



BUILDING AND NURTURING SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY SPACES

A Strong Neighborhood Program Strategy Overview

We catalyze and sustain opportunities to improve social conditions and improve physical environments in the Mt. Pleasant, Woodland Hills and Buckeye neighborhoods.



GRANTEE PARTNER: HARVARD COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

The Harvard Community Services Center (HCSC) provides social services for Lee-Harvard, Miles and Seville neighborhood residents. HCSC provides traditional community development services such as multi-family housing development, vacant housing referral for development, storefront renovation, sustainability initiatives, technical assistance to commercial businesses, community gardens and participation in the City of Cleveland Code Enforcement Partnership Program.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

To address the problems of vacant and abandoned properties, and to mitigate the negative impacts of these problems on the Mount Pleasant neighborhood.

Vacant and abandoned properties negatively impact communities in several ways, including:

- Decreasing property values;
- Providing havens for crime;
- Necessitating costly boarding up and securing;
- Sacrificing tax revenue while robbing surrounding homes and businesses of their value;
- Degrading the quality of life for remaining residents and detracting from the sense of place.

WHAT WE FUNDED

The Foundation's grant (\$90,000 over two years) supports the Neighborhood Stabilization and Enhanced Code Enforcement in the Southeast Code Enforcement Collaborative. The Collaborative provides a system of best practices of code enforcement and the grant provides special attention to a long underserved area in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood.

GOALS FOR THIS GRANT	THE APPROACH WE SUPPORT	IMPACT
<p>Coordinated delivery of enhanced code enforcement activities in partnership with the Thriving Community Institute implemented in the target area in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood.</p>	<p>Code enforcement activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveying all homes; • Compiling a visual portfolio of homes; • Streamlining the process of moving homes to the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, as well as the process of moving homes to housing court. <p>Court work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing priorities for homes through the housing court process, and representing the community in housing court; • Presenting the status of homes in housing court. <p>Additional work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating resources for repair or property transfer; • Responding to community concerns; • Streamlining the demolition process; • Participating in the visioning process to redevelop lots. 	<p>Quantitative success will be measured by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease number of vacant and distressed homes; • Decrease number of homes in foreclosure; • Increase number of homes transferred to the Cuyahoga County Land Bank; • Increase number of homes slated for demolition; • Increase number of homes brought to housing court through Southeast Code Enforcement Collaborative.

