The Center is a catalyst for positive growth in Covington. We spark this growth by bringing people together, encouraging them to work with each other, and supporting their efforts to shape the future of their community. We are committed to helping people discover and develop their skills, find and use the resources they need, and discover partners who share their concern for the well-being of Covington.

Our Program Areas:

**Neighborhoods & Community**
2015 Highlight: Supported over 160 community projects to strengthen Covington's neighborhoods and its residents

**Creative Placemaking**
2015 Highlight: Creative Community Grants investing over $80,000 in creative pursuits to improve our community through art

**Housing**
2015 Highlight: Groundbreaking on the Hellmann Creative Center, containing artist studios, community space, and The Center's new offices

**Health**
2015 Highlight: Partnered with 4 Corner Stores to provide access to healthy fruits and vegetables in underserved areas of Covington

**Financial Wellbeing**
2015 Highlight: Received funding for a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, helping low-income and non-English speakers resolve tax issues

**Youth Education**
2015 Highlight: 177 youth improved their community and developed skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and teamwork
The Center for Great Neighborhoods is dedicated to helping residents improve their lives as they work to improve their neighborhoods and community; their place. We strongly believe that every person has something to contribute and that a truly vibrant and healthy community succeeds when the creativity in each of us is recognized and harnessed.

We see creativity in a placemaking context as having the vision to see what could be, belief in one’s self despite doubt or personal limitations, courage to think out of the box and even more, to risk sharing ideas with others, and most importantly, wisdom to recognize the value in each of our neighbors and to invite their contribution.

Simply put, The Center for Great Neighborhoods celebrates the creativity in each person, and supports their efforts to make great places to live. Of course, we do this by offering an array of innovative and researched based services which we are excited to share about in this annual report. We are also aided in our placemaking by support from generous donors like you, and investors such as The Kresge Foundation, Place Matters, United Way, The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr. /U. S. Bank Foundation, LISC, The City of Covington, Duke Energy, The Hubert Family Foundation, and PNC Bank.

But in the end we know that the heart of this community is in the creative spirit in each person, and the collective effort of neighbors working together to make our place great – that is where The Center for Great Neighborhoods promises to be. We know that “community starts with us” – all of us.

Tom DiBello
Executive Director
Neighborhoods & Community

8000+ RESIDENTS
engaged by 32 different neighborhoods and resident led associations.

160+ PROJECTS
completed by resident led groups, making Covington the best it can be.

Great American Cleanup
The Center partnered with Keep Covington Beautiful for a 1 day city-wide cleanup where more than 1000 volunteers collected over 4200 pounds of garbage at 30 sites around Covington.

$27,125 AWARDED
in Place Matters Mini-Grants for 15 projects to increase resident engagement, attract new residents, create a sense of place, & bring people together.

SAFETY HIGHLIGHT
The Center and Covington Police Dept. were invited to present about our long term work in the Westside at the International Center for Problem-Oriented Policing Conference. The Center and the CPD received honorable mention for a 2015 Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing.
Creative Placemaking

Creative Facades
Unique program hiring local artists to improve home facades in Covington's Westside based on a color pallette, icons, and typography informed by residents

6 facades completed in 2015, leveraged $60,000 to create over $200,000 in equity for local homeowners who received the facade treatment

Creative Community Grants
$5000 grants to artists to implement creative solutions to community identified topics. In 2015, projects focused on safety and the city's bicentennial

16 projects in 2015 totaling $75,000

Nano Grants
$250 grants to individuals to implement creative ideas and projects that improve the community and unite Covington neighbors in a new way

28 projects in 2015, 2483 participants including 701 youth and 91 artists
Housing

In 2015, The Center began construction at the **Hellmann Creative Center**, a $2.4 Million Dollar project to be completed in **June 2016**. The Hellmann Creative Center will be home to 8 artist studios and **2000+** sq. ft. of community event and classroom space, and The Center's office headquarters.

The Hellmann Creative Center will be a place were all residents feel invited and welcome to turn their creative ideas into reality.

**IN 2015, THE CENTER:**
- **RENOVATED** 5 Houses
- **SOLD** 2 Houses
- **ACQUIRED** 6 Houses & Lots

**SHOTGUN ROW 2015 AWARDS**

- 2015 Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Historic Preservation Project Award Winner from the Kentucky Heritage Council
- 2015 River Cities Preservation Award for Residential Exterior Restoration
- Finalist for National Trust for Historic Preservation Driehaus Award
In 2015, The Center became a lead partner in the Kenton County Plan4Health Coalition. The KCP4H coalition strives to create an equitable, sustainable food system in Kenton County by establishing a Kenton County Food Policy Group, hosting a county-wide food summit, strengthening rural to urban connections, and piloting a healthy corner store initiative. The Center is a member of the Tobacco Free NKY Collaborative and the co-lead in the Covington pilot for Skyward's LiveWell NKY Initiative which focuses on nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco cessation.

4 HEALTHY CORNER STORES now stocking fresh, frozen, & canned fruits and vegetables in underserved Covington neighborhoods

546 VOLUNTEERS contributed to health-based community projects funded with $10,900 from The Center’s Place Matters Mini Grant program. Projects range from a playground build and a basketball tournament to tree plantings and community gardens.
326 INDIVIDUALS received financial education via workshops and training

940 FAMILIES served with free income tax preparation services

$1.2 MILLION REFUNDED back to families through our free income tax preparation service

38 FISCAL ACCOUNTS managed as a financial service to resident-led organizations
Youth participated in youth leadership efforts in 2014 – 2015

125 youth involved in planning and implementing 8 service learning projects, while 96% of 4th and 5th graders who served in The Center’s BLOCK (Born Leaders of Covington, Kentucky) program reported a stronger connection to their community.

"I learned that one of the most effective ways to bring positive change to our community is to get a group of like-minded individuals with a common goal to be more proactive." Chase Dietz, CYC member (Holmes Sophomore)

In 2015, the Covington Youth Council (CYC) awarded $500 for the John G. Carlisle Salsa and Butterfly Garden Expansion Project.
Custodials: $958,856.00*
Fund Development: $47,702.00
Administrative/General: $146,953.00
Housing Development: $445,318.00
Program Services: $910,962.00

Custodial Revenues: $725,273.00*
Other Revenues: $100,918.00
Government Grants: $140,903.00
Housing Related: $174,890.00
Foundations, Trusts, Individuals: $826,496.00

Net Assets: $1,968,480.00

* Custodials include The Center acting as fiscal agent for COV200, Covington’s Bicentennial, in 2015
The Center Staff

As pictured (left to right)

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Board of Directors

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Susan Barnett – Secretary
Dietra Bohannon  
Jim Guthrie
Bonnie Meyer  
Pete Nerone

Greg Paeth  
Brian Potter – Treasurer
John Scott – Chairperson
Gene Weber
Loren VanDyke Wolff – Vice Chairperson
We appreciate the contribution of each and every donor. Donations from fiscal year 2015 are listed below in alphabetical order.

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