



Uplifting Families

Summer 2022 Newsletter

A Message from the Director:



Summer is here, and we are sizzling at Cornerstone, with new community events, equity-earning opportunities, program enrollment, and more!

In this issue we have highlighted some of the ways in which our members have earned equity while improving themselves and their community, volunteering at our Community Day and Juneteenth events, participating in our health and wellness fair, and learning healthy recipes in our cooking classes. Partnerships with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Ohio State's Expanded Food and Nutrition

Education Program, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, Cincinnati Police District 1, and others have been paramount in helping us make these events and opportunities possible.

Since our last issue, Renter Equity membership has increased from 72 to 83 members, and seven additional families are currently going through assessment. We continue to work with non-profit partners and housing developers, as well as engage families at our community events to recruit new members.

We are also pleased to share that we have been selected as a United Way System Change Partner for the 2022-2024 funding cycle. It is worth noting that out of 200 applicants, Cornerstone was one of the 86 agencies chosen for the opportunity. In the coming months, we will be assigned our partners and will begin working together on the shared goal of helping families build strong financial foundations through stable housing.

There are a variety of upcoming programs and events this summer, including Garden Club, National Night Out, and Community Day (see back page for more information). We invite you to get involved by volunteering, donating, and/or spreading the word.

Thank you for your continued support of our agency, and most of all, for helping uplift our families to achieve better lives.

Sincerely,

Alisa Berry, Executive Director

Cornerstone Renter Equity Board of Directors

Jonathan Bennie
Kurt Billups
Brendon Dunigan
John Hancock
Kurt Hibbett
Deb Kelley
Max Kilb
Robert Maly
Gloria Samuel
Brian Smyth
Joe Sunderman
Larry Williams

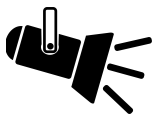
Community Day Inspires Creativity Among Members



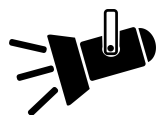
*Volunteers (photos left to right):
Marckael and Lyric Snell, Cheylon Ginyward and LaTia Snell, Max Kilb and Yah'sere Suggs*

On May 14th, Cornerstone held its largest Community Day of the year, bringing Over-the-Rhine families together to enjoy numerous activities spanning Washington Park to Green Street. The event included Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) booths for youth, food and music, free giveaways, and information on how to join the Renter Equity Program and OTR Community Council. Residents also helped create street murals designed by local artists with Pleasant Paint's Art on the Streets.

In addition to being our largest Community Day to date, with 423 touches and 125 people, the event also engaged the most volunteers our agency has seen to date-- 26 individuals comprised of Renter Equity members and their families, our board members, and agency partners. We are grateful to all who invested their time, resources, and talents to help make Community Day a success!



Staff Spotlight: LaTonya Braun, Family Coach



"My goal is to reach one and teach one."

With extensive experience in case management, partner collaboration, and human services, LaTonya Braun plays a significant role in helping Renter Equity members overcome barriers to achieve self-sufficiency and long-term stability.

As Cornerstone's Family Coach, Ms. Braun works one-on-one with families to identify and address their needs while fostering an environment of trust and community. Since joining Cornerstone in 2020, she has created Goal Based Action Plans for all of our members, and continues to work

tirelessly to ensure their success, connecting them to resources for support, and advocating for them with agency partners. Ms. Braun is a licensed social worker with a BA in Social Work and an Associates in Arts. She is trained in crisis intervention, harm reduction, substance abuse, and trauma-informed care.

Cornerstone Selected as a United Way System Change Partner

We are proud to announce that Cornerstone has been selected as a United Way System Change Partner for the 2022-2024 funding cycle in the area *Housing First: Building strong financial foundations through stable housing*.

In this funding cycle, United Way sought partnerships with agencies working to advance economic well-being for families with low-incomes, priority areas, and challenges informed by the community. With programs designed to help families achieve economic stability, and a focus on collaborating with agencies to support these efforts, our organization stood out to United Way as a partner well-positioned to help accelerate meaningful change.

Cornerstone was one of 86 agencies selected for the opportunity out of nearly 200 applicants.

"We are grateful and honored to be chosen as a System Change Partner," says Alisa Berry, Executive Director of Cornerstone. "It is an exciting opportunity to grow our model and presence in this city, and to partner with like-minded agencies dedicated to lifting families up so that they can build assets and wealth."



Renter Equity families enjoyed a relaxing evening with games, food, and music behind the gates in honor of Juneteenth.

The commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War, Juneteenth has been celebrated by African Americans since the late 1800s. It wasn't until October 2021 that Juneteenth became a federal holiday.

Cornerstone looks forward to continuing this tradition, bringing families together to celebrate and strengthen their community.

Equity in Health, Equity in Community



In April and May, members earned equity by participating in free cooking classes hosted by Ohio State University's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.



In April, families earned equity volunteering and participating in our Health and Wellness Fair.



Garden Club started back up in March, and every Saturday members have been earning equity planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables for themselves and their community in Goose Alley.

Upcoming Events

Garden Club

Every Saturday
9AM - 11AM
Goose Alley

Community Day

July 22
5PM - 8PM
Grant Park

National Night Out

August 2
4PM - 8PM
Findlay Park

Block Clean-Up

Rotating Schedule
Call Cornerstone Office
513-369-0114

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Make a Donation

Donations to Cornerstone enable us to provide healthy activities, community events, and other opportunities for families to engage in and earn equity.

Become a Renter Equity Sponsor

Renter Equity Sponsorship = \$2,000
(provides equity funds, one-on-one coaching, and financial planning services for one family over the course of one year)

**To donate or
become a sponsor, visit:
renterequity.org/donate
or call 513-369-0114**