



Inspiring Change

Fall 2022 Newsletter

A Message from the Director:

We have accomplished a lot at Cornerstone over the past few months, continuing our impact and inspiring change in Over-the-Rhine.

For the second year in a row, we partnered with Cincinnati Police District 1 and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to host another successful National Night Out at Findlay Park. We helped children and families start the school year with backpacks, school supplies, and household items. We hosted Beautification Day, which brought in new volunteers from General Electric who helped lay mulch, weed, and plant flowers along our block. We had one of the largest community garden harvests to date, with numerous peppers, zucchini, and greens shared among families.

The City of Cincinnati awarded us a Safe & Clean grant for LED floodlights to deter detrimental activity, large flower planters and murals to enhance our streets, and funds to incentivize Renter Equity member participation in block clean-up/beautification events.

Lastly, if you are reading this newsletter, or have visited our website, Facebook and LinkedIn pages, you may have noticed we have a new logo!

I hope everyone enjoys this lovely Fall season, and look forward to sharing our continued success. Thank you for your support, and for helping us inspire change in our community.

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 Means Everything

At Cornerstone, we recognize that an active and engaged community is crucial to improving quality of life.

This year, we organized more community-building programs and events than ever before, engaging hundreds of people in Over-the-Rhine including Renter Equity members, partner agencies, and new volunteers from General Electric (GE).

These programs and events are how many of our members earn Community Equity (money) in their long-term savings accounts, supporting their journey to economic self-sufficiency.

From community meetings, block clean-ups, and gardening programs, to movie nights and special events such as National Night Out, we empower people to improve their neighborhood and make the difference they want to see.

Photos (from top to bottom):

Volunteers from GE at Beautification Day
New planters along Green Street
Greens harvested from the Community Garden
Bookbags and supplies for Back to School
Cookout in Grant Park
Fresh flowers along Pleasant Street
National Night Out



Cornerstone Awarded Safe and Clean Grant

The City of Cincinnati Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund awarded a Safe and Clean grant to support Cornerstone's efforts to improve neighborhood safety, eliminate blight, and increase livability in the community.

Funds are being used to install LED flood lights, murals, and planters, as well as for equity funds for members who participate in our Safe and Clean projects.

Member Spotlight: Tornisha Foster

"The Renter Equity Program really changed the way I was thinking about my future."

On December 16th, Tornisha Foster will finish nursing school and follow in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother, both of whom were caregivers.

A Renter Equity member since 2019, Tornisha was able to receive financial support to pursue her nursing education through Cornerstone's partnership with Project Lift.

As a mother to an eight year old and two year old, Tornisha hopes her pursuit of education and a better career not only sets a good example for her children, but also ensures resources for them they grow up.

"The Renter Equity Program really changed the way I was thinking about my future," she says. "The financial education I received, along with financial support for school, has greatly impacted my life and improved my confidence."



Over-the-Rhine Community Housing Honors Cornerstone



From left to right: Terrance Segar, Member and Staff at OTRCH, Jackie Dean, Renter Equity Member, Alisa Berry, Executive Director at Cornerstone, Mary B. Rivers, Executive Director at OTRCH

Each year, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) hosts a Walk the Block event that brings friends, partners, and supporters together to recognize the efforts of the community.

This year, Cornerstone Renter Equity was honored at the event for our "enduring and creative commitment to the People of Over-the-Rhine."

Congratulations to Our Civic Leaders!

Jackie Daniels
Rita Dean
Katona Coulter
Alicia Brown
Greg Maxton

Congratulations to our graduates of Civic Engagement Leadership training. These Renter Equity members completed a six-week course on conflict resolution, negotiating skills, and working with the Community Council and City Council.

Each member ended the course by delivering a two-minute pitch advocating for a cause of their choice at a city council meeting.

"It was amazing to see our members learn new skills and put those skills to use," says Alisa Berry. "This is just another way for us to help empower our families to be more engaged in their community."

Upcoming Events

Christmas Toy Drive
Drop off toys and clothes
at Cornerstone office by
Tuesday, December 15th at 4PM

YOGA
Every Thursday
6PM - 7PM
Community Room

Garden Club
Rotating Schedule
Call Cornerstone Office:
513-369-0114

Block Clean-Up
Rotating Schedule
Call Cornerstone Office:
513-369-0114

Support Renter Equity

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 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