



2025 Annual Report BREAD Organization



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Profile of the Organization

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.



Pictured here are more than 2,500 community residents at BREAD's Nehemiah Action at the Celeste Center on the State Fairgrounds pre-pandemic.

Issue Accomplishments

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).
- Pressed the Department of Public Safety to partner with the National Network for Safe Communities to implement proven strategies to reduce gang violence. The Columbus Violence Reduction initiative was created in 2023. Since implementation, Columbus has had two years of reduced violence and is currently at a 15 year low. (2021)
- Got city council to adopt a public tree canopy protection ordinance in 2024 in an effort to address increases in heat and flooding in low-income communities.

Membership of BREAD

The thirty-eight 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.

B.R.E.A.D. Accomplishments (1997 – 2024)

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 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)

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 funded the creation of the Columbus Violence Reduction initiative to reduce gang violence. (2023)
- *Chief of Police receives grant from the Georgetown School of Law to provide Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement training for 11,000 Columbus Police Officers. (2024)

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)

Environment

- *Columbus City Council passed legislation for a Public Tree Canopy Protection ordinance. (2024)



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.

The Ask:

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

Our Biggest Concerns regarding the Consultant's Report on the Private Tree Ordinance

Introduction: Columbus' Urban Forestry Master Plan has the goal of reaching Citywide Tree Canopy Cover of 40% by 2050. We're now at 22%. That's a huge jump. We need bold action.

1. Applicability: **We want the new private tree code to protect trees on private residential property as well as development sites.**
2. Ordinance Location in City Code: **We want the City Forester to approve or reject a proposed project based on tree protections.**
3. As recommended, the "Tree Fund," which collects tree protection and replacement fines, must include: (1) a Homeowner Tree Care Assistance Program, to support residents in maintaining and caring for their trees; and (2) assistance to affordable housing sites to aid in preservation and planting of trees, to ensure tree coverage equity.
4. **The process for enacting the Private Tree Code must include robust public participation, at each step along the way.**
5. **Columbus City Council MUST enact a new private tree ordinance.** Anything less will significantly jeopardize the city's goals laid out in the Urban Forestry Master Plan.



Stop Predatory Landlords! Protect Renters Now!

• 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 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*)
- 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*)

Solutions:

1. City of Columbus Rental Registry: Cleveland, Akron, Athens, Sandusky, Bowling Green, Youngstown and Reynoldsburg 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.

2. Systematic Pre-Rental Inspections: Many cities employ a pre-rental prior to a new tenant occupying the unit. The Pre-Rental Inspection ensures that the unit is safe and up to code. We are interested in the city of Columbus conducting pre-rental inspections in units where tenants are most likely to encounter unsafe living conditions.

Advocates call on Columbus, Franklin County to build more affordable housing

by Lu Ann Stoia | Friday, October 8th 2021



Housing advocates call for more affordable housing in Franklin County. (WSYX)



COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSYX) — Faith-based non-profit advocacy group “BREAD” is speaking out about the need for more affordable housing in Franklin County.



Advocates took to the streets on the east side with signs on Friday afternoon near JJireh Ministries.

Pastor Norman Brown said more than 50,000 families in Franklin County are spending half their paycheck on housing.

Churches said they want to work with the city and county to build homes people can afford. Brown is also a not-for-profit developer.

“We want to invest our time, talent, and treasure. But we need our governmental leaders who receive those federal dollars to come alongside us,” said Brown.

“BREAD” wants the city to use 30% of the American Rescue Plan dollars from the federal government on affordable housing.

The City of Columbus said it has allocated millions to the cause, including money to help people who have been evicted during the pandemic.

“To date, \$93 million in federal recovery funds have been issued to the City of Columbus. The City has allocated more than \$75 million of it to public health response, support for human services agencies, youth programming and small business support. This includes nearly \$30 million to help tens of thousands of families stay housed and pay their utility bills,” Melanie Crabill, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said.

“This is in addition to \$50 million in City bond dollars that will be invested in affordable housing by the end of 2023. Of that, \$29 million has already been committed to affordable housing projects in development today. The American Rescue Plan presents an opportunity to protect and invest in our most vulnerable residents so that all Columbus families have a safe, stable place to live. We are committed to investing our community's resources to ensure that everyone in Columbus is stably housed,” Crabill wrote in an email.

In the first eight months of this year, according to “BREAD”, there were 172 evictions in the 43205 neighborhood in east Columbus. Pastor Brown said he sees the need first-hand.

"We've got a lot of vacant lots that no one seems to have an interest in. So we have a desire to re-develop them for affordable housing. But we need to get those dollars from our federal government."

"BREAD" advocates said, "It's shameful the city and county hastily put together a plan for a new soccer stadium, but still scrambles to figure out how to house people."

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

by Bri Buckley | Tuesday, May 10th 2022



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.

The Columbus Dispatch

Opinion

Editorial: BREAD plan offers hope

Posted Sep 9, 2017 at 5:00 AM

Updated Sep 9, 2017 at 7:22 AM

It's hard to grasp the carnage in Columbus this year. As of midweek, the city had suffered 91 homicides; last year at this time, there were 65. Just three years ago, there were 91 homicides for the entire year.

Police are baffled. They say they don't know why. Columbus City Councilman Mitchell J. Brown, a former Columbus safety director, is also frustrated, noting that a disproportionate number of the victims are black males; they accounted for at least 58 of this year's homicides, he said. And homicide isn't claiming just those who make themselves vulnerable to violence by participating in gangs or the drug trade; innocents have become collateral damage.

Clearly, we've got to find a better way. The faith-based, social-justice group BREAD thinks it has one.

The group's listening tour asked residents, "What's keeping you up at night?" The answers likely included the usual economic, family and job concerns, but many answered the question literally: gunfire. "People are afraid to go out into their neighborhood," said BREAD's Cathy Levine of Congregation Tifereth Israel.

After spending months researching solutions, BREAD is proposing that Columbus adopt the Safe Neighborhood Initiative, based on a violence-intervention model devised by criminologists in the 1990s in Boston to reduce youth homicides. The program uses a carrot-and-stick approach: Police and the county adult probation unit would team up to identify people on probation for violent crimes and make them an offer they'd be unwise to refuse: Come to a "call-in" — a meeting at which they'd be offered help to go straight, such as counseling, drug treatment and job services — or face federal prosecution.

BREAD sees this initiative as the best and most practical option to interrupt the cycle of gang violence. If criminals know no other way to survive, putting them in prison and turning them loose later isn't likely to change their behavior.

Over the years, Columbus has tried numerous other anti-violence, anti-gang approaches, including a Chicago-based program, then called CeaseFire, seven years ago. It faltered amid politics, lack of funding and squabbles. So a skeptic might ask whether BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity) can make a sustainable difference. The answer is to look at the track record of this very persistent and dedicated grass-roots organization. It is backed by 40 congregations representing 20,000 people and dozens of faiths. The politician or public official who ignores BREAD is in for an education. The group's efforts have changed this community; its influence can be seen in community restorative-justice programs, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Franklin County Land Bank, which clears vacant buildings that blight neighborhoods and provide a haven for crime.

For more than two decades, BREAD has taken a methodical approach to exploring central Ohio's biggest problems and proposed solutions.

BREAD organizers say they have the support of law enforcement, prosecutors, parole officials and Franklin County Common Pleas Court. Indeed, George Speaks, Columbus' deputy director of Public Safety, thinks the city can do "our own rendition" of the program. But city buy-in will be critical.

While some think the program can be carried out without additional funding, this seems questionable. Others will reasonably ask why violent offenders should get such hand-holding and second chances.

The answer is purely pragmatic: If they learn to lead successful lives, they won't continue hurting others.

The Columbus Dispatch

Interfaith group BREAD seeks more focus on housing crisis

By Mark Ferenchik

The Columbus Dispatch

Posted May 6, 2019 at 9:30 PM

Updated May 7, 2019 at 5:59 AM

Ali Miller is an AmeriCorps VISTA worker who spends half of her paycheck on housing here in Columbus.

The job doesn't pay much, she said — about \$12,000 a year. That gives her no money for a car, or alcohol. She gets no money from her parents.

And a local social justice group says there are thousands more like Miller who can't pay the escalating rents in a growing Columbus and central Ohio.

"We want affordable housing too," said Miller, not new places with \$1,000-a-month rents with granite countertops and fancy exercise rooms.

According to the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, 54,000 area households live in or near poverty and are paying more than half their income for housing.

The interfaith group BREAD — Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity — held its 22nd Nehemiah Action event on Monday targeting various issues and possible ways to address them. Speakers at the event, which attracted about 3,000 to the Celeste Center at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, discussed not only the housing crisis facing the community but also keeping children out of the school-to-prison pipeline, ways to connect seniors to services, and the need for a municipal identification card for poor people and others who have trouble obtaining ID.

BREAD members have been speaking at Columbus City Council and Franklin County commissioners meetings. They want City Council members to work with the group to convince developers to set aside 20 percent of new units citywide for affordable housing, and to pump an additional \$5 million a year into the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County.

BREAD also wants Franklin County commissioners to boost its conveyance fee — a property transfer fee — from \$2 for every \$1,000 value of property sold or transferred to \$4; the trust currently receives about \$3.5 million a year from the fee. Commissioners in February said they are considering increasing the fee toward part of a larger affordable housing initiative.

“As Columbus’ neighborhoods revitalize, costs are skyrocketing,” said Cathy Levine, BREAD’s co-president.

But she said officials haven’t truly listened.

“We know it’s a problem that needs huge investment,” said the Rev. Tim Ahrens of the First Congregational Church Downtown. “We need a champion in the county commissioners and the city.”

“It really is a crisis,” said the Rev. Charles Leister of the New Beginning Christian Center on the East Side, a BREAD co-president.

The city’s bond package, which Columbus voters will see at the polls on Tuesday, targets \$50 million for affordable housing and neighborhood development.

The Affordable Housing Trust is working with the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio to award grants for building homes for needy families using \$5.6 million the Columbus City Council awarded in April.

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The Columbus Dispatch

Property transfer fee increase will support affordable housing in Franklin County

By Marc Kovac

The Columbus Dispatch

Posted Aug 25, 2019 at 4:55 AM

Owners soon will pay more when they sell their Franklin County properties, under a fee increase set to take effect in October.

The proceeds from the conveyance-fee change — an estimated \$6.5 million a year in additional collections — will be used to boost the number of affordable-housing units under a plan unveiled by the Franklin County commissioners earlier this summer.

Commissioner Marilyn Brown said the affordable-housing effort is a pivotal part of the county's broader work to address poverty.

"It's that life-sustaining piece that allows all other things to work," she said. "If you don't have a place that you can stay in," free from worry that "you're not going to make ends meet and be able to pay your payments every month, nothing else matters. You can't have stability in your life."

Conveyance fees are paid by property sellers and include a state-mandated \$1 for every \$1,000 of the sale price, plus a permissive portion of up to \$3 per \$1,000 that is set by each county.

Franklin County's total rate has been \$2 per \$1,000 in value — the \$1 state share and a \$1 local permissive portion — for more than a decade. The fee on the sale of a property for \$100,000 is \$200.

The fees generate about \$14 million annually; \$7 million of that is split between the Affordable Housing Trust and the Community Shelter Board.

Under state law, the county could levy an additional \$2 in conveyance fees. Advocates for the needy have long urged the commissioners to implement the full increase allowed, citing the estimated 54,000 area households that live in or near poverty and struggle with housing costs.

“This was clearly a need that everybody recognizes in the community,” Brown said.

There was little formal opposition offered to the plan to increase the county’s conveyance fees during three public hearings over the past few weeks, although the organization BREAD — Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity — did urge a larger increase to generate more funding for affordable-housing initiatives.

But the commissioners opted for a dollar increase now, leaving another increase of a dollar possible in the future.

County Administrator Ken Wilson called the total “the prudent amount for the marketplace to absorb at this time. It leaves flexibility to respond to future homeless-prevention and affordable-housing needs, when called for.”

The increased conveyance-fee revenue will be used to help establish an additional 200-plus affordable-housing units each year for the next 10 years through targeted tax breaks and other incentives.

The formal vote for the change was Tuesday, but the actual conveyance-fee increase won't take effect until Oct. 7. The fee on the sale of a property for \$100,000 then will be \$300.

“There’s not a place in central Ohio that you can’t see cranes, orange cones or some type of construction, and that is an indication of very positive growth,” said Commissioner Kevin Boyce. “... We are growing and prospering in many ways, but there are some families that just aren’t able to keep up. Our action today is an investment in the idea that everybody has an opportunity to be successful in central Ohio.”

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[@OhioCapitalBlog](#)

The Columbus Dispatch

BREAD's Nehemiah Action event moves to Zoom, emphasizes COVID's impact on affordable housing

By Danae King

The Columbus Dispatch

Posted May 12, 2020 at 8:30 PM

Updated May 13, 2020 at 7:01 PM

BREAD hosts its annual Nehemiah Action event via Zoom, emphasizing how affordable housing has become a more urgent need due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A local interfaith group didn't let COVID-19 stop it Tuesday from hosting its annual gathering to lobby for affordable housing and other social justice issues.

For each of the past 22 years, BREAD — Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity — has hosted its Nehemiah Action event locally. The event usually brings 3,000 people together to call on local officials to make life more equitable for residents in Columbus and Franklin County.

After the organization realized it couldn't safely host an event with 3,000 during a global pandemic, it got creative to figure out how to keep using what BREAD Co-president Cathy Levine calls its "people power."

"When we're stuck at home, we've been using Zoom to meet with public officials, do research and hold committee meetings," Levine told The Dispatch

before Tuesday's meeting. The interfaith group purchased a Zoom account with the capacity to host 500 people, hoping many will tune in with their families on one account. "Now we're using Zoom to bring people together."

At one point, 335 users were viewing the organization's event Tuesday evening on Zoom, though there may have been more watching using the same device. The organization also discussed the problems with gun violence in the community, elderly health, and jobs and poverty in the Linden community.

The need to bring people together and raise awareness of local issues has only been heightened by COVID-19, Levine told The Dispatch.

"The coronavirus pandemic has just exacerbated the community problems we focus on," she said.

Included in those issues is affordable housing, a renewed focus of the group for the past few years.

"Before COVID hit, we had this crisis," Levine said. "With COVID, these people have lost jobs. ... It's terrifying that if and when the moratorium on evictions is lifted — and it will have to be lifted — at some point thousands and thousands of families will face evictions."

Last year, after the action event, the Franklin County commissioners pledged \$6.5 million a year to provide affordable housing in the area.

More than 54,000 central Ohioans pay more than half of their income on housing, though the national affordability standard is just one-third of income, Levine said.

"There's a disconnect on how much people are earning and how much they're being asked to pay for rent," she said. "We're asking city officials to do what other cities have done and make a large investment" toward affordable housing.

The hope is that some of the dollars of that investment can come from the federal money coming to the city due to the pandemic and it can be used to help create an emergency housing assistance program that could help renters and landlords, Levine said.

The city got \$157 million of federal coronavirus relief money, city spokeswoman Robin Davis said in an email. On Thursday, the city will reveal how it plans to use it, she said.

"Last year, some 2,000 people stood up when I asked if you or someone you know was having a housing struggle," the Rev. Tim Ahrens, senior pastor at First Congregational Church Downtown and a member of the BREAD Housing Committee, said during the Zoom call. "The housing crisis for us is still there. ... This week we must press, we must push on."

Ahrens encouraged those tuned in to the call to write on a piece of paper, "Dear state and local officials, please use the federal funds for emergency housing assistance," and then to take a photo of themselves with the sign and post it online with "#ohiohousinghelp."

Graham Bowman, an attorney with the Ohio Poverty Law Center, filmed a message for the Zoom viewers and emphasized the intensity of the housing crisis in Ohio.

Each day, 75 to 200 people are evicted in Columbus, he said.

"This is a major, major crisis, but all of us together can make a difference," Ahrens said.

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City looks to tackle public safety issues

Theodore Decker

Columnist Columbus Dispatch USA TODAY NETWORK



The year 2021 is off to a lethal start in Columbus, with 14 homicides occurring in the first 14 days of the new year.

That isn't even counting the two bodies found entombed in the concrete basement floor of a Hilltop house last week. Those two victims, suspected to be a man and woman who were reported missing two years ago, are not included in the 2021 total.

To start the year, City Council is hosting a series of virtual town halls under the broad title, "Reimagining Public Safety." The two that have been held offer hope that elected officials are serious about these issues, which are vital to the city's long-term health. If you missed them, you can find them on YouTube, where they currently hold depressingly low viewer numbers for such important topics.

The first town hall looked at ways to reduce the call volume handled by city police, by redirecting lower-priority calls to trained civilians who would be better equipped to address them.

Those civilians might include mental health experts, addiction counselors or other employees who can address the many calls for service that police are now dispatched to but do not warrant a law enforcement response.

Patrol officers will tell you that much of their shift is spent addressing these lower-priority calls that often have nothing to do with policing. Handing some of them off to civilian teams would, in theory, free officers to focus on higher-priority calls and investigations. It's a good idea.

But while the responses to fatal police shootings are swift, James Wynn contends that each killing of a Black person reopens wounds in communities of color that have been allowed to fester for much longer than any one protest can last.

Wynn, the co-president of the interfaith BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality And Dignity), was speaking on a stage before a fleet of cars Tuesday night whose occupants had gathered in the parking lot of the First Church of God on Refugee Road for the organization's annual Nehemiah Action event to lobby for social justice causes.

Read More: BREAD's Nehemiah Action event moves to Zoom, emphasizes COVID's impact on affordable housing

Though the meeting typically takes place at the Ohio State Fairgrounds in front of up to 3,000 people, BREAD has adapted its Nehemiah Action in the last two years for the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to the cars gathered in the parking lot, more than 1,000 people were tuned into the Youtube livestream while others could call in on a listen-only conference line or tune in on the radio as Wynn professed that trust was broken between Columbus police and communities of color long ago.

It was broken, he said, when 23-year-old Henry Green was killed five years ago by “jump out boys,” the street name for the plainclothes officers with the Columbus Division of Police’s Gun Violence Reduction Program.

That trust was broken, Wynn said, when police sprayed chemical agents last summer on demonstrators, including elected officials, protesting racial injustice and police brutality in the wake of George Floyd’s killing by now-convicted, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin.

It was broken when Franklin County Sheriff’s office SWAT Deputy Jason Meade shot and killed 23-year-old Casey Goodson Jr. on Dec. 4, and when former Columbus police officer Adam Coy — now indicted for murder — shot and killed 47-year-old Andre Hill on Dec. 23, Wynn said.

And it was broken, Wynn said, when law enforcement leaders in Franklin County declined to attend BREAD’s gathering to acknowledge the pain caused and to commit to repairing relations, he said.

Formed in 1996, BREAD — comprised of 41 faith congregations in Franklin County — hosts Nehemiah Action every year in an effort to confront public officials about changes its membership wants to see in a variety of sectors. The event is named for a man in Hebrew scripture who organized a great assembly to win justice for the people of Jerusalem. This year, police reform and affordable housing were at the top of the agenda.

BREAD had formed a 30-member police reform committee to research ways to improve policing in Columbus following Floyd’s death last May. That committee had determined that racial bias and prejudice existed within the Columbus Division of Police, and that anti-bias training and policy changes were inadequate in addressing what they view as systemic racism.

Read More: 'Funeral' procession mourns Ma'Khia Bryant, others killed by Columbus police

“A culture exists within the police department, a culture that has been perpetuated over years,” Wynn said in an interview with The Dispatch prior to Tuesday’s meeting. “We’re trying to affect the police culture, to change that — we want them to treat people as human beings.”

Tuesday night, interfaith leaders presented the three proposed solutions that they are urging city leaders to adopt.

First and foremost, said BREAD co-president Cathy Levine, they are asking for a formal reconciliation process that includes police acknowledging the harm their past tactics have caused communities of color. The recommendation, Levine said, is in line with a recently-published review of Columbus police that cost the city \$250,000.

Read More: Study: Columbus, police officials should seek reconciliation with communities of color

The organization is also requesting that Columbus police implement Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE), a police training program in intervention techniques for when a fellow officer is making a mistake. Such training, Levine contends, goes beyond Andre's Law passed in February by the Columbus City Council, which could lead to criminal charges for officers who fail to turn on body cameras or render first aid if a citizen is injured by police force.

Read More: Deadly Columbus police encounters lead to 'Andre's Law,' \$1.025 million settlement payment

Finally, BREAD is pushing city leaders to consider forming a crisis response system that would allow trained mental health professionals and social workers to respond to some 911 calls that police now routinely handle. Such an initiative appears to have broad public support, at least according to one study commissioned by the city.

“A lot of groups are coming up with slogans for what needs to happen, but we wanted to figure out what we can accomplish in this city and county that would start to bring about significant change,” Levine told The Dispatch before the meeting. “Changing policies isn’t going to change the culture of policing.”

Read More: Respondents in Columbus study favor police responding to fewer non-violent emergencies

City Council President Pro Tempore Elizabeth Brown attended Nehemiah and lended her support for police reform.

“As we evaluate how we protect the safety of everyone in our city, a crucial part of the conversation is trust,” Brown told the crowd. “We know there is a divide that has grown over decades.”

Adrienne Hood, the mother of Henry Green, also briefly addressed the crowd.

"As many of you just celebrated Mother's Day this past weekend, mine will never be the same. There will forever be a hole that cannot be filled," Hood said.

BREAD interfaith leaders also used this year's Nehemiah Action to address affordable housing, an issue long at the forefront of the organization's mission.

After the 2019 Nehemiah Action event, the Franklin County commissioners pledged \$6.5 million a year to provide affordable housing in the area.

The housing crisis resurfaced last year, magnified by a coronavirus pandemic that left people jobless and facing a threat of evictions or mortgage default.

Read More: 'Whole area's changing for the better': Merion Village site of Columbus' new affordable housing project

This year, BREAD leaders are asking that one-third of \$184 million American Rescue Plan dollars for the city go toward the Affordable Housing Trust. Though she wouldn't commit to lobbying for that specific organization, Councilmember Shayla Favor agreed to earmark 30% of those dollars go toward "housing solutions" recommended by the Affordable Housing Alliance and Community Shelter Board.

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Columbus sees historic drop in homicides, shootings in early 2025; lowest in 15 years

Bailey Gallion

Columbus Dispatch

0:12/50 AI-assisted summary Columbus has experienced a significant decrease in homicides in the first few months of 2025, the lowest reported in 15 years.

- Mayor Andrew Ginther attributes the decline to increased community collaboration with police and proactive violence prevention efforts.
- Other major cities like New York and Chicago have seen similar drops in violent crime.

Columbus has seen a striking drop in homicides in the early months of 2025, according to data compiled by city police.

As of April 28, Columbus experienced 16 homicides within city limits, according to the report from the Columbus Division of Police. It's the lowest number for that date in at least fifteen years.

The city has seen three more homicides across two shootings since the city compiled its data, including a suspected murder-suicide that left three dead.

Last year, Columbus had 26 homicides by April 28. In 2021, a record year for homicides in Columbus, 66 people had died by homicide by that date.

The lowest homicide count from Jan. 1 to April 28 in the past 15 years was 25, which the city reached in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Columbus has also seen a decrease in felonious assault, which includes shootings. As of April 28, there were 230 reported, down from 293 in 2024, and 437 in 2023. Out of the 230 felonious assault cases, 145 involved guns.

Columbus is not alone. Cities across the country are experiencing drops in violent crime. The New York Police Department said it [saw the fewest shootings in recorded history](#) in the first quarter of 2025. Chicago [also reported a drop in homicides](#) in the first few months of 2025.

Violent crime spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic, and violent crime in most major cities either returned to pre-pandemic levels or dropped to historic lows in 2024, the nonpartisan criminal justice think tank Council on Criminal Justice [said in an annual report](#).

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther said the numbers represent a "historic" drop. He said he believes the decrease in homicides comes from the efforts of the Columbus Division of Police, especially efforts to enhance collaboration with the community. He said Columbus police are receiving more tips from residents than ever before.

Ginther said the division is also focusing on solving more nonfatal shootings. Solving those also prevents future fatal shootings, he said.

“Oftentimes, when you have the nonfatal shooting, and you don't get that shooter off the street, there's going to be a retaliatory shooting soon after,” Ginther said.

Ginther also pointed to the work of the Columbus Office of Violence Prevention, which [was founded in 2023](#). That office runs Columbus Violence Reduction, which identifies people most at risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence and [attempts to intervene before the violence happens](#).

Ginther also credited improved lighting and more security cameras for contributing to the decrease in deadly violence.

Malissa Thomas St. Clair, founder of Mothers of Murdered Columbus Children, said she closely monitors crime data as part of her work — Columbus police sends her data in real-time.

Mothers of Murdered Columbus Children, a nonprofit representing families of people who die by homicide, launched [Operation Under Triple Digits](#), a collaboration with the city and other local organizations, including nonprofits and faith-based institutions, to use crime data to help make Columbus safer.

The end goal is to bring the number of homicides in Columbus under 100, which the city last saw in 2015 when 99 people died by homicide. Last year, [Columbus reported 124 homicides](#), down from a peak of 205 in 2021.

St. Clair said she speaks with members of the Columbus Division of Police every day. She agreed that police are receiving more community tips than ever before and said that nonprofit organizations she works closely with are, in turn, able to use police data to support their missions. If an organization is distributing gun locks, they can see where shootings are highest and target those zip codes, for example.

"I think community and law enforcement are at their all-time highest in collaborative work," St. Clair said.

St. Clair said collaboration didn't exist years ago when Mothers of Murdered Columbus Children was founded in 2020. She said there's still work to be done, though. Domestic violence homicides remain high, and the city's Office of Violence Prevention is working to find ways to prevent those killings, she said.

Columbus is not the only city that has seen significant drops in shootings. The New York Police Department said it [saw the fewest shootings in recorded history](#) in the first quarter of 2025. Chicago [also reported a drop in homicides](#) in the first few months of 2025.

Violent crime spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic, and violent crime in most major cities either returned to pre-pandemic levels or dropped to historic lows in 2024, the nonpartisan criminal justice think tank Council on Criminal Justice [said in an annual report](#).

Public Safety and Breaking News Reporter Bailey Gallion can be reached at bagallion@dispatch.com.

Organization pushes Columbus to address landlords, tree canopy

by: Jackie Gillis

Posted: May 13, 2025 / 11:08 PM EDT

Updated: May 13, 2025 / 11:08 PM EDT

SHARE

COLUMBUS, Ohio ([WCMH](#)) — More than 1,000 people gathered at the Celeste Center at the Ohio State Fairgrounds to call on Columbus City Council to do two things: protect renters and save the trees.

[B.R.E.A.D Columbus](#) held its annual event Tuesday, where members of more than 30 congregations take time to listen to their community and figure out what issues are impacting them the most.

[Bodycam shows arrest of Ohio State women's basketball coach for suspected OVI](#)

Roughly 1,300 people filled the Celeste Center to target two programs that are affecting their communities. Bishop La Fayette Scales said that this year, B.R.E.A.D. discovered that a lot of members are renters. So, one of the two main campaigns involves targeting what they call “predatory landlords.” “Large out-of-town landlords are buying up these properties, raising rents and even when there’s difficulty, like with maintenance issues and leaks, they don’t know who to report it to,” Rhema Christian Center Bishop La Fayette Scales said.

B.R.E.A.D. Columbus is calling for city council to introduce legislation for a “rental registry,” which would allow tenants to know who to go to if there’s a problem with their unit.

“We looked at cities around our state and we found out both small and larger cities around their state already have rental registries,” Scales said. “Columbus does not.”

Columbus City Councilmember Nick Bankston said he is committed to creating an ordinance for the rental registry.

[Ohio again ranks among worst states in country in list by U.S. News & World Report](#)

B.R.E.A.D. also wants the city to adopt a private property tree protection ordinance.

“If you look at cities like Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Louisville, they have much stronger regulations, and we are a fast-growing city which is going to mean lots of new development in the upcoming years, and that’s going to potentially contribute more to the heat island effect in Columbus,” First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus’ Tim Tichenor said.

In 2021, Columbus City Council approved an Urban Forestry Master Plan, the goal of which is to have 40% tree coverage by 2050. The city is currently just above 20%.

“Westerville has a private tree ordinance, and they have a much better tree canopy than does the city of Columbus, and it’s the same developers,” Sister Gemma Doll with the Dominican Sisters of Peace said. “So I think it could be a win-win on all parts, but particularly a win for the people of Columbus.”

B.R.E.A.D. Columbus said it will continue to meet with city council members about their housing and tree concerns until they can resolve the issues they see and hear every day from community members.

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

**P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201**

Date: January 5, 2001

Person to Contact:

Vicki Adams 31-04011
Customer Service Specialist

Toll Free Telephone Number:

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. EST
877-829-5500

Fax Number:

513-263-3756

Federal Identification Number:

31-1467082

Building Responsibility Equality
B R E A D
% John Aeschbury
1015 E. Main St.
Columbus, OH 43205-2342

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in response to our receiving your Amended Articles of Incorporation, dated November 7, 1996 changing the name of your organization to what is shown above.

Our records indicate that a determination letter issued in June 1997 granted your organization exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. That letter is still in effect.

Based on information subsequently submitted, we classified your organization as one that is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is an organization described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's sources of support, or its character, method of operations, or purposes have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the exempt status and foundation status of your organization.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

All exempt organizations (unless specifically excluded) are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more paid to each employee during a calendar year. Your organization is not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Congregational Roster

Bethany Presbyterian Church 206 N. Garfield Ave, Columbus 43203 • Rev. Edward Lewis
Christ Lutheran Church 2314 E. Main St., Bexley 43209 • Rev. Tim Isringhausen
Christ United Methodist Church 1480 Zettler Rd., Columbus 43227 • Rev. F. Willis Johnson
Columbus Mennonite Church 35 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus 43214 • Pastor Joel Miller
Community of Christ: Worthington 110 Park Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085 • Pastor Stan Moss
Congregation Beth Tikvah 6121 Olentangy River Rd, Worthington 43085 • Rabbi Rick Keller
Congregation Tifereth Israel 1354 E. Broad St, Columbus 43205 • Rabbi Hillel Skolnik
Corinthian Missionary Baptist 3161 E. 5th Ave. 43219 • Rev. Michael Reeves
David's United Church of Christ 80 W. Columbus St., Canal Winchester, OH 43110 • Rev. Ken Rose Jr.
Dominican Sisters of Peace 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH 43219
First Congregational Church (UCC) 444 E. Broad St, Columbus 43215 • Rev. Becky David
First Unitarian Universalist Church 93 Weisheimer Rd, Columbus 43214 • Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley
Genessee Avenue Church of Christ 1889 Genessee Ave, Columbus 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 43211 • Rev. Charles Tatum
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus 43214 • Fr. Matthew Hoover
Indianola Presbyterian Church 1970 Waldeck Ave, Columbus 43201 • Rev. Trip Porch
Lord of Life Lutheran Church 2480 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus 43235 • Rev. Evan Cameron
New Beginning Christian Center 3424 S. Hamilton Road, Columbus, OH 43232 • Pastor Charles Leister
New Faith Baptist Church of Christ 955 Oak St, Columbus 43205 •
North Broadway United Methodist Church 48 E. North Broadway Ave, Columbus 43214 • Pastor Marcus Atha
North Congregational Church (UCC) 2040 W. Henderson Rd, Columbus 43220 • Rev. Steve Van Kuiken
Noor Islamic Center 5001 Wilcox Rd. Dublin, OH 43016 • Imam AbdelMoneim Dobal
Redeemer Lutheran 1555 S. James Rd, Columbus 43227 • Rev. David Shull
Rhema Christian Center 2100 Agler Rd., Columbus, OH 43224 • Pastor Tony Ransom
St. Dominic Catholic Church 453 N. 20th Street, Columbus 43203 • Fr. Ramon Owera
St. Francis of Assisi Church 386 Buttles Ave, Columbus 43215 • Fr. Fritzner Valcin
St. John's Episcopal Church 700 High St., Worthington 43085 • Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin
St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic Church 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd, Columbus, OH 43229 • Fr. Tony Davis
St. Peter/St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church 10700 Liberty Rd. S., Powell, OH 43065 • Fr. David Schalk
St. Philip's Episcopal Church 166 Woodland Ave, Columbus 43203
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 30 W. Woodruff Ave, Columbus 43210 • Rev. Karl Stevens
St. Thomas More Newman Center 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus 43201 • Fr. Ed Nowak
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church 2692 E. 5th Ave, Columbus 43219 • Fr. David Schalk
Temple Beth Shalom 5089 Johnstown Rd, New Albany 43054 • Rabbi Benjy Bar-Lev
Trinity Episcopal Church 125 E. Broad St, Columbus 43215 • Rev. Stephen Applegate
Triumphant Christian Center 904 Thomas Ave, Columbus 43223 • Apostle Juan Woods
Turkish American Society of Ohio 2885 W. Dublin Granville Rd. 43235 • Imam David Ozey

Sources of Income 2024

<i>Source</i>	<i>2024</i>
Membership Dues	60,185
Investment Drive	
Member Group	168,185
Corporate Campaign	69,840
Grants	41,000
Other	16,241
Total	\$355,451

Corporate Investors: Installed Building Products, Encova, CME Bank, Mary Lazarus, Ohio Health, Epstein Funeral Home, Woda Cooper, Triple T, Igel, Griffen Wheel, Park National, Allied Mineral, Kirk Williams Company, Dynalab

B.R.E.A.D. Budget 2025

Income

Membership Dues	\$65,000
Investment Drive	300,000
Grants	22,000
Other	14,700
Total Income	\$401,700

Expenses

Staff Expenses (Organizing & Administrative)	\$227,786
Office Expenses	9,648
Travel Expenses	14,000
Occupancy	11,000
Program Expenses	23,000
Training Expenses	31,627

Contribution to Reserve	47,481
Network Affiliation	36,658
Other Expenses (audit, miscellaneous)	500

Total Expenses	\$401,700
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- 1 *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 2025

STRONG JUSTICE MINISTRIES/RODEF TZEDEK NETWORKS

BUILD POWER FOR JUSTICE

Because of you...we celebrated these victories in 2024:

- The Franklin County Commissioners continued to approve \$4 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.
- 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.
- The Columbus Violence Reduction Initiative was established in 2023. Columbus saw a significant drop in murders in 2024. Currently, murder is at a 15 year low. Aside from the emotional impact of saving lives, a 2023 report showed an estimated cost of \$2,126,931 per murder. The report also projected that if Columbus could reduce murder by 20% it would save \$100 million dollars annually.
- City Council took steps to get back on track with goals outlined in the 2021 Urban Forestry Master Plan by passing legislation to protect tree canopy on public land. Richmond, VA estimated a gross benefit of \$105 to the community per every tree preserved.

Because of you...

BREAD will raise more than 80% of our budget locally and over \$200,000 in individual investments so that we can OWN OUR ORGANIZATION and not be owned by outside foundations!

For every \$1 invested in BREAD in 2024, \$66 was returned to the community in additional government allocations to address community problems and increased positive impacts!

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