

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

B.R.E.A.D. Organization
www.breadcolumbus.com

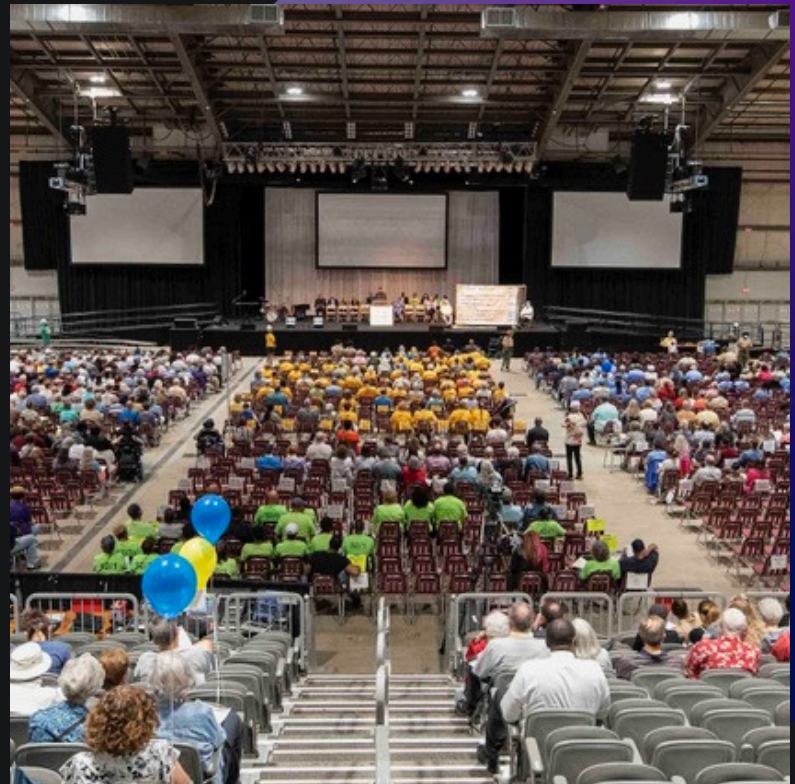


Photo Credit: Jon Groner

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About us

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.



Photo credit: Jon Groner

Membership

Forty-two 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.

Accomplishments

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)

*Secured \$70,000 of startup funding for the “One Linden Cooperative,” a worker-owned food hub in Linden (2019)

Education

*New evidence-based curriculum, doubling passing rate of 4th 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)

Payday lending

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

Housing

*Affordable Housing Trust fund with Columbus and Franklin County investing \$4-\$5 million annually which has created over 14,000 units since 2001 (1999)

*\$6.5 million from Franklin County which is projected to create 200 additional, affordable units annually (2019)

*Nearly \$22 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding towards housing solutions

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)

Accomplishments

continued

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)

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

“Stop Predatory Landlords! Protect Renters Now!” Campaign

Facts about rental housing

- The number of renters is on the rise in Franklin County. Out of Ohio's 88 counties, no other has a higher ratio of renters than Franklin County. According to U.S. Census figures from 2019, 53% of homes are occupied by their owners, a rate that has been steadily decreasing (WOSU 89.7 NPR News Published May 24, 2022).
- Rents are increasing faster than incomes, and the lowest income renters are being priced out of the market altogether. Columbus saw the fourth-highest rent increase in the country from February 2023 to February 2024 (Channel 4 news).
- For every \$100 increase in rent there is a 9% increase in homelessness (The Eviction Lab).
- More than 24,000 households faced eviction last year (7% of households.) We expect a dramatic increase in evictions when the federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds are exhausted (Legal Aid Society of Columbus).
- Renters in substandard housing are reluctant to report code violations because they don't have any options on where to go, and they fear retaliation (Legal Aid Society of Columbus).
- Only one in four households that qualify for rental subsidy receives assistance. Most renters must find housing in the private rental market (The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio).
- At least 47,000 affordable housing units have been lost due to increasing rents or removal from the inventory (The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio).
- 20% of all homes sold in Columbus are now going to investors, many of whom are out-of-state. And that's an 85% increase from the year before. This is unfairly driving up the cost of both home purchases and rentals (The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio).

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“Stop Predatory Landlords! Protect Renters Now!” Campaign

Facts about rental housing continued

- An Arizona company called Progress Residential bought more than 200 houses in Franklin County between May 2021 and November 2022, according to a search of records with the Franklin County Recorder’s office. People who rent from Progress frequently complain of shoddy repairs, little or no response to large or small maintenance requests, and excessive fees (NBC 4, January 23, 2023).
- A Nevada-based corporation American Homes 4 Rent owns more than 2,100 rental homes in Columbus and nearly 2,000 more in Cincinnati. According to AMH's first quarter earnings report, the company highlights an increase in rent and other single-family property revenues of 11.7% to bring in nearly \$400 million for the first quarter of 2023 (ABC 6, July 27, 2023).

Possible Solutions:

- City of Columbus Rental Registry: Cleveland, Akron, Athens, Sandusky, Bowling Green and Youngstown have rental registries requiring property owners to provide their municipality with contact information before renting out any residential property. Most also require owners who live a certain distance from the property to designate a local agent the city can contact in case of an emergency. Rental Registries seek to hold owners and tenants accountable for the conditions of property, which is beneficial for blight mitigation. Rental Registries would also help local agencies better respond to complaints, violations and emergencies.
- Certificate of Occupancy: a document issued by a local government agency or building department certifying a building's compliance with applicable building codes and other laws, and indicating it to be in a condition suitable for occupancy.
- City of Columbus Tenant Advocate: An individual or agency that would identify all rental property owners, ensure the rental registry is up-to-date, develop an early warning system to identify problem properties, develop strategies to address problem owners, promote best practices in the eviction process, and work with partners such as the Columbus Realtors Assoc to promote best practices by rental housing managers.

“Environmental Justice” Campaign

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).

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“Environmental Justice” Campaign

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 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” Campaign

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, over 100 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. *Continued on next page.*

“Juvenile Justice” Campaign

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.

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“Juvenile Justice” Campaign

Columbus City Schools

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.
- Since that time, Columbus City Schools Administration agreed with BREAD that the best way to achieve fidelity was with training by the International Institute for Restorative Practices.
- The Columbus City Schools Administration has utilized funding for training by the IIRP. More than 800 staff have been trained! And of those trained, 200 received additional training and are now certified to train others!
- 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!



“Stop Violence! Build Trust!” Campaign

Problems

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).
- 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.
- 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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“Stop Violence! Build Trust!” Campaign

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.

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“Stop Violence! Build Trust!” Campaign

Solutions:

3. **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/>



Photo credit: Jon Groner

Press

Affordable Housing:

[Affordable housing non profit calls on Columbus City Council to fork up more funding](#) (ABC 6, April 2024).

[Central Ohio congregations come together to push leaders into action on affordable housing](#) (April 2022).

Gun Violence:

[Columbus leaders ready to launch anti-violence program offering gang members way out](#) (Columbus Dispatch, April 2023).

[Community activists say Columbus needs to move faster on anti-violence strategy](#) (Columbus Dispatch, January 2022).

Environmental Justice:

[Advocates push for 'environmental justice' demanding protection for the city's tree canopy](#) (ABC 6, May 2022).



Congregational Roster

Advent United Church of Christ
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Christ United Methodist Church
Christ the King Catholic Church
Columbus Mennonite Church
The Columbus Baha'i Community
Community of Christ: Worthington
Congregation Beth Tikvah
Congregation Tifereth Israel
Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church
David's United Church of Christ
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Faith Lutheran Church
First Congregational Church (UCC)
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Genessee Avenue Church of Christ
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic
Church
Indianola Presbyterian Church

J. Jireh Ministries Church
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
New Beginning Christian Center
New Faith Baptist Church of Christ
North Broadway United Methodist Church
North Congregational Church (UCC)
Redeemer Lutheran
Rhema Christian Center
St. Christopher Catholic Church
St. Dominic Catholic Church
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Matthias Catholic Church
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
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
University Baptist Church

Sources of income

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Membership dues | \$51,946.00 | \$58,494.00 | \$54,956.00 |
| Congregation Investment Drive | 171,009.00 | 156,022.00 | 175,871.00 |
| Corporate Investment Drive | 63,550.00 | 58,890.00 | 94,730.00 |
| Grants | 57,500.00 | 68,750.00 | 60,550.00 |
| Other | 16,892.00 | 7,317.00 | 14,360.00 |
| Total | \$360,897.00 | \$349,473.00 | \$400,467.00 |

Corporate partners

2021

Allied Mineral, Amsted Industries Inc./Griffin Wheel, CME Bank, 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, Edwards Companies, Encova, Hattie and Robert Lazarus Fund, Kirk Williams Company, National Church Residences, Nationwide Foundation, OhioHealth, Palmer-Donovin, Pathways Financial Credit Union, PWC, Three Leaf Production, Timothy & Cynthia Kelley Fund, Triple T Transport, Woda Cooper Companies, Inc., and YourCause LLC.

2023

Allied Mineral, Borrer Family Foundation, Calgon Carbon, CareSource, Centene Corporation, CME Bank, Edwards Companies, Encova, Geer Gas, Griffin Wheel/Amsted Rail, Hattie and Robert Lazarus Fund, Igel, Innosource, Kirk Williams Company, Lakeshore Cryotronics, Millcraft, Moody Nolan Inc., National Church Residences, OhioHealth, Palmer-Donovin, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Timothy & Cynthia Kelley Fund, and Triple T Transport.

2024 Budget

Income

Membership Dues \$65,000.00
Corporate Drive 90,000.00
Congregation Investment Drive 229,000.00
Grants 45,000.00
Other 12,700.00

Total Income \$441,700.00

Expenses

Staff Expenses (Organizing & Administrative) \$257,908.00*
Office Expenses 6,958.00
Travel Expenses 12,903.00
Occupancy 9,000.00
Program Expenses 19,400.00
Training Expenses 13,200.00
Contribution to Reserve 90,064.00
Network Affiliation 31,967.00
Other Expenses (audit, miscellaneous) 300.00

Total Expenses \$441,700.00

**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.*

Leverage sheet

Because of you, we celebrated these victories in 2023:

- 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 allocated \$7.9 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 \$229,000 in individual investments so that we can OWN OUR ORGANIZATION and not be owned by outside foundations!

For every \$1 invested in BREAD in 2023, our work led to \$62 that went 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