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2015

ANNUAL REPORT

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

2015 Annual Report, Director's Remarks

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 recieved 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 palette, 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



*Creative Community Grant Project
Goebel Goats*



*Nano Grant Project
Artwalk for the Visually Impaired*

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 where 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

Healthy Lifestyles



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.

Financial Wellbeing \$



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 Education

177
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

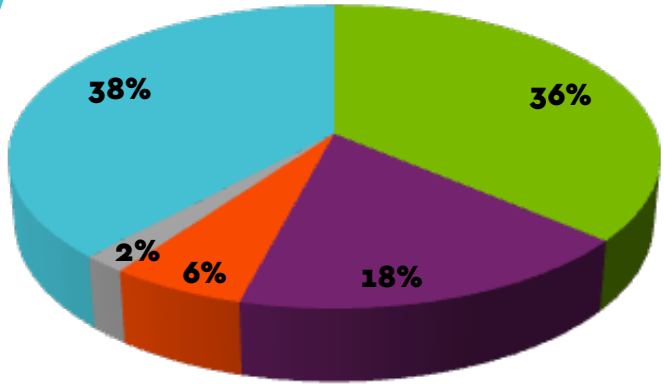


"I learned that one of the most effective ways to bring positive change to our community is to get a group of like-minded individuals with a common goal to be more proactive." Chase Dietz, CYC member (Holmes Sophomore)

*In 2015, the Covington Youth Council (CYC) awarded **\$500** for the John G. Carlisle Salsa and Butterfly Garden Expansion Project*



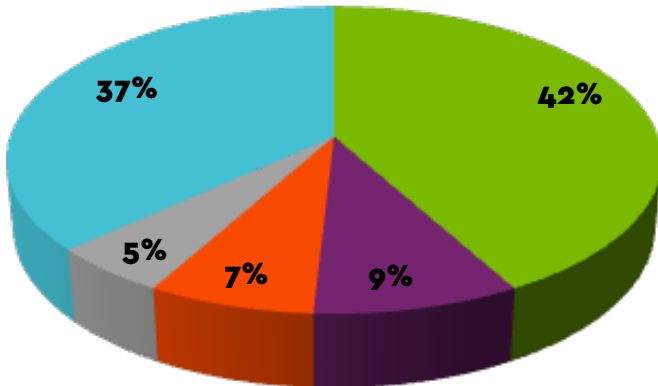
Functional Expenses



- Program Services: \$910,962.00
- Housing Development: \$445,318.00
- Administrative/General: \$146,953.00
- Fund Development: \$47,702.00
- Custodials: \$958,856.00*

Net Assets: \$1,968,480.00

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



Public Support, Revenue

*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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Pete Nerone

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John Scott – Chairperson

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We appreciate the contribution of each and every donor. Donations from fiscal year 2015 are listed below in alphabetical order.

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