



Cultivating Collaboration

Summer 2023 Newsletter

A Message from the Director:

Summer is here, and things are really heating up at Cornerstone Renter Equity!

We continue to expand our partnerships and build awareness of the importance of Renter Equity, all while cultivating a culture of collaboration and empowerment in OTR. Renter Equity Club members continue to increase their savings while engaging in their community, attending membership and community meetings, community events, and our new weekly walking group.

In our Winter newsletter we shared that Cornerstone was chosen for the Social Venture Partners XLR8 Contest to enhance our communication and development efforts. We are proud to report that we are the winner of that contest, and will receive financial support and resources from the program over the next three years.

On May 20th, we hosted our third annual Community Day, complete with street murals, games, raffles, garden activities, face painting, roller skating, double-dutch jump roping, food, and music. It was an incredibly fun and inspiring day that brought hundreds of people together on our block - from residents in the neighborhood, members of the Renter Equity Club, and Cornerstone board members, to new volunteers and community partners - the event was a remarkable success, and we look forward to continuing the momentum of collaboration.

Last, but certainly not least, we are sad to share that on July 6, former Executive Director and Board President, Bob Maly passed after a brief battle with cancer. Bob was a champion of our agency and he will truly be missed. Read more about Bob's legacy on page 3.

As always, thank you all for your support and commitment to the families in our community. We look forward to sharing more success with you!

Sincerely,

Alisa Berry, Executive Director

Cornerstone Renter Equity Board of Directors

Jonathan Bennie
Kurt Billups
Bernice Cooper
Abby Crews
Brendon Dunigan
John Hancock
Kurt Hibbett
Max Kilb
Robert Maly
Lauren Matus
Andrew Poltorak
Gloria Samuel
Brian Smyth
Joe Sunderman
Larry Williams

Member Spotlight: Alicia Brown

Renter Equity Club member, Alicia Brown, recently completed cosmetology school thanks to financial support she received through Cornerstone's partnership with Project Lift.

"It took me a while to complete the program due to child care constraints, but it was the greatest experience I have ever had," she says.

Alicia has also been able to continue earning and saving money through the Renter Equity Club, and one day hopes to open her own nail art business and salon in Over-the-Rhine.



Alicia (center) with classmates at graduation

Cornerstone Wins Social Venture Partners XLR8 Contest

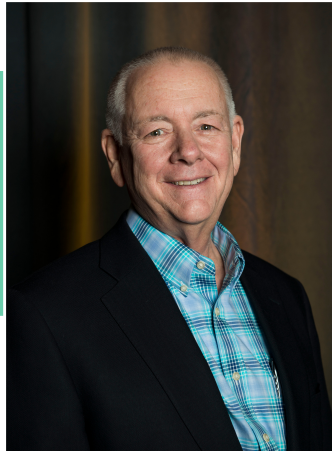
Cornerstone Renter Equity has been selected by Social Venture Partners (SVP) as its next Project XLR8 investee. During the eight-month project, SVP partners provided resources and skills to support nonprofit participants chosen for the program. Finalists presented their ideas and plans at SVP's Idea Expo. They also shared how their organizations and programs connect to SVP's goals to drive social innovation and equity in the Greater Cincinnati area.

"Cornerstone Renter Equity has all of the attributes we look for in an investee partner," said SVP chair Chris Shroat, Head of Consumer Support Shared Services at Fifth Third Bank. "They have an innovative idea, a focus on equity, a spirit of collaboration and a willingness to try new things."

As SVP's investee, Cornerstone will receive up to \$20,000 in funding annually for the next three years. Dedicated volunteer teams from SVP will also help in several ways, including refining and expanding its programs and Renter Equity Club membership, providing marketing and communications counsel, and identifying new fundraising strategies and other opportunities.

"We are delighted to be selected as an investee," said Larry Williams, CSRE's chair. "The experience of Project XLR8 was very helpful for us to look at our organization in new and different ways. We are excited to continue the relationship with SVP and further our mission and goals."

In Memory of Bob Maly



Bob helping with block clean-up and community garden (left) and giving presentation on Cornerstone (right)

We are saddened by the loss of our former Board President and Executive Director, Bob Maly, who passed on July 6th after a brief battle with cancer. Bob was a tireless champion of Cornerstone, and a driving force in raising capital for affordable housing in OTR. We will forever be grateful for Bob's friendly nature and the kindness he showed all of us.

Bob lived life with love, passion, and sincerity. He touched countless lives both personally and professionally, but always made family his priority. His 30+ year career at Great American Insurance was the foundation of many friendships, his leadership style was influenced by his firm belief in teamwork, and he attributed his successes to all those who worked with him.

Bob never met a stranger and found value in every interaction he had with people. He was a lifelong learner, frequently finding new passions and meeting new people along the way. He created memories with his family and friends through music, travel, fishing, cooking, gym, babysitting, woodworking, and volunteering.

During retirement, Bob served on several nonprofit boards, a role that started as a founding member of the DSAGC and culminated in 12 years of board service with Cornerstone, including three years volunteering as Executive Director, a deeply fulfilling experience for him.



We extend a very heartfelt thank you to the Maly family, who have graciously requested that donations be made to Cornerstone in Bob's memory.

Donations to the **Bob Maly Memorial Fund** can be made on our website at renterequity.org/donate or by mail at 1641 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Upcoming Events

Walking Group

In spring, Cornerstone started a weekly walking group to engage members in healthy activities.

The walking group was suggested by Renter Equity Club members, who also utilize the time to pass out handouts and hang flyers in the neighborhood for community events.

Walking group takes place every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30am, and will continue through the Fall season. Meet in the Cornerstone Office.



National Night Out

We are once again hosting National Night Out in collaboration with Cincinnati Police District 1. National Night Out will bring families and community members together for a fun evening of games, food, music, community info, and more!

National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 1st from 4pm- 7pm at Findlay Park.

