



# South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

**William Swiatek**, WILMAPCO  
Chair

**Semia Hackett**, DART  
Vice Chair

**Marvin Thomas**,  
President of Southbridge Civic  
Association

**Councilperson Hanifa Shabazz**

**Veronica Oliver**,  
Executive Director  
Neighborhood House

**Rosa Rivera**, CEO  
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

**Charles A. Madden**  
Executive Director  
Wilmington HOPE Commission

**Dr. Milton Delgado**,  
Nemours Health and Prevention  
Services

Membership:

AIDS DE  
Astra Zeneca  
Brandywine Counseling and  
Community Services  
Bridge-To-Employment Program  
Children and Families First  
Christiana Care Center for  
Community Health  
City of Wilmington Parks and  
Recreation  
Clean Air Council  
Delaware Center for Horticulture  
Delaware Children's Museum  
Delaware Nature Society  
Department of Natural Resources  
and Environmental Control  
Eastside Community Schools  
Elbert Palmer Elementary School  
Ezion Fair Baptist Church  
First State Community Loan Fund  
Habitat for Humanity  
King Center  
Learning Link of Delaware  
Mt. Joy Church  
New Calvary Baptist Church  
NOR Enterprises  
Urban Promise  
Westside Family Healthcare  
Wilmington Housing Authority Youth  
Academy

December 14, 2011

Ms. Chandra Pitts  
Executive Director  
One Village Alliance  
1401 A Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Dear Ms. Pitts:

Too many residents of South Wilmington wake each morning to the challenges imposed by unemployment, under-education, and broken homes. The ongoing global recession has added weight to these burdens. More than ever, programs and initiatives are needed to help lift the heavy burden of poverty from the backs of our struggling communities. One Village Alliance's (OVA) *Suitable Men* is just such a program--tackling chronic poverty with a targeted, refreshingly-simple, and collaborative approach.

*Suitable Men's* principal of collaboration resonates with our Network. We are a body built on collaboration, seeking to maximize the resources of our membership to do the most good. Workforce training and education has been a staple initiative since our inception, and it is good to hear *Suitable Men* seeks to coordinate with South Wilmington's successful job placement and training programs, along with its many other community resources. Our Network is a place where that coordination can begin, grow and flourish. We are excited to learn you think so too.

On behalf of the South Wilmington Planning Network, we welcome OVA as our newest member, and we stand ready to assist as full implementation of *Suitable Men* commences. Thank you for running this program in South Wilmington. I know our young men and fathers are extremely grateful for your services.

Sincerely,

William Swiatek  
Chair

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1218 B. Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801  
SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com

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