

**East Gateway African Refugee Residents
Likes, Dislikes, and Recommendations
Collected 4-2-09**

Refugees from a variety of African countries live in the Singing Arrow Neighborhood in East Gateway. The following information was collected on April 2009 during an African Refugee Learning Circle meeting held at Cesar Chavez Community Center. Adults and children each worked with a University of New Mexico African Refugee Program student to tell us what they liked and disliked about the area and to offer recommendations to improve their daily lives.

LIKES

- People talk to each other
- Teachers at school / my school (children)
- Can ride bicycle in neighborhood (child)
- The neighbors (child)
- Playground (child)
- The nearby park (Singing Arrow)
- Proximity and access to the bus, supermarket and shops
- People in the area respect each other
- Apartment Complex has a big fenced in area like a playground (child)
- Patio for looking out, grass for playing, other children playing and close to friends house (children)
- Bus stops have no shelter and are dirty
- Bus schedule ends too early in the day
- Feel unsafe walking at night
- Apartments are too expensive compared to job pay... earns \$550 per month and rent is \$495
- Food is expensive

RECOMMENDATIONS

DISLIKES

- Crime
- Homeless people coming to apartment complex and throwing things at children
- People drinking, doing drugs in public and abandoning stolen cars
- Dogs running loose
- It is not safe to play outside in the evening
- Police constantly around
- Some neighbors are not friendly
- Apartments are too small for large families
- Apartment complex is loud, is not maintained, is bug infested and feels unsafe
- Old bath fixtures and windows do not work and are not maintained
- Neighborhood and apartment complex is dirty
- Nearby Community Center to offer more services like Manzano Mesa)
- Public swimming pool
- Nice affordable housing
- More day care
- More frequent bus service (15 minute headways) more hours of the day for n/s travel too
- Increase security and prevent crime at complex and in neighborhood
- Better apartment complex maintenance – paint, clean, and repair broken things
- Ball fields, basketball courts and more recreation in neighborhood
- A library and WIFI
- Better jobs nearby
- Government oversight concerning living conditions and improvement
- More lighting needed