

March 2024

Bowdoin Geneva **Final Report**

Reporting period: March 1, 2022 - February 29, 2024

BIDMC Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

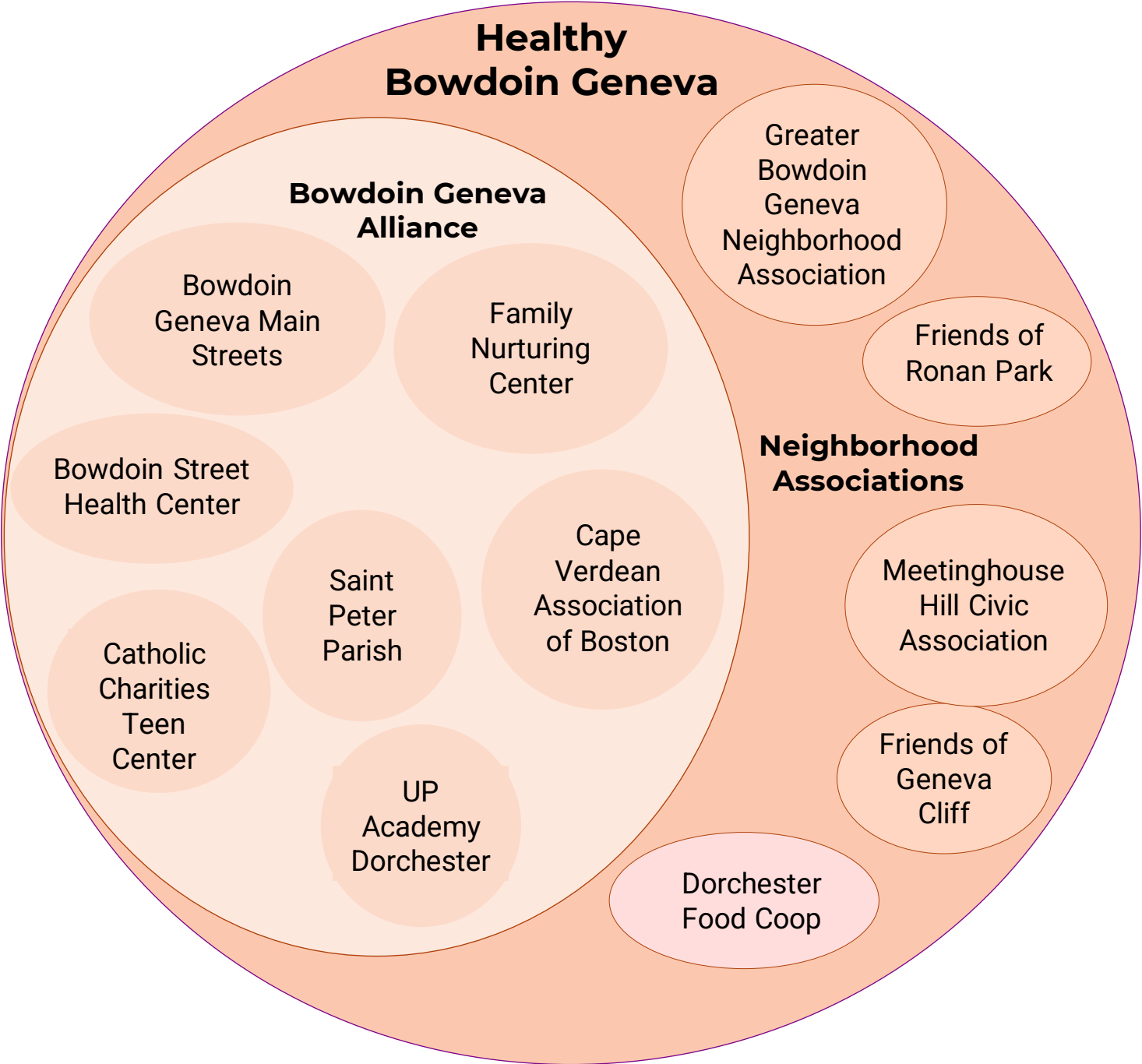


About the Collective

Healthy Bowdoin Geneva is a collaboration between members of the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance, four resident associations, and the Dorchester Food Co-op.

During the grant period, the Collective operated through a Steering Committee, several working groups (events, communication, leadership, and evaluation), full Collective meetings, and day-to-day operations of the Project Coordinator and staff. A voting mechanism determined for the Planning Phase was used to create the current Steering Committee structure.

The Family Nurturing Center (FNC) served as lead agency for the Collective. The Collective was facilitated by a Project Coordinator who was employed by FNC and guided by the full Collective.



About the project

The funded project addresses the top identified community needs from the Planning Phase: Community and social capital. The three aspects of this project include community leadership infrastructure, bridging social ties, and resource sharing. The corresponding SMARTIE (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, Equitable) goals from the grant proposal are

Community Leadership

SMARTIE Goal:

By April 1, 2022, HBG will recruit and onboard a full-time project coordinator whose main focus will be building neighborhood cohesion through events, interagency collaboration, and outreach. The coordinator will:

- Work with local agencies to identify an intergenerational cohort of diverse, representative, and energetic leaders in the neighborhood
- Supervise these leaders as they facilitate outreach to target populations
- Support the advocacy of this cohort of leaders for the neighborhood at the city and state level, submitting requests for \$100,000-\$200,000 in additional funding

Bridging Social Ties

SMARTIE Goal:

By the end of the grant period, and with the input and collaboration of a diverse Collective of neighborhood residents, businesses, and agencies, HBG will promote neighborhood social ties by:

- Coordinating at least one new community event that celebrates the diversity, vibrancy, and unity of the neighborhood with residents of varying ages from Afro-Caribbean, Cape Verdean, Asian, and other communities in attendance. HBG will promote the event in at least 3 languages.
- Strengthening the capacity of existing neighborhood events.
- Distributing mini-grants to support 5 existing and 5 new community events or programs.

Resource Sharing

SMARTIE Goal:

By the end of the grant period, HBG will build the capacity of agencies within the neighborhood to engage more residents, particularly those identified as most vulnerable, and authentically collaborate for the benefit of Bowdoin Geneva residents. The system will include:

- Regular food access opportunities,
 - Voter registration and vaccination drives,
 - Workforce development and career opportunities (with MassHire),
 - At least 5 agencies participating in a closed loop referral system,
 - A resource guide available in at least 3 languages, and,
 - Coordinated outreach and advocacy efforts.
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Evaluation Summary

Healthy Bowdoin Geneva is in the first of three cohorts of BIDMC's Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI). During the grant period (May 2021-February 2024), Family Nurturing Center (FNC) served as lead convener and fiscal conduit for the HNI grant.

The Collective is comprised of members of the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance, four resident associations, and the Dorchester Food Co-op.

The Collective was facilitated by a Project Coordinator who was employed by FNC and guided by the full Collective.

About the project

The Collective designed and implemented a project with the goal of **improving community and social capital**. The three aspects of this project include building community leadership infrastructure, bridging social ties, and resource sharing.

Key outcomes

The Collective achieved 3 out of 3 of its SMARTIE goals as defined during the Planning Phase of the grant.

Building community leadership infrastructure. The Collective achieved its goal of creating a community leadership infrastructure for this project by hiring a Project Coordinator and establishing a Steering Committee for the Collective.

Bridging social ties. The Collective held a neighborhood wide Health Fair in 2024 and distributed 10 mini-grants to support community events and programs. The Collective also worked to improve its internal dynamics and strengthen relationships across its members with moderate success.

Resource sharing. The Collective developed and disseminated a community Resource Guide in multiple languages and a website containing a dynamic community events calendar. Through the Collective, residents, service providers, and community leaders gained awareness of resources available to Bowdoin Geneva residents.

Beyond the planned project, the most important outcome of the Collective was increased connection and collaboration across community members and organizations. The grant enabled efforts to work more collaboratively through planning and brought residents/Collective members together.