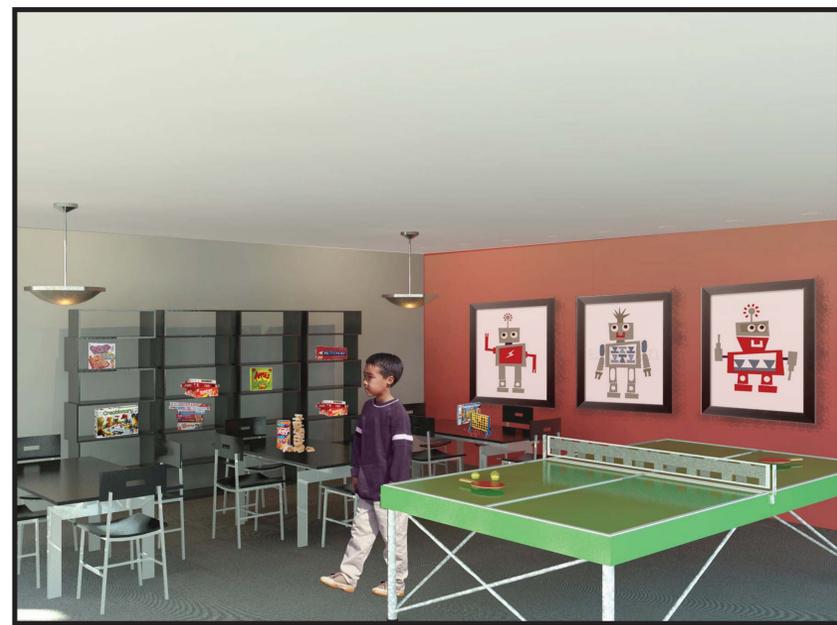
View B: Residential Entry Courtyard, looking west



View C: Community Center Courtyard, event space



View D: Residential Courtyard, view of play area from second floor balcony



View E: Game Room