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*A Desirable Retirement Destination*

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**Schuyler ☀ Nebraska**

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**Community Assessment  
Report**

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April 13, 2006

Dr. Daniel G. Gleason  
Gleason & Associates, Inc.  
877-294-7110

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## Community Assessment Report

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# Thank you

*We would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals for agreeing to participate in this important community development project.*

Reverend Fred Andersen

Marvin Capoun

Gail Fickle

Karen Hakenkamp

Mark Hakenkamp

Luis Lucar

Catherine Novacek

Elmer Novacek

Mary Peschel

Connie Peters

Patricia Reick

Guadalupe Marino  
(Language Transcriber)

*This group's contribution made the Assessment Phase of this project a success. The data and experiences gained through your work will be invaluable in our effort to lift up Schuyler as "A Desirable Retirement Destination". Thank you!*

*We would also like to thank Alegent Health for providing the task force team with an ideal place to meet. Your willingness to host our gatherings helped us maintain focus and enthusiasm. We appreciate you generosity!*

*Kem Cavanah, Economic Development Coordinator  
Dr. Dan Gleason, Community Development Consultant*

For additional information or to make comments about this survey please contact:

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# Community Assessment Report

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## Project Overview

The following report marks an important milestone in an assessment process that is part of a comprehensive project intended to achieve two primary Objectives:

- Systematically identify community strengths for the purpose of developing a strategy to market Schuyler as “A Desirable Retirement Destination”.
- Systematically identify community needs for the purpose of raising community awareness about areas of improvement.

After the analysis of survey results, the Assessment Phase was concluded and the Planning Phase of this project will be initiated. There will be two types of planning that will occur with guidance from the Schuyler Economic Development Coordinator. The first plan will utilize community strength information, gathered through assessment, as a basis for development of a strategy designed to promote Schuyler as “A Desirable Retirement Destination”. The second plan will use assessment findings to assist in broad based planning to address community needs requiring improvement. The timeline and responsibilities for implementation of each plan will be determined during the Planning Phase.



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# Community Assessment Report

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## Assessment Overview

The assessment phase of this project was a collaborative effort that involved twelve community members representing multiple perspectives related to retirement in Schuyler; Dr. Dan Gleason, a community development consultant from Gleason & Associates, Inc.; and Kem Cavanah, the Economic Development Coordinator for Schuyler. The community task force members included:

Reverend Fred Andersen

Marvin Capoun

Gail Fickle

Karen Hakenkamp

Mark Hakenkamp

Luis Lucar

Catherine Novacek

Elmer Novacek

Mary Peschel

Connie Peters

Patricia Reick

Guadalupe Marino  
(Language Transcriber)

The task force group gathered on three occasions in February and March of 2006 to discuss critical needs of persons approaching, entering and living in retirement; provide feedback on survey instruments designed to verify the importance of survey items (Retiree Need Validation Survey, see Appendix A) and to determine community needs and strengths (Community Assessment Survey, see Appendix B); and design a strategy for collecting need verification data.



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Following these meetings, each task force member collected survey data independently and forwarded those confidential findings to the Economic Development Coordinator. When all of the surveys were collected, the documents were given to Dr. Gleason for data analysis. Through examination of the data, Dr. Gleason identified nine retirement statements with enough “strength of community member agreement” to be considered valid.

Three out of the original twelve retirement statements were considered invalid because they did not have sufficient “strength of community member agreement”. With those findings, Dr. Gleason developed and refined a Community Assessment Survey with feedback from the Economic Development Coordinator.

The finalized Community Assessment Survey was then forwarded to a Language Transcriber to translate the document into a parallel Spanish version (Community Assessment Survey – Spanish Version, see Appendix C). When the Spanish survey was finalized, the English/Spanish versions were copied and they were distributed among task force members for circulation and collection.

The population targeted to receive this survey were Caucasian and Latino residents currently living in Schuyler that were at least 50 years of age. To assure the results would provide an adequate representation of the target population, task force members determined that a sample size of at least 10% would need to be obtained. Based upon the most recent available population census information, there were 1,327 residents in Schuyler who are at least 50 years of age in year 2000. Consequently, the target number of surveys was set at 130.



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The Community Assessment Survey process was estimated to take one week. However, survey collection was hampered by inclement weather conditions so the length of time between survey distribution and collection was approximately two weeks.

A total of 132 Community Assessment Surveys were collected and forwarded to Dr. Gleason for statistical analysis. The survey sample consisted of 112 Caucasian residents and 20 Latino residents. All survey respondents claimed to be at least 50 years of age.



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## Community Assessment Report

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### Survey Results – Descriptive Findings

<b>Retirement Need Statement</b>	<b>Agreement Score per Statement</b>	<b>Strength of Agreement per Statement</b>
<i>This community is a place where retirees:</i>		
1. Feel safe in their home and secure in their neighborhood;	4.79	80%
2. Feel they and their families are respected and appreciated;	4.78	80%
3. Can maintain maximum mobility;	4.53	76%
4. Can maintain mental, physical and spiritual wellness;	4.95	83%
5. Have quick access to services provided by competent individuals when they have health problems;	4.82	80%
6. Can protect their financial interests and provide a sound financial future for their families;	4.60	77%
7. Can engage in activities that are meaningful to them;	4.45	74%
8. Can continue their journey as life long learners; and	4.34	72%
9. Can build and maintain relationships that provide a sense of belonging and purpose.	4.53	76%

The Agreement Score per Statement results were calculated by totaling the value of all responses per statement and dividing the figure by the total number of respondents per item. The Strength of Agreement per Statement was calculated by dividing the Agreement Score per Statement by 6, the maximum possible score per statement.



# Community Assessment Report

## Survey Results – Interpreted Findings

<b>Retirement Need Statement</b> <i>This community is a place where retirees:</i>	<b>Agreement Score Per Statement</b>	<b>Below Average Range</b> 4.0 – 4.47 67% - 74.5%	<b>Average Range</b> 4.48 – 4.81 74.6% - 80.2%	<b>Above Average Range</b> 4.82 – 4.98 80.3% - 83%
1. Feel safe in their home and secure in their neighborhood;	4.79		●	
2. Feel they and their families are respected and appreciated;	4.78		●	
3. Can maintain maximum mobility;	4.53		●	
4. Can maintain mental, physical and spiritual wellness;	4.95			○
5. Have quick access to services provided by competent individuals when they have health problems;	4.82			○
6. Can protect their financial interests and provide a sound financial future for their families;	4.60		●	
7. Can engage in activities that are meaningful to them;	4.45	●		
8. Can continue their journey as life long learners; and	4.34	●		
9. Can build and maintain relationships that provide a sense of belonging and purpose.	4.53		●	

**○ = Statement revealing a Substantial Community Strength**

**● = Statement revealing a Community Strength**

**● = Statement revealing Community Need for Improvement**





# Appendix A



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# Community Assessment Report

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# Appendix B



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# Community Assessment Report

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# Appendix C

