

Embracing the Beauty and the Brokenness

RESTORING HOPE IN CLARK-FULTON & STOCKYARDS



"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23



In 2019, Building Hope in the City (BHITC) made a purposeful move to Cleveland's Clark-Fulton & Stockyards (CFSY) neighborhood, responding to God calling us to invest in this vibrant, diverse community on the near west side. Our mission transcends mere surface-level solutions or fleeting acts of charity. Rather, we've embedded ourselves as a fellow neighbor to spark mutual transformation.

CFSY represents the most culturally and racially diverse community in our city. It's also one where 70.4% of residents live in or near poverty levels. In these densely populated neighborhoods the challenges are real: crime, deteriorating housing, low educational attainment, and the socioeconomic effects of industry decline and systematic disinvestment.

But amidst these hardships, BHITC also sees within the community its inherent beauty. The brokenness that exists here coexists amid the beauty and capacity of our neighbors.

Data according to 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, compiled by The Center for Community Solutions in collaboration with the Northern Ohio Data & Information Service (NODIS), Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University.



Christian Community Development (CCD), far from a handout, operates on the principle that the residents of CFSY hold the key to transformation. Our focus on CFSY centers on empowering residents and collaborating with community stakeholders. Through ongoing relationships, we are uncovering existing strengths and assets, aspirations for change, and areas where our leadership can make a lasting difference.

In the gospels, Jesus constantly cares for those on the margins while also calling His followers to disrupt broken systems that have burdened people for generations. When Jesus does transformative work, He cares for the whole person because His restoration is all-encompassing. Lasting change isn't imposed from the outside; it emerges through genuine relationships and shared commitment. That's why BHITC listens to residents, engages civic, faith and political leaders and cultivates partnerships with churches and Christ-centered nonprofits. Together, we envision a more sustainable future for CFSY!

"It is one thing to be on the outside looking in, coming to the neighborhood once a month or year, and it's a whole nother thing when you're living in the middle of it."

Kim Wheatley, CFSY Community Leader

Below-Market Rate Housing and Tenant Care

2024 Investment Needed: \$175,000

Housing is the foundation stone of every neighborhood, setting the tone for its "liveability." In CFSY, poor housing is a serious threat to the community's stability and well-being. BHITC's long-term goal is to offer no less than 60 new or renewed below-market rate housing units as needed homes for families to grow and pursue their dreams. And, we're seeing early success! In 2023, two of BHITC's tenant families became first-time homeowners!

Why It Matters?

- Lack of safe, below-market rate housing in CFSY; high rates of lead poisonings, foreclosures and evictions.
- Hundreds of abandoned homes and vacant lots.
- Families seeking supportive relationships and opportunities to live to their full potential.

The Impact of Your Support:

- Safe, below-market housing for 20+ individuals across 8 formerly distressed housing units.
- Renovation of BHITC's 10th foreclosed property acquisition on W. 54th Street.
- Ongoing coaching and spiritual care for tenants, providing them a network of support through our programs, employer networks, partnering churches and needed connections to services.



Resident Leadership and Engagement

2024 Investment Needed: \$130,000

At BHITC, we know that leaders' potential can be developed and cultivated within the communities and populations being served. Doing so affirms the God-given dignity of those being served and activates the skills and gifts they possess. Our grassroots initiative RallyCLE exists to unite and engage CFSY residents around the ideas they have for improving their communities, with a particular focus on improving outdoor public spaces and creating an atmosphere of trust among neighbors.

Why It Matters?

- Diminishing community engagement results in social isolation.
- Lack of community ownership leads to increased levels of disorder, crime and insecurity.
- Neglect of outdoor public spaces leads to deterioration of infrastructure such as parks, roads, and community facilities.

The Impact of Your Support:

- RallyCLE provides small grants, project planning assistance, and volunteer and professional support to CFSY residents who want to see their neighborhood improve.
- Growing sense of community ownership, social networks and resiliency that's key to creating lasting change in CFSY.
- New and renewed public spaces in CFSY such as pocket parks, community gardens, kids' play areas, outdoor art murals and more provide a tangible sign of renewal! RallyCLE has funded and supported 35+ such projects over the last six years!

A significant stride forward in our mission is the forthcoming launch of our third Common Threads Thrift store in 2025, which will be strategically located CFSY. We aim to not only improve the local economy through affordable retail, but also to provide a tangible pathway to sustainable employment for individuals seeking to improve their circumstances. Your generosity and support goes to the staffing, preparation, and funneling of donations to our third Common Threads location!

Urban Agriculture

2024 Investment Needed: \$105,000

BHITC's urban agriculture initiative, *Hope Grows*, addresses food insecurity in CFSY neighborhoods, which classify as food deserts. Through a micro farm, a resident-tended garden, and three orchards, this initiative provides fresh produce to residents who previously lacked access to nutritious food options in a close proximity. We're committed to empowering the residents through food and nutrition education, farm-to-table cooking demonstrations and enriching community social cohesion.

Why It Matters?

- Absence of farms in city neighborhoods deprives residents of access to affordable fresh produce and furthers food insecurity.
- Food deserts exacerbate health disparities, contributing to higher rates of diet-related illnesses.
- Neglecting mental health benefits of gardening can disconnect us from nature, raising stress, anxiety, and harming overall well-being.

The Impact of Your Support:

- Sustained upkeep of BHITC's urban agricultural properties ensure consistent fresh produce for the community.
- Hundreds of pounds of diverse produce distributed, addressing food insecurity and promoting healthy eating habits.
- Low test scores and passing rates resulting in diminished confidence, academic gaps and disinterest in education overall.
- Families seeking educational spaces for children outside school hours and during summer.



Education Enrichment

2024 Investment Needed: \$75,000

BHITC's Education Enrichment offers individualized support to CFSY students and their families. It's a safe space where youth receive nurturing guidance, reinforcing their sense of self-worth. In CFSY, only 36.5% of students obtain a high school diploma and 34.4% have obtained less than a high school diploma. This is more than an educational concern; it's a call to action for the future of our community. By investing in these students, we are sowing seeds for a brighter future for all of Cleveland!

Why It Matters?

- Below average high school graduation rates leading to limited career opportunities.
- Lack of adequate education is a setback for the individual and perpetuates cycles of poverty.
- Low test scores and passing rates resulting in diminished confidence, academic gaps and disinterest in education overall.
- Families seeking educational spaces for children outside school hours and during summer.

The Impact of Your Support:

- 30+ youth in the CFSY receive tutoring, mentoring and biblical lessons three evenings a week.
- Summer camps for students with speakers, hands-on learning, trips, and two daily meals.
- Increased achievement rates and reduced academic gaps.
- Breaking poverty cycles by preparing students for success after high school.



Ways to Get Involved

- Volunteer with Good Neighbors and Co. for periodic housing renovation days - Sponsor the renovation of a property
- Become a tutor, guest speaker, mentor and volunteer for Education Enrichment and Summer Camp
- Sign up to provide hot meals to the students in Education Enrichment
- Participate in RallyCLE and connect with residents as a volunteer or site coordinator
- Join the Community Development team for Neighborhood Prayer Walks
- Work at the micro farm to maintain and harvest the produce, connect with residents, and support community events from spring to fall
- Pray! Subscribe to BHITC emails and follow us on social media for updates and movements in the neighborhood.

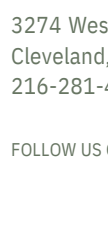
Donate

Give to the dignity, empowerment, and renewal of CFSY residents and neighborhoods today. When you financially partner with us, you are sowing into advancing the good of the city for generations to come. Your donation today goes to residential property renovation and management, partnering with people on the journey from poverty to sustainability, and equipping resident leaders in CFSY to build a stronger community.

Our Mission: Advance the good of the city. Magnify the mission of Jesus. Unleash the capability of underestimated people.

"The impact of BHITC has been transformational. They have organized, engaged, built trust, and they have stayed committed to the neighborhood. Residents respect them and are committed to this organization, and I am looking forward to years down the line of working together."

Jasmin Santana, Ward 14 City Councilwoman



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