

**Breakfast at the Brother Augustine Center:
A Program for the Entire Community, One Block at a Time**

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History:

The Brother Augustine Center was created in response to increased late-night activity in the neighborhood adjacent to the University. Because of the late-night/early morning disturbances, many neighbors felt that the quality of life was beginning to deteriorate beyond control. Though most neighbors did not believe that the University was solely responsible, many believe that the University was a major contributor to neighborhood problems and should show some level of accountability for the actions of its students. Not only is the Brother Augustine Center located in the adjacent neighborhood, the Community Coordinator for Commuter and Off-Campus Students is based there as a full-time professional staff member by day and a resident by night.

Purpose of the Program:

When the interaction between an off-campus student and a non-student neighbor began to turn negative, or in some cases was non-existent, both parties would, sooner or later, turn to the University for help. Nonetheless, it was extremely rare for both parties to address each other due to various circumstances. Though the University was concerned about the behavior, we believed that building a relationship between the parties may be integral in getting the disturbances to subside. Rather than creating a typical meeting atmosphere, it was thought that this program should be informal and focused on relationship building, rather than focused on placing blame.

The Structure of the program:

To notify the University's adjacent residents about the breakfast program, a letter was sent to each house describing it as a forum of personal introduction. Because it was thought that small numbers would be most beneficial to fostering relationships, residents (students and non-students) were invited by block. A schedule was maintained at the Brother Augustine Center and each block received notice of their assigned breakfast day, two weeks in advance. Residents were asked to RSVP so that proper quantities of food could be provided. Additionally, the only University administrator allowed was the Community Coordinator for Commuter and Off-Campus Students so as not to give non-student residents the impression that the University was attempting to push an agenda. The only role of the Community Coordinator is was to make sure that all interactions between students and non-students were courteous.