

## Background for Presidential Visit to Columbus

Friday, June 18

- :: From where the President will be standing on Friday, you can see the city skyline, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and a neighborhood undergoing revitalization. This intersection, of Parsons and Livingston Avenues, has been a **key gateway** for the city and the hospital for more than a century and it is an exciting gateway to the future of Columbus.
- :: There's also a great backstory: Nationwide Children's Hospital—formerly known as Columbus Children's Hospital—has generally been in this same neighborhood since 1893, when it opened with nine beds (it moved to its current location in 1924) to **serve children who were being denied care elsewhere** because their parents couldn't pay for it.
- :: Today, Nationwide Children's is **one of the best children's hospitals in America**, as ranked by both *Parents* magazine and *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital is undertaking the nation's largest pediatric expansion to date (based on addition of new, non-replacement facilities), which will open in 2012. The new hospital is expected to generate \$1.3 billion in new regional economic activity, and create more than 2,000 new jobs.
- :: Just as the community gave to the hospital to meet a need 117 years ago, the hospital now sees as a prime part of its mission to **give to the community to meet unmet needs**.
- :: Under the leadership of Mayor Michael Coleman and Nationwide Children's CEO Dr. Steve Allen, the hospital and the city of Columbus launched a project in 2008, called **Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families**, to rebuild the area around the hospital. There are five components: affordable housing; education; health and wellness; safe and accessible neighborhoods; and workforce and economic development.
- :: Under the **affordable housing** component, the city and hospital are working to build and rehabilitate houses in the neighborhood. About 100 houses are expected to be built or redeveloped in the neighborhood by 2013. Federal stimulus money is being used to build three homes right now, and rehab 15 others. The overall project involves the hospital, state, federal government, local nonprofits, United Way, and other faith-based groups.
- :: The **Recovery Act project** being announced by the President will enable road and infrastructure improvements to streets in and around the Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families district, to improve roads, build sidewalks and bike paths, improve traffic flow, and enhance green spaces.
- :: These projects demonstrate what the public and private sector can do together to bring America back, create jobs, and create a better future for local families. Rough estimates are that Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families is **impacting more than 10,000 people per year**, in places that need it most.

For a complete backgrounder on this visit and Nationwide Children's Hospital, go to [www.NationwideChildrens.org](http://www.NationwideChildrens.org) where a special source site has been set up.