

# **Annual Report 2023**

## **BREAD Organization**



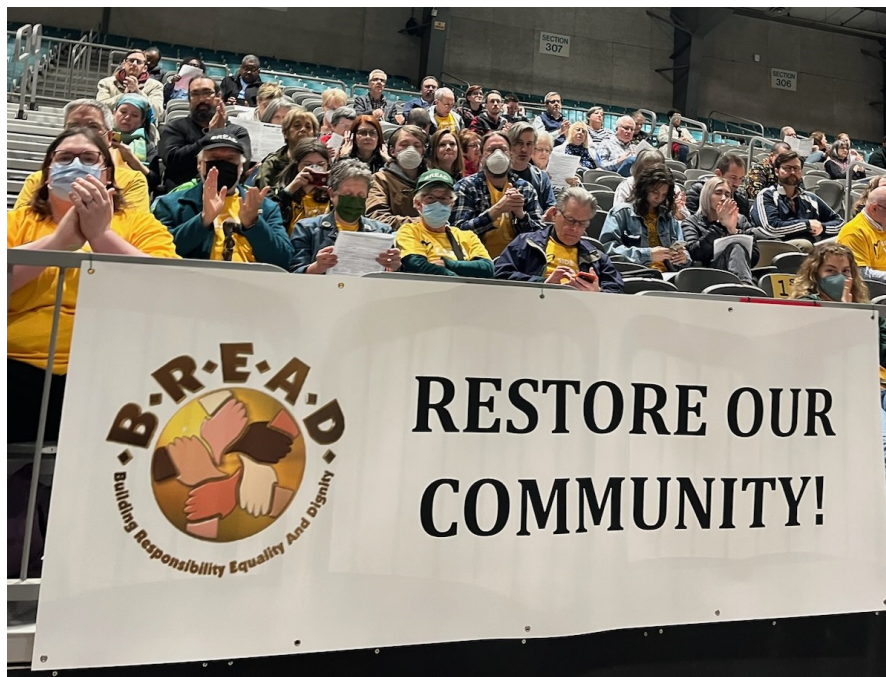
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## Organization Profile

### Mission

BREAD builds the power of people of faith to solve community problems. In meetings with thousands of community residents, the organization presses targeted decision-makers to implement solutions to those problems. Every year, the organization conducts a listening process to surface one new community problem that is added to the organization's agenda. Dozens of leaders are trained to research that problem and identify proven solutions. Along with identifying solutions, the research committee identifies the appropriate decision-maker in the community with the authority to implement that solution. At the annual Nehemiah Action Meeting (pictured above), BREAD congregations bring out thousands of people to press those decision-makers for specific commitments. Throughout the year, BREAD leaders follow up with those officials to ensure that the solutions are implemented.

### Membership of BREAD

Forty-four congregations partnering with BREAD represent 20,000 Franklin County residents. BREAD congregations come from throughout Franklin County - from New Albany to the Near East Side, from Linden to Grandview Heights. The membership is very diverse racially, religiously, and economically. BREAD congregations are united by their common desire to successfully address a cross-section of community problems.

### Key Campaigns

BREAD has successfully pushed decision-makers to implement a cross-section of solutions to some of the very serious community problems plaguing Franklin County. During the pandemic, we have found ways to safely push for needed solutions to community problems. Below is an outline of some of those campaigns.

#### Affordable housing

In 2018, BREAD learned that 54,000 low-income families were spending more than half of their incomes on housing in Franklin County. In 2019, BREAD took groups to Columbus City Council and Franklin County Commission meetings for 3 months straight. Each week, we had a speaker at those meetings share about their housing struggle or the story of someone they knew. The organization pressed the city and county to increase funding for affordable housing. Facing pressure from BREAD, in August of 2019, the Franklin County Commissioners voted on an additional \$6.5 million for affordable housing by increasing the real property transfer fee (conveyance fee). The organization will continue to keep up its push to have the City of Columbus join the county in increasing funding for affordable housing and in working towards an affordable



housing plan. In 2020, BREAD pushed for and won nearly \$70 million to keep families across Ohio in their homes during the pandemic.

### **Mental health**

BREAD found that too often people with mental illness end up in crisis and ultimately find themselves in the emergency room, homeless, in jail, or dead because they cannot get the community-based care that they need. One in 4 people's lives are touched by mental illness and over half of those do not receive treatment. BREAD identified Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and the Clubhouse International Model as evidence-based, best practices that offer cost-effective approaches. Both help people with severe mental illness within the community work toward their own recovery. At the 2014 and 2015 Nehemiah Actions, BREAD won commitments from the Franklin County ADAMH Board CEO, David Royer, to add 3 new ACT Teams that will help hundreds of individuals in our community. The Clubhouse “re-opened” in October 2016 and is working to engage 200 active members. New ACT Teams have also been added and are engaging hundreds of people.

### **Keeping Kids in School**

Most recently, BREAD pushed for training in Restorative Practices which is a proactive approach that fosters relationships, provides an alternative to suspension and improves the overall school climate. In April of 2018, BREAD celebrated the training of over 100 staff and got commitments from the Columbus School Board to ensure the training is implemented with fidelity throughout the district. Since then, the committee has followed up with 3 of the 10 schools who received training and staff reported that even in the first semester, they are seeing improvements in disciplinary incidents. The new Superintendent, Dr. Talisa Dixon, has committed to work with BREAD to support and improve Restorative Practices training in our district. Other communities like Pittsburgh have seen a 36% drop in out of school suspensions in 2 years of implementation. BREAD is dedicated to monitoring and ensuring training in our district is done with fidelity so that we can get those same results in Columbus City Schools!

### **Creating Jobs through Small Business Development**

In 2011, BREAD found that Columbus lagged behind comparable cities on support for small businesses and that small businesses were a critical element in creating jobs. BREAD found two best practices and won commitments from two Columbus City Councilmembers at the May 2012 Nehemiah Action to spearhead those efforts. The first was to create small business incubators to target developing entrepreneurs in underserved communities. The second was to raise significant dollars for small business lending. In 2013, BREAD got the Columbus City Council to allocate \$2.1 million to small business incubators and loan funds focused on the underserved community. BREAD also leveraged an additional \$1 million toward small business loan funds from the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.



### **Land Bank: A critical solutions to vacant housing**

Due to BREAD's power and persistence, in 2012, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners voted to establish the Franklin County Land Bank, or the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC). The COCIC, or Land Bank, uses \$3.5 million in delinquent property taxes annually to address the scourge of vacant and abandoned housing ravaging many communities. When BREAD launched this campaign in 2009, more than 6,000 vacant buildings in Franklin County depressed property values and attracted crime. At that time, the City of Columbus only had \$300,000 in its budget to deal with the vacant properties in the area. Since 2013, the Land Bank has demolished nearly 4,000 units.

### **Other Issue Campaigns:**

- Got the City of Columbus and Franklin County to create the Affordable Housing Trust Fund which has financed the development of over 12,000 units of affordable housing since 2001 (1999).
- City Council invested \$430,000 for two separate contracts with the National Network for Safe Communities to implement Group Violence Intervention Strategies. (2021)
- Startup funding was secured in the amount of \$70,000 for the "One Linden Cooperative," a worker-owned food hub in Linden (2019).





## **BREAD Accomplishments (1997-2022)**

### **Transportation**

- 38,000 new hours of bus service from center city neighborhoods to outer belt jobs (1998)
- \$1 million transit center on East Main Street to connect center city residents with outer belt jobs (2005)

### **Jobs**

- County-wide “First Source” agreement giving center city residents the first shot at jobs (1998)
- \$2.1 million dollars to expand small business incubators and small business loans. An additional \$1 million was matched by the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, creating 164 construction jobs and 815 full time jobs (2011)
- Won the revision of a city ordinance that would prioritize partnerships with workforce development agencies and the hiring of disadvantaged job seekers including those with criminal backgrounds (2017)
- Startup funding was secured in the amount of \$70,000 for the “One Linden Cooperative,” a worker-owned food hub in Linden (2019)

### **Education**

- New evidence-based curriculum, doubling passing rate of 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading in 10 high poverty schools (1998)
- KEY Truancy program reducing chronic truancy by 55% in the first two years (2007)
- Eliminated use of out-of-school suspensions for truancy (2014)
- \$88,455 federal funds allocated for Columbus City Schools staff to reduce suspensions through training by the International Institute for Restorative Practices (2018)

### **Crime**

- Walking beat and bicycle cops in Main Street & Woodland Park safe zones
- Reduced juvenile crime due to curfew violations in Hudson-Weber area safe zones
- Secured sting operations in Corpus Christi safe zone resulting in reduction of violent crime among seniors
- “Project Clean Sweep” on Near East side focused on crime reduction around abandoned buildings (1999)
- Expanded Franklin County’s Drug Court from 50 to 300 cases (2008)
- Implementation of the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS), to help reduce crime (2011)
- Restorative Justice circles in 8 high crime neighborhoods to reduce youth crime and keep kids out of jail (2012)



- Department of Public Safety began the Safe Neighborhoods initiative to reduce gang and gun violence (2017)
- City Council invested \$430,000 for two separate contracts with the National Network for Safe Communities to implement Group Violence Intervention Strategies. (2021)

### **Neighborhood Cleanup**

- 2 notorious crack houses boarded up and shut down in Main Street safe zone (prior to 1998)
- Allocation of \$300,000 to demolish dangerous abandoned housing (1997)
- 9 dangerous properties razed in Main Street & Woodland Park safe zones
- \$500,000 allocated for two mobile police “crack-busting” units. (prior to 1998)
- Investment of \$14+ million to build storm sewers and sidewalks on the eastside (1999)
- County Land Bank with currently \$3.5 million which has addressed nearly 4,000 vacant units. (2009)

### **Housing**

- Affordable Housing Trust fund investing \$4 million annually created over 12,000 units since 2001 (1999)
- \$6.5 million from Franklin County which is projected to create 200 additional, affordable units annually (2019)

### **Healthcare**

- Secured \$1.2 million to expand primary care at Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers (2002)
- \$1.2 million to expand services at CHNC for more than 2,700 people annually for 3 years (2002)
- \$373,000 to ensure that more than 1,500 people would continue to receive their prescription drug benefits
- Community health workers added at community health centers providing outreach to the sickest Medicaid patients

### **Payday lending**

- Reduced the allowable interest charged by payday lenders from 391% to 28% (2008)

### **Mental Health**

- Three new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams for people suffering from a severe mental illness (2014-2015)
- \$1 million to expand care for people suffering from mental illness. The Pathway Clubhouse reopened (2016)



## Campaign Profiles

### Environmental Justice

#### **Problem:**

Columbus is already feeling the impacts of climate change through extreme heat, flooding, and worsening air quality.

**Extreme Heat:** When there is more concrete and less green space, temperatures rise.

- Columbus is the fastest growing urban heat island in the U.S., and the 8th most intense (Climate Central). Urban heat islands refer to the temperature difference between a city and surrounding rural areas, which can reach up to 24°F in Columbus.
- Heat is the #1 weather-related killer in the U.S., with temperatures over 90°F associated with dangerous ozone pollution levels that can trigger asthma attacks, heart attacks, and other serious health impacts (UFMP).

**Flooding:** Columbus is experiencing more frequent and intense rainfall (GLISA 2016).

- More impervious surfaces increase the risk of flash flooding, which poses a threat to public health and infrastructure (UFMP).
- Flooding can cause substantial property damage, including mold which can aggravate respiratory illnesses like COPD and asthma (CDC).

**Worsening air Quality:** While the findings are still being evaluated, Columbus was recently reported to have the worst air quality in the U.S. based on levels of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5, IQair).

- PM 2.5 has been associated with pre-mature death in people with lung or heart disease, non-fatal heart attacks, aggravated asthma, and decreased lung function (US EPA).

**Each of these problems hit the most vulnerable – often Black, Brown, and low-income communities – the hardest.**

- Redlined neighborhoods in Columbus have more concrete and less trees, which means hotter summers and worse air quality (UFMP).
- Black, Brown, and low-income communities are more likely to live near industry, highways, landfills, and other sources of pollution, leading to an increased risk of premature death (American Lung Association).





- In Central Ohio, Black children are five times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than their white peers (Ohio Dept. of Health).

**Solution: Trees!**

**Large trees are one of the most effective ways to combat climate change because they lower temperatures, reduce flooding, and improve air quality.**

- One large tree can: have the cooling effect of 10 room-sized air conditioners running 20 hours a day, absorb 500 to 4,000 gallons of stormwater annually, and produce enough daily oxygen for a family of four! (UFMP)
- It would take a newly planted tree 25-30 years to provide these same benefits (UFMP).
- Tree canopy can also remove up to 60% of street level pollution and particulate matter.

Columbus has significantly lower tree coverage than cities of similar size (22% on average compared to 37-40% in cities like Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Louisville) (UFMP). This already low tree canopy is not evenly distributed, with some neighborhoods having as little as 9% tree coverage (UFMP).

- Cities with higher percentages of tree cover have one thing in common: legal protections for large trees on private property.
- 70% of Columbus' existing canopy is on private property.
- Columbus is experiencing rapid growth, and too often development means loss of tree canopy (American Forests)

The City of Columbus approved an Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) in 2021 that lays out a clear action plan to protect existing trees and increase tree canopy citywide, with a goal of no net canopy loss by 2030 and 40% tree coverage by 2050.

- Councilmember Elizabeth Brown committed at the 2022 Nehemiah Action to implement the UFMP with fidelity and to have a consultant under contract to begin drafting an ordinance protecting trees on private property by June 1, 2023.
- Recreation & Parks met this commitment early, with a consultant hired for a two-phase contract (Phase 1: Research, Phase 2: Drafting the Ordinance) in March of 2023.
- With Elizabeth Brown no longer on Council, we want to ensure that this work continues!



**The Ask:**

1. For City Council to commit to implementing the Urban Forestry Master Plan with fidelity, which means:
2. Introducing and passing an ordinance that would protect large trees on private property;
3. Increasing canopy in priority neighborhoods as identified in the Plan;
4. Ensuring that both of these steps are funded and enforced, and;
5. Meeting with BREAD to ensure that the plan is implemented effectively and equitably.

“Trees Protect Us... We Protect Trees!”



## Juvenile Justice

Our Juvenile Justice campaign has a two-prong approach to keep children in the classroom and out of the court system. In the Franklin County Juvenile Court, we pressed Judge Elizabeth Gill to strengthen the current Restorative Justice Program in the courts so that more youth benefit from this proven diversion program. In Columbus City Schools, we continue to push for Restorative Practices training in all schools so that ALL children have an alternative to suspension that builds relationships, teaches accountability, empathy, and repairs harm when it's caused.

### Franklin County Juvenile Court

#### Problem:

BREAD decided to revisit Restorative Justice in the courts because, as we understood it, the results were not what we expected them to be in terms of both the number of circles established and the number of cases heard.

- Since Fall 2013, 130 youth have completed the Restorative Justice Program. The original projection from the courts was that they would see hundreds of kids each year.
- Restorative Justice Circle volunteers have told us that many of the cases they see are coming from disciplinary incidents in the schools.

#### Solution:

- Judge Elizabeth Gill followed BREAD's request to have the Restorative Justice Circle Program evaluated by an outside source- the International Institute for Restorative Practices. The evaluation gave recommendations to help improve the process and strengthen the circles.
- Thanks to this evaluation, changes were made to volunteer training. Judge Gill shared that the IIRP was so impressed with the program, they would like to publish it in their world-wide publication entitled: "Restorative Works."
- He also believes that the work is so important that he offered a scholarship for IIRP training to the Deputy Director of Youth Education and Intervention Services.
- This is saving the courts and taxpayers thousands of dollars and ensuring that more children have an opportunity for diversion.



## Columbus City Schools

### Problem:

- In the Columbus City Schools, our research shows that kids receive varying degrees of discipline when they are disruptive, insubordinate, and/or bully other kids. The discipline is inconsistent and likely ineffective in reducing future incidents. It punishes kids rather than restores them to the community.
- Suspensions are one example of this response. Suspensions punish children without any real attempt to understand the root of the problem and may actually make the problem worse.
- According to the Ohio Department of Education, during the 2015-16 school year, Columbus City Schools had 26,473 out of school suspensions. Strictly by the numbers, that is more than one suspension for every two students. Some schools had more suspensions than students!
- The vast majority of these suspensions are for disruptive behavior; a category that is very broad and ambiguous.
- Children and teens that get suspended are more likely to fail, drop out, end up in prison or on welfare.
- Studies have shown that zero tolerance discipline policies often push students out of classrooms and toward the destructive school-to-prison pipeline, even for minor misbehaviors (Kirwan Institute).
- Using national longitudinal data that tracked a cohort of 10th graders, the researchers estimated that 10th grade school suspensions result in more than 67,000 additional high school dropouts nationally. Cumulatively, the total cost of the 67,000 additional dropouts caused by school suspensions nationally exceeds \$35 billion (UCLA Center for Civil Rights Remedies).
- Students can enter the juvenile justice system from the schools. In the 2015-16 school year, all but 4 of the high schools had school resource officers (that is police officers) present. If a student commits a crime, the officer can arrest them or issue a summons to appear in court. They said they don't have any alternatives.



Solution:

- Restorative Practices is an alternative to suspensions. Restorative practices “reduce crime, violence and bullying, improve human behavior, strengthen civil society, provide effective leadership, restore relationships, and repair harm” (International Institute for Restorative Practices).
- In 2016, BREAD worked with the School District to set up a plan to reduce suspensions and improve school climate.
- At our 2017 Nehemiah Action, former Superintendent Dan Good agreed to send representatives with BREAD leaders to Pittsburgh Public Schools to see Restorative Practices in action.
- On November 1st, BREAD Leaders, Members of the Columbus School Board, Columbus City Schools Administration including the interim Superintendent, and members of the Columbus Education Association toured 5 different schools in Pittsburgh.
- After seeing the success in Pittsburgh, Columbus City Schools Administration agreed with BREAD that the best way to achieve fidelity was with training by the International Institute for Restorative Practices.
- In April 2018, they presented a proposal to use Federal funds for training by the IIRP and the Columbus School Board voted yes! That summer, over 100 staff received training and 36 of those staff went on to be certified by the IIRP to train others.
- In 2018, BREAD also co-hosted a Community Summit with CCS called “Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline and Restoring Our City” to educate the wider community in Restorative Practices and create more buy-in from teachers and staff in the district as well as families and community members.
- In March 2020, the spread of COVID-19 caused schools to move to remote learning so training and monitoring of RP was paused. However, once schools opened back up, BREAD met with the School Board and Superintendent to plan ahead for getting Restorative Practices back on track.
- Thanks to BREAD’s persistence, in 2022, the School Board officially added Restorative Practices professional development and coaching to the Board’s Goals and Guardrails.





- At our Nehemiah Action May 2022, we celebrated the written goal in the District's 5 Year plan to implement Restorative Practices in every school by 2026
- As an extension of that commitment, the Board added that progress on this goal will now be included in the Superintendent's annual evaluation, a request BREAD had pushed for back in 2019
- 4 high schools are part of a pilot program with a special focus on Student-Led Restorative Practices
- Their goal is to have 10% of the students in those schools trained so they can shift the culture and set an example of the behavior change that other students could follow.
- BREAD plans on continuing to work with the Columbus City Schools Administration and the School Board to ensure a strong implementation and integration of Restorative Practices into our schools!



## One ID Columbus

BREAD is spearheading One ID Columbus, a coalition of area organizations advocating for a municipal ID program for Columbus. A municipal ID is a secure photo identification card designed, issued, and controlled by a local government for its residents. The coalition wants to work with the Columbus City Council to set up the program. A feasibility study for the program has been completed and legislation for the program has been drafted.

### **Why is photo ID so important?**

- Lack of photo ID can be a barrier to accessing many services and activities, such as health care, banking, libraries, food pantries, visitation at schools and local government buildings, and emergency housing.
- Lack of photo ID presents problems in encounters between residents and police officers when those encounters require resident identification.
- Lack of photo ID can contribute to a sense of isolation from the civic, cultural, and economic life of the community, and can decrease public safety by making residents lacking ID less likely to report suspicious or criminal activity to the authorities.

### **But why is there a need for another kind of ID? Aren't driver's licenses or state issued ID's available to all?**

- Driver's licenses or state IDs are NOT available to all. An estimated 80,000+ Columbus residents find it either difficult or impossible to obtain the documents required by the state to obtain those state-issued ID's. The new state law for free state ID cards does not address the problem of obtaining the necessary documents for the application. In order to make photo ID accessible to all residents, municipal ID programs feature greater flexibility in the types of documents that applicants can present to qualify for an ID. The document lists are designed to reduce barriers to ID access, while still preventing identity fraud.

- Properly designed municipal ID programs can provide significant new benefits to all residents, including those who already have other forms of photo ID. Examples include consolidating transit fare payments, library borrowing privileges, access to cultural centers, and business discounts into a single multipurpose card.



**Are there any limitations on the use of municipal ID's?**

• Municipal IDs do not give holders driving privileges, they cannot be used for air travel, and they are only accepted within the boundaries of the city that issues them (though other jurisdictions, government agencies, and companies may choose to accept them). It would not affect immigration status or provide work authorization.

For more information, visit [www.oneidcolumbus.org](http://www.oneidcolumbus.org).

Sign our letter of support by scanning this QR code:





## Affordable Housing

### Problem:

- In Franklin County, there are over 50,000 low-income families spending ½ or more of their paycheck on housing! This includes renters and homeowners. (Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio).
- In 2021, a worker in Franklin County needed to earn \$19.83 per hour in order to afford a two bedroom apartment (Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio).
- In 2017, the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio projected that meeting the housing needs of half of the 54,000 low-income families struggling to afford housing would cost \$835 million.

### What are our officials saying?

Mayor Ginther said the following in his 2023 State of the City Address: “First, we need to build more housing at every price point. Second, we must preserve existing affordability and protect residents from eviction...But we also have to invest more in new affordable housing projects.”

Commissioner O’Grady has even been quoted as saying, “Affordable housing has been one of the greatest challenges facing our community for some time and what we hear from the leadership of other communities who have been facing this challenge is that they wish they had begun working on it a long time ago. We have been working on it, and it’s important that we keep investing in our community in this way.”

### Solutions:

Franklin County: We pressed the Franklin County Commissioners to increase their affordable housing commitment. In 2019, they approved a resolution which would generate about \$6.5 million of additional funding to affordable housing. We want to see one-third of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars go to the Affordable Housing Trust, targeting families at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (\$30,000 per year). This would be just over \$84 million from the county’s ARP funding.

City of Columbus: We want to see one-third of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars go to housing solutions, targeting families at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (\$30,000 per year). This would be just over \$61 million from the city’s ARP funding.

“Families First! Housing Now!”



## “Stop Violence! Build Trust!”

### Violent and Unfair Policing:

- In Columbus, police made 84% more total stops per resident in neighborhoods that were at least 75% black than in neighborhoods that were at least 75% white.
- Use of force incidents by Columbus police show significant racial disparities: Black residents account for about half of use of force incidents between 2013 and 2019 even though Black residents make up only 28% of the city’s population (Matrix report, commissioned by the Columbus Public Safety Commission).<sup>1</sup>
- Franklin County has one of the highest rates of fatal police shootings in the US – it ranked 18th among the 100 most populous counties (Columbus Dispatch, 3/5/21)
- Franklin County has 1/5 of the state's Black population, but accounts for 1/3 of deaths of African Americans shot by law enforcement in Ohio. Meanwhile Cuyahoga County (Cleveland), which is 25% Black, accounts for only 16% of African American fatally shot by law enforcement.<sup>23</sup>
- Over two-thirds of people killed by Columbus Division of Police officers were black, while the city is, [according to the US Census Bureau](#), only 29% black as a whole. That means that black people are being killed by police at a rate 39 percentage points higher than would be expected by their share of the Columbus population.

### Violent Crime:

- Columbus had more murders in 2020 and 2021 than any other year in history.
- 0.05% of the city’s population — many of them members of gangs or less-organized "groups" — [were behind nearly half of the homicides](#) analyzed during the first nine months of 2020. (National Network for Safe Communities Problem Analysis, April 2021)
- [17 gangs with about 480 members are behind nearly half of Columbus 2020 homicides.](#) (National Network for Safe Communities Problem Analysis, April 2021)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://now.tufts.edu/articles/how-racial-segregation-and-policing-intersect-america>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190821/columbus-police-use-force-disproportionately-against-minorities-study-finds>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eyeonohio.com/investigation-blacks-black-neighborhoods-most-likely-to-be-traffic-stop-targets-in-ohios-3-biggest-cities/>





## Solutions:

- 1. Reconciliation:** BREAD has seen how use of restorative practices in schools has replaced adversarial relationships and suspensions for behavioral issues with supportive environments for students and closer teacher-student relationships. The National Network for Safe Communities and others have established trust and legitimacy between police and communities they serve through such intentional efforts for reconciliation. This will open up communication between law enforcement and the community to allow for greater understanding between them and build trust, vital to changing police culture. For more information visit:  
  
<https://nnscommunities.org/strategies/racial-reconciliation/>
- 2. Active Bystander Training for Police:** A.B.L.E., Active Bystander Training for Law Enforcement, is an evidence-based training program for law enforcement from Georgetown U. Law School's Innovative Policing Project. Too often, we see one police officer stand by and do nothing as his or her partner or another officer causes harm or makes a serious error. If implemented with fidelity, which includes regular follow-up, ABLE may bring about a change in police culture that supports bystander intervention. ABLE alone will not create the complete culture change needed; but if paired with other major changes, may make a difference.
- 3. Reassigning Roles to Appropriate Personnel:** In Eugene, Oregon, the city contracts with a mental health agency, CAHOOTS. When a 911 call involves a person with mental illness, CAHOOTS answers the call instead of the police. The contract has saved the police millions of dollars and has provided people with mental illness with treatment, instead of arrest, incarceration, or armed force. We challenge Columbus to work with us on developing models for using unarmed, trained personnel to respond to non-emergencies, including mental health and traffic stops.
- 4. Group Violence Intervention:** Group Violence Intervention (G.V.I.) is a "deterrence-focused" initiative to quickly and dramatically reduce gun violence and associated homicides. The initiative evolved from an initial project (Ceasefire) led by David Kennedy in Boston during the 1990's. Although the details of implementation may vary, the basic structure involves a collaborative effort of law enforcement, social service agencies and community leaders. Together they deliver a clear message to violent street



groups that violence must stop. Every initiative begins with an initial mapping of relationships of known violent offenders. Once established all partners come together to address violent groups with a unified voice through call-ins, direct contact, community outreach and media outlets delivering a message that the violence must stop. The message is followed with the promise, (the carrot) of a broad range of social services aimed at changing the behavior of criminal activity for those who opt to participate. When violence continues, however, the response is swift and strong prosecution at the federal level (the stick).

For more information visit:

<https://nnscommunities.org/strategies/group-violence-intervention/>



## Reporting and Media

### The Columbus Dispatch

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CRIME

# Columbus leaders ready to launch anti-violence program offering gang members way out

*Rebranded as "Columbus Violence Reduction," the long-awaited Group Violence Intervention strategy is set to begin making outreach to gang members driving citywide violence, offering them a way out.*



**Eric Lagatta**

The Columbus Dispatch

Published 6:04 a.m. ET April 10, 2023

After months of setbacks and delays, Columbus city leaders appear poised to launch a program announced more than a year ago that would offer those involved in violent groups another path forward — or risk being arrested and prosecuted for their crimes.

The long-awaited Group Violence Intervention (GVI) program, which Mayor Andrew J. Ginther announced as a city undertaking in October 2021, has since been rebranded. Now called "Columbus Violence Reduction," the initiative will aim to provide outreach and services to the small percentage of individuals associated with a majority of the violent crime in the city.

**From 2022:** Community activists say Columbus needs to move faster on anti-violence strategy

The goal? Entice them to put down their weapons and leave the life of violence behind. Here's what you need to know about the sweeping program:

## What is the Columbus Violence Reduction program?

Through the initiative, individuals identified through "precision policing" to be in groups where they are at risk of committing — or falling victim to — violent crime are encouraged to



give up their lifestyle in exchange for receiving resources like jobs, training or education that may help them improve their lives and the community.

The model that Columbus leaders are adapting is based on the Group Violence Intervention initiative developed by the National Network for Safe Communities at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Columbus paid \$80,000 in 2020 for that group to conduct a study assessing violence in the city, including evaluating those residents who were primarily driving it.

The results of that study were completed in April 2021, but it wasn't until October that year that Ginther publicly revealed the findings at a news conference. Chief among the findings were that 17 gangs or groups composed of an estimated 480 total members — roughly .05% of the Columbus population — were confirmed or suspected to be involved in 46% of homicides in 2020, either as victims, perpetrators or both.

That announcement came at the tail end of a year that would end as the second-consecutive year that a record number of homicides occurred in Columbus.

**What it means:** In 2022 gun violence was declared a public health crisis in Columbus

Early the following year in February 2022, Ginther declared that gun violence was a public health crisis and tasked the city's health department to lead the charge in finding novel ways to combat it. But even amid that unprecedented step, some community leaders expressed frustration that Ginther and other city leaders were not moving faster to implement the GVI program.

## **When will the Columbus Violence Reduction program begin?**

Now, city leaders say they are finally on the cusp of putting the program into action.

After an executive session was held on March 6, leaders will begin distributing custom notifications for meetings the second week of April to identified individuals on the city's East Side, said Glenn McEntyre, spokesman for the Columbus Department of Public Safety.

Then in the summer, individuals will be invited to a meeting known as a "call-in," where they will be offered support in the form of job services, counseling and more if they agree to live crime-free.



## **What setbacks have city leaders experienced that have caused delays?**

The program was initially intended to kick off last summer before the team behind it experienced "programmatic and operational challenges" that led to a delay, McEntyre said.

McEntyre cited leadership changes and implementation adjustments as the reasons behind the delay.

Among them was the resignation of Helwa Qasem, who was tasked with leading the anti-violence effort in Columbus. Qasem, a former federal probation officer, resigned in May after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court to charges alleging that she received Xanax pills, cash and other compensation for not reporting violations by offenders she was supervising.

"Beginning in August of 2022, a hard reset occurred in an effort to fully execute the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model with fidelity," McEntyre said.

## **What has happened since August?**

Since then, McEntyre said that a unit under the Special Operations section of the Columbus Division of Police has been assigned to work specifically with the Columbus Violence Reduction program. This section includes the criminal intelligence unit and the gang enforcement unit.

**Office of Violence Prevention:** Columbus' new Office of Violence Prevention has its director.

Staffing and position changes have been addressed, and city leaders have also continued to work with the National Network of Safe Communities, which has provided consulting and training on its development.

## **How will the program work in Columbus, and what will be its scope?**

After starting with individuals on the East Side, McEntyre said the program will follow and intervene with members in other groups and gangs across the city. The group and gang members identified by law enforcement will be the individuals who receive custom notifications inviting them to future call-in sessions.





McEntyre said the city hopes to reach 15 to 20 participants at the first call-in session, and aims to make up to three custom notifications per week initially.

**Large capacity magazine ban:** Columbus gun owners wary of city's new ammunition restriction

The program's interventionists will help those individuals connect with services offering them food, transportation, driver's license reinstatement and child support as needed. Other potential resources that could be available to them include employment services, substance abuse treatment, housing support and education.

The program also calls for community members involved with the program to be a moral and faith-based voice that encourages people to turn away from violence.

### **What does Public Safety Director Robert W. Clark have to say about the program?**

Columbus Public Safety Director Robert W. Clark described the Columbus Violence Reduction program as an unprecedented citywide partnership between law enforcement, community leaders and social service providers.

"(They're) united by a common goal to stop violence and keep our city's highest-risk residents safe, alive and out of prison," said Clark, who announced this week his intention to resign from the office by mid-April to become vice president of public safety at the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

**Safety director announces departure:** Robert Clark, Columbus public safety director, to leave city later this month



Those partners will engage directly with individuals who are identified as being among those most likely to either shoot or be shot as gun violence rages across Columbus and other large U.S. cities. Once those individuals become part of the program, the intention is to provide them with the resources they need to cease their role in perpetuating violence, Clark said.

"If they do," Clark said, "they will be held accountable with the full force of the law."

*Eric Lagatta is a reporter at The Columbus Dispatch covering public safety, with a focus on in-depth coverage of social justice issues and crime trends.*

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*@EricLagatta*



**abc 6** NEWS WEATHER ON YOUR SIDE CORONAVIRUS CHIME IN WATCH

## Advocates push for 'environmental justice' demanding protection for the city's tree canopy

by Bri Buckley | Tuesday, May 10th 2022 

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely Cleveland, Ohio, showing a river (the Cuyahoga River) and a bridge (the Lorain Road Bridge). The skyline includes several prominent skyscrapers, including the Terminal Tower. A video player icon (a white play button inside a square) is overlaid on the center of the image.



*Downtown Columbus, Ohio. (WSYX)*



COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSYX) — The B.R.E.A.D. organization, which stands for building responsibility, equality and dignity, is pushing the city to protect the tree canopy in Columbus.

"Everyone is affected whether they know it or not, from the perspective of clean air, increased heat islands, as well as the flooding and the resulting damage and mold that comes from that," W.D. Smith, Church of Christ at Genessee Avenue minister of justice, said.

The group said the city is plagued with 'environmental injustice' with many underserved neighborhoods having fewer trees than others.

They said the tree coverage helps with air quality, lowers utility bills by providing shade in the summer and buffering the winds in the winter, and protects neighborhoods from flooding.

"Trees have a position effect on heat, they reduce the temperature by as much as two to 10 degrees," Smith said. "Trees will absorb hundreds of gallons of water, so they can reduce flooding and trees have a positive effect on our air quality, filtering out our air ."

The tree canopy can do more than help with health and economic issues, city officials said more trees can lead to less crime, with lower quality of life in certain neighborhoods directly leading to more violent crime.

"We know that too often crime and violence affect the neighborhoods that have those lower quality of life indexes, like lower tree coverage," Columbus City Councilmember Elizabeth Brown said.



Brown is the recreation and parks committee chair and has been working with B.R.E.A.D. on the push for environmental justice.

City council already passed a resolution supporting a new Urban Forestry Master Plan, that would increase and protect trees in the city.

The next step is to make sure that plan turns into action.

"So the more that we're beautifying our neighborhoods, the more that we're involving residents in that process, the more that we know our neighborhoods can be protected from bad health effects of lack of trees, but also those quality of life issues like crime, those health issues like violence," Brown said.

Council hopes to work on specific ordinances and designate a consultant to monitor the Urban Forestry Master Plan by the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023.





## Central Ohio congregations come together to push leaders into action on affordable housing

by WSYX Staff | Wed, April 13th 2022, 6:53 PM EDT



COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSYX) — Dozens of Central Ohio congregations are coming together to push Columbus and Franklin County leaders into action on affordable housing. The group is called Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity, or BREAD.

BREAD gathered members at Washington Gladden Social Justice Park on Monday to ramp up action needed to "move the needle" on some of the biggest problems facing Central Ohio families.

"A number of fellow citizens are just not aware of how serious the crisis is in Central Ohio concerning affordable housing," said Pastor Charles Leister of New Beginnings Christian Center, whose congregation is one of 43 that makeup BREAD. "The Kirwan Institute at Ohio State indicates it's a billion-dollar problem."





To drive the point home, they've launched the Families First - Housing Now campaign to showcase hard-working families, struggling to pay for a place to live.

"What we're representing here today are a number of our service workers," said Pastor Leister. "Their family income is making less than \$30,000 a year. That's a family income. These families are paying half of their income on rent ."

The organization believes local leaders are starting to pay attention to affordable housing issues, including the creation of a program in Columbus that works with housing developers to provide affordable apartments.

"We've made accomplishments with the county," said Pastor Leister. "The increase in the sale of homes is going into an affordable housing trust fund and I believe the city has allocated \$5 million this year."

Even with the city's new program, Pastor Leister says a lot of heavy lifting is needed to help low-income families avoid the hardships of expensive housing.

"We need multiple streams of revenue, developers, officials code enforcement, and so on to begin to address that problem."



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## Faith leaders advocating for affordable housing in Columbus area

by Lu Ann Stoia | Tue, October 11th 2022, 6:40 PM EDT



COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSYX) — Some pastors are taking to the streets to advocate for affordable housing in central Ohio. Tuesday members of BREAD—Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity stood outside the St. Stephens Episcopal Church at High and Woodruff Avenue with signs to catch the interest of passersby.

Father Karl Stevens said there are increasing numbers of people camping on the church property near campus because they cannot find housing.

Faith leaders said Columbus and Franklin County are “sitting on millions of dollars they could be using for funding housing solutions.”

“We have solutions, there is just no political will to act on them,” Stevens said.

“The problem is even though people are working they can’t build the resources that would allow them to pay a deposit on an apartment,” Stevens said.

“It is heartbreaking to hear about that. And getting to know people and joining their struggles means your heart is involved in their lives in a way that can sometimes break it when bad things happen to them,” said Stevens.



Reverend Charles Leister with New Beginning Christian Center on the east side said they are seeing rising numbers of people dealing with homelessness and housing issues. Leister said they are pressing Columbus and Franklin County to allocate one-third of the American Rescue Plan dollars for housing solutions.

“Our concern is the funds are there. Are we using them effectively,” said Leister.

The pastors said people may be working, but their salaries aren’t able to cover housing along with the other bills that are going up.

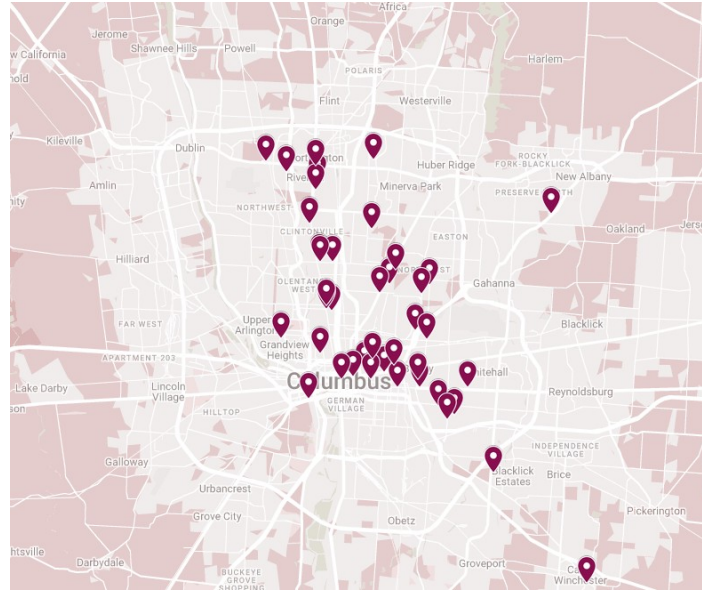
“There are some of us in the middle class that have been impacted, not only in terms of food and gas, and so on, but in terms of rent, affordable rent,” Leister said.

Leister said they distribute food to neighbors at their church on Saturday mornings once a month

Leister said many are trying to navigate kinship care, like grandparents raising grandchildren. “They are facing significant impact in terms of knowing where to go, what to ask for. It just has gotten worse with the pandemic and with inflation it just continues to increase the size of the issue,” said Leister.



## Congregational Roster



Congregation:	Location:	Contact:
Advent United Church of Christ	2303 N. Cassady Ave Columbus OH 43219	Revs. Colin and Imani Jones
Bethany Presbyterian Church	206 N. Garfield Ave Columbus OH 43203	Rev. Edward Lewis
Christ Lutheran Church	2314 E. Main St Bexley OH 43209	Rev. Tim Isringhausen
Christ United Methodist Church	1480 Zettler Rd Columbus OH 43227	Rev. Curnell Graham
Christ the King Catholic Church	2777 E. Livingston Ave Columbus OH 43209	Fr. David Schalk
Columbus Mennonite Church	35 Oakland Park Ave Columbus 43214	Pastor Joel Miller
The Columbus Baha'i Community	1993 Sunbury Rd Columbus OH 43219	
Community of Christ: Worthington	110 Park Blvd Worthington OH 43085	Pastor Stan Moss
Congregation Beth Tikvah	6121 Olentangy River Rd Worthington OH 43085	Rabbi Rick Kellner
Congregation Tifereth Israel	1354 E. Broad St Columbus OH 43205	Rabbi Hillel Skolnik
David's United Church of Christ	80 W. Columbus St Canal Winchester OH 43110	Rev. James S. Darnell
Dominican Sisters of Peace	2320 Airport Drive Columbus, OH 43219	
Faith Lutheran Church	730 Collingwood Ave	Rev. Daniel Hille



Congregation:	Location:	Contact:
First Congregational Church (UCC)	Whitehall 43213 444 E. Broad St Columbus OH 43215	Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens
First Unitarian Universalist Church	93 Weisheimer Rd Columbus OH 43214	Amanda Hays
Genessee Avenue Church of Christ	1889 Genessee Ave Columbus OH 43211	Brother Vince Ford
Gethsemane Lutheran Church	35 E. Stanton Ave Columbus, OH 43214	Rev. TJ Lynch
Good Shepherd Baptist Church	1555 E Hudson St Columbus OH 43211	Rev. Charles Tatum
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	414 E. North Broadway Columbus OH 43214	Fr. Matthew Hoover
Indianola Presbyterian Church	1970 Waldeck Ave Columbus OH 43201	Rev. Trip Porch
J. Jireh Ministries Church	1670 E. Main St Columbus, OH 43205	Rev. Dr. Norman Brown
Lord of Life Lutheran Church	2480 W Dublin Granville Rd Columbus OH 43235	Pastor Leslie Fox Lott
New Beginning Christian Center	3424 S Hamilton Rd Columbus, OH 43232	Pastor Charles Leister
New Faith Baptist Church of Christ	955 Oak St Columbus OH 43205	Rev. Dr. Jeffrey P. Kee
North Broadway United Methodist Church	48 E North Broadway Ave Columbus OH 43214	Pastor Marcus Atha
North Congregational Church (UCC)	2040 W. Henderson Rd Columbus 43220	Rev. Jay Groat
Redeemer Lutheran	1555 S James Rd Columbus OH 43227	Rev. David Shull
Rhema Christian Center	2100 Agler Rd Columbus OH 43224	Bishop La Fayette Scales
St. Alban's Episcopal Church	333 S Drexel Ave Bexley OH 43209	Rev. Devin Rodgers
St. Christopher Catholic Church	1420 Grandview Ave Columbus OH 43212	Fr. Ramon Owera
St. Dominic Catholic Church	453 N 20 <sup>th</sup> St Columbus OH 43203	Fr. Wojciech Stachura
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church	6077 Sharon Woods Blvd Columbus OH 43229	Fr. Anthony Varghese
St. Francis of Assisi Church	386 Buttles Ave Columbus OH 43215	Fr. Fritzner Valcin
St. John's Episcopal Church	700 High St Worthington OH 43085	Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin
St. Matthias Catholic Church	1582 Ferris Rd Columbus OH 43224	Fr. Tony Davis
St. Philip's Episcopal Church	166 Woodland Ave	



Congregation:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Thomas More Newman Center

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Temple Beth Shalom

Trinity Episcopal Church

Triumphant Christian Center

Location:

Columbus OH 43203

30 W Woodruff Ave

Columbus OH 43210

64 W Lane Ave

Columbus OH 43201

2692 E 5th Ave

Columbus OH 43219

5089 Johnstown Rd

New Albany OH 43054

125 E Broad St

Columbus OH 43215

904 Thomas Ave

Columbus OH 43223

Contact:

Rev. Karl Stevens

Fr. Ed Nowak

Fr. David Schalk

Rabbi Benjy Bar-Lev

Rev. Stephen Applegate

Apostle Juan Woods





## Sources of Income

Source	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Membership</b>	52666	66988	51946	58494
<b>Dues</b>				
<b>Investment Drive</b>				
Member Group	135114	154743	171009	156022
Corporate Campaign	58400	41400	63550	58890
<b>Grants</b>	42500	49912	57500	68750
<b>Other</b>	9108	51329	16892	7317
<b>Total</b>	\$297788	\$364372	\$360897	\$349473

## Corporate Campaign Supporters

### 2019

Amsted Industries Inc./Griffin Wheel, Bailey Cavaliere, LLC, CareSource, CME Bank, The Edwards Companies, Hattie and Robert Lazarus Fund, Jonathan & Carletta Tabor, Kirk Williams Company, Millcraft, Molina Healthcare of OH, Motorist Insurance Co. Foundation, National Church Residences, OhioHealth, Palmer-Donavin, Triple T Transport, Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, Wallick Properties, and Walmart.

### 2020

Amsted Industries Inc./Griffin Wheel, The Edwards Companies, Encova, Hattie and Robert Lazarus Fund, Kirk Williams Company, Millcraft, Palmer Donovan, Triple T Transport, and Wallick Properties.

### 2021

Allied Mineral, Amsted Industries Inc./Griffin Wheel, CME Bank, The Edwards Companies, Encova, Geer Gas, Hattie and Robert Lazarus Fund, Kirk Williams Company, Ohio Health, PWC, Timothy & Cynthia Kelley Fund, Triple T Transport, Wallick Properties, and Woda Cooper Companies, Inc.

### 2022

Calgon Carbon Corporation, Centene Corporation, CME Bank, Encova, Hattie and Robert Lazarus Fund, Jeffrey Edwards Corporation, Kirk Williams Company, National Church Residences, Nationwide Foundation, OhioHealth, Palmer Donovan, Pathways Financial Credit Union, PWC, Three Leaf Production, Timothy & Cynthia Kelley Fund, Triple T Transport, Woda Cooper Companies, Inc., YourCause LLC.



## Organizational Budget 2023

### Income

Membership Dues	70000
Investment Drive	329000
Grants	74000
Other	13000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>486000</b>

*BREAD organizing staff members are key to conducting the mission of the organization. Organizers recruit new member congregations, train leaders, and coordinate the research and action on critical community issues.*

### Expenses

Staff Expenses	310988
Office Expenses	6920
Occupancy	9000
Travel Expenses	16500
Program Expenses	20000
Training Expenses	23400
Contribution to Reserve	59361
Network Affiliation	38831
Other (audit, misc)	1000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>486000</b>



## Leverage Sheet 2023

### STRONG JUSTICE MINISTRY/RODEF TZEDEK

### BUILDS POWER FOR JUSTICE

#### Because of you...

We celebrated these victories in 2022:

- The Franklin County Commissioners continued to approve \$6.5 million for affordable housing helping at least 200 families per year access safe, decent housing.
- Franklin County has an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, with revenue of about \$5 million of public dollars in 2022, that has financed the development of over 14,000 units of affordable housing since 2001.
- Franklin County has allocated \$8 million from the American Rescue Plan budget toward affordable housing.
- Nine Restorative Justice Circles are in place to prevent children from entering the Juvenile Justice system. These circles should save the people of Franklin County approximately \$2.2 million dollars by diverting them from the court system.
- Neighborhood blight is disappearing through the Franklin County Land Bank with annual revenue of about \$3.5 million dollars. The land bank has demolished nearly 4,000 vacant units.

#### Because of you...

BREAD will raise more than 50% of our budget locally and over \$180,000 in individual investments so that we can *own our organization* and not be owned by outside foundations!

**For every \$1 invested in BREAD in 2022, we leveraged \$51 back into our community!**

**When you invest in BREAD, your money goes toward:**

- Supporting local and national training for leaders
- Covering cost of events, office space, and supplies
- Hiring staff to recruit and work with more congregations

Want to stay informed? Like our Facebook page!

[www.facebook.com/breadorganization](http://www.facebook.com/breadorganization)