



center for great neighborhoods  
OF COVINGTON



## Annual Report FY 2010

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[greatneighborhoods.org](http://greatneighborhoods.org)

# Capturing the Spirit of Covington

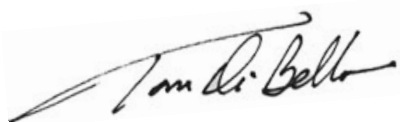
*On the evening of November 17th, Center for Great Neighborhoods held its annual celebration. The theme this year was "Capturing the Spirit of Covington; great neighbors, strong neighborhoods, solid partnerships". It was a wonderful night, with over two hundred guests there to celebrate the work of the Center and to honor the youth and adults who strengthen our neighborhoods.*

*In my remarks to those in attendance, I acknowledged that although we were celebrating a successful year full of achievement for the Center, the fact is that Center for Great Neighborhoods belongs to the community. Our very existence is to nurture the aspirations of neighborhood residents, support their efforts to build a better community and to bring people and groups together in order to get the kind of results we can only achieve when we all work as one. For thirty four years, Center for great Neighborhoods has been able to answer the call for a helping hand from the families, children and neighbors trying to improve the quality of their lives.*

*To all of you who read this annual report, I want to thank you for your part in making these accomplishments in it possible. Without the support of each and every one of you; neighborhood leaders, partners, volunteers and donors Center for Great Neighborhoods would not succeed.*

*Our existence and purpose is to serve your interest. At the same time, we depend upon your commitment to your community, your generous spirit and your care for each other.*

*You are the Spirit of Covington and I am sincerely thankful for all that you do.*



*CGN supports neighborhood residents' efforts to build a better community*



# Youth Leadership & Development

We are working to make Covington a great place to be a young person from birth through high school graduation! We provide youth with supports and opportunities to thrive through three main programs:

## BLOCK: Born Leaders of Covington Covington Youth Commission Art by Covington's Future

### BLOCK

BLOCK serves children in the 4th and 5th grades in Covington Independent's five elementary schools. In 2009–2010, 69 youth participated in the program.

Each of the BLOCK groups implemented a Neighborhood Improvement Project as part of their experience. The projects included Sixth District Elementary School's pet waste project where they asked neighborhood residents to "Doo the Right Thing" and pledge to clean up after their pet. The students went door-to-door in the neighborhood and approximately

20 people signed the pledge. They also researched what it would take to install dog mitt stations in the neighborhood. At Holmes Middle School, students met with Pat Timm, who was with Vision 2015 and the Licking River Greenway project, to discuss how they could help with the project. They wrote letters to state representatives and made flyers encouraging students to participate in the River Sweep on June 19.

### Covington Youth Commission

The Covington Youth Commission (CYC) is a civic engagement and youth leadership initiative for high school students who live in Covington. The goals of the CYC are to provide leadership opportunities for Covington youth; to increase the number of youth-led projects in the community through a mini-grants program and community service opportunities; and to provide youth input on City issues. In 2009–2010, a total of 11 youth served on the CYC. In February, the Youth Commission

and the City partnered to hold the first Mock City Commission meeting in Covington. Youth served as City Commissioners, the City Manager, the Mayor, the City Solicitor and the City Clerk. City staff and elected officials also attended to

## *The CYC provides leadership and community service opportunities for Covington youth.*

present their perspective on the resolutions on hand, as well as to help the youth understand the process of the meeting. The experience was very beneficial for the students. They stated that it helped them understand the process of running a city much better. One young man stated that he even looked at issues such as traffic lights through different eyes after serving as City Manager!

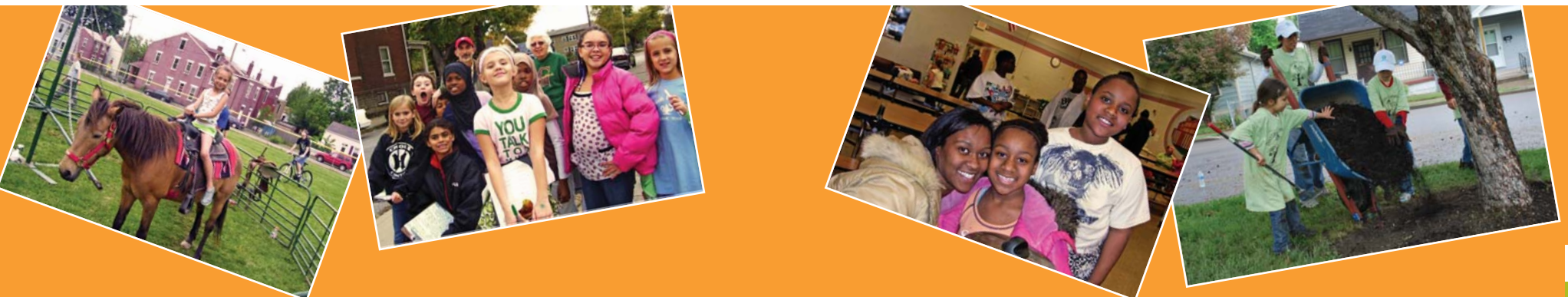
### Art by Covington's Future

Art by Covington's Future Enterprises program is one of the many ways CGN works to help make Covington a place where children and their families thrive. It offers teens the chance to develop their art and business skills, while exploring potential careers.

Art by Covington's Future Enterprise's goals are to:

- Connect youth to real life experiences that bring their school curriculum to life through hands-on training,
- Encourage youth to develop career plans,
- Impart financial responsibility, effective communication, time management and other vital work skills that prepare young people for work, and;
- Nurture youths' creativity and artistic talents through high-quality arts experiences.

Last year the students began to work with Matt Steffen, a digital photographer and website designer who owns Enin Productions. The students learned how to use digital cameras and Photoshop. As part of their media enterprise, students developed an event photography business and were the photographers for several annual





## Youth Leadership & Development (Continued)

meetings, the Neighborhood Summit, Covington Quest, and Partners in Prevention's Golf Outing.

Working in collaboration with the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative (CNC), youth in the program had the opportunity this

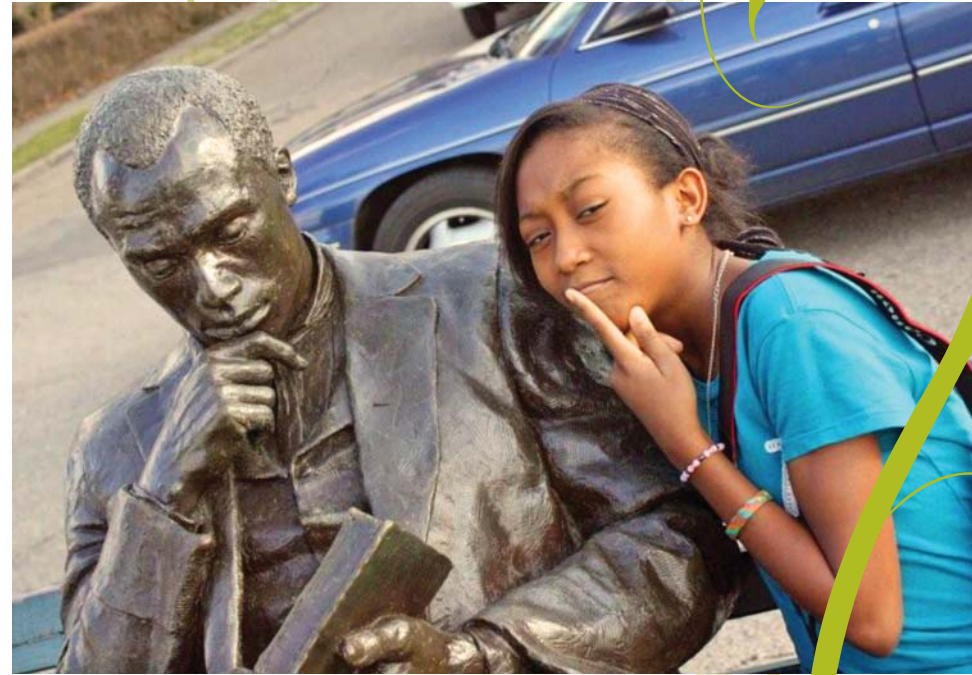
Covington neighborhoods' rich historical architecture. One mother remarked how much her son had learned about Covington and referred to him as her tour guide. The students presented their photographs to CNC at their July meeting and each neighborhood

*CGN is working to make Covington a great place to be a young person from birth through high school graduation!*

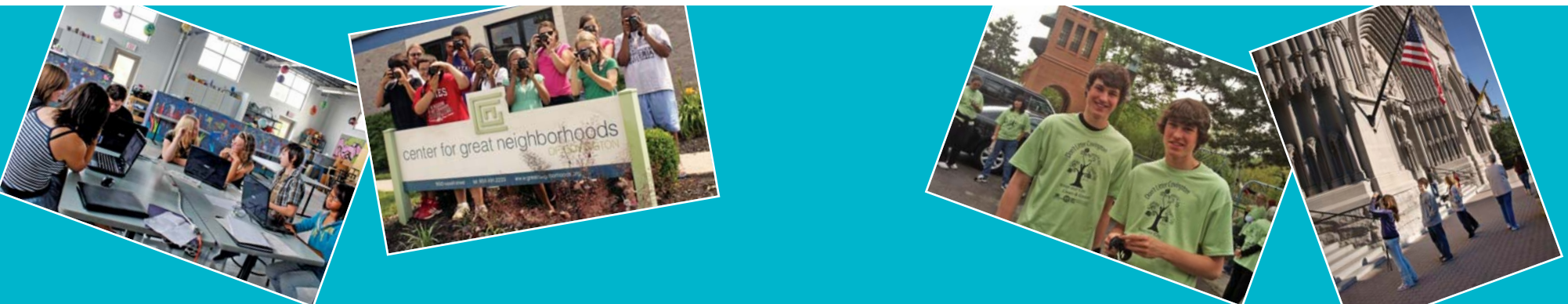
summer to photograph the CNC Architecture of Covington 2011 Calendar. The three week summer session, Digital Summer, was funded by Artswave's (Fine Arts Fund) Arts in My Own Backyard program, with additional funding through the Carol and Ralph V. Haile Foundation. For three weeks students worked with Matt Steffen on how to compose calendar photographs and capture unique historical features. The CNC calendar committee gave the students a list of significant historic buildings identified by the 17 neighborhood associations. Armed with Canon Rebel Digital SLR cameras, 18 students explored

association was able to choose which photograph they wanted to represent their neighborhood. The collection of photographs was exhibited on September 12, as part of the regional Community Arts Centers Day.

This year the students will be creating a website for CNC and will continue their event photography enterprise. Students are also creating screenprinting products. All of the student's work will be showcased at the Nordheim Gallery on the Holmes Campus in May 2011.



*Art by Covington's Future nurtures youths' creativity and artistic talents.*



# Housing Development

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the Center's housing development team. Housing has been an important growth area for the Center, and this year showed how the increased capacity of the staff has really contributed to an increase in housing production. Through the

impact improving the housing stock can have on the neighborhoods we work in.

The City's Westside/Arts District is one area the Center has been active rehabbing homes in for many years, and this year was no exception. We completed and sold two rehabbed homes in Mainstrasse, one of which was a market-rate sale that brought our highest appraisal to date. The other was a beautiful rehab that was made possible with financing from the Federal Home Loan Bank's Affordable Housing Program with Kentucky Federal Savings & Loan. The Center also began work on two historic homes on Holman Avenue in the Westside neighborhood with funding from the City. Both of these homes were completed in the fall of 2010. The Center continues working to identify houses for potential rehab projects in this area as part of an ongoing effort to revitalize this key neighborhood.

In the City's Austinburg neighborhood, we have continued work on the Seneca Place project with

the completion of two newly built homes. The Center was happy to welcome two new homeowners to the neighborhood with the sale of these homes this year. We were also extremely honored to have officially received the proud distinction of building the first Gold L.E.E.D.-Certified home in all of Kentucky. L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the U.S. Green Building Council's program that employs an independent rater to certify that we use renewable resources for building materials, minimize construction waste to landfills (recycling), use durable

*CGN received the proud distinction of building the first Gold L.E.E.D.-Certified home in all of Kentucky.*

materials that are obtained within a 500-mile radius, focus on water conservation, and have improved indoor air quality via moisture controls, radon measures, low VOC materials.

The Center also continues work on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) with the City and Housing Opportunities of Northern



Kentucky to identify and rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed properties throughout the city. To date, the City has acquired 10 homes the Center will rehab and sell to qualifying buyers, with construction starting on the houses within the upcoming year.



Center's strong partnerships with the City and other partners, the concerted effort in rehabbing homes and building new homes has already started to show signs of the positive





# Financial Education

This year, the Center's Financial Education program accomplished significant growth by expanding current services and building new partnerships and programs in the community. The Financial Education program strives to connect residents with information, benefits and cost savings, and to empower them to develop habits that will create greater long-term financial stability.

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site served the most people ever. We targeted our outreach to households that may be eligible to receive the Earned Income Credit. As a result, 467 households received free tax preparation services in 2010, compared to 203 in 2009! Of this total, 317 were Covington residents. A total of \$648,196 in federal income tax refunds were received, averaging \$1,590 per household. In addition, we provided a follow up service, conducting mid-year reviews to help people look at any changes in their finances and to plan appropriately for their 2010 tax returns.

## VITA HIGHLIGHTS

**467 Households receiving free income tax preparation**

**415 Households receiving federal tax refunds**

**\$648,196 Total federal tax refunds**

**\$1,590 Average federal tax refund**

New this year, the Center partnered with Holmes High School to teach financial education to all students in the senior class. Through the support of United Way, the Center partnered with the U.C. Center for Economic Education to create a curriculum tailored to the needs of Holmes High School seniors. By the end of the year, the entire senior class will participate in a series of sessions focused on goal setting and using budgeting as a means to accomplishing goals.

The Center continues to lead the Northern Kentucky Protect my Kentucky Home Coalition to increase connections between stakeholders in the foreclosure arena and to enhance the knowledge base of these partners. For example, we brought the Assistant Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to discuss a new debt adjuster law that better protects struggling Kentuckians from foreclosure scams. State Representative Arnold Simpson presented the state report "Housing Foreclosures in Kentucky" and led a conversation about local implications and ideas for action.

Finally, the Center and partner organizations provided financial education to adults in Covington, including classes on banking, credit repair, budgeting, and investing. Classes were offered at the Center and in various locations in the community. In particular, we reached out to Hispanic parents in the Even Start Program at Biggs and the Parent Advisory Committee of the Covington Independent Public Schools.



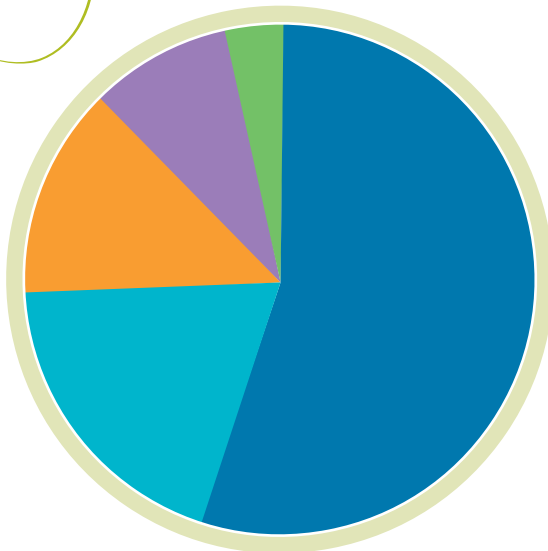
*The Financial Education program empowers residents to develop habits that will create greater long-term financial stability.*



# Financials for FY Ending June 30, 2010

Functional Expenses	FY 2010	% of Total
<i>Program Services</i>	\$889,967	55.49
<i>Physical Development</i>	\$305,041	19.02
<i>Neighborhood Associations &amp; Other Custodial</i>	\$209,436	13.06
<i>Admin &amp; General</i>	\$139,895	8.72
<i>Fund Development</i>	\$59,626	3.72
<b>Total Functional Expense</b>	<b>\$1,603,965</b>	

- Program Services
- Physical Development
- Neighborhood Associations  
& Other Custodial
- Admin & General
- Fund Development



Public Support, Revenues	FY 2010	% of Total
<i>Individual Donations &amp; Special Events</i>	\$38,324	2.66
<i>Foundation Grants</i>	\$345,239	23.94
<i>United Way Allocation</i>	\$434,008	30.10
<i>Government Grants</i>	\$432,174	29.97
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>	\$8,394	0.58
<i>Investment Income</i>	\$14,911	1.03
<i>Custodial Accounts</i>	\$168,845	11.71
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$1,441,895</b>	

Changes in Net Assets	FY 2010
<i>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</i>	( \$168,845 )
<i>Changes in Temporary Restricted Net Assets</i>	\$44,191
<i>Changes in Net Assets</i>	( \$162,070 )

Net Assets	FY 2010
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,139,219
Net Assets, End of Year	\$997,149

Financials based on certified year end audit 6/30/10



## Awards

*The Center for Great Neighborhoods of Covington celebrated the achievements of youth and adults that make Covington a great community. The event was held at the Grand, 6 East Fifth Avenue in Covington.*

Nine Community Leader Awards were presented. These awards are given annually to Covington residents by the Center for Great Neighborhoods to Covington residents who have made significant contributions to the city.

**Joshua Scarpaci, Lisa Sauer,  
Chad Irey, Monique Taylor,**

### Community Leader Awards

**David Housley, Danielle  
Eulitt, Todd & Carole Carter,  
Jennifer Rawers, and  
Elaine Jobert**



Ten Key to the Future Awards were presented. This awards are given to area youth, grades 6th–12th who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and are committed to making Covington a great community.

### Remy Brundage, Robin Brundage, Juliea Crumes, Key to the Future Awards

**Rani Davis, Carlie Groneck,  
Michael Hicks, Natalie  
Hombeck, Nicole Lang,  
Darion Oden & Chris Popp**



The Great Neighbor Award is presented by the Center for Great Neighborhoods to recognize people who generously give their time and talents to the Center and to the people of Covington.

### Dan and Linda Carter of Old Seminary Square Great Neighbor Award and Rebecca Weber of Mainstrasse



## Donors

*The following donors have honored the Center with their generous gifts, supporting our work of building strong neighborhoods, solid partnerships and helping great neighbors—thank you. Gifts listed were given between July 2009 and June 2010.*

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