



# center for great neighborhoods OF COVINGTON

## 2011 Annual Celebration



Worked  
to enact  
Welfare

Reform Legislation. Sponsored & facilitated groups for of Covington strategic

Started Schools at John G. in partner-Covington Rec-community

City plan. Community

Initiative Carlisle ship with schools. City reation & residents.Re-

ceived NEA Offered America Creates for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance for 20 years serving Mil-lenium State to de-velop mosaic 690 in 2011.

benches now at 7th & Madison. Helped neighborhoods develop and fund Gateway Mosaic now signs. Built Rid-dle-Yates Com-munity Garden.

**35** years of empowering residents to improve their lives as they improve their community!

# Agenda

# Thanks to our Sponsors

November 16, 2011

5:30-7:30



United Way  
of Greater Cincinnati



- 5:30 Social Time
- 6:15 Welcome  
*Donna McGee Horine, Board Chair*
- 6:20 Director's Welcome  
*Tom DiBello, Executive Director*
- 6:40 Key to the Future Awards  
*Jenni Miller Francis, Director of Family & Youth Initiatives, with Mayor Chuck Scheper*
- 6:55 Community Leader Awards  
*Dan Petronio, Associate Director*
- 7:15 Great Neighbor Award  
*Tom DiBello*
- 7:25 Closing  
*Tom DiBello*

*\*awardees, please gather for a group photo after the program*

## Key to the Future Award

*Recognizing Covington youth, grades 6-12, who demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to their community*

## Community Leader Award

*Recognizing Covington residents who made significant contributions to our city*

## Great Neighbor Award

*Recognizing individuals who demonstrate incredibly dedicated support to the Center and the people of Covington*

# Celebrating 35 years of making Covington GREAT



**#1** Decreased blight by rehabbing and building 20 houses since 1994, 13 additional homes are also under construction

*Sponsored by Don Altevors*



**#2** Combated prostitution and drug trafficking by helping the Westside Action Coalition (WAC) implement the Banklick Street Initiative

*Sponsored by the Westside Action Coalition*



**#3** Received the National Endowment for the Arts, America Creates for the Millennium State grant to develop mosaic benches now at 7th and Madison (2000, 2006)

*Sponsored by Southbank Partners in honor of Wally Pagan*



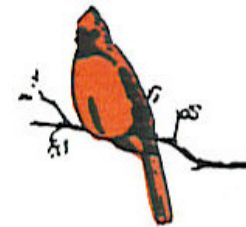
**#4** Developed the Northern Kentucky Welfare Rights Association (NKWRA) to act as a support system and address issues of concern to the poor (1981)

*Sponsored by Tom DiBello in honor of Dan Petronio*



**#5** Worked to enact Welfare Reform Legislation (1988)

*Sponsored by Mary Lee Harrison in honor of Faye Massey*



**#6** Began to address homeownership for low income families through the CommHome Land Trust (1994)

*Sponsored by Kentucky Federal Savings & Loan*



**#7** Engaged residents in informing the direction of the Center and our community since 1977

*Sponsored by KW Mechanical*



**#8** Helped start and coordinate Art Off Pike, now in its 7th year (2005)

*Sponsored by Tony Kreutzjans of Orleans Development*



**#9** Raised profile of neighborhoods in Covington by helping to organize the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative (1998)

*Sponsored by the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative*

# Celebrating 35 years of making Covington GREAT



**#10** Built the first new homes in Austinburg since the 1950s with the Seneca Place development

*Sponsored by Rebecca Weber and Joy Amann*



**#11** Encouraged citizens to be informed about the candidates and issues on the ballot by partnering to host Candidates Forums since 2000

*Sponsored by the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative*



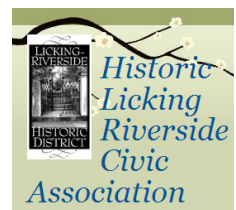
**#12** Initiated Covington QUEST (2009)

*Sponsored by Carpetland*



**#13** Transitioned from an emergency assistance agency to a community development organization (late 90s)

*Sponsored by CanDew Recycling*



**#14** Cosponsored, and facilitated action groups for Covington's Third Century Strategic Plan (2006)

*Sponsored by the Historic Licking Riverside Civic Association*



**#15** Started Community Schools Initiative at John G. Carlisle in partnership with Covington schools, City of Covington Recreation and community residents (1996)

*Sponsored by Krista Athey, CIPS Board Member*



**#16** Developed community building campus (started 2004)

*Sponsored by Century Construction*



**#17** Moved to current building (2000)

*Sponsored by Todd Engraving*



**#18** Changed our name to more accurately reflect our work with residents (2005)

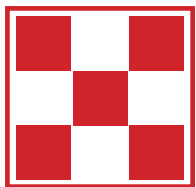
*Sponsored by Dan Petronio in honor of Angela Casanova*



# Celebrating 35 years of making Covington GREAT



**#19** Merged from two church-based programs at Mother of God and Trinity Episcopal to create Covington Community Center (1976)



**#20** Transformed a vacant lot in the Westside into the Riddle-Yates Community Garden (1982-1983)

*Sponsored by Fedders Feed & Seed*



**#21** Expanded participation in the Great American Cleanup each year, including training Keep Covington Beautiful to facilitate the event in 2011

*Sponsored by Keep Covington Beautiful*



**#22** Coordinated a community-built playground at Sixth District Elementary School (2001)



**#23** Awarded \$186,000 to resident-led groups via the place matters Neighborhood Mini-Grants, inspiring positive change one neighborhood at a time for the past 5 years

*Sponsored by CoreChange Cincinnati*



**#24** For homes that sold between 2008 and 2010, our work increased City property tax collections by 931%

*Sponsored by Covington Business Council*



**#25** Sponsored “Jack in the City” project that recognized local families with roots in the Appalachian Mountains (1997)



**#26** Led effort to protect housing by giving landlords and tenants clear rights and duties with the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act

# Celebrating 35 years of making Covington GREAT



**#27** Developed first Gold-Certified LEED House in the state of Kentucky (2009)

*Sponsored by Brueggemann Plumbing, Inc*



**#28** Responded to residents' concerns for youth by starting Teen Council and offering recreation opportunities (1981)



**#29** Coordinated KCHIP outreach in Northern Kentucky to provide free health insurance to working families in Kentucky (1999)



**#30** Partnered with City of Covington to implement the Covington Youth Commission (2007)



**#31** Have offered VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) services for over 20 years serving more than 690 in 2011

*Sponsored by PNC*



**#32** Provided technical assistance to five elementary schools to establish Family Resource Centers and to Holmes Junior High to establish its Youth Service Center (1992)



**#33** Helped neighborhoods design and fundraise for mosaic signs at neighborhood entry points



**#34** Supported the establishment of the Urban Learning Center at John G. Carlisle because of the success of the Community School Initiative



**#35** Selected as the lead agency for place matters in Covington (2006)

*Sponsored by LISC of Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky*

# Key to the Future

## Chris Bishop



Chris, a Sophomore at Holmes, has been nominated for his endless energy and enthusiasm, positive attitude and involvement. At school, he is a percussionist in the Marching Band and is a member of the Cross Country and Soccer Teams. He has participated in the Art by Covington's Future Enterprise program for the past 5 years and was hired by Artworks this summer to help paint the Helentown Mural. Chris is being presented the Key to the Future Award for his active involvement, steadfast commitment and dedication, and respect for his fellow students and teachers.

Nominated by: Jean St John

## T. Thurman Herron



Thurman is a unique, fun-loving Holmes Senior enrolled in his 2nd year of International Baccalaureate classes. Well-rounded with many interests, Thurman stands out as a leader, enthusiastic to get others involved in school and community projects. He participates in the Kentucky United Nations Assembly, Academic Team, tutoring youth, food and clothing drives, visiting area shelters, local recycling initiatives, and community service seminars. His positive attitude and energy are contagious; always ready to lend a hand and see projects through to the end!

Nominated by: Marian Benavides

# Key to the Future

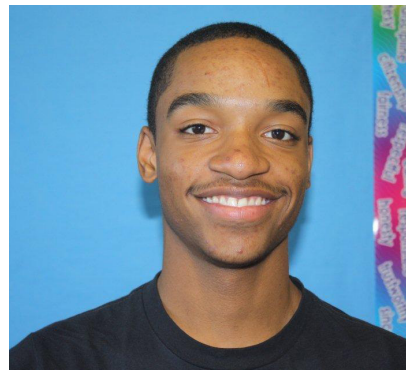
## Shavon McNeil



Shavon, a Junior at Holmes High, is the quintessential positive role model. She is intrinsically motivated and involved in several service and empowerment programs: GEAR UP Student Leader Program, the Leadership & Resiliency Program, and the Women's Educational Equity Act program with Berea College. Shavon consistently motivates and encourages other students to believe in themselves and get involved. She gives her time on weeknights and weekends to visit nursing homes, support clean-up events and food drives, and volunteer at a local non-profit.

Nominated by: Wendy Nealy

## Da'Quan Palmer



Exuberant, conscientious and responsible, Da'Quan is admired by both his peers and adults for his dependability, honesty, kindness, and thoughtfulness. An excellent student, Da'Quan had perfect attendance last year and is involved in PRIDE, GearUp, and Leadership & Resiliency. Dedicated and hard-working, he garners respect on and off the basketball court. Da'Quan is also active in the community, participating in StepUp Cincinnati, Race for the Cure, and local beautification efforts. His infectious smile and gregarious nature inspire optimism for a bright future in all those around him!

Nominated by: Kate Andriacco & Kristal Kinzer

# Key to the Future

## Thomas Russell



Thomas is highly motivated, enthusiastic, and demonstrates exemplary leadership. Active in Leadership & Resiliency, he's always the first to participate in activities including Project Sticker Shock, Rosedale Manor, and community beautification projects, plus spearheading a fundraiser for global relief efforts. He tutors elementary students, is the Secretary for the Gay & Straight Alliance at Holmes, and is a member of the Japanese Club, the Children Inc. Service Learning Club, and several Kenton Co. Library clubs. Thomas's devotion to his ideals is admired by all.

Nominated by: Kate Andriacco & Kristal Kinzer

## Lindsay Vancini

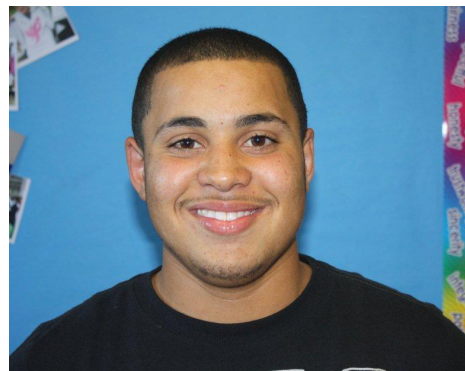


Lindsay is a young woman with a bright future! She takes IB courses, plays soccer, basketball, and softball, and participates in National Honor Society and the NAACP, while also working to make her community better. She was chosen to be a One to One Reading Coach for students at John G. and was hired by Artworks as a student apprentice on the mural at Be Concerned. Lindsay was a 4-year participant of Art by Covington's Future and is a 3-year member of the Covington Youth Commission. She has also worked on voter campaigns and strives to advance diversity throughout Covington.

Nominated by: Jenni Miller Francis

# Key to the Future

## Tanner Watts



Tanner is bright, compassionate and a natural leader. Active in Leadership & Resiliency for 4 years, he has devoted his time to countless service activities such as Blazing Trails, StepUp Cincinnati, River Run, and community beautification. As a member of Youth Regional Leadership, Tanner represents Covington youth, consistently helping those in need. For the last 3 years, he's been involved in PRIDE, National Honor Society, and GearUp. He tutors elementary students, has been a stellar athlete for Holmes soccer and baseball teams, and has kept a 3.6 GPA!

Nominated by: Kate Andriacco & Kristal Kinzer



# Community Leaders

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## Emil Giglio



Emil has taken a major investment in Covington. Owner of several properties in Lewisburg, he is a model landlord. He was requested by City officials to participate in the taskforce that proposed the Residential Rental Inspection Program Ordinance. His properties are well-maintained

and he takes time to get to know his tenants. "I would never rent a place I wouldn't live in myself." He beautifies the neighborhood by planting flowers and donating landscaping materials. Emil invests beyond his property lines into the community around him!

Nominated by: Marissa Tucker

## Wyona King



Wyona has been a member of the Ritte's East Neighborhood Group since its formation in 1995 as the Latonia Neighborhood Association. She has served as treasurer, been a faithful attendee, and has actively participated in canvassing the business community, neighborhood clean-ups, the Democratic Women's Club, beautification projects, and even donned a historic period costume for our Christmas tree lighting and caroling

ceremony! She has made it possible for our group to meet at her home church, Latonia Baptist, and always arrives early to prepare for the meetings.

Nominated by: Donna Horine & Lisa Gillham

## Chris Henry



Chris has contributed to Covington in many ways. An active member of the Mainstrasse Village Association, Baker Hunt, and The Carnegie, he consistently participates in monthly homeless dinners at Madison Ave Christian Church, has led an effort to raise money for a dog park in Mainstrasse, and most recently led

Art Off Pike. The incredible success of this year's event (fundraising, marketing, increase in artists and attendance) and the 8 months of planning that went into it, are a testament to his leadership abilities. He is creative, outgoing, has a positive vision, and excels at bringing diverse personalities together to work toward a common goal.

Nominated by: Jim Guthrie & Joan Lee

## Joan Lee



Joan has been a familiar face in Covington for years. Most known for her leadership in the Westside Action Coalition, she faithfully attends meetings, writes the newsletter, and manages the website. Dedicated to preserving the Westside housing stock,

she contributed hours of research and pro bono legal work on abandoned buildings. She was involved in the John G playground project, landscaping of 306 Berry St, and partnered with the Old Seminary Square Neighborhood Group on the creation of Farney Park and mini-grant application to host the Sangria Soiree. On top of all of that, Joan's worked tirelessly to turn her brainchild, Art Off Pike now in its 7th year, into one of Covington's most successful events!

Nominated by: Jim Guthrie and Faye Massey

# Community Leaders

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**Pete Nerone**



Over the past decade, Pete has consistently demonstrated the highest quality of citizenship. He has humbly chaired the Devou Park Advisory Council and the Linden Grove Cemetary Board of Overseers, is a founding member of the Friends of Linden Grove, and has served on several committees

to make recommendations to the City for improving operations and saving money. A longtime active member of the Friends of Peaselburg, Pete constantly advocates for green space in the community and has come to be known as Covington's "Mr. Green," inspiring civic pride in everyone he meets.

Nominated by: John Dietz

**Bill Wells**



Bill has demonstrated a strong commitment to Covington as President and founder of the South Covington Community Action Association and as Vice-President of the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative. He is active in both groups, exhibiting exemplary leadership, steady commitment

and understanding of the many issues concerning members. He generously gives his time to projects benefiting neighborhoods other than his own. He is consistently upbeat and optimistic, while remaining realistic about the difficulties of community improvement.

Nominated by: Joan Lee

**Ginny Tallent**



Ginny is a recent addition to the Helentown Neighborhood Association in 2010, but has jumped right in, representing the group at the Hope VI Grant Steering Committee meetings this past year, as well as Chief Russo's monthly meetings. She was instrumental to the planning of the Helentown mural dedication and block party this summer, has been a

steady voice in our neighborhood meetings, and has taken it upon herself to bring treats for everyone! On behalf of Helentown, we are thrilled to have Ginny on our team and look forward to her contributing to our continued success!

Nominated by: Tom Wherry

**Tom Wherry**



Tom is a consistent energetic and positive force for Helentown. Always willing to help a neighbor in need, his dedication and inspiration have been instrumental in attracting members and engaging them in projects. Tom has been involved in the planning and organization of Helentown's Annual Picnic for all 4

years of its existence, along with fundraising efforts for the 2011 Artworks Mural, and the Chalk on the Block event for kids. He has also led Helentown in the 2011 Great American Cleanup, presented at the 2011 Neighborhood Summit, and is currently helping spearhead the "Stand Up Covington" anti-violence march.

Nominated by: Jennifer Rowers & Laura Knight

# Great Neighbors

## **“Pete” Wanner**



Pete grew up in Cincinnati, and worked in the non-profit sector most of her life. She and her husband, Tom, moved away from the Cincinnati area for about 20 years. When Tom retired from his ministry, they chose to move back to be near family. They felt that living in Covington was a better fit for the urban

life-style they wanted. In 2008, within months of relocating here, Pete was volunteering for the Center, helping provide a needed service to the community as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance preparer. In her first year she certified to the “advanced” preparer level and has continued as one of our highest-level preparers each year. Since 2010, she has been both a tax preparer and the site coordinator at the Center’s VITA site. For the past 2 years Pete helped implement a new, “mid-year review service” assisting residents to ensure that their income tax withholding for the current year will meet their projected tax liability. A total of 65 people utilized this free service. Pete helps train new volunteers, makes sure the computers and materials are set up, and provides support and technical assistance to volunteers as they prepare returns. She is usually the last to leave, making sure that all returns and paperwork have been properly filed! Pete’s efforts over the past 3 years have helped the Center dramatically expand our VITA service from 200 to 700 returns completed.

Thank you, Pete for unselfishly giving your time and talents to the Center and the Covington community.

# Great Neighbors

## **Marvin & Karen Wischer**



CGN’s relationship with the Wischers began in the 1990’s when Marvin served on the Board of Directors for the CommHome Land Trust, sharing his experience in housing rehabilitation as well as construction management. Born and raised in

Covington, the Wischers are energetic promoters of the Latonia area. Together with Mike Wolking, their business K&W Mechanical has been located there since 1987. Marvin is the current President of the Latonia Business Association, where he recently played a key role in helping prevent a methadone clinic from opening in the Latonia Shopping Plaza. Both Marvin and Karen are tireless volunteers - always willing to help a neighbor or business owner in need. For example, they delayed a boat excursion when the electrical work needed for the Second Art Off Pike wasn’t going to happen. They generously put their trip on hold so that Marvin could come set up the electricity for the event. In addition, the Wischers are instrumental in helping to organize the Candidate Forums and Debates at the American Legion each year. They also host an annual Christmas luncheon, which has become a tradition for hundreds of City workers and community volunteers.

Thank you Marvin and Karen for your dedication to Covington and your consistent willingness to lend a hand in any community project!



## Events (current)

### **Become a VITA Volunteer and make a big difference in the lives of your neighbors!**

- *Impact your community in a big way by providing free income tax preparation services. (no previous experience necessary)*
- *Build life skills for yourself, enjoy volunteer perks, and network with other preparers.*
- *FREE training sessions, basic to intermediate (only need to attend one)*

**December 10th, 9am-3pm**

**January 7th, 9am-3pm**

- *We will work with your schedule to meet your availability*

**2012 Schedule January 28th-April 14th:**

**Tuesdays 4-7pm**

**Thursdays 10am-2pm**

**Saturdays 10am-2pm**

- *Don't want to be a preparer? Volunteer as a greeter or translator instead!*
- *Contact Peg for more info: 859.547.5531 or [peg@greatneighborhoods.org](mailto:peg@greatneighborhoods.org)*

### **StandUp Covington**

*November 21st, 2011 6pm, The Carnegie parking lot*

*Join Helentown and the Eastside neighborhoods as they take a stand against violence in Covington.*

## Events (current)

### **CGN Groundbreaking**

*November 30th, 2011 10am*

*Help us celebrate our new construction homes to be built at 902 and 916 Banklick St!*

### **CGN/CNC Christmas Party**

*December 1st, 2011 5-8pm*

*Center for Great Neighborhoods (1650 Russell St)*

*Join us for a citywide neighborhood Christmas Party - all are welcome! Feel free to bring an appetizer, dessert, or drinks to share!*

### **CGN Rehabbed Homes Open House**

*December 14th, 2011 4:30-7pm*

*Join us for an open house to celebrate the 3 homes most recently rehabbed by the Center: 226 Berry St, 304 Berry St, and 1106 Holman St*

### **Join Art by Covington's Future Enterprises!**

*Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15-4:45 in the Chapman building at Holmes, room 5316*

*Next session starts January 23rd, 2012*

*Find out how you can make money making art! Open to youth grades 6-12. Call 859.866.7524 to sign up.*

*Check out [www.artbycovingtonsfuture.wordpress.com/](http://www.artbycovingtonsfuture.wordpress.com/)!*

### **Join the Covington Youth Commission!**

*Open to youth grades 9-12*

*A partnership with the City to shape public policies that affect youth. Mini-grant applications will be out soon!*

*Call 859.866.7522 to get involved.*



## Events (save the dates)

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### 2012 Covington After Hours

*2nd Wednesday of every month / 5-7pm*

Monthly gathering - part social, part civic - of Covington residents and business professionals to network and celebrate the unique qualities that Covington has to offer.

January 11th

February 8th

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

July 11th

August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

November 14th

### Neighborhood Summit

*March 2012*

Annual gathering to discuss citywide issues. Center staff and neighborhood leaders partner to present leadership training to Covington residents.

### Great American Clean-up

*April 2012*

Join Keep Covington Beautiful for a morning of picking up trash, planting flowers, and further beautifying the community!

### Covington Quest

*June 2012*

Part scavenger hunt, part footrace, ALL fun! This annual event highlights Covington and gives residents a chance to meet their neighbors, learn more about their community, and win prizes!

### River Sweep

*June 2012*

Join your neighbors to clean up Covington's rivers - both the Licking and the Ohio.

### 8th Annual Art Off Pike

*October 2012*

A day-long street festival in the heart of Covington's downtown area, featuring a wide variety of artists selling their work, local musicians, food vendors, and art activities for children.

## CGN Staff

**Tom DiBello**

*executive director*

**Dan Petronio**

*associate director*

**Sarah Allan**

*community development  
specialist*

**Jane Anderson**

*director of development*

**Peg Baldock**

*business manager*

**Nikki Fannin**

*community development  
specialist*

**Angel Johnting Brown**

*office and technology  
info manager*

**Meagan Lauer**

*LISC americorps community  
developer*

**Rachel Hastings**

*director of neighborhood  
& housing initiatives*

**Faye Massey**

*community development  
specialist*

**Jenni Miller Francis**

*director of family &  
youth initiatives*

**Bertin Ondja'a**

*community development  
specialist*

**Adam Rockel**

*community development  
specialist*

**Jean St. John**

*director of community  
arts initiatives*

**Jody Weber**

*community development  
specialist*

**Donna McGee Horine**

*chair*

**Gerry Zembrodt**

*vice chair*

**Bud Thurman**

*secretary*

**Nancy Teegarden**

*treasurer*

**Dietra Bohannon**

**Tess Burns**

**Paul Hugenberg**

**Brian Potter**

**Loren VanDyke Wolff**

**Gene Weber**



center for great  
neighborhoods  
OF COVINGTON

Thank you for coming!

center  
neigh-  
hoods  
worked  
years in  
to help resi-  
their com-  
look forward  
years! Thank  
for all of

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forgreat  
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has  
for 35  
Covington  
dents improve  
munity. We  
to another 35  
you so much  
your support!

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