

Minority Business Enterprise Sucess at Arbor Park Place

"I'm so glad you guys gave us a chance, I'm so happy" said Mrs. Cynthia Jewell, beaming with smiles. "You opened lots of opportunities for us," she emphasized. Mrs. Jewell was referring to the redevelopment of the former Long Wood Plaza, now Arbor Park Place.

She and her husband Ronnie Jewell own "U ask 4 it," a soul food restaurant which operates in the newly refurbished shopping center owned and managed by Burten Bell Carr Development Inc. (BBC) and Neighborhood Progress, Inc. This center was developed through the support of Mayor Frank Jackson and other community partners. Until December of 2003, the center belonged to an absentee landlord that neglected the property for a long time. The old shopping center was taken over by criminals and drug dealers who used the place for their nefarious activities. It served as a haven for various crimes, which often spilled into surrounding neighborhoods. "It was a place that people like me did not want to go," recalled Mr. Jewell.

"When we were growing up, there were lots of small Black businesses," recalled Ben Cooper, owner of El Dorado Barber Shop at Arbor Park Place. "But everything vanished," he said. For a long time, there were no grocery stores or catering restaurants in the Central area. A group led by BBC obtained ownership of the dilapidated shopping mall and developed it to serve the needs of the residents. Currently, the center houses many businesses, including Key Bank, Dave's Super market, Fashion 216 Clothing store, Dollar Mart, and U ask 4 it restaurant, with El Dorado Barber Shop set to open this January (2009).

In addition to redeveloping the center BBC has installed modern security, which includes cameras and constant patrolling of the center



Ben Cooper, owner of El Dorado Barber Shop



Cynthia and Ronnie Jewell, owners of U ask 4 It and two employees

by security guards and the Cleveland Police department. "It is very well protected. You can bring your kids and won't be scared," said Mrs. Jewell. "That is one reason why I chose to move my business here," added Ben Cooper.

Reports indicate that the number of illicit drug offenses resulting in arrests plummeted from 104 in 2002 to only 2 in 2005, after the BBC partnership developed the place. In addition, drug possession arrests dropped significantly from 91 to just 2 in this same period. No drug trafficking arrests were made in 2005. The new development has created job opportunities for the residents and also serves as a source for their basic needs. Approximately 4,699 households residing within a one-mile radius were served by Arbor Park Place in 2005.

"We love this community and we want to give back" said Mr. Jewell of "U ask 4 it" restaurant. The small business has three employees and also serves as an internship avenue for catering students living in the neighborhood. "We love this neighborhood, that is why we did not move away," said Mr. Cooper. "I want all the young people living here to know that if they work hard, they can make it," he added.

-Ewurafuah Nkrumah

Cleveland Weed & Seed Coalition First Annual Family Empowerment Conference

With over 300 people in attendance, the Cleveland Weed and Seed Coalition hosted their First Annual Family Empowerment Conference on Saturday, November 1st, 2008 at Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus. The theme was "Taking Back our Families, By Any Means Necessary." The conference presented 23 workshops that addressed three areas of concern effecting families throughout the city of Cleveland: (1) Decreasing high school dropout rates, (2) Reducing juvenile violence through Intervention and Prevention programs, and (3) Increasing family's awareness to services and resources.

The conference commenced with inspirational guest speaker Mr. Basheer Jones, of WJMO 1490AM, and local, state, and federal officials. Throughout the day of activities, participants won extraordinary prizes including 40 gas and food gift cards and 10 computers. The conference concluded with a resource fair comprised of 50 organizations throughout Greater Cleveland in which over 200 participants signed up for various programs and services.

The major supporters of this event were BBC, U. S. Department of Justice, Cleveland City Council, City Mission, and Mayor Frank Jackson.

-Sherita Mullins



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR CAMPAIGN

BBC invites all residents and business owners in ward 5 to participate in our Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign. It is our goal to encourage YOU our community members to give back to your community by volunteering your time and talents to many of our supportive social services. There are a number of programs and projects currently underway, however there is not enough community involvement to implement them as effectively as possible. Programs include Safe Routes to School, Neighborhood Landscape Enterprise, Block Clubs, Housing Repair Programs, Black History Live, and Ward 5 Community Family Festival.

BBC has opportunities for everyone including youth, elders, even residents with physical and mental disabilities to become a positive

force in our neighborhoods. You will find a position in our Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign in which you can give some of your time and skills to the beautification of your surroundings. These opportunities could allow you to meet people who share common interests, improve your health, sharpen current skills or learn a new craft. There are many people just like you who want to enhance their lives and community. Please don't wait to get involved, contact BBC's office at 216.341.1455 now to receive more information about this meaningful and necessary campaign. Neighbor to Neighbor starts January 19, 2009.

-Akanni Thomas

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY BURTEN, BELL, CARR DEVELOPMENT, INC.

BURTEN, BELL, CARR
DEVELOPMENT, INC.

BBC WELCOMES THREE MORE STAFF MEMBERS

Over the last six months, BBC's part-time staff has grown from two to seven. Most recently Akanni Thomas, Marcelina Sladewska, and Saquawn Gill has joined our team.

Akanni Thomas was born and raised in Cleveland's Kinsman neighborhood. Akanni attended the Cleveland School of the Arts majoring in theater and Cleveland State University where she majored in sociology and communication. She comes to BBC as an AmeriCorps Vista Member and is concentrating her efforts in the area of community organizing.

Marcelina Sladewska came to the United States when she was 6-years-old from Poland and has been a resident of Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood since 1993. Marcelina is a senior at Cleveland State University majoring in Urban Studies with a focus in Urban Planning and a minor in Cultural Anthropology. Her internship at BBC will expose her to the diverse aspects of community development.

Saquawn Gill is a senior at East Technical High School and resident of the Garden Valley neighborhood in Ward 5. He is a Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force Junior R.O.T.C. program. As a high school intern at BBC, he is strengthening his administrative skills and learning aspects of community development, as well as gaining exposure to the development occurring in his neighborhood.

BBC would like to welcome Akanni, Marcelina, and Saquawn to the staff.

—Sherita Mullins



Residents take steps in building **MODEL BLOCKS**

Residents of BBC's Bridgeport (Colfax Road) and Kingsbury (Fuller Avenue) Model Blocks are becoming more involved and are taking greater strides in comprehensively improving their communities.

This fall, community members from Colfax Road discussed how to expend a \$3,000 Cityworks grant from the City of Cleveland for a community clean-up and opened a dialogue about what the project should entail. Colfax residents also identified items of priority for the upcoming year, including converting the Falcon Court alleyway into a one-way street and taming vegetation in the spring. Additionally, with BBC as their fiscal agent, a small group of committed participants applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the Neighborhood Connections program of the Cleveland Foundation to have security cameras installed on their street to reduce and deter crime. In November, Officer Jeff Stanczyk from the Cleveland Police Community Policing Unit gave an engaging presentation on personal and community safety and discussed block watch training provided free of charge to neighborhood groups. Meeting attendees eagerly opted for their training to take place in January.

Fuller residents met with Fourth District Commander Roy Rich from the City of Cleveland Police Department and Ward 5 Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland to express their concerns and learn tactics to reduce crime. They also talked about various concepts for which they can apply for a small grant in February, and are considering short-, medium-, and long-term goals for their block.

For more information about the Model Block Program, small grants available to block clubs and community groups, and block watch training, please contact BBC at 216.341.1455.

—Jeffrey Sugalski

Housing Court Utilizes Violator's Skill to Benefit Ward 5 Residents

Over the last several months, the Colfax Block Club, City of Cleveland Department of Building & Housing, and BBC have collaborated to eradicate various nuisances on and around Colfax Road. This action is in accordance with the Model Block strategy funded by the City of Cleveland, which aims to comprehensively improve all facets of roughly twenty blocks throughout Cleveland. The goal is for each area to serve as the "Model Block" that exemplifies its respective neighborhood at the completion of the program.

One such nuisance on Colfax Road about which community members were concerned was an automobile repair business operating illegally on the residential street without proper licensure and rightful ownership of the land on which it was operated. Cars and trucks, some of which appeared to be not in working condition, were stowed haphazardly in public roadways and vacant lots.

Stakeholders expressed that this detracted from the beauty of the Colfax Road and created traffic issues.

As a result, Cleveland Housing Court Judge Raymond L. Pianka creatively sentenced the violator to fifty hours of community service. The owner of the business has been assigned to utilize his skills in repairing and servicing vehicles for Ward 5 residents. Residents will receive free labor, and are only required to pay for the necessary parts and materials.

The Housing Court is seeking Ward 5 residents that may benefit from low-cost automobile work. For more information, please contact Willie Hines at the Cleveland Housing Court at 216.664.4938. Please note that BBC is acting in a referral role, and assumes no responsibility for the integrity or completeness of repairs performed.

—Jeffrey Sugalski

LIFE ENRICHMENT

Education Pays - Get Yours



African-American college graduates make, on average, one million dollars more over their lifetimes than people with only a high school degree. You do the math. – Education Pays.

Education Pays – Get Yours is a campaign designed to motivate youth, particularly African-American 10-13 year old boys, to connect with services, people and programs that will help them achieve success in school. This program is being coordinated in three Cleveland neighborhoods: *Mt. Pleasant, Central and Slavic Village*. BBC is serving as a lead agency in the Central neighborhood.

When contacted, BBC will provide youth with names and phone numbers to area agencies in the Central neighborhood that provide

- educational and mentoring resources.
- This will allow youth to have direct access to ask any questions they may have based on their individual needs.

- Education Pays – Get Yours will run until August 2009. Keep in touch with BBC and area agencies to learn about more exciting projects and initiatives that this project has in store in the coming months!

- If you are interested in more information, please contact BBC at 216.341.1455, or visit the Education Pays – Get Yours website at www.policy-bridge.org/educationpays.

–Nailah Ingram

EXPERIENCE CORPS, TUTOR AND MENTOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Are you an older adult concerned about Cleveland's children? You can take the lead and become a tutor or a mentor. It's easier than you think.

Experience Corps is the innovative and award winning program that creates opportunities for older Americans to take part in vital public and community service. Today, more than 2,000 Experience Corps members are serving as tutors and mentors to children in urban public schools in 23 cities across the country.

In Cleveland, Experience Corps is hosted by RSVP of Greater Cleveland, which unites youth and older adults to strengthen Cleveland's most underserved communities.

Mentors devote two lunch hours a week to a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader as a positive role model helping the child improve academic attitude, social skills and self esteem. Tutors work one-on-one with the students in grades K through 3 a minimum of twice a week with a focus on basic reading skills.

In either role, both the students and the older adults are winners. The students benefit from the one-on-one academic assistance from their tutors as well as from the relationship that develops between themselves and their mentors. The older adults benefit from this caring relationship by being able to share with children in need their love of reading and their educational skills and wider life experiences.

If you are interested in becoming an Experience Corps Member, or for more information, please contact Carol Hasek at 216.391.9500, ext. 125.

–Carol Hasek, Mentoring Coordinator, Experience Corps

Neighborhood Connections Neighborhood Connections

This past funding cycle, four projects were awarded to neighborhood groups in Ward 5. The projects ranged from neighborhood clean-ups and security cameras, to transportation for youth activities. The next deadline for Neighborhood Connections funding is Friday, February 13, 2009 at 5pm. If you are interested in applying for this grant and/or would like BBC to be your fiscal agent, please call BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Incorporated

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MILDRED CEPHUS
President

JAMES REESE
Vice President

JACQUELINE SUTTON
Treasurer

RICHGINA JEFF
Secretary

SHERALL HARDY | CLEO HILLIARD

CARLO MAGGIORA

BERNADETTE L. RANDOLPH | DANNY WILLIAMS

STAFF

TIMOTHY TRAMBLE Executive Director

JOSEPH JONES Real Estate Dev. Director

JEFFREY SUGALSKI Real Estate Dev. Manager

ORLANDO GRANT Weed & Seed Site Coordinator

TERALAWANDA AARON Weed & Seed Safe Haven Coordinator

JOY JOHNSON Grants Management Director

SHERITA MULLINS Program Manager

NAILAH INGRAM Office Manager

TIFFANY ALLEN Graduate Student Intern

EWURAFUAH NKURUMAH Graduate Student Intern

MARCELINA SLADEWSKA Undergraduate Student Intern

SAQUAWN GILL High School Student Intern

ELMORE SPAIN AmeriCorps VISTA

LARRY LAPRADE AmeriCorps VISTA

AKANNI THOMAS AmeriCorps VISTA

KHALIL HAGENS Grounds Keeper



Scenarios USA Real Deal Film Premiere of "MANCHILD"

In BBC's summer 2008 newsletter, Earlaina Kemp was highlighted for being honored as one of the 2008 Living History award winners. She also was the winner of the 2007 Scenarios USA script and story writing contest. Scenarios USA asked youth around the country to write stories in response to the question, "What's the real deal about masculinity?" Hundreds of youth responded. Three stories were chosen to be produced into short films. Earlaina won for her story "MANCHILD." It focuses on a young man, Tommy, who sells drugs to support his sisters. Eventually, he turns his life around and graduates from college. "MANCHILD" debuted in New York on December 10, 2008. Congratulations Earlaina for your success and thank you for representing Cleveland and Ward 5 well in this competition.

-Sherita Mullins

FREE Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Available at the Cleveland Central Weed & Seed Safe Haven and City Mission

Need assistance with your tax return? Visit the Cleveland Central Weed & Seed Safe Haven or City Mission for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. They offer free tax help if you qualify.

Trained community volunteers can help you with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly for which you may qualify. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, these sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing). Instead of receiving a refund anticipation loan, take advantage of the e-file program to receive your refund in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster if you have your refund deposited directly into your bank account.

- The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$42,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns.
- Certified volunteers sponsored by Cleveland Central Weed & Seed Safe Haven and City Mission receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in the Central community.
- These services begin on January 31, 2009, at the City Mission, located at 5310 Carnegie Avenue and the Cleveland Central Weed & Seed Safe Haven Office, located at 7504 Cedar Avenue. To make an appointment at the Cleveland Central Weed & Seed Safe Haven, call 216.432.1818. To make an appointment at the City Mission, call 216.431.3510.
- For additional information on the VITA program please call Orlando Grant at 216.341.1455.

-Sherita Mullins

Census Bureau

Although the 2010 census count may seem far away, preparations are already taking place. The census is taken every 10 years and it counts everyone that is living in the United States. The results help determine your representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent in your community on things like roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety.

It takes over a year to count all the people that live in the United States and this is where citizens from Ward 5 can help. Temporary part-time census taker jobs are available with 3,000 positions available in Cuyahoga County. The hours are flexible and the pay is good (\$8 to \$18 per hour). Census takers are needed to update address lists and conduct interviews with community residents. To qualify you need to speak English and take a general education assessment. For more information call 1.866.861.2010 or visit the Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/2010census/>.

-Marcelina Sladewska

CSU, City Year help "Make A Difference" in Central

On October 25, students from Cleveland State University, City Year corps members, and staff of BBC took part in "Make a Difference Day," the nation's largest single day of volunteerism. Projects of the day were concentrated around East 35th Street and Cedar Avenue.

More than thirty volunteers participated in "Make a Difference Day" in the Central neighborhood. They assisted in the clean-up of the Charlie Comella Community Garden, which is a vital source of fruits and vegetables used to feed the hungry at Trinity Cathedral, and helped prepare it for winter. At Father Jim O'Donnell's community playground on East 35th Street, they lent a hand in staining equipment and painting a playhouse. Volunteers also eradicated the brush and overgrown vegetation and trash along Rose Court to eliminate safety concerns and make it more accessible to users.

"Make a Difference Day" was organized as a semester project of students of a community service course at Cleveland State. The intent of the class was to foster a lifelong sense of civic pride and empower young people to effect positive change in their community. City Year, with whom BBC recently collaborated to paint the houses of two Ward 5 seniors, supported the students in planning the event, assisted in securing in-kind donations for lunch and supplies, and provided yard and garden tools. BBC worked extensively with community stakeholders to identify potential projects and coordinated many of the "Make a Difference Day" logistics.

BBC and partners would like to thank Alanbe Food Outlet, located on Cedar Avenue at East 35th Street, for its role in accommodating volunteers during "Make a Difference Day." Managers of Alanbe donated several cases of bottled water for volunteers and allowed them to use their restroom facilities the day of the event. For more information on additional volunteer opportunities in ward 5 please read our "Neighbor to Neighbor" article in this newsletter.

-Jeffrey Sugalski



Volunteers painting the swing set at Father Jim O'Donnell's community playground on East 35th Street



Volunteers clearing out the overgrown vegetation along Rose Court



Volunteers gardening at the Charlie Comella Community Garden

Neighborhood Landscaping Enterprise, BBC's Workforce Development & Neighborhood Beautification Initiative

BBC is redefining the parameters of community development by developing a comprehensive economic development strategy around neighborhood landscaping. Starting in the spring 2009, BBC will be recruiting area residents for its learn-as-you-earn Neighborhood Landscaping Enterprise (NLE). Participants will landscape key public spaces, vacant lots, and owner-occupied homes of senior citizens and disabled persons for streetscape beautification to neighborhoods in Ward 5. NLE will create economic and social opportunities for Ward 5 residents. In addition, it will revitalize the physical beauty of Central and Kinsman neighborhoods.

How will NLE work?

- BBC will employ and train 10-12 residents to landscape properties throughout Ward 5. No prior experience needed.
- While landscaping, employees will be given a full scholarship to pursue a degree through the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Plant Science and Landscape Technology Program.
- After completing their education at Tri-C, employees will be certified to secure professional jobs in the agriculture field and/or continue their education at a four year college.

If you would like more information about the NLE program contact, BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

-Sherita Mullins

ThirdFederal
SAVINGS & LOAN

On behalf of BBC and Ward 5
community members, thank you
Third Federal Bank for sponsoring
the Community Connector.

BBC DISTRIBUTES TURKEYS TO SENIORS

This Thanksgiving, BBC distributed twenty frozen turkeys to low-income senior citizens in Ward 5. Andy Batten of Lighthouse, Inc. and the Heaventrain, who previously partnered with BBC in July to repair eight porches of houses in the Bridgeport (Colfax Road) Model Block for no charge to homeowners, delivered enough turkeys and fixings to feed approximately 6,000 people residing in subsidized housing in Ward 5 and other areas. Extra turkeys were provided to BBC to deliver to needy residents, whom were identified through their past involvement with BBC activities and programs, before the holiday.

- Jeffrey Sugalski

ON THE HORIZON

LOOK TO THE ON THE HORIZON SECTION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND

FINANCIAL FITNESS WORKSHOPS

Don't miss the opportunity to get financially fit this year. Sign up for BBC's FREE financial fitness workshops to learn how to budget to get out of debt, repair your credit, create a financial plan to buy a house or a car, and avoid predatory lending scams. Babysitting and refreshments will be provided. For more information, or to register, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

VOICE YOUR OPINION ON BBC'S BLOG

BBC's blog is a platform for concerned individuals to voice their opinion about community development, upcoming neighborhood events, their community, the city of Cleveland, or pressing issues that the public would like to address. Join BBC's blog at www.bbcdevelopment.org. Let your voice be heard.

BBC'S ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY LIVE

Black History Live (BHL) is our way of celebrating Black History, both past and present. Youth and their guardians from Ward 5 are invited to join us as we honor a living legend that resides in Ward 5 and has made a significant impact on the community. Youth are also presented with a free African American theater performance by talented youth from the Karamu House. Refreshments and transportation are provided. BBC will host BHL in February, the date and time is to be determined. For more information, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

For information on any of our various programs, please call us at 216.341.1455.

Date	Time	EVENT	Location	Address
Jan. 10	12:00 PM	Ward 5 Club	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Jan. 19		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (BBC Closed)		
Jan. 21	4:00 PM	Neighborhood Connections Grantseekers Workshop	Mt. Pleasant Branch, CPL	14000 Kinsman Road
Jan. 27	7:00 PM	Third District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Cleveland Div. of Police Comm. Relations Unit	2001 Payne Avenue
Jan. 27	6:00 PM	Kinsman-Union Association Meeting	Union Library	3463 E. 93rd Street
Jan. 28	7PM-8:30PM	Fourth District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th Street & Kinsman Road
Jan. 29	6:00 PM	Neighborhood Connections Grantseekers Workshop	Langston Hughes Branch, CPL	10200 Superior Avenue
Feb. 14	12:00 PM	Ward 5 Club	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Feb. 14		Valentine's Day (BBC Open)		
Feb. 24	7:00 PM	Third District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Cleveland Div. of Police Comm. Relations Unit	2001 Payne Avenue
Feb. 24	6:00 PM	Kinsman-Union Association Meeting	Union Library	3463 E. 93rd Street
Feb. 25	7PM-8:30PM	Fourth District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th St. and Kinsman Road
Mar. 8		Daylight Saving Time begins		
Mar. 14	12:00 PM	Ward 5 Club	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Mar. 24	7:00 PM	Third District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Cleveland Div. of Police Comm. Relations Unit	2001 Payne Avenue
Mar. 24	6:00 PM	Kinsman-Union Association Meeting	Union Library	3463 E. 93rd Street
Mar. 25	7PM-8:30PM	Fourth District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th Street & Kinsman Road

CURRENT EVENTS

If you would like to submit an event to our Current Events calendar, please contact Joy Johnson at BBC, 216.341.1455. Please call Councilwoman Cleveland's office to confirm all community meetings 216.664.2309.

Thank You

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 2753

www.bbcdevelopment.org
Fax: 216.341.2683
Phone: 216.341.1455
Cleveland, OH 44104
7201 Kinsman Road, Suite #104
Bridgeport Place

