

2023

A Year in Review



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS



PAUL KEMERLING BOARD PRESIDENT

Mike Tyson has been much in the news in recent days, and much on my mind. This monumental icon of my youth has decided to write a second act to his life's play; an act of his own determination, not one scripted by unscrupulous managers or others who would take advantage of him. While there will undoubtedly be naysayers, I think that whatever comes of this latest chapter in his public life, it will be of his choosing... A script he has written, not one impressed upon him.

In a former life as a nonprofit consultant, I used to be called upon to do strategic planning sessions with nonprofit boards and staff. Almost without exception, I would begin these sessions with a Mike Tyson quote. When Tyson was asked by a reporter whether he was worried about Evander Holyfield and his fight plan he answered, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." What Tyson said is similar to the old saying, "no plan survives first contact with the enemy"... Both a warning and a directive.

The lesson is not that planning is useless in the real world, but that real world plans must be flexible and adaptable. This brings me to my beloved NECIC and the year 2023. In every sense of the phrase, 2023 felt like a punch in the mouth. Yes, there were successes... we signed the lease to farm 30 acres at the RiCI Agricultural Site, enabling us to significantly increase food production while providing educational opportunities for inmates; NECIC Staffing achieved a million-dollar year while our Minority Business Assistance Center was awarded Tier 1 status; and NECIC was awarded grants from Ohio Commission on Minority Health to address youth violence.

But as the year came to a close, we, as an organization –and a family– were feeling a little beat up. The violence epidemic touched us personally and deeply, again and again. And forces within the larger community nearly steered us away from our planned course.

But here we are in 2024, about to launch our fourth strategic plan. This is the year that we unleash the next phase of NECIC's impact within this community. This is the year that we begin to build the North End Community Impact Center, on our timeline and within our plan. This is the year that we explode the potential of the urban agrarian economy. This is the year that we turn our focus somewhat inward, as Deanna redirects her focus and the organization moves forward to continue identifying assets and connecting and supporting them to do the work of the residents and stakeholders, and face challenges that will surely arise.

Respectfully,

S. Paul Kemerling
Board President, North End Community Improvement Collaborative Inc.



DEANNA WEST-TORRENCE CEO

In another transformative year at the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), our collective efforts since 2007 continue to enrich the North End's quality of life and economic landscape. The support for the North End Community Impact Center, with its \$16 million goal, was a testament to the strength and commitment of our community. Volunteers, businesses, and philanthropic partners have been instrumental in advancing this and other vital projects.

Our agricultural program expanded, introducing a new farm and revitalizing land with sustainable practices. As the newly designated Minority Business Assistance Center, NECIC supported disadvantaged communities, promoting entrepreneurship and job opportunities. We addressed critical challenges, including violence and housing, through collaborative efforts, demonstrating our comprehensive approach to community development.

This progress reflects the unwavering dedication of our team, volunteers, and partners. Looking ahead, we are committed to furthering our impact, with ambitious plans for the Community Impact Center and beyond.

Your support remains crucial. Together, we'll continue to drive positive change in the Mansfield/Richland County Community.

With deepest gratitude,

Deanna West-Torrence
CEO & Founder, North End Community Improvement Collaborative Inc.

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2023 NECIC EMPLOYEES



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COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



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NECIC FARM CONSULTANT



ALAN MITCHELL
MBAC DIRECTOR

NEW FACES IN 2023



LUCAS GERBER
MARKETING COORDINATOR



SUZY BEESON
SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER

2023 DONORS

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Church World Service Inc

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Juanita Harris
Buren Insurance
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Heather Tsavaris
The Food Lab
OneHope
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K.E. McCartney & Associates Inc
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Richland County Democratic Party
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Dee Delaney
Barbara Fraifogel
Alison Goebel
Rich & Gayle Green
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Maura Teynor
Ed & Marilyn Trease
Jon & Jill Van Harlingen
Nicole Hoke
Marissa Miller
Tiffany Mitchell
Joanne Mudra
Carol Payton
Tionna Perdue
Jodie Perry

Ginger Koozer
William Linville
Mansfield Rotary Club
Stephanie Popa
Grace Riegel
Maxwell Schrimpf
Trae C
Sally (Sara) Ford
June West
Matt Ayers
Anthony Chinni
Jan Hepner
Mary Ann Jacobs
Joshua Gerber
Paul Robinson
Sutton Bank
Amy & Jay Goyal
Nyasha Oden LSW
Marvin Johnson Jr
Frescia Poth
Kyle Bierly
Michael Daniels
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Eleazer Akuchie
Ellen Azotea
Dave Benchoff
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Dakota Durbin
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Barbie Green
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Phil Mazzocco
Mrs. Beth Mazzocco
Brian McCartney
Cristine Sutter
Teana Sykes
Elijah Torrence
LaTrease Whack
Jackie Williams

In 2023 Donors Gave \$713,804.24

2023 COMMITMENTS/INVESTMENTS

Commission on Minority Health : \$321,000

Federal: \$121,000

State: \$200,000

Area Agency on Aging: \$10,000

Summer Intern: \$14,400

RCF Winter Intern: \$2,400

Summer Youth Employment: \$436,049.52

CDBG: \$26,629.27

Designated Fund: \$242,885.14

RCF: \$1,000,000

RGO Capacity: \$213,293

RCF SMI: \$2,500

Social isolation \$6,903

Key Bank: \$15,000

Robert and Ester Black: \$300,000

ECDI: \$3,000

Painted Cowgirl: \$52,815.6

Gorman Rupp: \$1,200

Administration Income: \$5813.39

First Energy: \$3,000

Ohio Department of Development: \$150,000

Rotary Club of Mansfield: \$5,000

Local Conversation: \$13,958.50

Staffing Revenue: \$1,077,387.78

Donations: \$713,804.24

Total 2023: \$4,938,039.44

COMMUNITY IMPACT

DUMPSTER DAY & 60/60 CLEAN UP

NECIC and The Richland County Land Bank partnered twice in 2023 in April and October.

Dumpsters filled: **18**

Cash donations collected **\$662.00**



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Projects Funded in 2023 include:

- S.O.A.R. Small Grant
- Meal in a Bag
- Reno Money & Friends
- Kay Day Celebration
- Halloween at Mulberry Mad House
- Let Us Break Bread Thanksgiving
- Mentee Hair Cuts
- Toys, Toys, Toys
- Welcome Home Festival



NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

In 2023, NECIC continued to survey residents regarding the conditions of the neighborhood. These surveys were conducted by North End youth going door to door and at NECIC events.

of questionnaires answered: **414**

North End resident surveys completed: **297**

Non resident surveys completed: **104**

Stakeholder surveys completed: **13**



COMMUNITY IMPACT CONT.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION

Neighborhood Action is an informal monthly gathering for fellowship, and community problem solving. Its a space to discuss community issues, make information available to government agencies, track responses, and provide feedback on results.

Examples of Resident concerns addressed in 2023:

- Violence
- Mentorship
- Community Policing
- Public Pools
- Availability of Healthcare
- Candidates Night
- Services needed in the community
- Financial support programs led by residents

NORTH END ELDER PROGRAM

The North End Elders held 22 luncheons in 2023 and went on a special trip to visit the Hartville Marketplace & Flea Market in August.

FAITH BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL

The council met quarterly in 2023 and continue to explore ways that the Faith Based Community can collaborate to better serve residents and the Mansfield community.



LOCAL FOOD IMPACT

NECIC URBAN FARM

A large array of produce was grown on our Urban farms in 2023 including: carrots, radishes, kale, beets, watermelon, cucumbers, peppers, lettuce, collard greens, spinach, herbs, potatoes, tomatoes, and more.

Produce grown in 2023: 17,000 lbs.

Total produce sales in 2023: \$27,761.75

Awarded by The Mansfield Men's Garden Club for 2023



RICI AGRICULTURAL SITE

Started in 2022 The Rici Agricultural Site is a joint venture between NEICIC, Richland Correctional Institute, and Central State University. This collaboration allows returning citizens to work with NECIC representative, Walt Bonham and an ANR extension educator from CSU with the goal of earning an agricultural certificate from CSU.

Produce grown in 2023: 8,000 lbs.

Total produce sales in 2023: \$6,878.68

3 returning citizens awarded certificates in 2023



LOCAL FOOD IMPACT CONT.

NORTH END FARMERS MARKET

4th year running our Farmers Market at Bowman St.
Perks offered to residents: Produce Perks, Senior SNAP, WIC,
and Market dollars for Richland County Central Service.

Farmers Market attendance in 2023: 1,987 visitors
Revenue sales generated by Market vendors: \$37,249.64



RAISING RICHLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN SUMMIT

The 2023 Raising Richland Community Garden Summit was held at Kingwood Center Gardens. The theme in 2023 was “Building Blocks to a Good Garden” and featured presentations from Jordan Miller and Mona Kneuss.



COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANTS

NECIC awarded 4 community garden grants in 2023

- Foundation Academy
- Graceland Garden
- South Park Garden
- Desiree Spillman



YOUTH IMPACT

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

This year NECIC and MBK Mansfield were recertified as an MBK community.

In 2023 NECIC sent 9 North End youth to the 3rd annual MBK Ohio Leadership Day with the Cincinnati Reds and MBK Ohio.

August 2023, NECIC gathered twenty-five summer youth for our 1st MBK Mansfield Youth Summit.



YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Through a grant from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, NECIC in its role as My Brother's Keeper Mansfield, is partnering with A Beautiful Mind and other programs and organizations to enhance the work being done to support positive youth development in our community. The objectives of this grant are to:

- 1.) Enhance understanding and avoidance of violence
- 2.) Increase involvement in constructive activities or social events
- 3.) Boost school attendance rates to 95% or better for our youth.

To date NECIC currently has 21 community partners and 127 youth currently signed up in our program



YOUTH IMPACT CONT.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

New clients in 2023: 28

Youth placed in jobs in 2023: 121

Youth were employed all over Richland County including:

- Kingwood Center Gardens
- 3rd Cup Tea
- Deja Food
- Buckeye Imagination Museum
- Ted and Ali's
- UMADAOP
- YMCA
- Mansfield Art Center

SUMMER MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE (SMI) CAMP

Through the generous support of organizations like Mansfield 21st Century Grant, RMC, EPIK, Mechanics Bank, Mapco, Arbys, and DHL Supply NECIC was able help to give 15 youth the opportunity to participate in a 5 day Summer Manufacturing Camp. This camp allowed local youth to tour companies right in their own backyards and to complete hands on projects with companies and organizations like:

- Charter Next Generation
- 179th Cyberspace Wing
- Durashield
- MHS Industrial Supply
- The Ohio State Reformatory
- North Central State College
- Midwest Aircraft Products Company (MAPCO)
- The Ohio State University at Mansfield



WORKFORCE IMPACT

MINORITY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER (MBAC)

NECIC is a tier 1 Minority Business Assistance Center.

of MBAC clients currently: 82 Clients

of Counseling hours provided to minority business owners and entrepreneurs in 2023: 182 Hours



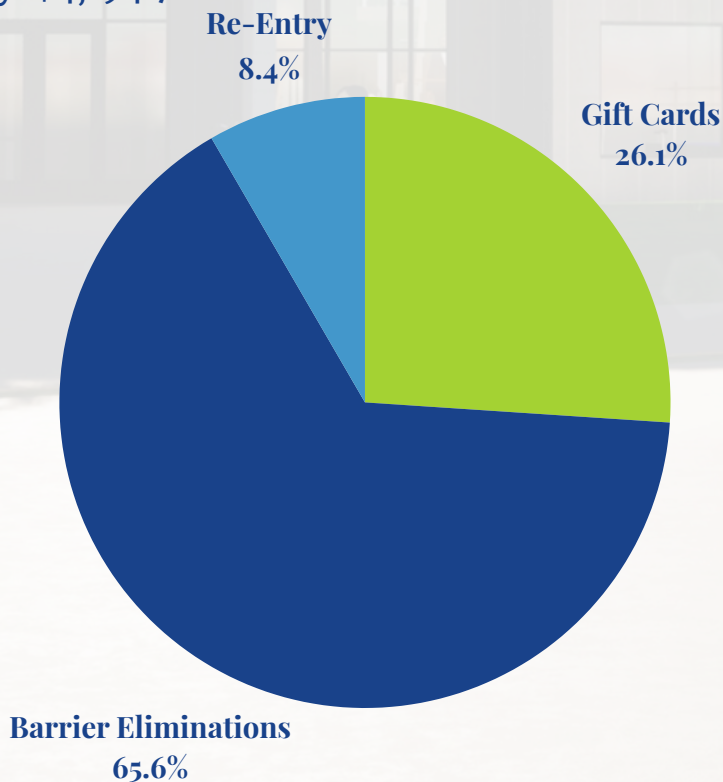
RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Total money spent to assist in 2023: \$50,083.22

Gift Cards: \$13,047

Barrier Eliminations: \$32,842.55

Re-Entry: \$4,194.70



WORKFORCE IMPACT

NECIC STAFFING

In 2023 the NECIC Staffing team attended 22 Job fairs and community events which provided excellent networking opportunities and gave us a chance to recruit potential clients and candidates.

NECIC Staffing is currently staffing for a total of 27 Companies

- 336 total associates placed on assignment in 2023
- 121 total youth were placed on assignment with 40 different companies around Richland County for the Summer Youth Employment Program
- NECIC achieved their first Million dollar year and ended 2023 with a total revenue of \$1,077,387.78

In 2023 Staffing did their part in order to help us eliminate barriers in our community. Some examples of this include:

- Obtaining 6 birth certificates and 5 identification cards
- Providing 60+ bus tickets
- Providing boots and other safety equipment to associates in need
- Facilitating the distribution of gas cards to associates



2023 EMPLOYEE UPDATES

NEW FACES IN 2023



LUCAS GERBER
MARKETING COORDINATOR



SUZY BEESON
SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER

2023 AMERICORPS VISTAS:

Marya Jefferson

2023 INTERNS

Kyleigh Brown
Sarah Hoke
Ahmani Mitchell
Sarah Kilgore

2023 VOLUNTEERS

Sally Ford	Frescia Poth
Brenda Morris	Marvin Johnson
Angela Knighten	Taylor Cook
Stephanie Witherspoon	Rita Lambert
Tiffany Cook	

FORMER STAFF AS OF 2023

Samantha Clark
Cheyla Bradley
Nyasha Oden
Mona Kneuss



SCAN CODE BELOW TO DONATE TO NECIC



**NECIC Main Office
134 N. Main St.
Mansfield, OH 44902**

**Community Outreach Center
486 Springmill St.
Mansfield, OH 44903**

**Urban Farm
311 Bowman St.
Mansfield, OH 44903**

**RiCI Agricultural Site
1155 S Olivesburg Rd
Mansfield, OH 44905**

**NECIC Teaching
Garden
417 Blust Ave
Mansfield, OH 44903**