



Empowering Communities

Fall 2020 Newsletter

A Message from the Director:

As we enter into Fall, I reflect upon how 2020 has been unlike any other year I have experienced in my lifetime. It is hard to believe that we are now six months into the COVID-19 pandemic, simultaneously struggling with the realities of this global health crisis, along with our country's long-fought battle with racism and social justice.

Ultimately, this year has made me realize just how important CSRE is for families and communities. Now more than ever, we remain focused on improving financial health and strengthening community roots, empowering families to build better lives.

To accomplish this, we have introduced virtual, monthly Financial Literacy Workshops through Zoom. In partnership with First Financial Bank, we have started a Match Savings program that will provide 1:1 or 2:1 matched savings opportunities. We added membership to the Over-the-Rhine Community Council as a benefit to our members, all of who are now voting members on the Council. Since January, participation in community meetings has increased by 63%.

Despite the pandemic and unrest, CSRE is making a difference thanks to our generous donors, committed board members, and talented staff. Through this newsletter, we are proud to share the impact your support has made on the OTR community, and look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Alisa Berry, Executive Director



Community members Rita and family at movie night at Findlay Park



Community members at the reopening of Findlay Park.



Alisa Berry

Donations at work

Since the onset of the pandemic, our members have struggled with job loss, school closures, health issues, and more. Thanks to our donors and partners, CSRE has provided crucial resources to support families during this difficult time.

\$21,656 in
Donations for
**Rent and Utility
Assistance**

\$15,525 in
Kroger Gift Cards
134 Boxed
and Bagged
Food Donations

92 Bags of
PPE Supplies
from Cincinnati
Children's Hospital

231 **Kids Meals**
from **Freestore**
Foodbank
201 **Snack Packs**

Safe Events

Monthly block clean-ups
and Friday Family
Movie Nights



Vickie helps with the 2020
Clean-Up Day



Kurt volunteered to help
beautify the re-opening of
Findlay Park

Connection

Bi-weekly wellness
calls to
assess members needs

Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities!

Our members have made it their goal to keep their streets safe and clean through weekly block clean-up events.

To **sponsor** a Deep Clean & Cookout event, contact Erin Hinson at ehinson@scequity.org.

To **volunteer** at a Deep Clean & Cookout event, please contact Jamie Kreindler at jkreindler@csequity.org.

Community Foundation of St. Joseph County and First Financial Bank Support New Matched Savings Program

Thanks to a generous donation from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, and partnership with First Financial Bank, CSRE is launching a new **Matched Savings Program**.

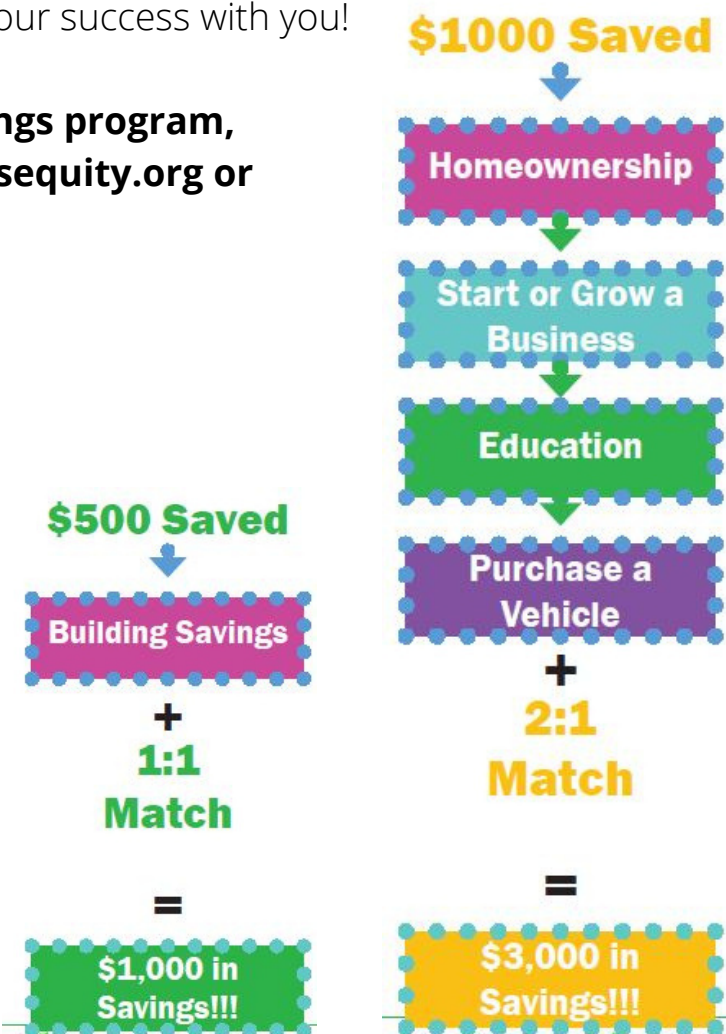
The program will match member's savings efforts toward homeownership, education, starting or growing a business, or purchasing a vehicle, at a 2:1 match up to \$1,000. Members can also choose to work toward establishing and growing their savings at a 1:1 match up to \$500.

There will be 10 slots available at the onset of the program. We are currently seeking donations to increase the number of slots of the program, and look forward to sharing our success with you!

To make a donation to the Matched Savings program, please contact Erin Hinson at ehinson@csequity.org or 513-369-0114 ext. 200.

How it Works

in collaboration with



CSRE Team Spotlight:

Jamie Kreindler, Community Specialist



Jamie Kreindler

Over the past year, CSRE members have requested more activities for families, more involvement from the organization in community meetings, and more support to engage positive activity in the neighborhood.

In response, we hired Community Specialist, Jamie Kreindler, who has proven to be a great addition to our team! With seemingly limitless energy, Jamie has kept a pulse on the external and internal community, making the voice of our members her top priority.

Since joining CSRE in May, Jamie has worked with members to organize family and clean-up events, as well as connected members with community partners for initiatives involving residential parking, community gardens, and a neighborhood block watch. Jamie has also helped bring the census to our tabling events, as well as helped organize a Get Out the Vote effort and mural painting outside of CSRE's office.

We are grateful for Jamie's incredible work, and are honored to have her on our team!



Jamie worked to collaborate with Elementz and Pones to have this mural painted on our office on our Annual Clean Up Day