



Building Connections

Summer 2021 Newsletter

A Message from the Director:



Summer is underway, and exciting things are happening at Cornerstone Renter Equity! I am proud of our team's work in supporting our members and building connections in the community, and look forward to what is on the horizon.

In this vein, I am very pleased to report that CSRE is now fully staffed with a Community Specialist, Family Coach, and Family Financial Coach! These roles are crucial to everything we do, ensuring members remain engaged in our programs and moving forward on their path to self-sufficiency.

To better serve our members, we are updating our data management system, improving our methods for collecting data, measuring progress, and tracking outcomes. Ultimately, the update will enable us to evaluate our agency's impact on the community in more detail, address obstacles our members face more efficiently, and communicate with the people we serve and donors who support us more effectively.

We have also made it our goal to expand Renter Equity memberships from 69 households to 100 by the end of the year— an initiative that will increase CSRE's impact in Over-the-Rhine and build a more connected, empowered community.

To all who make it possible for us to continue our mission – donors, staff, board members, community partners – thank you! I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which highlights the impact you have helped make in the OTR community.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Cornerstone Renter Equity Board of Directors

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Member News

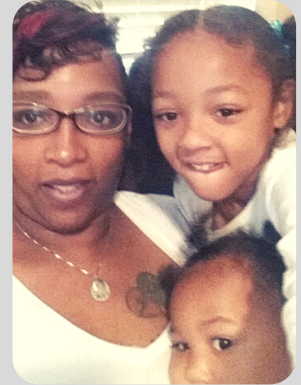
Ten years ago, Rita Dean became a member of Cornerstone Renter Equity, a decision that has benefitted her and her children in many ways.

Since joining the program, Rita has learned about asset-building, and where she can access resources for support, enabling her to provide more for her family.

She has also earned equity credits, which have been crucial in keeping her family stable. While waiting for disability compensation, Rita was able to cash out equity she had earned to subsidize her rent.

Rita describes Cornerstone as a “community,” one that has helped her learn about, and access assets she did not have before, and one that has made her feel that she and her family are cared for and safe.

“No one at Cornerstone judges, they just want to help you accomplish what you want out of life,” says Rita. “I’m glad I found this community.”



Staff Spotlight!

Tonya Riddick, Family Financial Coach

“My goal is to help members conquer their dreams.”

Tonya Riddick is an experienced educator in personal development, career development, academic achievement, social behavior, mental and physical health.

As CSRE's Family Financial Coach, Ms. Riddick plays a crucial role in the Renter Equity Program, working one-on-one with members to keep them on the path to financial stability and self-sufficiency. She helps members establish long-term goals, find resources for support, and enroll in programs to maximize savings and equity. She also facilitates workshops on financial literacy, life skills, civic engagement, and credit building, and advocates for our members with community partners.

Ms. Riddick has an MA in School Counseling, an MA in Education and Teaching, and a BA in Psychology.



Supports Financial Literacy!

Pricewaterhousecoopers (PwC) has partnered with CSRE to promote financial literacy in the community.

PwC has provided financial literacy courses led by PwC volunteers to help members improve saving, budgeting, and spending practices and meet personal goals.

The courses are also a way for members to earn equity credit, helping them build assets and achieve long-term stability.

Special Thanks

CSRE is proud to recognize two family foundations that have made a significant impact on our services and community: The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation and the Rosenthal Family Foundation.



The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation

For five consecutive years, the Haile Foundation has generously supported CSRE's goals to financially uplift families and empower the community. Recently, the Haile Foundation made an additional gift to provide direct assistance to members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Rosenthal Family Foundation

This year, the Rosenthal Family Foundation gave \$100,000 to support CSRE's operations. The Rosenthal family has provided generous support in the past, and this year's gift- the foundation's largest to CSRE- has been crucial in continuing our programs. Richard "Dick" Rosenthal has been a wonderful partner of CSRE, and we are not only grateful for his support, but for his long history of philanthropy in Cincinnati, which continues to make our city a better place for everyone.

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. See back page for a list of upcoming events!



Photo 1: CSRE member Jackie Daniels
Block Clean-Up Event, May 2021



Photo 2: CSRE members
Line Dancing Event, June 2021



Photo 3: Volunteers with CSRE members Mark Hayden (center left)
and Kurt Hibbett (center right)
Community Garden Event, July 2021

Upcoming Events

Findlay Park Line Dancing at Findlay Park

Thursday, August 12th 6:30PM - 8PM

Get up and get grooving! Learn line dance choreography in the park with family and friends!

Community Vaccinations and Backpack Giveaway at Friar's Court and St. Anthony Village

Saturday, August 28th

Details coming soon!

Garden Club in Goose Alley

Every Saturday at 10AM

Learn techniques to help our community gardens grow and thrive.

Block Cleanup & Cookout meet at CSRE office

Last Saturday of every month at 11AM

Beautify the neighborhood and grab a bite to eat with fellow CSRE members.

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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