

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

2017/18 Impact Statement

Impact by the Numbers:



336

RESIDENT CHANGE MAKERS
CULTIVATED AND TRAINED



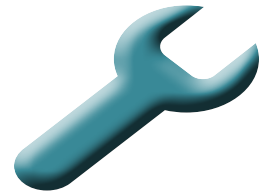
31

ORGANIZATIONS WITH INCREASED
SKILLS AND KNOW-HOW



9

STRONG NETWORKS/
COLLABORATIONS BUILT



\$672,000

INVESTED TO CREATE AND SHARE
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Since 2016, Neighborhood Allies has invested in multiple and concurrent community capacity building initiatives. This includes executing citizen participation under two Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) contracts and leveraging additional capacity to develop a shared real estate technical assistance program and a hyper-specific training for residents around real estate and development in communities. Our programs have been thoughtful, responsive, and strategic approaches that address current challenges within our communities. Throughout all our work, one role is omnipresent: **we work to elevate the role community based organizations and residents play in the revitalization of their communities.** To strengthen this effort, our capacity building work aligns with our Healthy Neighborhoods Framework and existing program offerings that are focused on supporting and developing four major areas: residents, organizations, networks, and resources.

Healthy Neighborhoods Framework:

MARKET CONFIDENCE



AFFORDABLE HOUSING
IMPACT FUND
.....
REAL ESTATE CO-POWERMENT
SERIES
.....
REAL NETWORK
.....
SHARED REAL ESTATE TALENT
NETWORK

QUALITY OF LIFE



ASSET BUILDING NETWORK
.....
FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS
.....
FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS
.....
PGH MOBILE TOOLBOX
.....
TEMPORARY ART & PLACEMAKING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMAGE



AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPACT
FUND
.....
PGH MOBILE TOOLBOX
.....
TEMPORARY ART & PLACEMAKING

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP



GRASSROOTS GRANTMAKING
COMMITTEE
.....
LOVE MY NEIGHBOR!
.....
PGH MOBILE TOOLBOX
.....
REAL ESTATE CO-POWERMENT
SERIES
.....
REAL NETWORK
.....
TEMPORARY ART & PLACEMAKING

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT



AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPACT FUND
.....
ASSET BUILDING NETWORK
.....
FUND MY FUTURE
.....
REAL ESTATE CO-POWERMENT SERIES
.....
REAL NETWORK
.....
SHARED REAL ESTATE TALENT

Thank you to the City of Pittsburgh City Planning Department for your generous support of our capacity building work. For more information visit: www.neighborhoodallies.org/what-we-do/capacity-building

"We truly believe that nonprofits, community based organizations, and residents sharing common goals, metrics, and intentionality in the exchange of information and knowledge is the only way to build capacity at scale. We are creating a new culture of problem-solving, collaboration and sustainability for the benefit of improving lives in our vulnerable communities."

-Presley Gillespie, President of Neighborhood Allies



We define community revitalization as the improvement of both people and place. By focusing our efforts around human-centered needs and design, we are able to partner the physical environment and the human environment to provide technical solutions that address the long-term needs of our communities. Our capacity building work is meant to build and strengthen the collective efficacy of our residents so that they benefit from the economic revitalization of their communities. We accomplish this by:

1. Cultivating a Cadre of Resident Change Makers

We believe that residents are the centerpiece of real, transformative change: they inspire it, create it, and sustain it. Our work intends to provide the resources, leadership opportunities, and skill-building opportunities that allow residents to have an impact on what happens in their community.

2. Developing the Skills of Community Organizations


We believe in building the knowledge, skills, and assets of community based organizations and resident-led groups. Through several projects that build their capacity, we have co-powered them to take the reins of development in their communities and ensure change is equitable, representative, and positively transformative for long-term residents.

3. Building Strong Networks and Collaborations

We believe that networks and collective impact is the future of community development. Through investing and convening several networks, we believe that we, alongside our partners, are on the pathway to change systems and solve complicated social and economic problems.

4. Identifying and Sharing Community Resources

We believe there are tremendous assets in our communities. Through several projects, we are working to identify and clearly communicate these assets across our communities and our city.



We invested \$170,000 in these initiatives, ushered 95 Love My Neighbor! projects, and developed the skills of 336 residents across the region.

Cultivating a Cadre of Resident Change Makers

We activate skills of the community through several of our resident-focused initiatives, including capacity building for the Love My Neighbor! grant program, facilitation of a grassroots grantmaking committee, resident leadership trainings/workshops, and real estate education/training through our Real Estate Co-Powerment series (with Omicelo Cares). These initiatives continue to elevate and leverage the assets and talents of our residents and provide opportunities for residents to share and realize their visions as a means to reclaim ownership of their communities.

At Work On The Ground | Grassroots Grantmaking Committee

Our Capacity Building work within Love My Neighbor! develops the skills and knowledge of our Grassroots Grantmaking Committee (GGC). The GGC is a group of resident leaders who make the decisions on resident-led Love My Neighbor! grant proposals. We understood that it was our duty to grow patient, compassionate, and culturally competent grantmakers. Through partnering with technical assistance providers, we were able to provide critical grant writing support to hundreds of residents, many of whom have never applied for a grant before. From transforming ideas to paper and developing sound project budgets to creating realistic timelines for action, this technical assistance allowed residents to develop and believe in a project plan thereby setting them up to effectively implement projects.

"The training was really transformative and helped me better understand the role resident leaders can play as grantmakers and influencers in our communities."

-Justin LeWinter, GGC Member





We invested \$180,000 in these initiatives and increased the capacity of 31 community organizations.

Increasing the Skills and Know-How of Organizations

We serve as a sounding board for organizations that need help across a spectrum of capacity needs. To that end, we invested in multiple organizations serving the City of Pittsburgh and those organizations include the Lemington Residential Corporation, Carrick Community Council, Knoxville Community Council, South Hilltop Men's Group, and Hilltop Rising LLC to name a few. These groups are made up of residents that live or work in the communities they serve. Each one received capacity building services that helped to strengthen, inform, and guide their work on the ground.

At Work On The Ground | Lemington Residential Corporation

The Lemington Residential Corporation/the Board of Directors of the Eva P. Mitchell Senior Housing Apartments, received capacity building services to strengthen and develop the board. Through their engagement with Grau & Associates and UrbanKind Institute, they developed bylaws, created a board structure, developed a mission statement, and created materials for on-boarding new board members. As a result of this engagement, the organization is strategically positioned to achieve their mission to improve the quality of life for the senior residents of Eva P. Mitchell.

"Our Board has worked hard to stabilize. The support provided by Neighborhood Allies helped us to procure a consultant who assisted us with our by-laws and sort out our organizational structure. With this support, we are ready to bring on good board members to continue strengthening our Board."

-Elizabeth Garrett, Board Member





We created 9 networks and collaborations that align to provide increased capacity to the City of Pittsburgh and the entire region.

Building Strong Networks and Collaborations

We have expanded and supported existing networks, developed and supported the creation of new networks, and fostered and strengthened numerous collaborations across neighborhoods such as: The Partnership Network, Real Estate Allies Leadership (REAL) Network, Asset Building Network, the Real Estate Co-Powerment Series (with Omicelo Cares), and the Placemaking Academy (with the Office of Public Art). Each of these partnerships is continuing to grow and create shared service alignment to increase capacity to local organizations and residents.

At Work On The Ground | The Partnership Network

The Partnership Network, launched by Neighborhood Allies in June 2017, is a multi-organizational initiative that aims to have a positive impact on the system by working together and developing, improving, or uplifting efforts that work – in service to our neighborhoods. With the help of Michelle Walker, of Walker Philanthropic Consulting and Neighborhood Allies staff, the Network has convened on a monthly basis for over a year during which they have developed their mission, vision, strategic roles, built peer relationships and identified specific projects to collaboratively implement. In all their work, the Partnership Network focuses on building the capacity of community based organizations to improve the lives of residents across the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding boroughs.

NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center



"Real and genuine collaboration, especially among a group of high performing, individually strong organizations, is hard. Michelle has done a fantastic job of creating an effective structure and providing neutral and fair guidance to the group as we work together to shape an honest and successful partnership that supports each of the partner's goals as well as our collective goals. I think I can speak for the entire group when I say that, through this process, we are hopeful that together we are going to be able to deliver more impactful positive change to the local community development sector."

-Colin Kelley, NeighborWorks Western PA





We've invested over \$170,000 to directly support 95 resident-led community building projects.

Identifying and Sharing Resources

We serve to bridge or fill the gaps around collecting, sharing, and connecting residents to existing resources. Many of the existing resources never make it directly to the populations they are created to serve. We elevate, connect, and create toolkits, workshops, trainings, and link consultants to our partners who deploy services to local residents, organizations, and networks.

At Work On The Ground | Love My Neighbor!

The Love My Neighbor! grant program is designed to build neighborhoods by identifying, empowering, and supporting projects imagined by and for residents of our community. Grants between \$500 - \$2,500 are made available to support resident-led projects that aim to improve neighborhoods and engage neighbors, however, the program is much bigger than just the money that supports the projects. The Love My Neighbor! program has built a very special space and platform for lifting up and sharing the gifts, talents, and passions that already exist within residents living in our communities.

"All of the players involved in the Love My Neighbor! network, whether they won a grant or not, are equally excited for each other because we're all working to do something positive for our communities. People who didn't receive grants were excited about the projects that did get funding, and, people who did receive funding are offering to volunteer for the projects that didn't receive funding."

-Dana Harris-Yates, Resident of Lincoln-Lemington

