



Giving Thanks

Fall 2024 Newsletter



A Message from the Director:

The year has been full of new and great things at Cornerstone Renter Equity, and we are giving thanks for it all!

Participation in our program and events continues to grow. Our annual Community Giving event, which was started two years ago, nearly doubled in size this year. Members are also saving more than ever. In the last three months the average amount saved has gone from \$1,000 to \$1,250.

New community partners have opened doors to exciting opportunities, enabling our members to achieve personal and professional goals. This includes a new partnership with the Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMi), which has been helping members start and expand their small businesses.

New donors have increased our capacity to serve the community. We were awarded a \$100,000 Impact 100 grant to expand membership and community engagement in the Renter Equity program. We have also benefitted from the continued support of Social Venture Partners, who have been working with us to improve our organizational effectiveness.

Last, but not least, we are pleased to announce that the Cornerstone offices will be moving to a new location (on Race Street, not far from our current space) in February! See page 3 for more info.

As always, we are thankful to each and every one of you for your support and advocacy, which truly makes us stronger as an organization, and as a community. We look forward to sharing more great news with you in 2025!

Have a wonderful holiday,

Alisa Berry
Executive Director

Spotlight: Renter Equity Members Complete Entrepreneurship Program



Cornerstone recently partnered with the Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMi), which provides entrepreneurial education, coaching, development and funding to help entrepreneurs start or expand a small business.

Five Renter Equity members completed the program, including Weldon Thomas, who says he gained valuable insight for his landscaping and cooking businesses.

“The program taught me terminology and structured ways to present my businesses in a more professional way, which will help me build and grow them,” says Weldon.

Graduates of GCMi gain entrepreneurial skill sets such as critical thinking and problem solving that are key to making effective career decisions and developing successful business plans.

“Everyone in this group came from a different starting point, some with established businesses and others with ideas,” says Tracey Hayes-Gann, Program Resource Manager at GCMi. “I was proud to see them embrace the opportunity to learn, and to become inspired by entrepreneurial thought and process.”

Community Giving



For the third year in a row, Cornerstone hosted our version of Thanksgiving called, Community Giving, at the Over-the-Rhine Community Recreation Center. The event has nearly doubled in size since it started, bringing members of the Renter Equity program and their families together along with volunteers from the community to enjoy an evening of good food, games, giveaways, and fellowship.

Special thanks to Warsaw Federal for sponsoring the event!

Cornerstone Wins Impact 100 Award!

Nearly 300 Impact 100 members and friends gathered on September 19th at Music Hall for the organization's signature Annual Awards Celebration, culminating in the selection of four \$100,000 grant recipients.

Cornerstone was one of the four recipients, and will use the \$100,000 grant to expand membership and community engagement in the Renter Equity program.



Driven entirely by women, Impact 100's mission is to improve lives in the Greater Cincinnati community by collectively funding transformational grants that make a lasting impact. Cornerstone was chosen out of 110 applicants, attaining the highest rankings by Impact 100 members.

"We are beyond grateful to be chosen for this award," says Alisa Berry, Executive Director at Cornerstone. "This is a great accomplishment for the agency and a testament of the amazing work our staff is doing each day impacting the families we serve in Over-the-Rhine."

Big News! We're Moving!

A new safe space to build membership and community opens in February



We are proud to announce that in February 2025, Cornerstone will move its home base of operations to 1537 Race Street in Over-the-Rhine. The building is closer to where our members live, within a 5-minute walk from our current office. The new location will provide a safer, larger space for staff to work, and a community room for member meetings and events. Save the date for an Open House on February 20th (see back page for details).

We look forward to growing and continuing our impact in Over-the-Rhine!

Cornerstone Renter Equity Board of Directors

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House at Cornerstone's New Office

1537 Race Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Thursday, February 20th
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Enjoy light bites and drinks
Tour the new office space and community room
Meet our staff and partners

Interested in volunteering/supporting our events? Email cornerstone@csequity.org with the subject line: *I'm interested!* and we will get in touch with you.

Donate

Donations directly support families in the Renter Equity program, providing one-on-one coaching, financial counseling, healthy activities, community events, and other opportunities to earn money and build savings.

Scan QR code or visit renterequity.org/donate

