New Faces In 2022



Daniel Neef Farmer



Julia Lawson
Business Development
Coordinator



Jacqueline Williams Staffing Specialist



Samantha Clark Staffing Specialist

2022 AmeriCorps VISTAs:

Isaiah Whatley (MBK) Karen Montgomery

2022 Interns:

Haley Brown Kyleigh Brown Christina Jones Rebecca Price Jaylon Scott Iyanla Horn

2022 Office Volunteers:

Sally Ford Brenda Morris Marya Jefferson

Former Staff:

John Brooks
Kimberly Carnahan
Toni Jones
Justin Ocheltree
Gabe Pierce
Jeryn Reese
Brittoney Roane
lan Vadney





North End Annual Report



Message From Our Board President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank our residents, partners, donors, investors, and sponsors for supporting NECIC and the North End for another year.

As a founding Board member of NECIC, I was pleased to have been named Board Chair in 2022 as NECIC embarked on it's most ambitious quest yet. Since 2005, Deanna and I have been working on "improving the quality of life and economic landscape of the North End." I am honored to have been a founding board member and instrumental in the development of this phenomenal organization.

Here's a little background: In our first strategic plan developed in late 2007, we envisioned NECIC's role as a transformative convener of community residents and partners, a transformative organizer of those assets and a leadership development organization. We wanted to take the aspirations of the residents for their neighborhood and move them forward in a very tangible way. We could not have done this work without our building blocks: a plan, partners, and a process. We wanted to focus on what was right with the neighborhood, and build upon that, so our process used a capacity inventory along with our needs assessment. This has proved to be our "secret sauce."

As a board, we represent the North End as residents, organizations, and businesses. We are a well rounded board with the skills and professional expertise to move the organization forward and to ensure that we are being good stewards of our resources and making an impact. Together the board, our local partners, non-profits and businesses, all help us meet our mission and provide invaluable support throughout the year. I am grateful for the many hours our board has contributed to moving the organization forward and for all of the volunteer hours and donations from so many people throughout our community.

An uptick in neighborhood violence is what brought the North End Community Impact Center to the forefront of our attention. Thirteen murders in thirteen months indicated that significant changes were necessary in the community. So, with the support, financial and otherwise, of our community stakeholders, we are taking on our biggest challenge ever. This \$16M facility is a goal of residents to replace the vital services lost when the Ocie Hill Neighborhood Center closed.

Ocie Hill was NECIC's first home and was the place where Deanna and I joined Joe Mudra and Joan Day and others to first begin dreaming of the possibilities that are just now coming to fruition. When I first presented the board with Bill Strickland's book, *Making the Impossible Possible* (which presented the development of Manchester Bidwell and the Bidwell Training Center) several members of our board and staff visited the facility. Years later, with funders joining us, we decided that our center would be based on this model.

Speaking of the Impact Center, we are proud of the fact that is designed by longtime NECIC partner and North End resident, Matthew Stanfield of Field9 Architecture. He accompanied us on our trip to see Manchester Bidwell and presented the initial renderings at last year's Annual Meeting. The Impact Center project is being managed by Renee and Bobby Thompson of RBobby Consultants, who have provided sound and steady leadership through a very complex process. On behalf of the Board and staff, we thank them!

Deanna and her amazing staff that spend their days (and many nights) working on behalf of this community, and their work goes far beyond the borders of the North End. From gardens, farms, schools, colleges, churches, non-profits, prisons, and businesses, they can be found doing the work that was envisioned by our board so long ago. It is a small but mighty group that has moved the North End plan forward in a very tangible way. The board is grateful for their tireless dedication and eagerly looks forward to the future.

Sincerely,

S. Paul Kemerling

NECIC Board President



Impact



North End Community Impact Center

At NECIC we've served the North End of Mansfield for over 16 years. We've worked hand in hand with residents and businesses to grow partnerships in nearly every sector of the community to plan for a brighter future. At last year's Annual Meeting NECIC unveiled plans to construct a 36,000 square foot community center. With the demolition of the Ocie Hill Neighborhood Center, the need has never been greater.

The culmination of over a decade of planning, the goal is to construct a North End Community Impact Center on the corner of Bowman and Springmill Streets. The community has spoken, and the time has come for serious investment in a space designed to be the epicenter of economic vitality, arts, and positive youth development and civic engagement.

The time is right to reinvest in the people of the North End after decades of disinvestment by creating an environment for residents to master and model skills based on the 4 principles of the circle of courage, (1) belonging, (2) mastery, (3) independence, (4) generosity.

Proposed amenities include:

Black Box Theatre
Gymnasium
Boxing Gym
Community Rooms
Art Rooms
E-Sports Lab
Mental Health Services
Primary Care Services
Podcast Studio
Recording Studio
Banking Services
Commercial Kitchen
Rooftop Gardens and Dining

Community Investment:
City of Mansfield ARPA Funds = \$1.5 million
Richland County Foundation = \$1 Million

Let's build blocks together.
Help support our efforts.
Scan the QR Code to make a tax deductible gift today!!
www.necic-ohio.org/donate



Board of Directors

The Issues

No new homes constructed on the North End since 2010

89.2% of North End homes were constructed before 1980

73.1% of North End homes were constructed before 1960

Many homes require major systems updates as wiring, HVAC systems, windows, and plumbing are often beyond their useful life.

North End homes often have health and safety issues such as lead-based paint or asbestos.

Shortage of affordable rental housing



Impact

Richland County Housing Study Steering Committee included NECIC staff Acquired multiple vacant lots for future housing development Partnered with Park National Bank to work with first time home buyers Hosted a Fair Housing Forum with the City of Mansfield Fire alarms installed for North End elders and residents Two 40 hour Lead Abatement Trainings held. 11 students completed the course and tested for certification.





Paul Kemerling Board President



Rev. Aaron Williams Vice President



Phil Mazzocco Secretary



Treasurer















Chris Hiner







2



Suzy Beeson



17



Our Team





Impact



Deanna West-Torrence Executive Director

Kinberly Carnahan Administrative

Assistant



Tony Chinni Research & Development Manager



Alan Mitchell Housing & Community Development Manager



Tionna M. Perdue Operations Manager



Mario Davison Community Organizer



Matthew Ayers Fiscal & Administrative Coordinator



Cheyla Bradley Receptionist



Nyasha Oden, LSW **Social Service**

Justin Ocheltree

Farmer



Mona Kneuss Teaching Garden Coordinator



Crystal Weese Career Development Coordinator



Gabe Pierce NELFI Coordinator



Jeryn Reese Staffing Specialist



John Brooks Community Organizer



Tanya "Toni" Jones Community Health Worker



Mansfield City Schools (MCS) Partnership

NECIC Urban Farm Malabar field trip site in 2022 Richland Newhope & MCS Job Training Program site spring 2022 Richland Community Alternative Center job site 2022 Irrigation installed at Malabar Intermediate School hoop house. 144 foot high tunnel completed at Mansfield Senior High School MCS students can earn transferrable college credits in Agriculture







Impact



NECIC Urban Farm

2022 Produce: basil, pole beans, beets, carrots, chives, cilantro, collard greens, cucumbers, kale, lettuce, mint, oregano, peppers, radishes, spinach, swiss chard, thyme, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon.

9,066.20 pounds of produce, and \$13,886.27 total sales in 2022.

Thanks to our customers: Hudson & Essex, Community Life Ministries, Nourish Wellness Bar, Willow Spring Farm, Stoodt's Fresh Market, Gertz Culinary, Fresh Fork Market, and Yellowbird Food Shed.

Green Patch Gardens moved onto the NECIC Urban Farm in 2022.

Richland Correctional Institution partnership:

Work release opportunities for inmates to work on the farm. Small team provides labor daily.

Three year MOU signed with Richland Correctional Institution to develop a 65 acre plot.













<u>Investors</u>

Thank You!



Richland County Foundation Fran & Warren Rupp Donor advised Fund: \$300,000

Richland County Foundation Designated Fund: \$234,399.47
Richland County Foundation RGO Capacity Grant: \$20,000
Richland County Foundation Katharine C Brister Fund: \$2000
Richland County Foundation Carl & Marie L Gibson Fund: \$2,500

Richland County Foundation Carl and Annamarie Fernyak Fund: \$1,100

Richland County Foundation Interns: \$16,800

Richland County Foundation Women's Fund: \$1,449.26

TANF Summer Youth Program: \$300,000

Reentry Coalition: \$15,587.50

Economic & Community Development Institute: \$6,300 Ohio CDC Microbusiness Development Program: \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): \$25,234.80

Akron Urban League: \$9,061.20

Area Agency On Aging STARS Levy Grant: \$8,500 Local Area 10 Workforce Development Board: \$53,012.43

Administration Income: \$3,919.65 NECIC Staffing Revenue: \$841,024.19

Donations: \$50,706.49

2022

Investment:

\$1,921,594.99

In 2022 Donors Gave \$50,706.49

2022 Donors

3RD Cup Tea
Alan Mitchell
Alumni Roofing Co.
Amanda Schultz
Amy Bargahiser
Barbie Green
Beth DeLaney
Billie Brandon
C. Antoinette Daley
Carol Payton
Cary Norris
Catholic Women's Club
Cheyla Bradley
Chris Hiner
Chuck Hahn

Chuck Hahn
Church World Service Inc
Cindy Wood

Community Life Ministries

Cristine Sutter Crystal Weese Dakota Durbin David Krenrick Dawn Barnett

Deanna West-Torrence Deborah Newmeyer Dee Delaney Elizabeth Bocka Ellen Stiffler Fidelity Charitable Field 9 Architecture

First Energy Foundation Fred Boll Gentlemen Making Good Financial Choices

Ginger Long

Gorman-Rupp Company **Heather Tanner Heather Tsavaris** James West Jay Goyal Jessica Gribben Jim Kulig JoAnn K Baker Joanne Mudra Jodie Perry Jotika Shetty Julianna Akuchie June West Karen Smith Kayla McMahon Kenneth Dudley KeyBank Foundation Kingwood Herb Society Kristin Mudra Kristine Barcroft

Kristin Mudra
Kristine Barcroft
Kristine Lindeman
Lee Tasseff
Loretha Cross
Louis Blevins
Loyal & Judy Bemiller
Manafield First Assem

Mansfield First Assembly of God Mary Frankenfield

Mary Frankenfield Matt Ayers Matthew Stanfield Michele Pappas Mike Kahoe Mitch Jacobsen Mona Kneuss

Edward Patrick Akinyemi

Mario Davison

Paul & Tammy Kemerling Network for Good

Nikki Harless Nyasha Oden

O.M. Cummins III
Painted Cowgirl Western Store

Paul Robinson
Paula Cohen
Pete & Jillian Kyrou
Phil & Ann Downs
Phyllis Harrington

Rashida Rawls RBC

Rebecca Weamer Relax, It's Just Coffee Sally (Sara) Ford Sally Tawse Sam VanCura Sam Weiler

Samantha Clark Suzanna Hammond Suzy Beeson Teana Sykes

The Blackbaud Giving Fund The Pryor Foundation

Tim Burke Tionna Perdue Tuukka Hess Walter Bonham

Wilging, Roush & Parsons CPAs William & Kathleen Hurdle

YourCause LLC

Transformative Convening& Workforce Development

The Issues

Median income of North End residents among the lowest in Richland County, and significantly less than the rest of Ohio and the nation.

According to a 2019 NECIC Civic Engagement Profile, the Wards that make up the North End have the lowest percentage of voter turnout in the City of Mansfield.

Mansfield has experienced a marked increase in neighborhood gun violence in recent years, particularly among young men.

North End resident have ongoing concerns about neighborhood litter and blight.

Youth aging out of foster care lack social capital and are often unprepared for independent living.

Bullying amongst adolescents has increased, particularly in the age of social media.

Impact



Neighbor Up Night

Neighbor Up Night is an informal, monthly gathering for fellowship, and community problem solving. It's a space to discuss community issues, make information available to government agencies, track responses, and provide feedback on results. Neighbor Up Night is an opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another on neutral ground, enjoy a meal together, and bring forward issues and ideas related to their neighborhood. It's an example of transformative organizing and transformative convening, where NECIC focuses on bringing community members and agencies together for intensive problem solving to make the North End a better place.



Resident concerns addressed in 2022:

Removing brownfields like vacant gas stations
Increasing the availability of healthcare
facilities on the North End
Updates from City Council
Snow removal issues
Services needed in the community
Activities for youth in the Summer
Reporting vacant or problem properties
Absentee landlords and increasing code enforcement
Neighborhood fundraising for the
Community Impact Center
Community engagement challenges
Fire safety
Candidates Night
Richland Public Health Survey



Impact



Raising Richland Community Gardening Summit

The 2022 Raising Richland Summit returned to The Kingwood Center Gardens. The summit's theme was "Herbs" and was attended by more than 80 people.

NECIC Teaching Garden

Hosted six Educational Programs in 2022 Beds rebuilt by volunteers from the Community Alternative Center 494.5 volunteer hours in 2022

Yielded 983 pounds of produce donated to residents and food pantries.

Alumni Roofing donated labor and materials to complete the Teaching Garden Pavilion.

North End Farmers Market

Farmers Market vendors made \$34,231.03 in 2022!

Year three located at the NECIC Urban Farm SNAP Match, Senior SNAP and WIC accepted in 2022 Weekly cooking demonstrations 2,491 visits in 2022 \$34,231.03 in revenue for vendors

Thank you sponsors and partners: Area Agency on Aging, Entrepreneur's Kitchen, the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL), Wayfinders Ohio, Richland Public Health, and the Little Buckeye Children's Museum.





137 adults & 66 children visited the MRCPL Bookmobile at the market where they also issued eight library cards in 2022.

• 18 community partners trained in Substitute Teacher workshop 12 work as subs. Two hired as 2022-23 building support.

Barriers eliminated in 2022:

Driver's License/ID Professional License Applications and Fees

Housing/Rental Assistance Work Related Clothing Assistance

Social Security Cards Driving School (point removal/reinstatement)

Business Insurance Fees and Record Seal Assistance

Vehicle Repairs Insurance SR-22

Drugs/BCI Business Insurance

North End Local Food Initiatives (NELFI)

The Issues

In 2017 a large portion of the North End was classified by the USDA as a Fresh Food Desert.

An abundance of vacant lots and blight on the North End.

Surveyed residents want more locally owned small businesses, especially neighborhood grocery stores.

Millions of dollars leave the community every year to import produce.

Lack of high wage jobs and opportunities for employee ownership.



Impact

13

Community Garden Grants

NECIC awarded 5 community garden grants in 2022:

The Welcome Garden Ruby Garden Crew Healing Hearts The South Park Garden The Best in the West at Western Elementary School







Small Grant Program

Small grants encourage neighbors, and organizations to work together toward common goals that benefit the public. Groups of North End residents or non-profit organizations can apply for up to \$250 to address community needs. Projects that tackle elements of NECIC's CED Plan are given priority for funding. Small grants are directly tied to monthly Neighbor Up Night meetings to encourage participation, buy-in, and a sense of community.

Projects Funded In 2022:

Tea Talk Budget and Sip
Drive Thru Santa Workshop
Meals In A Bag
Perfect Peace Prison Project
13th Annual Friends and Family Day
Toys, Toys, and More Toys! - Christmas Toy Giveaway
Ohio Family Foundation Christmas Giveaway
Tune Up Basketball Clinic
Fall Hop Shop - Pop-Up Shop
Soulabration
Kay Day Celebration



North End Elder Program

The Elders held 18 luncheons and went on two outings in 2022: to the movies to see the Elvis Presley biopic "Elvis" and to Amish Country.

Funding increase secured for 2023 to help offset rising food costs.









Impact

<u>Impact</u>



Empower Me With NECIC Mentor Program

At the request of Malabar Intermediate Administration, NECIC developed an anti-bullying, self-esteem building youth program for young girls. 20 girls participated in Spring 2022, and 20 more in the Fall. An additional 30 youth were engaged during school lunch periods.





Summer Manufacturing Institute (SMI) Camp

The Fifth Annual SMI Camp was held in July 2022. Seven students completed the week long program with visits to MHS Industrial Supply, Boot Life, 3rd Cup Tea, Relax, It's Just Coffee, PR Machine Works, and Michael Byrne Manufacturing. The 2022 Community Project was the design of a new stainless steel NECIC sign.





Minority Focused Economic & Workforce Development

NECIC continued to work with small and minority owned businesses in 2022. Three cohorts attended micro business classes and all participants were referred to community partners Ohio Means Jobs Centers and resources to connect them with business useful barrier removal services.

We connected with more than 202 job seekers in 2022 and assisted with referrals, barrier removal and job placement whenever possible.

- 4 Internship candidates successfully completed over 2000hrs and 126 days at Warren Rupp.
- Provided more than \$10,000 in gas card assistance in partnership with Goodwill.
- Enrolled 4 candidates in the Educator Pathways program. All were awarded the scholarship to start classes this fall (education at EGC).
- Celebrated more than 62% of heavy barrier candidates working over 90 days on the job.
- 116 hours of Business Assessments and loan application assistance.
- Created ten detailed, personal education plans for students who had to return home from universities for a variety of reasons. Referred all to local schools and assisted with online training enrollment.
- Collected 32 enrollment interest sheets and referred all 32 to North Central State College.
- Direct recommendation referral was hired at Warren Rupp (C. Brown) test engineer
- Direct recommendation referral was hired as Clinical director (Dr. N. Matheus)
- Direct recommendation referral was hired as OSU student advisor (J. Lutrell)
- Direct recommendation referral was hired at Ohio Health as Photographer (T. Roan) one of our small business owners who just completed the micro business class.
- Created a new partnership with CAC, and ODRC to better assist re-entry community members with resources.
- Sent out 540 business support, informative emails to business owners this year.
- Assisted 6 small businesses with LLC applications.
- Created complete training plan for (certification, training funding, membership benefits) 5 new small business start-ups.
- 7 Laptops provided to job seekers and those needing online education access.
- 1 GED enrollment
- 3 online job training diploma enrollments
- 1 SHRM certification enrollment
- 5 students will graduate with pre-school certifications in April 2023 in partnership with YWCA.

Continued on page 13

12



Impact

My Brother's Keeper (MBK)

NECIC adopted the principles of MBK from the program's inception in 2014. Work in 2022 focused on connecting qualified mentors with young people in need.

Seven North End youth attended the MBK Ohio Reds Event in Cincinnati where they went to see a Reds game, met African American entrepreneurs, Senator Sherrod Brown, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, and Baseball Hall of Famer Barry Larkins.



Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC)

NECIC's Certified Business Consultant provided more than 450 hours of counseling to Minority business owners and entrepreneurs.

See page 12 (Minority Focused Economic & Workforce Development) for specific outcomes.

Local Conversation On Minority Health

The first in a series of ongoing events focused on improving minority health outcomes. 25 people were in attendance.

Richland County Task Force On Racism

Work continued in 2022 to address racial disparities in the areas of Business, Criminal Justice, Education, Employment, Healthcare, Housing, and Mental Health.

African American Leadership Initiative (AALI)

The mission of AALI is to identify and cultivate African American leaders in Mansfield and Richland County. AALI functions to create a network of diverse leaders with relevant opportunities to connect and contribute to their community. This initiative provides an environment for members to examine leadership theories that yield necessary skills to effectively participate and enrich our community.

AALI Speaks:

Alan Mitchell: North End Housing and Community

Development

Renee Thompson: Developing Leadership Buffi Williams: Mental Health Needed

Teana Sykes: Financial Literacy in the African

American Community.

Alomar Davenport: Police Review Board Proposal

AALI Podcasts:

11

Ed Corley: The Daisy Thomas House Elijah Torrence and Bash Holt: Digital Nomads

AALI Social Events:

Drive Through Santa's Workshop Paint and Sip

NECIC Did \$149,221.37 In Business With Black Owned Firms in 2022

Impact



North End Community Dumpster Day

NECIC and the Richland County Land Bank partnered to provide dumpsters for community use in May and September of 2022.

Collected \$468.15 in cash donations toward the Community Impact Center and registered 12 voters!





from the neighborhood in 2022!

60/60 Clean Up

For the eleventh year in a row, 60 volunteers gave an hour to clean up litter and debris from the North End.







Faith Based Advisory Council

The council met quarterly in 2022 and continues to explore ways that the Faith Based community can collaborate to better serve the people of Mansfield and the North End.

Microbusiness Development Program

In 2022 72 Businesses were assisted and eight new jobs were created.

15 new businesses were started, and 59 businesses expanded.

116 hours of Business Assessments and loan application assistance.

Assisted six small businesses with LLC. applications.

Program participants were eligible for a pitch competition following completion of the course.

NECIC Staffing

The NECIC Staffing team underwent restructuring in 2022 to improve competitiveness, efficiency, and boost profits.

The team attended 16 Job Fairs and Community Events which provided excellent networking opportunities and gave us a chance to recruit potential clients and candidates.

Currently staffing for 34 Companies

472 jobs assigned in 2022

201 associates completed their assignments or were converted to permanent employment.

139 associates' employment was terminated, primarily due to attendance issues.

Participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program by employing 175 area youths and 50 mentors to help build workforce skills and financial literacy. 17 local businesses partnered with us to help with the success of the program.

Introduced actionable strategies to improve retention, see a few examples below.

- Maintain constant communication with associates to get in front of any issues.
- · Issue employee incentives.
- Requested that clients increase pay rate of temporary employees.
- · Eliminate barriers for employee success quickly.
- Recruit additional clients to expand candidates' employment options.

As the Staffing Team continues to see consistent growth in revenue, we will strive to maintain a consistent marketing strategy, analyze our competition, build new clientele, and exceed our client's expectations by providing quality, qualified candidates.



African American Leadership Initiative (AALI)

The Issues

According to NECIC's Richland County State of the African American Report (2020):

In Richland County,

African Americans are lagging in every indicator of prosperity: median household income (\$29,913), poverty (35.6 percent below poverty), food stamps (32.4 percent of households), home ownership, employment (18.1 percent unemployment rate), and, most concerningly, labor force participation rate (40.5 percent).

Only 3.8 percent of owner-occupied housing units in Richland County were owned by African Americans.

The difference in the percentages of the population out of the labor force, when sorted by gender, is staggering. Specifically, 67.8 percent of black men, 33.0 percent of black women, 26.1 percent of white men, and 29.3 percent of white women in Richland County are out of the labor force.

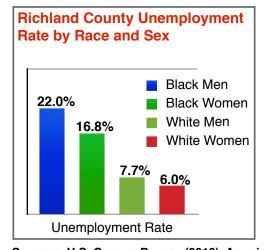
Black men have the lowest rate of educational attainment at both the pre- and post-secondary levels (74.1 percent with a high school diploma or higher; 5.6 percent with a Bachelor's degree or higher).

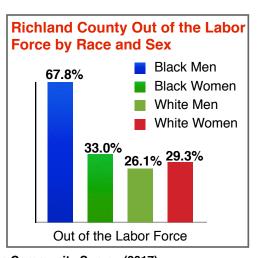
Black boys and men are struggling significantly. They have the lowest employment figures and rates of educational attainment compared to black women and white men and women.

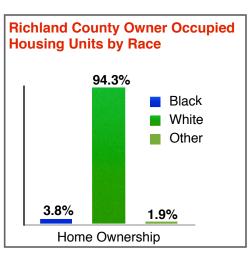
With 84.5 disciplinary incidents in a school year per 1,000 enrolled students, black children were involved in the highest number of disciplinary incidents at school (2016).

In 2010, more than 1 in 4 black people were in correctional facilities while the figure is roughly 1 in 50 for white people.

Black households have the lowest rate of marriage (23.18 percent) out of all races.







Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2010), American Community Survey (2017)

For a more comprehensive analysis of Race in Richland County, see NECIC's *The Richland County State of the African-American Community Report* (2019) www.necic-ohio.org