



Annual Report 2020



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Director's Remarks

The Center for Great Neighborhoods' enduring formula for building a caring, vibrant, and equitable community has always been built on the foundation of lifting up the strengths of our residents and empowering them to improve their lives and neighborhoods.

When confronted with the **COVID 19** Pandemic, we drew heavily upon our organization's heritage and values to provide the resiliency we needed to help our community carry on.

Like the extraordinary times we are in, this annual report is unlike no other in our history. It tells the story of how we pivoted from our normal direction and focused our energy in supporting residents in their efforts to stay connected to each other, access pathways to preserve, and to somehow begin to look to the future of their community with optimism.

I am exceedingly proud of The Center's board, staff and supporters, as they never lost belief in the power of residents to create a community where the potential of each of us is recognized and fully realized.

As we look to the future and how we will help our community recover from the pandemic, The Center for Great Neighborhoods will hold fast to that foundational belief.

Tom DiBello
Executive Director

Our Team:

Sarah Allan Director of Economic Development

Peg Baldock – Finance Director

Tom DiBello – Executive Director

Kate Greene – Director of Organizational Strategy

Teri Heist – Chef Fellowship Program Manager

Monica Ibarra – LITC Attorney

Mary Lepper – LITC Attorney

Dan Petronio – Associate Director

Shannon Ratterman – Director of Community Development

Adam Rockel – Director of Real Estate Development

Jameela Salaah – Manager of Youth Development

Board of Directors:

Loren Vandyke Wolff – Chair

Suzanne Anderson – Vice Chair

Brian Potter – Treasurer

Dietra Bohannon

Jim Guthrie

Peter Nerone

Greg Paeth

Tashawa Perrin

Nathan Tainter

Gene Weber

Fostering Connections while Physically-distancing



Helped **15 families** grow **500 lbs** of produce in neighborhood Victory Gardens: Built and installed home gardens, connecting families with garden mentors in their neighborhood who coached them through the growing season.



Created a COVID Small Neighborhood Grants program: Funded **\$100** grants for building community while practicing social distancing, projects included opening community garden plots in the Westside, a porch party complete with traveling music in Levassor Park, and sharing art or inspiration on window white boards in Old Seminary Square.



Supported **Keep Covington Beautiful** on 15 different cleanup and beautification events that removed **13,000 lbs** of trash from our public spaces and kept **42,000 lbs** of recyclables out of the landfill.



Used art to connect people, including a Community Shrine workshop, new mural at Hellmann, and outdoor movies with Cinddependent's Reels on Wheels.



Developed a partnership with World Affairs Council where we hosted virtual Around the World family events featuring art, food and culture of 4 different countries.



Photos of
Community
Shrine event, Victory
Gardens, and street
cleanup.



Artists
featured:
Derek Toebbe,
Jennifer Baldwin,
and David Rice



Building Pathways to Success in the Midst of a Changing World



Graduated **7 new Chef Fellows**, pivoting the program to focus on COVID-related food business realities, including carry-out, packaged foods. etc.



Real Estate Team completed first restaurant: **Olla Taqueria** (owned by former Chef Fellow).



Virtually held **Covington Leads**, graduating **five** new emerging Covington leaders of various incomes and backgrounds, instilling in them confidence, leadership, and project management skills, and providing them with seed funding to execute a community project.



Held **Strengths in Me** Virtual Workshop for local elementary students that focused on becoming a leader by building on one's personal strengths.



Provided **virtual financial education** and the opportunity for virtual one-on-one coaching to participants of the **Life Learning Center**.



Connecting Residents to COVID-Relief and Recovery Resources



Directed local businesses and artists to **COVID-related grants** available Nationally, Statewide and City-wide.



Low-Income **Tax Clinic Staff** worked with residents to receive Federal Stimulus \$, filing taxes through VITA, etc.





Partnered with **the City of Covington** on the Connect Covington Program to bridge the digital divide by finding wi-fi hosts in neighborhoods of need and distributing over **900 devices** to families that did not already have computers.



Empower Tools lent out **643 tools**, saving community members over **\$68,000.00** in their efforts to make home improvements, build Victory Gardens, etc.



Worked with our rental tenants to keep them in their homes connecting them with **Federal Rent Subsidy**.



What's Next?

As we look into 2021 and beyond, we are committed to:



Advancing Racial Equity through:

Covington Leads Program Cohort 2021 which will focus on fostering black and brown emerging leaders.

Community Voice Committee:

A diverse group of Covington residents working on a plan to foster Racial Equity throughout the City and its systems.



Addressing Income Inequality through:

Increased development of quality, affordable housing.

Development of additional commercial property to help low-income residents make their business dreams a reality via beautiful and affordable space.

Growing Empower Tools outreach and lending options by moving operations to the Hellmann Creative Center.



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Thank you!

We value everyone's participation, so please contact us with any ideas you might have for your community!

This Annual Report is truly
a reflection of you, our
community leaders, partners
and donors.

To make a **donation**, please visit:
[http://www.greatneighborhoods.org/
support-the-center/](http://www.greatneighborhoods.org/support-the-center/)

