



# YOUNGSTOWN **NEIGHBORHOOD**

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## **Performance Report**

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013



# Acknowledgements

## Funding Support

### Core Funders

The Raymond John Wean Foundation  
The Kresge Foundation

City of Youngstown, Community Development Block Grant  
City of Youngstown, HOME Investment Partnership

### Program Investors

AmeriCorps NCCC  
AmeriCorps VISTA  
Charter One  
City of Girard  
City of Youngstown City Council Discretionary Funds  
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Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley  
Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH  
Dominion Community Impact Award  
Farmers National Bank  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati Affordable  
Housing Program  
Finance Fund  
First National Bank  
Florence Simon Beecher Foundation  
Home Savings Charitable Foundation  
HMHP Foundation  
Huntington National Bank  
J. Ford Crandall Foundation  
John F. and Loretta Hynes Foundation  
JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services  
Mahoning County Land Reutilization Corporation  
Mahoning County Lead Hazard and Healthy Homes

Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP)  
NRP Group LLC  
Ohio Capital Impact Corporation Place-Based Strategies Initiative  
Ohio Community Development Corporation Association  
Microenterprise Grant  
Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)  
PNC Foundation  
Ruth H. Beecher Charitable Trust  
Schwebel Baking Company  
Senator Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Fund  
The Youngstown Foundation  
Trumbull County  
Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation  
Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority  
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  
Western Reserve Port Authority  
Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber

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Karen Schubert, *AmeriCorps VISTA*  
Eartha Terrell, *AmeriCorps VISTA*  
Eric Shehadi, *Intern*

# Letter to Our Stakeholders

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Dear Stakeholders:

Happy New Year! It is our pleasure to present our fourth quarter Performance Report to you, our valued stakeholders. We have continued to catalyze transformative community change, to improve the physical, economic and social conditions of our neighborhoods. As we close out 2013, we are witnessing our neighborhoods beginning to rise because we have made a critical and conscious decision to invest in them. Incremental change is happening all over; as we motivated and empowered residents and stakeholders to take an active and direct role in revitalizing our neighborhoods.

We've emphasized the growing need in housing and asset building, especially for lower income families. In the past quarter, we have grown our Community Loan Fund to exceed \$700,000 in first and second mortgages, and we took the first steps to pursue certification as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). There is a serious need for comprehensive financial tools, and we are positioning our organization to deploy the capital and deliver the critical services to improve the social and financial health of our neighborhoods. Our work must ensure that our city is well positioned to attract a diverse group of homeowners and renters who are excited and confident about living in Youngstown.

We are excited to announce the completion of the YNDC Neighborhood Revitalization Campus, which includes a newly constructed HMHP Demonstration Kitchen and additional hoop houses and solar panels. We also launched a series of community-oriented nutritional cooking and urban farming classes which are another promising strategy to improve access to healthy foods, improve the health of families and children, create jobs, and stimulate local economic development in our neighborhoods.

We've increased our capacity to produce action-oriented neighborhood plans and strategies; bringing on a new full-time neighborhood planner and two new full-time AmeriCorps VISTA's to our team. We completed the first phase of our recently announced city-wide planning contract, and will present the Neighborhood Conditions Report in the coming weeks. Additionally, we have continued to demonstrate our ability to compete for national and federal funding, receiving over \$400,000 in new funding awards in the fourth quarter alone.

Neighborhood stabilization will not come without comprehensive solutions. As we usher in 2014, we look forward to developing new partnerships and collaborations with organizations, businesses, and community members that share our vision for healthy and vibrant neighborhoods. We cannot let our challenges override the need to confront our realities, foster change, and embrace a new blue print for action.

Finally, we want to thank our former Mayor Charles Sammarone and the City of Youngstown for its tremendous support. We are looking forward to building our relationship with Mayor John McNally and strengthening our partnership with city government. Please join us, as we commit to reject mediocrity, and embrace excellence in 2014. It is our time and Youngstown is rising!

All the best,



Presley L. Gillespie  
Executive Director

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# Publications and Media

On the Cusp of a New Year, Welcoming our New Board Members and Board Chair - Community Progress Blog  
With \$200K Grant, YNDC 'Urban Lab' Takes Shape - Business Journal  
YNDC Gets \$200,000 Grant - Vindicator  
Wean Awards Nearly \$1 Million in Grants - WKBN  
Projects Funded to Increase Access to Local Food - The Packer  
A Report Urges Youngstown to Focus Demo Efforts on its More Stable Neighborhoods - Vindicator  
YNDC Gets Federal Grant for Urban-Gardening Program - Vindicator  
Urban Farm Expands in Youngstown - WKBN  
Neighborhood Cleanup - Vindicator  
Community Celebrates New Park - WKBN  
YCS Students Clean Up Neighborhood - WKBN  
YNDC, Chase Bank Sponsor Home-Buyers' Workshop Friday - Vindicator  
Local Organization Cleans Up - WKBN  
CVC's SenSource Volunteers at Youngstown's Urban Farm - CVC of Mahoning Valley Blog  
SenSource Volunteers at Youngstown Urban Farm - SenSource Blog  
Urban Farm Sets Nov. 2 Open House - Vindicator  
Workers Spruce Up Idora House - WKBN  
Targeted "Model Block" Strategy Builds Confidence That Communities Can Improve - Bright Ideas Ohio  
Kitchen Incubator Grows the Urban Food Economy - Business Journal  
Beyond the Blight: Detroit Ponders a Future for its Abandoned Blocks - TIME



# 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:

**The Raymond John Wean Foundation – \$350,000**  
**FHLBank of Cincinnati Affordable Housing Program – \$200,000**  
**Mahoning County Lead Hazard Program – \$160,000**  
**JPMorgan Chase Foundation – \$75,000**  
**Ohio Community Development Corporation Association Microenterprise Grant – \$50,650**  
**Ohio Capital Impact Corporation Place-Based Strategies Initiative – \$30,000**  
**Huntington National Bank – \$15,000**  
**The Walter E. Watson Foundation – \$10,000**  
**Ruth Beecher Charitable Trust – \$7,500**  
**Charter One Foundation – \$5,000**  
**PNC Foundation – \$5,000**  
**Vallourec Star – \$5,000**

The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati's Affordable Housing Program. YNDC's application was ranked 4 out of 119 applications submitted from across the Federal Home Loan Bank's three state district in this competitive grant process. The funds will enable YNDC to further leverage other housing rehabilitation funding sources to complete the acquisition and rehabilitation of 10 vacant single family homes for affordable homeownership. Many thanks to The Home Savings and Loan Company, who submitted the application as a Federal Home Loan Bank Member. Home Savings was a critical partner and the application would not have been successful without them. YNDC also thanks the City of Youngstown's Community Development Agency and Mahoning County Lead Hazard Program for their ongoing support of our work and this project.



Tom Hetrick is a Neighborhood Planner for YNDC. Under the general direction of the Deputy Director, Tom develops planning and implementation strategies for neighborhoods in Youngstown. Though originally from Pennsylvania, Tom has considered Ohio home for the past decade, living in Boardman, Cleveland, Columbus, and now in the Wick Park neighborhood of Youngstown. His work in Youngstown has included an inventory of underground storage tanks and a plan for the Glenwood Avenue corridor. Tom holds a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor's in Spanish Education from Youngstown State University. In addition to his work and studies in Ohio, he spent two years living in Asia followed by a year in Europe teaching ESL.



Karen Schubert is an AmeriCorps VISTA serving with YNDC Neighborhood Planning program. Under the direction of Tom Hetrick and Jack Daugherty, Karen is responsible for assisting with the assessment of the existing state and needs of Youngstown neighborhoods, and reaching out to stakeholders to develop plans to increase viability. Karen comes to YNDC after teaching writing and literature at Youngstown State University. She has a B.A. in Professional Writing and Editing, an M.A. in English, both from Youngstown State, and an M.F.A. in creative writing with an emphasis in poetry from the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts at Cleveland State. She has published three books of poetry, and poems and interviews in many journals. In addition to writing and the arts, her interests include environmental sustainability and creating economically healthy communities. She is the organizer of the Youngstown Cash Mob. Among her life's greatest joys are her two grown children and her partner, metal sculptor Tony Armeni. She is the proud owner of a 1930s brick and frame house on the North Side of Youngstown. After a lifetime of moving, she is home. Karen believes that good change begins with our ability to imagine a better way.



Eartha Terrell is an AmeriCorps VISTA serving with YNDC's Neighborhood Planning program. Under the general direction of Tom Hetrick and Jack Daugherty, Eartha is responsible for assisting to expand the capacity of YNDC's efforts to coordinate outreach, engage neighborhood residents and stakeholders to develop a cumulative effort for comprehensive neighborhood plans. Eartha brings several years of communication and reporting expertise, graduating from The Ohio State University with a bachelor's in journalism, she has interned at NBC4I news station of Columbus, Ohio and WKBN of Youngstown. She has also written for The Vindicator and The Buckeye Review. As a native of Youngstown, Eartha is proud and excited to work with YNDC to promote thriving communities that induce confidence and healthy neighborhoods for not only herself, family and friends, but for future generations to come.



Elena Cvetkovich is an Iron Roots Urban Farm Volunteer Intern. Under the general direction of the farm staff, Elena contributes to produce production from crop planting to harvesting, as well as general farm upkeep and events. Elena is currently a biology major at YSU and is also working towards completion of the Master Gardener course at Fellow's Riverside Gardens.

# Neighborhood Work Days

On Saturday, November 16th, YSU students, Tabernacle Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Idora Neighborhood Association, YNDC, and other community volunteers partnered to clean up three vacant properties on Glenwood Avenue. Volunteers picked up trash, cleared brush, and boarded up the homes which are part of the Newport Neighborhood.

On Monday, October 28th, seventy high school students from Youngstown Christian School partnered with YNDC to fight blight in the Pleasant Grove Neighborhood on the south side of Youngstown. Students raked leaves, cleaned up brush and debris, and trimmed and landscaped hedges in order to improve the appearance of seven vacant homes. The youth also painted boards to look like doors and windows in order to board and secure two vacant homes near their school. These activities were part of a day of service day hosted by the school, where over 300 students from 7th through 12th grades participated in variety of volunteer activities in the community.

On Saturday, October 26th, volunteers from the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, the Garden District neighborhood association, and the YSU Scholars Program participated in revitalization projects in the Garden District neighborhood on Youngstown's west side near Fellows Riverside Gardens. Volunteers boarded up and cleaned up vacant homes along South Whitney Avenue.

On Saturday, October 19th, YNDC staff worked with volunteers from the Idora Neighborhood Association, Tabernacle Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and Youngstown State University's communications department to prepare the Mineral Springs Community Garden for winter. Volunteers cleaned out garden beds, pruned trees, pulled weeds, and mowed the property.

On October 16th, twenty employees from Dominion East Ohio partnered with YNDC to complete numerous home improvements at a formerly vacant and blighted property. The skilled volunteers spent the day at 821 Winona Avenue in the Idora neighborhood on Youngstown's south side, completing landscaping and painting projects. The property is set to be purchased and occupied by local family through YNDC's Community Loan Fund program once renovations are complete.

YNDC raised funds required for the construction of a new Community Workshop facility to be located at its neighborhood revitalization campus at 820 Canfield Road. This workshop facility will include a wood shop and other tools and equipment needed to train neighborhood groups how to conduct grassroots neighborhood improvement projects. YNDC will use the workshop to train neighborhood groups, conduct healthy homeownership home maintenance programming, and to facilitate a greater number of community workdays per year. The facility will also be available for community groups to use to prepare for and plan their own workday activities as needed. Construction on the Community Workshop has begun and should be completed in early 2014.





# Conferences and Learning Exchanges

On Tuesday, November 5th, YNDC Executive Director Presley L. Gillespie served on the “Reinventing Cities” panel at the 2013 Ohio Housing Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing. The annual affordable housing conference provides an unparalleled forum of timely discussions and valuable insights from industry experts, Capital Hill, and the Ohio affordable housing community. It offers more than 40 training sessions, over 100 vendors, and significant networking opportunities with developers, investors and public officials. The Reinventing Cities panel offered valuable insight on how Cleveland, Youngstown, and Cincinnati are deploying their resources strategically to transform their cities, as well as how federal agencies are providing support through the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative.

A student team from the Technical University of Dortmund, Germany has completed their final plan for the City of Youngstown and more specifically the Mahoning River Corridor. The students began this process in March 2013 with a site visit to Youngstown to interview stakeholders and collect data and information. The plan focuses on the Mahoning River and addresses other issues in the city. It also offers best practice examples from the Ruhr Valley in Germany. A copy of the plan can be downloaded at [yndc.org](http://yndc.org).

On Saturday, October 5th, YNDC Deputy Director Ian Beniston gave the keynote address at the Neighborhood Best Practices Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Every year the Neighborhood Partnership Center, in conjunction with the city of Columbus, puts together a community led conference. The Neighborhood Best Practices Conference began in 2010 and offers opportunities for community groups to share their success and collaborate on a wide variety of obstacles plaguing communities today. Beniston’s presentation focused on revitalizing neighborhoods by engaging the community based on his experience working in Youngstown’s neighborhoods. Over 250 residents, advocates, and community leaders also participated in various workshops led by community based organizations and shared ways to tackle youth violence, beautification/gardening, how to merge various races/religions with your effort, impact crime, understand police and fire services, involve youth within a community, utilize technology to fight crime, and understand resources. He also made a presentation entitled “Funding, Funding, Funding” at the Greater Ohio Thriving Communities Conference on Revitalizing Ohio’s Vacant Properties on Wednesday, October 23rd.



# Lots of Green

YNDC's Lots of Green program is a nationally-recognized, vacant land reuse strategy implemented in Youngstown neighborhoods by the YNDC and multiple partner organizations. The 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.

Progress this quarter includes:

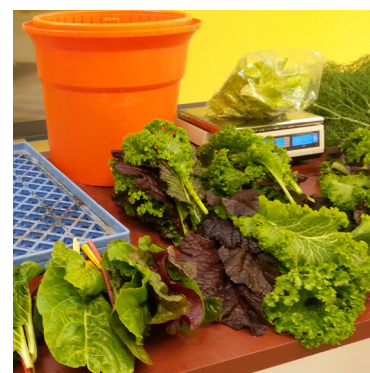
Iron Roots Urban Farm Vegetable Production - The farm has been producing winter crops, including carrots, spinach, and mustard greens. The farm is taking a short break in vegetable production but will return in early February. In the meantime, all plants are covered in hoophouses that are ready and planted for spring crops, and the farm staff is working diligently on crop planning.

Iron Roots Urban Farm Construction Projects - This year's major construction projects were completed in early November. The newly constructed HMHP Demonstration Kitchen is open and holding classes weekly. Two new hoophouses are ready for planting, for a total of 4 season-extending hoophouses. In addition, 9kW of solar photovoltaic panels have been installed in the field on the east side of the main house, bringing total solar capacity to 11.5kW, offsetting nearly all onsite electrical usage.

Iron Roots Urban Farm Programming - The completed construction projects at Iron Roots Urban Farm has enabled YNDC to diversify and expand its programming. Holiday cooking classes were offered at the HMHP Demonstration Kitchen, and future classes include Caribbean breakfast and break baking. Urban Farmer classes continue at the farm, and upcoming topics include hydroponics, aquaponics, and winter growing. IRUF also launched a farm apprenticeship program, offering in-depth training and part-time employment at the farm for individuals interested in urban farming.

2013 Lots of Green 2.0 Projects - Most projects awarded during the third round of the Lots of Green 2.0 project competition are complete, including 3 gateway and intersection projects. Projects for the Ebony Ladies and Inner City Orchards will be completed in the spring. All groups are working on signage and other final projects for their sites.

Vacant Land Stabilization - Basic vacant land stabilization projects have wrapped up for the season, reclaiming 44 vacant lots in 2013.



# Healthy Home Ownership

YNDC's Healthy Home Ownership Program seeks to increase the number of healthy and successful homeowners in strategic neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown. By providing financial incentives to those interested in purchasing homes in strategic neighborhoods, we are helping residents realize their dreams of homeownership while increasing neighborhood stability.

Progress this quarter includes:

## The Community Loan Fund:

On Thursday, October 17th, construction wrapped up on YNDC's first Green Home in Crandall Park on the north side of Youngstown. The same day, Shalla Furquan purchased the property for herself and her 3 children. Ms. Furquan applied for the Healthy Home Ownership program in June of 2011, and has worked hard over the past 28 months to achieve her goal of owning a home and making a better, more stable life for her children. The beautiful 3-bedroom, 1-bathroom brick home features a brand new two-car garage, hardwood floors throughout, and tons of historic character. Ms. Furquan also received \$3000 in down-payment assistance from Catholic Charities Regional Agency.

On Thursday, October 10th, after 16 months in YNDC's Healthy Home Ownership program, Diane Venters and her daughter Kellee utilized the Community Loan Fund to purchase a beautiful 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom brick home in the historic Crandall Park neighborhood. After renting another home on the north side of Youngstown for over 30 years, the pair decided it was time to move into their own home so they could start building equity. Diane has worked for Brentwood Originals for over 21 years, and her daughter Kellee has worked at Gateways to Better Living for 9 years. Diane's mother and Kellee's daughter will also live in the home, putting four generations under one roof.

On Friday, November 22nd, Nyotta Clarke purchased a formerly vacant home on Glenwood Avenue through YNDC's community Loan Fund that will receive over \$21,000 in repairs through the 2nd mortgage repair component of the program and the Mahoning County Lead and Healthy Homes Program. The beautiful 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, featuring a two-car garage, new carpet throughout, and first-floor laundry, will be occupied by Ms. Clarke, her son, and her fiance. Ms. Clarke also received \$1500 in down-payment assistance from Catholic Charities Regional Agency.

On Friday, November 22nd, Edward Fields also purchased a formerly vacant home on Winona Drive through YNDC's community Loan Fund that will receive over \$21,000 in repairs through the 2nd mortgage repair component of the program and the Mahoning County Lead and Healthy Homes Program. The home has already seen a great deal of improvement completed by Dominion volunteers. The beautiful brick 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home, featuring a large kitchen, lots of living space, and new carpet throughout, will be occupied by Mr. Fields, his girlfriend, and their two children. Mr. Fields also received \$1500 in down-payment assistance from Catholic Charities Regional Agency.

## Down Payment Assistance:

On Tuesday, October 8th, a YNDC Green Home on Bonnie Brae Avenue was purchased by the property manager of a large apartment complex on Youngstown's east side. After years of managing someone else's property, Tshuna West decided it was time to own a home herself. Her new two-bedroom, one-bathroom home features tons of closet space, a large side lot, and a formal dining room that opens to an outdoor patio perfect for entertaining guests. Her purchase was financed by Home Savings and Loan, and she received \$7000 in down-payment assistance from YNDC, in addition to \$2500 in down-payment and closing cost assistance from Catholic Charities Regional Agency.



# Paint Youngstown

Paint Youngstown is a home repair and rehabilitation program available to residents of owner-occupied properties that meet income eligibility requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program is strategically focused on priority streets within city neighborhoods to make a visible impact as part of broader neighborhood revitalization efforts. The program includes limited exterior repairs: paint, roofs, porches, landscaping, garages, and gutters in order to improve the aesthetic and structural integrity of homes, while bringing the property into compliance with city code and strengthening neighborhood revitalization.

Progress this quarter includes:

- Completed 32 limited-repair projects throughout all 7 wards of the City
- Executed work on 6 Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) projects throughout the City

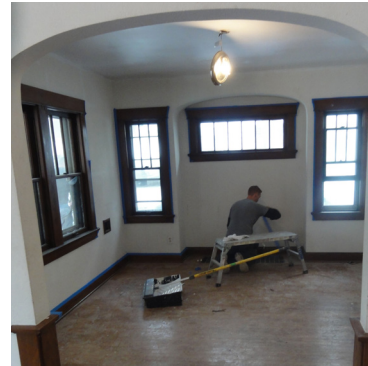


# Strategic Acquisition & Rehabilitation

The Strategic Acquisition and Rehabilitation program seeks to acquire previously abandoned properties in strategic neighborhoods and rehabilitate them into attractive places to live. Homes are strategically selected for maximum market impact on blocks where the rehabilitation of the home can halt and reverse trends toward disinvestment. The renovation of these homes includes energy efficiency pre- and post-inspections to reduce total energy consumption. All homes are insulated and equipped with energy efficient appliances and fixtures.

Progress this quarter includes:

- Completed Rehabilitation of:
  - 238 Upland Avenue
- Community Loan Fund Rehabilitation in Progress on:
  - 821 Winona Drive
  - 3416 Glenwood Avenue
- Rehabilitation in Progress on:
  - 851 Woodford Avenue
  - 2810 Burbank Avenue
  - 866 Canfield Road
- Acquisition of:
  - 2810 Burbank Avenue
  - 3123 Glenwood Avenue
  - 435 Catalina Avenue
  - 3416 Glenwood Avenue



# Planning and Partnerships

## Glenwood Community Park Ribbon Cutting

YNDC helped to facilitate a major community workday in partnership with the City of Youngstown Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idora Neighborhood Association for the community construction of the new Glenwood Community Park. Over 60 volunteers from a broad spectrum of community groups and organizations from throughout the Mahoning Valley came out to participate in the construction of the playground equipment and the cleanup of adjacent properties. Glenwood Community Park officially opened on October 29 with a ribbon cutting ceremony where city officials, community partners, residents, and youth from the neighborhood came together to enjoy the new park and to celebrate this tremendous accomplishment.

## Winona Model Block Implementation

Work has continued to implement the Winona Drive Model Block. Five Paint Youngstown projects along the street were completed in the fourth quarter of 2013. A community workday was conducted in partnership with Dominion to conduct rehabilitation work at 821 Winona Drive, which included extensive painting and landscaping improvements. In addition to these efforts, YNDC has taken an aggressive stance to eliminate blight along the block, which caused two vacant property owners to address major deficiencies to their properties along the street. YNDC is also currently pursuing a receivership action against a third nuisance property along the street in partnership with the City of Youngstown. In total, 20 properties have seen improvement along Winona Drive since the beginning of 2013. Additional community workday projects and implementation efforts are currently planned for early 2014.



# Planning and Partnerships

## US422 Corridor Redevelopment Plan

The initial public participation phase of the US422 Corridor Redevelopment Plan was completed in the fourth quarter of 2013. Nearly 300 residents and community members were engaged the planning process to date through a series of 6 public meetings held in Youngstown and Girard, 31 in-depth interviews with stakeholders, 44 business surveys, and 5 focus groups to gather input and feedback on initial ideas and strategies for the corridor. Two steering committee meetings were also hosted, where project partners reviewed progress and set the course for the development of the plan. Consultants are currently working on reviewing the information gathered from the public participation process to develop the full neighborhood plan. The final plan, which will include detailed and practical actionable steps to achieve the goals and vision of the community, will be complete by the second quarter of 2014.

## Neighborhood Planning Services

YNDC has executed a contract with the City of Youngstown to conduct citywide neighborhood planning services. This contract began in November 2013. This is a two-phase process, that will first involve collecting detailed information to understand neighborhood needs citywide and set priorities. The second phase of the process will be the development and creation of comprehensive neighborhood plans in line with the goals of the first phase. The first and second phase (to include the needs assessment and the creation of the first comprehensive neighborhood plan) will take approximately 15 months to complete, with additional neighborhood plans possible afterward. Currently the process is in the first phase, and YNDC is working with the City and YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies to complete a neighborhood conditions report, which will include detailed information about the demographics, changes, and trends in all of Youngstown's neighborhoods. This report includes new sources of information that have never before been developed and analyzed in this fashion. The neighborhood conditions report will be completed in January of 2014 and a series of public meetings will be held to present the findings to the community.

## Housing Action Plans

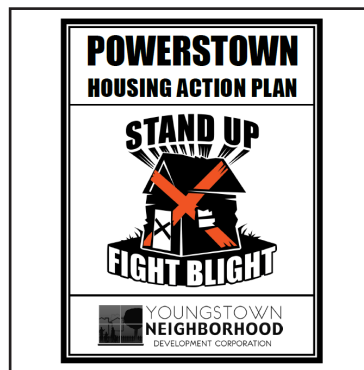
YNDC completed a Housing Action Plan for the Powerstown neighborhood on the south side of Youngstown in the fourth quarter of 2013. The plan includes a parcel-by-parcel analysis of all properties that are vacant or have exterior code violations, and an initial strategy for addressing each property is determined. In addition, YNDC has used this report as an opportunity to refine its Action Plan format to make it more practical for city officials and neighborhood groups to use for implementation. Detailed field and property research was conducted to complete the report, and implementation work is set to begin in early 2014.

## Collaborative Code Enforcement: Problem Property Letters

YNDC has recently increased efforts to address the condition of blighted, vacant, and other nuisance properties after completing multiple housing action plans. Problem properties are currently being targeted and provided the information on the violations, possible ramifications, and alternatives to address the issues. Currently, YNDC is working to finalize the first round of letters for Powerstown, Rocky Ridge, Idora, and the Garden District. Additional neighborhoods will be targeted in the first month. The first portion of the mailing has already received significant results with 10 properties addressing violations, one demolition, and property donation.

## HUD Demolition Process Improvement Report

YNDC, the City of Youngstown, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a consultant, and other partners came together to develop a demolition process improvement report for the City. This report provides detailed recommendations for improving the City's demolition process and strategy.





# YOUNGSTOWN **NEIGHBORHOOD** DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) is a citywide multifaceted neighborhood development organization formally launched in February 2009 in partnership with the City of Youngstown and The Raymond John Wean Foundation to catalyze strategic reinvestment in neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown. The mission of the organization is to improve the quality of life in Youngstown by building and encouraging investment in neighborhoods of choice for all.

Building and Encouraging • Investment • In Neighborhoods of Choice • For All