



Moving Forward

Spring 2021 Newsletter + 2020 Annual Report

A Message from the Director:



As I look back on 2020, I am amazed at the resiliency and commitment of Cornerstone Renter Equity's Staff, Board, Volunteers, Funders, and Community. The pandemic hit the world hard, changing all of our socializing and work practices drastically. However, in the midst of this challenging year, we were able to show up and support our families like never before.

The staff stepped up and immediately worked together to assess how the pandemic was affecting our families. New operating protocols were put into place and program delivery was adjusted to help keep our staff and community

safe. Our board and funders provided crucial resources to address our families' needs and to help ensure our programs continue.

As a result of these efforts, we were able to provide more than 150 food boxes and distribute more than \$44,000 for rent, utilities, bills, food, and other essentials to support families. We were able to shift meetings and financial literacy classes to virtual platforms, and saw a 62% increase in participation. We were able to host community events in the park, to organize block clean-ups, and to distribute more than 400 meals to neighbors.

As an agency, we have embraced this unprecedented time in history, rebuilding trust with our members while lifting their voices to make meaningful change in our community.

I hope you enjoy this year in review, and I look forward to moving forward with you.

Sincerely,

Alisa Berry
Executive Director

Cornerstone Renter Equity Board of Directors

Jonathan Bennie
Kurt Billups
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Renter Equity Provides Stability



Mark Hayden,
CSRE member since 2010

For decades, Mark Hayden has struggled with life-threatening health issues, high medical bills, and student loan debt that have made it difficult for him to afford basic living expenses. According to Mark, he spent a lot of time feeling lost, constantly worrying about what he was going to do to get by.

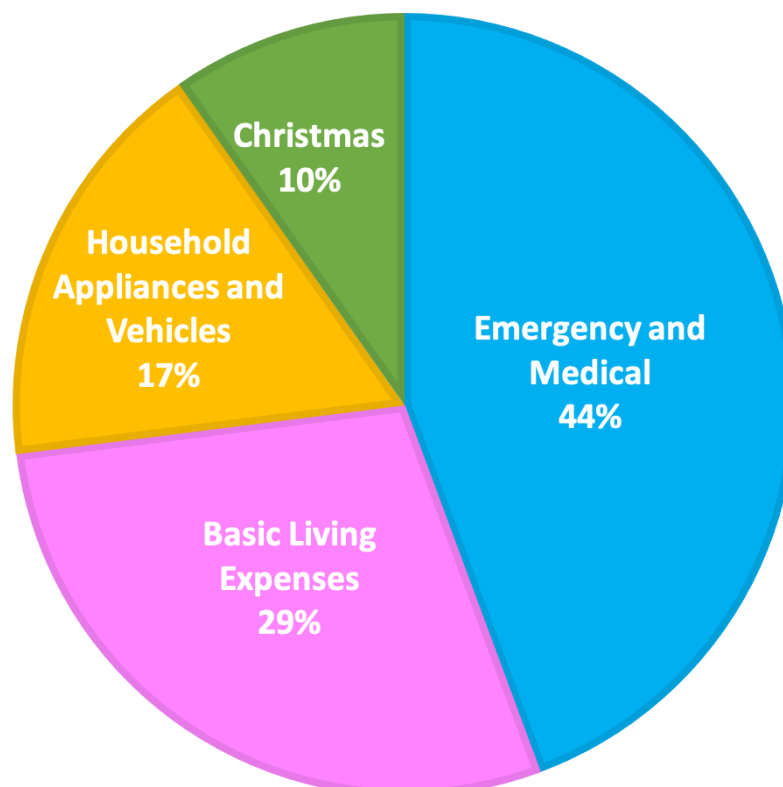
In 2010, Mark found his way, when he became a member of the Cornerstone Renter Equity Program. Through the program, Mark has earned enough equity to pay off medical bills and student loans. He was also able to put a down payment on a new car. For Mark, the Renter Equity Program has allowed him to do more than pay bills— it has allowed him to focus on his passion for helping people and giving back to the community.

“The Renter Equity Program has helped me become stable enough to do the work I enjoy, and not worry so much about how I will get by,” says Mark.

Mark works at UC Health, where he helps immigrants and Spanish-speaking patients navigate the healthcare system. He has also served as Secretary of the Over-the-Rhine Community Council, and volunteers at the St. Anthony Center in Over-the-Rhine.



What did members use their equity for in 2020?



Members Make Residential Parking a Reality



Many thanks to the CPD for supporting our efforts!

In December 2020, the City of Cincinnati approved residential parking on Green Street and Republic Street in Over-the Rhine.

The initiative was driven by CSRE members seeking to increase safety and security in the neighborhood. Working with our staff, the Cincinnati Police Department, and community leaders, members organized a groundswell of efforts from block clean ups, to block walks, to phone calls, zoom calls, and much more to make residential parking a reality.

We hope our members take pride in achieving this well-deserved victory, and we are grateful to the staff and community leaders for their support.



Donor Spotlight



Thanks to a generous grant from Bi3 (Bethesda, Inc.), CSRE was able to purchase equipment and software for our Family Coach and Community Specialist, allowing them to work remotely and interface with members online. The Bi3 grant has been crucial to continuing our efforts to support and engage families through coaching, financial literacy, and more during the COVID-19 pandemic.



CSRE is grateful to Truist Financial for their ongoing support to our organization. In December, Truist awarded a grant that will enable us to provide training on family-centered coaching for staff, volunteers, and partner agencies in 2021, enhancing relationships with members of the community, and fine-tuning coaching practices based on what is most impactful to families.

Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities

Volunteers and sponsors play an important role in helping our members organize and engage in activities that improve their community such as block clean-ups, urban gardening holiday, meal deliveries, and family movie nights.

To become a volunteer or sponsor of Member Events, email cornerstone@csequity.org for more information.



Block clean-up sponsored by
Mutual of America Financial Group

2020 Annual Report

We are humbled and grateful for the support CSRE received last year from individuals, foundations, and businesses who believe in our mission to be a community-oriented partner providing a customized, family-centered approach to asset building and personal growth.



Individual Support

Jonathan Bennie	Nancy & Ed Rosenthal
Alisa Berry	James Rubenstein
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Rosenthal Family Trust
Project Lift
SC Ministry Foundation
Truist Financial
United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Support Renter Equity!

Donations are crucial to maintaining and expanding Renter Equity funding for new and future members.

Every dollar you give makes a difference.

Donate online:

renterequity.org/hope/donate

Donate by mail:

1641 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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