

HOCN Mission & Vision

Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc (HOCN) is a not-for-profit Community Development Corporation created to stabilize Buffalo's core communities through neighborhood stabilization, and affordable housing development.

Working together with residents and neighborhood organizations financial institutions and real estate professionals to make Buffalo's lower west side a better place to live, HOCN will rehabilitate and create affordable housing; create integrated, mixed-income neighborhoods where individuals and families of all incomes will have a better quality of life in our community and take pride in their property, their street and their neighborhood.

Donation Form

Yes, I want to support Heart of the City's vital mission of providing quality affordable housing to the Lower West Side.

My donation to the 2011 Annual Appeal is enclosed:

- \$25 Sponsor
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Community Builder
- \$150 Sustainer
- \$200 Neighborhood Revitalizer
- Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to Heart of the City Neighborhoods Inc.

All gifts and donations are tax deductible under federal regulations.

Thank You.



42 Plymouth Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14201



2011 Annual Appeal



Upcoming Developments

H.O.P.E. Program:

The H.O.P.E. program is an acquisition/rehabilitation/resell program. This bold and ambitious program is HOCN's attempt to fight blight due to abandoned homes.

HOCN will be rehabilitating properties throughout the Lower Westside of Buffalo. Once complete, these newly renovated, energy efficient homes will be sold to first time, income qualified homebuyers.

Planning to Stay:

Senior citizens are a growing demographic in our city and an invaluable part of our community. HOCN firmly believes that our seniors deserve to continue to live in their homes, to "age in place." The *Planning to Stay* program is committed to empowering senior citizens to maintain independence, remain civically engaged, and gracefully age in the comfort of their own homes.

As a community development corporation, HOCN also knows that many of these homeowners are faced with the rising costs of imperative home repairs. *Planning to Stay* is an emerging initiative designed to respond to this situation, equipping deserving elderly residents with grants for home repairs and energy upgrades.

Lower West Side Map & Guide:

HOCN is in the midst of creating a map and guide of the Lower West Side with the purpose of highlighting this unique neighborhood comprised of public spaces, local businesses, cultural amenities, and vibrant residential communities. The map will be distributed amongst the greater Buffalo area, acting as a tool to celebrate and benefit the community through increased awareness and financial investment.

Dear Friend,

Even in the face of difficult financial times, 2010 has proved to be an exciting and productive year for Heart of the City Neighborhoods (HOCN). We have initiated several programs and have made great strides toward our goals of providing quality, safe affordable housing as well as community development services to the Lower West Side. In a year where we saw an unprecedented 40% cut to our financial assistance from New York State, HOCN has managed to weather the storm and continue to invest in the community with new initiatives and programs.

We have added a Community Outreach Coordinator and a Program Coordinator to our dynamic staff. These two new positions provide additional services, capacity and perspective to our dedicated team, led tirelessly by our Executive Director, Stephanie Simeon. HOCN was also privileged to sponsor several successful community events and fundraisers throughout the year, such as a Whitney Place Development Day Kickoff, HOCN's Third Annual Fall Tree Planting and our First Summer Kickball Tournament Fundraiser. These events have not only supported our organization, but have also served to continue our positive presence in the community.

We have and will continue to accomplish great community development goals; however, we absolutely need your help to do more. Unfortunately, we had to turn away 178 families this year from participating in our programs due to lack of funding and resources. We are an organization that prides itself on honoring the gifts of our donors by being trustful stewards of those gifts, ensuring every dollar is spent solely to help community residents. It is only with supporters like you that Heart of the City Neighborhoods is able to responsibly provide community residents with the help and resources they need to maintain a safe and healthy home.

Sincerely,



Tim Favaro
Board President

Your contribution will help HOCN continue:

- ❖ Housing Advocacy; Bi-weekly Ellicott District Liaison at housing court hearings.
- ❖ Assist area homeowners with grants and low interest loan programs when available.
- ❖ Rehab seven vacant properties.
- ❖ Sponsor for the Annual West Side Housing Summit. There, residents are given free attendance to workshops on minor home repair techniques, weatherization, first time homeownership, and financial literacy.
- ❖ Host community forums where residents have the opportunity to reclaim their neighborhoods, improve the quality of life within the community and discuss topics of mutual concerns, such as safety, crime, and the beautification of their neighborhood.
- ❖ HOCN is launching, "Building a Movement: A Nickel City Film Series," to enrich the public's knowledge of urban issues challenging Buffalo and economically comparable cities. Along side the film screenings, we will provide lectures and facilitated discussions by local leaders and organizations. The goal of this series is to provide an informative event for the public and local organizations, as well as promote discussion around issues facing Buffalo and facilitate creative, community-driven responses.

