



PERFORMANCE REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 2015



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding Support

Core Funders

The Raymond John Wean Foundation
City of Youngstown, Community Development Block Grant
City of Youngstown, HOME Investment Partnership

Program Investors

Americorps NCCC
AmeriCorps VISTA Project Site
AmeriCorps State Operational Grant
Boardman Rotary
CDFI Technical Assistance
Charter One
City of Youngstown City Council Discretionary Funds
CNCS, AmeriCorps VISTA Support Grant
Cortland Banks
Dominion Community Impact
FHLB of Cincinnati Affordable Housing Program
FHLB of Indianapolis NIP
Finance Fund
Florence Simon Beecher Foundation
Frank and Pearl Gelbman Foundation
Home Savings Charitable Foundation
HUD Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant
Huntington National Bank
J. Ford Crandall Foundation
John F. and Loretta Hynes Foundation
JPMorgan Chase Community Revitalization Program
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Mahoning County Land Reutilization Corporation
Mahoning County Lead Hazard and Healthy Homes
Mercy Health Foundation
OCIC Place-Based Strategies Initiative
OCDCA Microenterprise Grant
PNC Foundation
Ruth H. Beecher Charitable Trust
Senator Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Fund
Serve Ohio Mini Grant
Talmer Bank and Trust
The Youngstown Foundation
Thomases Family Endowment
US Department of Health and Human Services CED
USDA Community Food Projects
United Way Community Impact
Vallourec Star
Walter E. Watson Charitable Trust
Ward Beecher Foundation
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Wells Fargo Housing Foundation
William Swanston Charitable Fund

YNDC Board of Directors

Ms. Germaine Bennett, President
Ms. Lisa Metzinger, CPA, Vice President
Ms. June Johnson, Treasurer
Mr. Thomas Hull, Secretary
Ms. Debora Flora
Ms. Marcia Haire-Ellis
Ms. Dollaine Holmes
Ms. Gemma Sole
Ms. Mary June Tartan

YNDC Staff

Ian Beniston, AICP, Executive Director
Liberty Merrill, Land Reuse Director
Tiffany Sokol, Housing Director
Jack Daugherty, Neighborhood Stabilization Director
Tom Hetrick, Neighborhood Planner
Liz Ifill, Office Manager
Danielle Seidita, Iron Roots Program Coordinator
Jodi Yencik, Lead Urban Farmer
Joe Metzger, Construction & Property Maintenance Manager
Chris Nichols, AmeriCorps REVITALIZE Coordinator
Jeff Jones, Housing Construction Team Member
Tony Wylie, Property Maintenance Team Member
TaeShawn Madison, Property Maintenance Team Member
Gretchen Brown, AmeriCorps VISTA Leader
Tricia D-Avignon, AmeriCorps VISTA
Matthew Honer, AmeriCorps VISTA
Anika Jacobs-Green, AmeriCorps VISTA
Michael Long, AmeriCorps VISTA
Bradley McHugh, AmeriCorps VISTA
Ben Moser, Intern
Matt Stevens, Intern
David Tamulonis, Intern

LETTER TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS



Dear Stakeholders:

On behalf of YNDC, it is my pleasure to present our first quarter Performance Report of 2015 to you, our valued stakeholders. Our team and partners have spent the first quarter of 2015 hard at work to increase the scale of our impact and prepare for much work to get done this spring and summer.

As I continue to say, the ultimate success of our collective work is contingent on you and our ability to come together to get the work done and increase our collective impact. Thank you again to our partners; and to those of you that have yet to get involved, I encourage you to find a way to join us in the fight against blight and in our work to create neighborhoods of choice for all across the City of Youngstown. Stand up, Fight Blight.

REVITALIZE,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Beniston". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ian Beniston
Executive Director



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Acknowledgements.....	3
Letter to the Stakeholders.....	4
Publications & Media	6
New Funding Awards.....	7
Staff	8
Conferences & Learning Exchanges....	9
Neighborhood Work Days	10
Iron Roots Urban Farm	12
Lots of Green.....	12
Community Lending	13
Healthy Homeownership	14
Strategic Acquisition & Rehab	15
Paint Youngstown	16
AmeriCorps REVITALIZE Team.....	17
Neighborhood Action Teams.....	18
Planning & Partnerships	21

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Youngstown Council to Consider a New Planning Contract Wednesday - Vindicator | South Avenue Business, Clergy and City Officials Discuss Area - Vindicator | South Avenue Merchants Realize It's Up To Them - Business Journal | Budding Farmers Train at Iron Roots - Vindicator | Youngstown, YNDC Finalize Deal for Mowing, Cleanup - Vindicator | City Council Approves Grass Cutting Contract - The Vindicator | Youngstown Council OKs Grass Cutting Contract - Vindicator | Youngstown Officials Approve Grass Cutting Funds - WKBN | YNDC Director Disputes Councilwomen's Claims of Favoritism - The Vindicator | Racism Takes Center Stage in Youngstown Council Meeting - The Vindicator | City Defends Summer Grass Cutting Program in Youngstown - WKBN | Grass Cutting Discussion Gets Heated in Youngstown - WKBN | Youngstown Council, Mayor Debate Racial Bias, Favoritism - The Vindicator | Youngstown 2010 Plan: Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind - The Jambar | Youngstown Council will Consider Repealing and Replacing Various Laws - The Vindicator | Dominion East Ohio Distributes \$110,000 In Community Impact Awards - CNN Money | Homeward Bound - Inside Business Magazine | Wean Foundation Awards 28 Grants to Urban Efforts - Business Journal | Eatery Opening - Vindicator | Chamber Seeks Project Manager of 422 Corridor Redevelopment - Vindicator | YNDC Offers Help to Small Businesses - Vindicator | YNDC Offers Small Business Classes, Loans - Vindicator | Poor Growing Season Sprouts Business - Akron Legal News | YNDC to Offer Business Startup Classes, Small Loans - Business Journal | Progress Continues in Redevelopment of Route 422 Corridor - Vindicator | Route 422 Corridor Plan Makes Strides - Tribune Chronicle | Homes Demolished, Roads Resurfaced for 422 Revitalization in Youngstown and Girard - WKBN | 27 Investigates: Some Yo. Landowners not Paying Taxes - WKBN | 2 Replaced on Youngstown Academic Distress Commission - Vindicator | Free Tax Prep Help Offered at YSU - WYTV | Population Shift in Youngstown Not Likely to Turn Around - WKBN | Wean Foundation Looks to Invest in Community - WKBN | 41 Grass-Roots Groups Seek Wean Funds for Neighborhood Projects - Vindicator | South Avenue Stakeholders Form Steering Committee - Business Journal | Program Supports Partnerships Between Air Base, Community - Business Journal | YNDC Honors King's Memory with Cleanup - Business Journal | Service Marks MLK Day in Youngstown - WKBN | Volunteers Honor Martin Luther King Jr. with a Day of Service - WFMJ | Events Planned to Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - WKBN | Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations - WFMJ | MLK Events IN THE VALLEY - The Vindicator | Community Report Cards - Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce | YNDC Annual Report Recaps 'Another Great Year' - Business Journal | Friends Specialty to take over Cafe at Fellows Riverside Gardens - The Vindicator | McNally Pursues Focus on Neighborhoods, Corridors - Business Journal



NEW FUNDING AWARDS

We are grateful for the support of area nonprofits, banks, foundations, and businesses. We offer a special thanks to the following new funders:

Dominion Community Impact Award - \$12,500
Ruth Beecher Charitable Trust (Instead of PNC Charitable Trust) - \$10,000
John and Loretta Hynes Foundation - \$10,000
Wells Fargo Housing Foundation - \$3,500
ServeOhio 2015 Global Youth Service Day Mini-Grant Award - \$1,000
Talmer Bank & Trust - \$1,000

We are also grateful for the support of the following banks in donating REO properties to YNDC's Strategic Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program:

JP Morgan Chase - 230 Idlewood Road, 1629 Thalia Avenue, 1734 Bears Den Road
Huntington National Bank - 916 Bonnie Brae Avenue
Wells Fargo - 3660 Dover Road

Dominion Community Impact Award

On Wednesday, March 11th, the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation was awarded a Dominion Community Impact Award for its REVITALIZE efforts to stabilize Youngstown neighborhoods. YNDC's REVITALIZE efforts over the course of the past year include: partnerships with the City of Youngstown, neighborhood groups and many others to develop neighborhood action plans; a new AmeriCorps REVITALIZE project that provides 10 members with a year long program to board up hundreds of vacant homes, rehabilitate vacant homes and clean up vacant lots; significantly increased activity in our HUD Certified Housing Counseling Program, acquisition and rehabilitation, and repair programs. These results demonstrate our ongoing commitment to increase the scale and impact of our work.

Talmer Makes Financial Contribution to Paint Youngstown Program

Talmer Bank & Trust has contributed \$1000 to YNDC to support the administration of the Paint Youngstown program. Talmer has helped YNDC to access thousands of dollars from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis Neighborhood Improvement Program to repair and rehabilitate eligible owner-occupied homes in the City of Youngstown over the past year.



STAFF



New Staff: January - March 2015

Jeff Jones is a Housing Construction Team Member for the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation. Under the general supervision of the Housing Director, Jeff collaborates with a team to complete housing rehabilitation, housing and vacant lot maintenance projects, and other field and maintenance projects to improve the quality of life in strategic Youngstown neighborhoods.

Jeff has over 19 years of construction and maintenance experience, 13 of which were spent operating his own general contracting business. He also holds certification in Building Construction and Maintenance. Jeff resides in Youngstown with his wife Jennifer and their two children.

Ben Moser, Matt Stevens, and David Tamulonis are Housing and Neighborhood Planning interns at the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation. Under

direction of the Housing Director, they collaborate with a team of professional staff in the development and execution of Neighborhood Action Plans and housing development and repair processes in strategic neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown.

Ben is a senior student at Youngstown State University, majoring in Political Science and History. Over the past few years, he has studied Mandarin Chinese in Taipei, Taiwan, tutored English and Chinese to university students, and operated a blacktop sealing company. Ben currently lives in Mecca, Ohio and enjoys playing the guitar, playing basketball, and traveling in his spare time.

Matt is a current student of Youngstown State University, and he is majoring in Political Science. At Youngstown State, Matt is the treasurer and a member of the Moot Court team. Matt is also a peer tutor at YSU's Center for Student Progress. He is expected to graduate in the Spring of 2016. In his free time, Matt enjoys reading, exercising, and spending time with his dog, Lucky.

David is a lifelong resident of the Youngstown area and is a senior at Youngstown State University where he is pursuing a BSBA in Marketing Management and a BFA in Graphic Design. During his time off, David is an avid photographer, artist, and musician. After graduating from YSU he hopes to continue his education and get an MFA in Design and Digital Media Studies.



CONFERENCES & LEARNING EXCHANGES

Center for Community Progress Leadership Institute

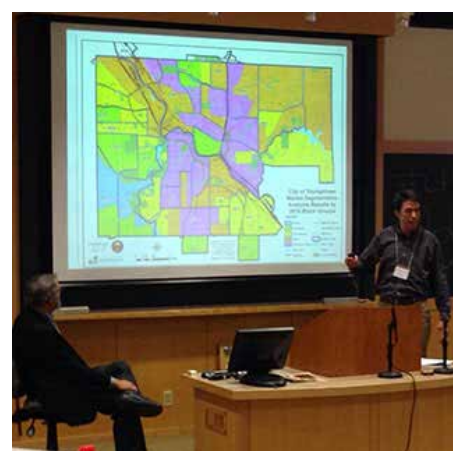
On Wednesday, March 18th, YNDC Executive Director Ian Beniston presented and lead a discussion on Data and Markets with Alan Mallach at the Center for Community Progress Leadership Institute held at Harvard University. The Community Progress Leadership Institute is a core project of Community Progress and one of its most potent tools. The CPLI is designed to empower civic leaders with the comprehensive skills they need to tackle urban blight and revitalization, by helping them initiate and implement productive change in the ways they address vacant and abandoned properties.

Engaging YSU Students

From Monday, February 16th to Thursday, February 19th, members of the YNDC team presented at three YSU classes including: Urban Sociology, Non-profit Leadership Seminar, and Social Work. YNDC currently has three YSU interns and works regularly with student groups to volunteer in the fight against blight.

VITA Tax Day

On Saturday, February 7th, YNDC participated in the financial fair at the Super Saturday event sponsored by the Mahoning County Financial Stability Partnership and VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) at YSU's Williamson College of Business. IRS-certified volunteers provided free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to individuals on a first come-first serve basis throughout the day. Representatives were also in attendance from Apprisen, Compass Family and Community Services, United Way, the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Community Legal Aid Services, MCTA/Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ), Talmer Bank & Trust, Home Savings & Loan, Farmers National Bank, Associates School Employees Credit Union (ASECU), YWCA, Catholic Charities, YMHA, Access Health Mahoning Valley, Veteran Services, and Eastern Ohio Education Partnership.



NEIGHBORHOOD WORK DAYS



Taft School Area / MLK Day of Service

On Monday, January 19th, volunteers gathered together to board and clean up 13 vacant and blighted homes on the 500 and 700 blocks of East Boston and East Avondale Avenues adjacent to Taft Elementary School. The event was coordinated by members of YNDC's AmeriCorps VISTA project, with Anika Jacobs-Green, Neighborhood Stabilization VISTA, as the event coordinator. All

members of YNDC's VISTA team participated in the event, along with the AmeriCorps REVITALIZE team. Dozens of community volunteers from across the city and from Youngstown State University's YSUScape civic organization were in attendance. The event was sponsored in part by the City of Youngstown, the Yo Doughnut Company, Marco's Pizza, SAANDI, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and ServeOhio. More than 2 tractor trailers of brush and trash and 47 tires were removed from the vacant homes addressed at the event.



Idora

On Saturday, January 17th, dozens of community volunteers and members of Tabernacle Evangelical Presbyterian Church participated in a community workday aimed at cleaning out 3029 Glenwood Avenue, a vacant home that YNDC aims to demolish as part of a broader effort



NEIGHBORHOOD WORK DAYS

to stabilize and improve the Glenwood Avenue corridor. A tractor trailer full of trash, rotted carpets, and construction debris was hauled out of the house in three hours. This property was donated to YNDC as a result of the efforts of AmeriCorps VISTA Matthew Honer, who conducted detailed research to identify, track down, and establish contact with the former owner. The house had sat vacant and unmaintained for over 3 years.



Bennington Workday

On Saturday, March 28th, volunteers braved the cold conditions to fight blight on Bennington Avenue on the east side. Eight houses were boarded, 188 tires were removed, and over 40 cubic yards of trash and debris were discarded. Participating volunteer groups included: YSUScape, YNDC, AmeriCorps VISTA and REVITALIZE, neighborhood residents, community volunteers, and first ward Councilwoman Annie Gillam. Pizza Joe's on McCartney Road and Councilwoman Annie Gillam were sponsors for the event.



Twelve Upcoming Workdays for Spring

YNDC's Neighborhood Stabilization VISTAs are currently working to plan 12 community workday events to take place throughout the spring in conjunction with over a dozen neighborhood groups, the City of Youngstown, and other community partners. Preparation work includes recruiting volunteers, leveraging resources to acquire needed supplies and equipment, and identifying and preparing plans for all work sites to be addressed at these events.



IRON ROOTS URBAN FARM

Produce

Iron Roots is gearing up for the 2015 growing season! The most important task right now is starting plants under lights to put in the hoophouses. Space under the lights is in high demand, as Iron Roots also grows microgreens for several area chefs. On warm days, farm staff are tilling in the hoophouses, removing winter weeds, harvesting the remaining winter produce, and making space for new plants. Iron Roots produce will be available in early April on our weekly produce purchasing system.

Apprenticeships

Iron Roots has hired one apprentice for the 2015 growing season, and is actively seeking applications for 5 more individuals.

Eric Moore, our first apprentice, is a city resident and comes to us with several years of farming experience from his childhood. He plans to garden on several urban lots in Youngstown after the program. The apprenticeship program hires city residents for a seasonal job at the farm while giving them critical agricultural experience.

Farming and Cooking Classes

While the farm took a break in December and January from hosting classes due to the cold weather, warmer days have brought people out for classes in cold frame building, garden planning, healthy soups and broths, and equinox party foods.



LOTS OF GREEN

YNDC's Lots of Green program is a nationally-recognized vacant land reuse strategy implemented in Youngstown neighborhoods by YNDC and multiple partner organizations. This program engages residents and volunteers in reclaiming all vacant land in strategic neighborhoods, transforming the physical fabric of the neighborhood and increasing neighborhood pride and ownership. The Lots of Green program is busy planning and fundraising for 2015 vacant land cleanups. The program was ahead of schedule in 2014, finishing all lots slated for early 2015. Now that the weather is warming, community workdays are set to begin in April.



COMMUNITY LENDING

Small Business Development Classes

On Tuesday, March 17th, YNDC held the first of a series of 7 small business development classes with a full room. Thirty-six aspiring business owners heard presentations from YNDC and The Ohio State University Extension staff, Patricia Veisz of the Ohio Small Business Development Center at YSU, and Terry Louk from Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation. Classes cover cash flows, budgeting, workflows and scheduling, and additional topics of use to new business owners. Additional one-time classes are in the planning stages.



Microbusiness Development Services

In addition to classes, YNDC is offering individual credit counseling for new or existing small business owners and a small number of equipment loans. Credit counseling, modeled on YNDC's existing homeownership credit counseling, can help aspiring or existing business owners fix credit issues that can stop them from getting financing for their businesses. Individuals who have completed the credit counseling program will be eligible to apply for equipment loans.



HEALTHY HOMEOWNERSHIP

New Homeowners

On Tuesday, March 10th, YNDC finalized its sale of 3502 Glenwood Avenue in the Indian Village Neighborhood on Youngstown's South Side to first-time homebuyer Amanda Cresanto. The fully rehabilitated 1,960 square foot single family home features a large fenced in backyard and two-car detached garage. The interior of the home includes 3 bedrooms and 1 bathrooms as well as a large living room, a formal dining room, a breakfast nook, a spacious kitchen, and a full basement. Amanda's brother, Steven Cresanto, also bought a rehabilitated home on Neosho Road in the same neighborhood late last year.



On Thursday, March 5th, YNDC finalized its sale of 726 Linwood Avenue in the Idora Neighborhood on Youngstown's South Side to another first-time homebuyer. The fully rehabilitated 1,895 square foot single family home includes 4 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms as well as a large

living room, a formal dining room, a spacious kitchen, full basement, and attached 1-car garage.



On Thursday, February 26th, Ken and Beth Miller, returning to the area after spending several years in Geneva, Ohio, closed on their purchase of a 4-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom home located at 944 Canfield Road, in the Idora Neighborhood on Youngstown's South side that was fully rehabilitated by YNDC.

On Wednesday, February 18th, Marilyn Moore-Davis, a General Motors retiree and first-time homebuyer, closed on her purchase of a 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom home located at 2342 Goleta Avenue, in the Crandall Park neighborhood on Youngstown's North side that was fully rehabilitated by YNDC.

Counseling Certification

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation has been approved as an Adopter of the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and

Counseling, a set of guidelines for quality homeownership and counseling services. Adoption of the National Industry Standards for Homeownership



Education and Counseling shows that an organization is dedicated to providing a high level of quality and professionalism that current and future

homeowners can recognize and expect. High standards encourage excellence and help guide professional conduct and decision-making in the field.

Home Maintenance Workshops

YNDC offers FREE workshops for individuals interested in learning more about do-it-yourself home maintenance. A Home Weatherization class was held on Thursday, February 19th and a Basic Plumbing and Electrical class is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



DIY HOME MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

YNDC is offering FREE workshops for individuals interested in learning more about do-it-yourself home maintenance. Each course will be held in the Community Workshop located directly behind YNDC's office building at 820 Canfield Road. Parking is available at 822 Billingsgate Avenue.

HOME WEATHERIZATION	BASIC PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL
Thursday, February 19th	Thursday, April 30th
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Please call 330.480.0423 to reserve your seat.

STRATEGIC ACQUISITION & REHAB



Completed

- 202 Rutledge Drive
FOR SALE
- 726 Linwood
SOLD
- 778 Sherwood Avenue
FOR SALE
- 3502 Glenwood
SOLD
- 3660 Dover Road
FOR SALE

In Progress

- 230 Idlewood Road
- 650 Clearmont
- 866 Canfield
- 928 Canfield
- 1629 Thalia
- 1669 Brownlee

Acquisition

- 916 Bonnie Brae
- 1734 Bears Den
- 970 Bonnie Brae

YNDC has begun predevelopment work on The Clearmont, a historic four unit apartment building constructed in 1928 at the corner of Glenwood and Clearmont Avenues. The predevelopment work includes a market study, engineering, and architectural work to fully renovate the property as apartments. The predevelopment work is funded through the generous support of the Finance Fund.

PAINT YOUNGSTOWN



Limited Repair Projects in Progress:

- 464 Crandall Avenue
- 2709 Volney Road

Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Projects in Progress:

- 343 ½ Broaden Street
- 466 Crandall Avenue
- 119 N. Maryland Avenue
- 748 Pineview Avenue
- 117 Maywood Drive
- 3685 Neilson Avenue



YNDC has identified 36 projects for its Paint Youngstown limited-repair program for the 2014-2015 grant period. Five projects will be completed in each of the City of Youngstown's seven wards this year. To date, 34 of the projects have been completed and 2 are in progress. The program is funded by an allocation of CDBG funds from the City of Youngstown, which was utilized to leverage additional funding from the FHLB NIP program provided through Talmer Bank & Trust to increase impact.



Additionally, YNDC has identified 7 owner-occupied full rehab projects. One project will be completed in each of the City of Youngstown's seven wards this year. Six of those projects are in progress, with one more to begin in the coming months. The program is funded by an allocation of HOME funds from the City of Youngstown, which was utilized to leverage additional funding from the FHLB NIP program provided through Talmer Bank & Trust to increase impact.



AMERICORPS REVITALIZE TEAM

YNDC's AmeriCorps REVITALIZE team undertook its first full vacant home rehabilitation project at 778 Sherwood Avenue. While AmeriCorps members have participated in the rehabilitation of other vacant homes for YNDC, this is the first property where the team completed rehabilitation work from start to finish. This project brought a viable vacant home back to productive use and helped the team to acquire new construction skills that will help them advance their careers after they complete their year of service at YNDC. The redevelopment of this vacant home is through a partnership with the Mahoning County Land Bank, who assisted YNDC with the acquisition of the property. As a result of the successes of this project, the AmeriCorps REVITALIZE team has been working on the rehabilitation of additional homes, including 3660 Dover. Additional projects are planned in the near future.

In addition to home rehabilitation, the team has been boarding and securing all vacant and unsecured homes in the Oak Hill, Warren and Foster-ville neighborhoods on Youngstown's south side. A plan outlining each property that needs boarded was prepared by our AmeriCorps VISTA team. Over the past three months, 61 properties have been boarded and secured in these neighborhoods, with just as many pending completion over the next few months.



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION TEAMS



As a result of the citywide neighborhood planning process, action teams have been established to guide the implementation of neighborhood action plans created in 2014. These teams are comprised of community residents, city officials, YNDC staff, and various other relevant agencies and institutions doing work in each particular neighborhood. The teams review progress made toward achieving goals outlined in the plans and determine next steps for action by team members. Since the establishment of the neighborhood action teams, 79 homes have been boarded, 22 non-functional streetlights have been repaired, 24 properties have been brought into compliance, 16 vacant lots have been cleaned up, 4 homes have been rehabilitated, 6 dead trees have been removed, 6 houses have been demolished, 1 micro-enterprise loan was granted, 1 vacant lot was repurposed as a community space, and nearly 2 miles of sidewalk have been cleaned up.

Powerstown

The Powerstown Neighborhood Action Team continues to meet and has made significant progress in improving the neighborhood over the past year. Since the Powerstown Neighborhood Action Plan was completed, collaborative efforts have resulted in the following:

- 86 properties have been inspected by code enforcement;
- 23 properties are now slated for demolition by the Mahoning County Land Bank or City of Youngstown;
- 7 properties have achieved code compliance;
- 56 properties continue to move through the code enforcement process;
- 3405 Lenox was donated by The Home Savings and Loan Company, renovated, and sold to a first time homebuyer;
- 3402 Lenox has been acquired by the City of Youngstown and will be renovated;
- The Seventh Ward Citizens Coalition was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Youngstown Foundation to complete neighborhood improvements;
- Lots of Green 2.0 supported the development of the Pointview Children and Families Garden;
- Two workdays were held in 2014 with residents, community groups, and YSU students and resulted in the clean up of more than 15 properties.

A full update of the Powerstown Action Plan for 2015 and will include an updated property conditions survey, an infrastructure survey,

and an analysis of criminal activity in the neighborhood along with basic neighborhood improvement outcomes and recommendations that account for the progress achieved in the past year.

Brownlee Woods

On Thursday, February 12th, the Brownlee Woods Action Team met to review the Neighborhood Action Plan and to begin implementation. Addressing priority properties through demolition and code enforcement was a key topic discussed at the meeting. Other topics of discussion included possible tree planting locations, the upcoming cleanup project for Sheridan Boulevard, planned street resurfacing projects in 2015, sidewalk improvements, and strategies for educating and engaging Brownlee Woods residents in the code enforcement process. Since the development of the Brownlee Woods Neighborhood Action Plan, two vacant houses in the neighborhood have been secured, the City has taken ownership of a problem property for demolition, two dead trees have been removed, and two workdays have been planned in May.



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION TEAMS

Garden District

On Thursday, January 15th, the first Garden District Action Team meeting was held at Fellows' Riverside Gardens, where members began planning the initial steps to implement the Neighborhood Action Plan. Residents, city officials, the Mill Creek MetroParks, the Mahoning County Land Bank, and other community stakeholders were represented at the meeting.

The discussion focused on pursuing compliance for the priority properties for code enforcement and demolition identified in the plan, as well as addressing neighborhood graffiti, planning upcoming community cleanup events, and exploring the reuse potential of vacant mixed use and residential structures within the neighborhood. Since the development of the Garden District Neighborhood Action Plan, 36 vacant houses in the neighborhood have been secured, two workdays have been planned to clean up problem properties both north and south of Mahoning Avenue, and graffiti has been removed throughout the neighborhood. The team is currently working with the 4th Ward to replace two stop signs that were also tagged with gang graffiti.

Lincoln Knolls

The first Lincoln Knolls Neighborhood Action Team meeting was held on March 25th at the East Branch Library. An October 2014 workday brought together citywide volunteers, Lincoln Knolls residents, YSU

students, YNDC staff, and the Americorps REVITALIZE team to clean up sidewalks and vacant lots, remove trash, and board up vacant properties. To date 20 properties have been boarded, two Paint Youngstown rehabilitations have been completed, and one vacant house has been completely renovated. Additionally, one neighborhood residence underwent a private rehabilitation, a sign of confidence in the housing market.

Pleasant Grove

On Wednesday January 28th, residents, city officials, and YNDC staff came together for the first Pleasant Grove Team meeting in order to begin implementing the neighborhood action plan created in 2014. The key issues identified by residents, housing, infrastructure, and crime, were discussed in detail to develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy. Projects discussed include the Boulevard Park Block Watch's recent successful grant application to support additional street tree planting and the nomination of the Boulevard Park neighborhood as a nationally-registered historic district. In addition, a partnership with Valley Christian School, located on the southern edge of the neighborhood, was discussed to prepare a School Travel Plan to improve infrastructure near the school. In the Pleasant Grove Neighborhood to date, 12 vacant houses in the have been secured, 7 non-functioning street lights were reported to Ohio Edison and repaired, 900 feet of sidewalk has been

cleared, and one dumping site was cleaned up.

Rocky Ridge

On Tuesday, March 10th, the Rocky Ridge Action Team met to discuss the status of blighted homes in the neighborhood, as well as to identify resident priorities for action during the coming year. Formed in 2014 and comprised of city officials, community members, and YNDC staff, the team has already achieved



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION TEAMS

impressive results. At a workday in 2014, five of the most blighted homes in the neighborhood were boarded, secured, and cleaned up by residents and volunteers. One severely deteriorated home was demolished by a private owner who donated funds to landscape the lot, plant trees, and install a bench. Another blighted home will be demolished this spring and the land transferred to an adjacent homeowner. Ten properties with code violations have been brought into compliance through collaborative efforts between YNDC and the City's Code Enforcement department. One home was repaired for a low-income resident through YNDC's Paint Youngstown program. Additionally, all seven non-functioning streetlights have been repaired or replaced by Ohio Edison.

More work is planned for 2015. A second neighborhood cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 16th to secure and clean up additional vacant properties. Councilman Mike Ray is working with YSU's Center for Urban and Regional Studies to develop an inventory of Mahoning Avenue businesses in order to reach out to owners to discuss increased collaboration and how the City can assist in strengthening the corridor. The Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association is planning a public art project to beautify an abandoned gas station in the neighborhood. The association has also been working with the City's sign shop to create new street signs with the neighborhood logo, and it has engaged Youngstown Design Works to create unique banners that represent the spirit of the community. The new signs and banners will be

installed on main streets through the neighborhood. Production of the neighborhood's famed maple syrup is also starting this week. The City's Code Enforcement Department is working to bring 18 additional blighted properties into compliance and the Mahoning County Land Bank is planning to demolish 12 vacant, severely deteriorated houses later this year. The next team meeting will be held in June.



PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS

Safe Routes to School

In conjunction with the Youngstown City Schools and the City of Youngstown, YNDC has completed a School Travel Plan for Taft Elementary School. The plan analyzes the area around Taft to identify improvements needed to make walking to school safer and more appealing for students. Recent surveys of parents and students revealed that more than 30% of students walk to Taft daily, even during the cold, snowy month of January. More parents indicated they would allow their children to walk to school were it not for crime, traffic, and safety at crosswalks. In order to evaluate these concerns, YNDC staff conducted “walk audits” with representatives from the City Health District and Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. During these walk audits, staff observed student behavior and traffic patterns near the school, as well as engaged crossing guards, teachers, and the school principal, in order to develop recommendations for improved safety. The recommendations included replacing damaged sidewalks, marking crosswalks, upgrading traffic signals, participating in the National Walk to School Day, enforcing traffic laws and housing codes, and holding community workdays to board, secure, and clean up vacant houses.

The School Travel Plan has been endorsed by community residents, local government representatives, and the school district and was sent to the Ohio Department of Transportation for review. Once

approved, the plan allowed the City of Youngstown to apply for funding through the state’s Safe Routes to School program to implement plan recommendations. If awarded funding, projects would be completed by 2018.

At its February 10th meeting, the Youngstown City Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution of support for the City of Youngstown’s application to ODOT’s Safe Routes to School program. The program funds infrastructure improvements around schools to make walking and biking safer for students. Infrastructure recommendations for the area around Taft Elementary School were developed by a team from the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, the City of Youngstown, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, the Youngstown City School District, parents, students, crossing guards, and neighborhood residents. The application for funding was submitted February 27th.



PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS

YNDC staff also submitted an application for bicycle helmets through the Ohio AAP Foundations' "Put A Lid On It!" Bike Helmet Safety Awareness Campaign to receive helmets to distribute for Bike Helmet Safety Awareness Week which runs from May 2-10th. If awarded, the distribution of helmets is planned for May 6th at Taft Elementary for National Walk and Bike to School Day. YNDC staff also collaborated with the City Health Department and Youngstown City Schools to hold a pedestrian safety training for students at Taft on Monday, March 2nd.

Belmont Avenue Acquisition Strategy Plan

The 2014 Citywide Strategy Report recommended strategic acquisition of property for economic development in areas with high rates of vacancy near major institutions. This quarter, YNDC completed its first strategic acquisition plan for an area near St. Elizabeth's Hospital on the city's north side. This area's proximity to large institutions such as the Hospital and Youngstown State University make the area marketable for future

development. The plan identified tax delinquent and vacant properties for acquisition through the city's Land Bank. Once acquired these parcels can be assembled and marketed for future development.

Martin Luther King Elementary School Micro Plan

The MLK MicroPlan was created to improve conditions within a few block radius of the MLK Elementary School. Surveys were conducted during the formation of the plan that identify priority properties to be addressed by the City of Youngstown, YNDC, and neighborhood residents. A workday is planned for April to clean up and secure wide-open, vacant properties.

Boulevard Park Historical District Nomination

In partnership with the History Department at Youngstown State University, YNDC has begun the process of nominating the Boulevard Park Neighborhood to the National

Register of Historic Places. Currently, YNDC is completing an intensive survey to compile a historic inventory of the neighborhood. This inventory will help the State Historic Preservation Office determine the historic and architectural significance of the neighborhood. Upon the completion of the survey, a nomination will be prepared that outlines how properties located within the district contribute to the historic significance of the neighborhood. The document will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office and then to the National Park Service for evaluation. In addition, once the City of Youngstown has completed and implemented its Certified Local Government program and the neighborhood has been surveyed, it can be registered as a local district. Local Historic District designation gives the city the ability and resources to protect and enhance the architectural integrity of the neighborhood, thus enhancing its stability and pride and creating a stronger housing market.



PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS

Boardup App

Late in 2014, YNDC began working with Code Youngstown to develop a mobile app that would streamline the process for boarding up vacant homes. YNDC has significantly increased the scale of vacant home boarding beginning in September 2014 with the AmeriCorps REVITALIZE Team. This required a more efficient system for measuring and recording board sizes in order to keep pace with the new team. Within just a few weeks of learning of YNDC's need, Code Youngstown had created an open-source mobile app and desktop interface that significantly reduces office time and paperwork required to prepare work plans for board ups.

AmeriCorps REVITALIZE

Since September 2014, YNDC's AmeriCorps REVITALIZE Team has boarded 251 houses in the following neighborhoods: Lincoln Knolls, Newport, the Garden District, Handel's, Pleasant Grove, Brier Hill, Oak Hill, Fosterville, and Brownlee Woods.



Code Youngstown

Code Youngstown is a group focused on connecting software engineers, developers and coders in the Youngstown, OH area. They aim to bring together coders of all ages, genders, and experience levels through events, meetups, and open source software development.

Collaborative Code Enforcement

In coordination with the City of Youngstown's Code Enforcement Department, YNDC has been working to identify, track down, and hold absentee landlords responsible for the conditions of their properties. Thousands of properties within the city are owned by out-of-state or out-of-country investment firms or individuals. Many are vacant and in various states of disrepair and it has been historically difficult to hold absentee property owners responsible for the conditions of their property. These properties often sit vacant and become targets for criminal activity and eventual abandonment. YNDC has begun exploring several options to address these properties. Research into the locations of property owners has been conducted, and connections among multiple businesses have all linked back to a single individual. These findings have helped address deteriorating properties across the city. In addition, research has been done to explore options for these individuals to responsibly deal with their properties. The end goal is to stabilize neighborhoods by either bringing properties into compliance or demolishing ones that are beyond repair.

The screenshot shows the YNDC web application interface. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with 'YNDC', 'Properties', and 'Neighborhoods'. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Properties / 466 Clearmount'. The main heading is '466 Clearmount', followed by buttons for 'Manage Boards', 'Manage Events', 'Edit', and 'Print'. A 'Basic Info' section contains the following details: Address: 466 Clearmount, Neighborhood: Newport, Status: Secure, Requested By: YNDC, and Photo: [Image of a house]. Below the photo is a link to 'Click here for the full size photo.' and a date stamp '12/08/2014'. A 'Meta' section shows 'Added on: Dec. 9, 2014, 9:23 a.m.' and 'Added by: Tom Hetrick'. An 'Outside' section is also visible at the bottom of the screenshot.







YOUNGSTOWN
NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**BUILDING AND ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT
IN NEIGHBORHOODS OF CHOICE
FOR ALL**

820 Canfield Road
Youngstown, OH 44511
P: 330.480.0423 F: 330.259.7575
Email: info@yndc.org
www.yndc.org