Spring 2010 Neighborhood Connections Grant Recipients

Neighborhood Connections grant recipients from the spring 2010 round are listed below with brief descriptions of the funded projects. Neighborhood Connections granted funds to 92 groups and organizations totaling $325,000.

Bellaire Puritas
Powerful Praz Dance located in the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood received $5000 to provide lessons in the art of dance to youth ages 3-18. This year round program will provide the youth with seasonal uniforms, dance flags and banners.

Riverside Park Estates Local Advisory Committee received $3835 for the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood to provide puppet shows designed to teach youth the importance of helping others who are less fortunate. The performances will be offered in Spanish and English as a way to unite different cultures in the community.

Young Men of Integrity located in the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood received $5000 to provide a summer work program for young boys. The program focuses on grass cutting and yard work. Youth will also attend workshops on how to manage, budget and save their earnings.

Buckeye
The Candace Institute for Women and Girls received $5000 to implement a weekend retreat at Hiram House Camp for women and girls. The theme of the retreat focuses on dating violence/abuse, dealing with HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and involvement in the Juvenile Justice system. The project seeks to promote healthy relationships between women and girls that will extend to their families and the wider community, to break the cycle of violence and abuse and promote respectful and supportive relationships. Participants will be taught how to deal with conflict in a healthy way.

The Greater Mt. Tabor Food Pantry received $3000 to upgrade their operation site. The funds will be used to build food storage areas, purchase food storage equipment, and build a conveyor belt system.
Network for Neighborhood Success received $3900 to provide a training program for youth in their neighborhood. Youth will be taught etiquette, writing, editing, math, recruiting, canvassing, and surveying. The youth will develop newsletters and brochures; learn banking and money management skills, and volunteer skills.

Werner United Methodist Church received $3400 to implement a “quiz show” for fifth graders to encourage healthy educational competition and attainment. The program is designed to help remove the stigma attached to being “smart” for African-Americans. The hope is to promote the idea that having fun and being smart are NOT mutually exclusive.

Cedar Central Foluke’ Cultural Arts Center received $5000 to provide arts classes for grades K to 12 in dance, visual arts, design arts, media arts and drama. The project will provide children and youth with a safe place to be creative and to build self-esteem.

The Men of Central received $3000 to hold a Father’s Day event designed to assist men in providing effective leadership to the youth in an effort to influence them positively in education, social responsibility, leadership attributes, business, sports, arts, and politics. The youth will be trained to become photographers, and reporters for the community newsletter, and learn about web based programming and other business building tools.

The New Community received $3500 to hold weekly meetings for women who are reentering the community after incarceration. Classes will focus on social relationships and building skills to address common issues such as housing, employment, family, transportation, and health. Groups will encourage leadership, peer mentoring, and building cohesion.

The North East Central Area Akidz Club received $3500 to purchase the PATHS Curriculum Kit to help youth in the community develop self-esteem, self-control, emotional awareness, and interpersonal problem solving skills. The program will enhance social skills and understanding of diversity, introduce youth to etiquette, and connect youth to diverse socializing activities.
The Thackeray Garden Group received $3300 to build a hoop house, and unheated greenhouse, on a 2 acre neighborhood garden site in order to lengthen the season of providing fresh produce to the neighbors who will be using the garden.

Trinity Cathedral’s Community Garden received $1800 for garden supplies to improve the operations of their community garden. These supplies included a weed trimmer, lumber, gloves, trowels and other hand tools, hoes, kneepads, soil and mulch.

Clark Metro
Cub Scout Pack 98 in the Clark Metro area received $2307 for a gardening program. The program is designed to build practical and life skills, improve ones appreciation for the environment and provide information on health and nutrition.

Cudell
The Cudell neighborhood received $1,050 to expand the Children’s Art Corner at the Clifton Arts & Musicfest. The funds will pay for easels, other art supplies, and a small canopy.

Detroit Shoreway
Building Bridges Murals received $5000 to work with a select number of local schools in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. This project will introduce school mural making designed for the surfaces used to board up the windows of vacant houses around the area of the West 83rd Street explosion. The goal of this project is to beautify and improve the streetscape design of the neighborhood.

Edgewater Hill Block Club located in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood received $3000 to provide five youth events from Spring to Fall. The first event involves a Sports Tournament consisting of Dodgeball, Kickball, Softball and Ladder Ball. Other events involve “Watermania”, “Neewollah”, a street carnival and an end of the year Holiday event.

H.B. Booker Academy received $4840 to purchase equipment and supplies to beautify the school grounds and construct raised flower beds. Youth and the elderly will work together. The purpose of this project is to improve the neighborhood by building community spirit.

Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood received $5000 to purchase supplies needed for the implementation of this years youth leadership program involving an annual retreat. The leadership program was created to address the low level graduation among the Hispanic community. The program will focus on identifying strengths and weaknesses, self-esteem and the importance of education.
West Clinton Historic Haunts a walking tour, received $5000 to host a tour through the residential area surrounding the Gordon Square Arts District performing dramatizations of historic and sometimes sensational events in Cleveland’s West Side history in the Detroit Shoreway area. The tour will be held on the nights of October 8th and 9th.

West Clinton Block Club located in the Detroit Shoreway area received $600 for a project that involves the making of 25 fleece blankets that will be donated to MetroHealth Medical Center. This project is meant to bring people of all ages, race, and economic status together, to provide an introduction to the process of making blankets.

Downtown
From Darkness to Light will help the homeless in Cleveland’s Downtown become employed and self-sufficient. The Help Me Work Program received $3585 to conduct training and education sessions to help the homeless utilize computers. Participants will complete assessment, obtain assistance with résumé building and receive coaching/mentoring along with clothing and other resources.

The Greater Cleveland Safety Council received a grant of $5000 to support the North Coast Harbor Boating & Fishing Fest in the Downtown neighborhood. This event held June 5-6th at Voinovich Park will provide opportunities for families to take rides and visit information exhibits. Charter fishing boats will also take groups children on hour-long fishing trips.

Hands That Speak Volumes, Inc. will be holding health and fitness classes in the downtown neighborhood using $3944. What makes these classes special is that a sign language interpreter will be in attendance for each session. This will ensure that the deaf and hard of hearing will be able to fully participate.

A community garden will be developed and maintained by the residents of the 2100 Lakeside Men’s Shelter (Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries) with a $5000 grant. Food from the garden will help feed the 750 homeless men who come through the shelter. It will also be symbol of the strength of people coming together to overcome barriers and create local assets.
Fairfax
The Clyde Rahman Community Center of Fairfax will receive $2000 to increase their capacity to welcome and serve more of their neighbors. The Center will demonstrate that “Seniors are Jewels” by reaching out to the elders in the community, and holding educational workshops and exercise classes for them.

Strengthening Our Students will be implementing Let’s Get Cooking 101 in the Fairfax neighborhood. Youth will participate in 6-week cooking and nutrition classes, along with field trips to local markets. Each student will receive their own starter cooking kit from a $1645 grant.

Glenville
Glenville Superstars Pathfinder Flag & Drum Corp will use a $3500 grant to purchase drums, uniforms and other equipment. The group continues to grow in popularity and support is being provided to allow all youth the opportunity to participate.

Glenville Community Youth Center will use a $5000 grant to provide a summer youth enrichment program. The activities will include academic enrichment along with field trips to enhance social interaction, structure indoor and outdoor games, arts, crafts and sports.

Historic East Boulevard Condo & Co-Op Association received a grant of $5000 to support their efforts in Glenville. This group of neighbors will create a neighborhood watch for their area, train the volunteers, and improve the on street lighting and building security.

Neighbor to Neighbor in the Glenville neighborhood will receive $3000 to support a Spring Clean-up and a Summer Block Party. Residents will take part by helping one another clean up their yards and vacant lots and planting flowers. The block party will celebrate the community and give the neighbors an opportunity to enjoy games, music and food.

Travick and Williams Community Group received $5,000 to train Glenville youth ages 14 to 19 to rehab houses. They will include in the training will be installing drywall, light/electrical, carpentry, flooring and painting. Each participant will receive OSHA training and tool belt.
Trinity Outreach Ministries/Another Chance Inc. will host Glenville Community Friday Safe Night events for youth. $5000 has been provided to obtain art supplies, sports and computer equipment to ensure that every attendee can participate. The project provides a safe and friendly environment to learn new skills and make positive peer connections.

Hough
Golden Club Ministries provides senior citizens in the Hough community the opportunity to socialize together. The project provides arts & crafts supplies and instruction, adventurous outings and a safe and enjoyable way to make connections and a venue for community involvement. $5000 was provided to reduce the expenses for the participants.

The Little Farmers of Ward 7 were awarded $3500 to enhance their work by including more seniors in the neighborhood and having an intergenerational healthy food/healthy snack, and their community garden program.

The Peace and Justice Committee in the Hough community will address the teen pregnancy issue using a grassroots approach. A $980 will be used to support outreach and community meeting activities. The intended outcomes are to make stronger connections between neighbors and to services.

Kamm’s Corners
Kamm’s Corners Farmers Market Committee received $1500 to recreate signs to better publicize the Kamm’s Corners Farmers Market to the community. The purpose is to create awareness of the markets days and hours of operation for the residents.

West Park Early Childhood PTA in the Kamm’s Corners area received $1500. This project will focus on a safety fair for residents of the neighborhood. The program will offer bike safety tips to neighborhood youth and provide them with a bicycle helmet.

Lee Harvard
Calvary Congregational Church received $3700 to provide computer training for seniors. The project is designed to help seniors keep pace with constantly evolving modern technology.

Canaan CEE Center received $3000 to provide a free or very low cost summer camp to residents of the Lee Harvard area for school aged children 5 to 12 years of age which focuses on healthy living, healthy eating, and exercise as a way to stave off chronic illnesses such as high blood pressure, Type II Diabetes, and childhood obesity.
The Cleveland Peace Action Alternatives to Military Recruitment Committee received $3000 to provide an alternate viewpoint for students who are faced with military recruitment in their schools. The intention is to support grassroots efforts to educate students and parents and encourage fully informed consent with regard to military conscription.

Concerned Partners in Education received $4000 for their P.A.S.S. program providing education for youth in business and economic development, workplace ethics, and skilled job force training and development, and placing the youth in summer jobs.

The Miles Heights Community Garden received $1420 to expand their garden, build a fence to keep the deer and other animals out of the garden, and build a shed for garden tools.

Mt. Pleasant
The Girls Club of Ohio received $5000 for the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. This program is designed to strengthen leadership and communication in the neighborhood. Families will participate in teambuilding skills, by planning Town Hall meetings, physical challenge events, fieldtrips and community service learning projects.

Greater Cleveland Educational Center located in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood received $5000 to purchase supplies for seminars, classes and workshops. The program focuses on turning hobbies into paying careers, provide individuals with the necessary skills for seeking employment.

Mt. Olive Community Development Corporation located in Mt. Pleasant received $1200. This program will focus on leadership development through athletics. Participants will be trained in athletics, the importance of scholarship, conflict resolution and community leadership. Training will take place on the athletic field and in the classroom through the assistance of trainers from Raw Talent Sports.

North Collinwood
Beachland Park Association in the North Collinwood community received $3000 to host a summer concert series to support the performing arts and provide residents with a unique community experience. The concerts feature local talent.

Ohio City
Gather ‘Round Farm received $2,400 to expand their leadership capacity through a part-time paid position. The staff member will work closely with volunteers on all aspects of farm operations.
P.A.C.E. Tumbling received $5,000 to fund the tumblers entry fees, meals and transportation related to their participation in local tumbling competitions.

St. Malachi Center was funded $4,944 for their Youth Program Development project. The project will fund a playground set and a learning-through-play and social skills training curriculums for the St. Malachi after-school program.

St. Paul’s Community Church and Outreach Program received $4,000 for the Corn Hole Alley Community Garden. Funds will be used for equipment and supplies.

United Clevelanders Against Poverty was funded $5,000 for their project, “Building Community to Save Community.” The project intends to build and maintain a circle of support that will help residents understand what services are available and how to effectively access those services.

Urban Community School received $1,000 for their Garden Club, which is an after-school program for students who are interested in learning about gardening. The Garden Club is using the funds to purchase equipment and supplies.

Old Brooklyn The Benjamin Franklin Community Garden Committee received $5,000 for Operation Safeguard. Operation Safeguard is a project to restore approximately 2.5 acres of woods around the garden into a more park-like environment.

Cleveland Junior Jitterbugs was awarded $4,840 for an after-school program at Denison School in Old Brooklyn. The Jitterbugs are a group of outstanding students who are interested in learning and performing swing dance styles.

The Green Space & Natural Resource Committee of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation received $1,688 for their Downtown Old Brooklyn Tree Box Project. The Committee will improve the condition and appearance of the tree boxes along Broadview Road.
The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn received $1,296 for their Preservation and Identification project. This is an intergenerational project connecting senior citizens to high school students to capture the history of the neighborhood through stories and archival materials.

Spokane Model Block Initiative received $3,908 for a beautification project including tree-lawn landscaping to create a significant visual impact and unity amongst the residents.

West 36th Street Block Club was awarded $2,232 for an Alley Clean Up project. The residents will clean and restore the neighboring alley to improve the overall appearance and improve the safety of the alley.

St. Clair Superior
The Cleveland Asian Festival was held on May 22nd with the support of a $5000 grant. The event will bring the local Asian communities together to provide an opportunity for young and old to learn and experience the diverse Asian cultures, traditions and heritage through visual and performance arts, cultural displays, demonstrations, workshops and food.

The Masjid Al-Warith Deen Garden in the St. Clair Superior community will continue their garden club project. A grant of $4909 was provided to support outreach efforts and build the group’s capacity to serve and include more participants in the community. A fence will be installed to formalize the garden boundaries and reduce theft and littering in the garden.

Image TV Ohio is a project of The Organization of Chinese-Americans of Greater Cleveland, Inc. A grant of $5000 was provided to support produce season 2 of the educational cross-cultural multi-media project aimed at creating awareness, promoting diversity and education about the vitality of the Asian American community in Cleveland’s St. Clair Superior neighborhood.

St. Clair Superior Sustainability Committee received $3000 to host two rain barrel workshops for residents in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood. Participants will learn how to assemble and properly install the rain barrels along with water management techniques. Youth will also be recruited to learn how to install the rain barrels and assist residents who need it.

Shaker Square
The Committee for Larchmere Porchfest will use $4617 to have residents of Larchmere host a
wide variety of musical performances on their porches on June 19th. This year’s Porchfest will also include an Artist’s Village and the booking of a known national act.

The Larchmere Community Association is going to address personal safety in their neighborhood using $2000. They will host an event for neighbors to meet and get to know one another, hold meet and greet activities in their homes with the hope of increasing their membership and supporting the Securitas Security patrol.

The Larchmere Merchants Association received a $4800 grant to support the Larchmere Neighborhood Festival July 3rd. This diverse group of independent merchants will expand the already successful event. In addition to the usual vendors and entertainment they will promote green living, establish youth and school partnerships and have a designated family activity area.

The Shaker Square neighborhood will see the implementation of a Rites of Passage program for the youth and teens in the community. The National Rites of Passage Institute provides leadership, youth and community development through a culturally-based process. The rites of passage process has been proven effective in support youth to become positive contributing adults in their communities. A grant of $2000 was provided to the project to make two retreats affordable for interested families.

Slavic Village

Broadway Christian Church in the Slavic Village area received $5000 for a summer reading program. The program is designed to provide tutoring to neighborhood children while addressing at risk academic levels. The program will also offer leadership and job opportunities for teens.

Broadway Public Art was awarded $4300 to organize a series of events that leverage human creativity to energize people, strengthen bonds in the neighborhood, and enhance the neighborhood. Projects include dance parties at E. 55th and Broadway, concerts at Mill Creek Falls, a holiday decorating contest, holiday street caroling, and more.

Connecticut Block Club located in the Slavic Village area received $5000 toward improvement of the corner lot(s) of Tioga and Warner. New fencing will outline the property and highlight the new park boundaries. In addition to outlining the boundaries, the fence will also protect the landscape of the park and be a deterrence to prevent vandalism.
Friends of Hyacinth Park located in the Slavic Village neighborhood received $3435 to provide Music In The Park consisting of five Thursday night community concerts and cook-outs, a Show Wagon event with city youth performers, and a park clean-up with flower planting in the spring.

Girl Scout Service Unit #743 located in the Slavic Village neighborhood received $4787 to provide a Performing Arts Day Camp. This program is designed to assist girls in career exploration in the field of performing arts while providing them with a positive outlet.

Jones Road Family Development Corporation located in the Slavic Village neighborhood received $2400 for their Literacy Through The Arts program. This year round program of music, dance, and theater for children in kindergarten through eighth grade provides opportunities for children of all racial backgrounds.

Pulaski Franciscan Community Development Corp. received $3400 to provide summer concerts to residents in the Slavic Village neighborhood. This project will continue its tradition of providing the Warszawa Music Festival every Monday through the end of August. It presents music in a wide ranges of styles. Diverse audiences accustomed to their individual style of dance have participated in dancing the polka and swinging their hips to R&B.

Slavic Village Bikes received $4452 to promote their Riding Tigers Summer Youth Bike Camp for youth ages 10-13 years old. The camp will run Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Travel routes will be organized giving youths the opportunity to participate in skill and safety sessions.

Sokol of Greater Cleveland in the Slavic Village neighborhood received $3935 to provide a community symphony concert in October, 2010 by the Cleveland Women's Orchestra at historic Bohemian National Hall. This project will give residents in the neighborhood an extraordinary opportunity to attend a live symphony performance.

University Settlement in the Slavic Village neighborhood received $2340 to purchase school supplies for a Back to School Fair. This event brings the community and its organizations
together for a sharing of resources, information and services focused on youth. In addition, a Fun Fair will be held to include pony rides and inflatable play structures to create a family-friendly environment for the neighborhood.

Warner Turney Neighborhood Organization in Slavic Village received $2500 to host events and activities for youth and families in the neighborhood. The funding will be centered around a Party-in-the-Park. This afternoon event will bring families together to eat, socialize and meet each other. Other events to be held include ice South Collinwood

Beulah Baptist Church in the South Collinwood area received $4968. This project will focus on providing community outreach along with food pantry services by way of the Arthur Bell Food Pantry. Youth within the community assist and operate the program when helping hands run short.

Cleveland Mustangs Track and Field Club located in the South Collinwood area received $1120 to promote community building through youth track and field involvement. The program will address youth social dislocation, such as low graduation rates, gang violence, teenage pregnancy, and juvenile delinquency while also providing leadership development and health and wellness training.

Darley Block Club a program in the South Collinwood neighborhood received $5000 to create a summer sprout program for area residents and businesses to enjoy. The purpose of the program is to foster renewed relationships and heighten the awareness of community gardening throughout the community.

Nottingham Youth Center located in the South Collinwood area received $3500 to supplement, improve and expand the Tutoring Youth Enrichment program. Funding will be utilized to purchase new books, supplies, learning incentive projects and educational computer software.

Stockyards
International Village Block Club a program in the Stockyard neighborhood received $4998 to purchase fruit trees. The trees will provide fruit for members of the block club and residents of the community. This program offers a unique opportunity to bring residents together.
Prince of Peace Outreach and Deliverance Ministries located in the Stockyard area received $2960 to engage young men ages 13-21 once a week for 12 weeks in a program designed to address values, self-esteem, managing conflict and goal setting.

Stockyard Steppers a walking program located in the Stockyard area received $2376 toward the expansion of a community garden. The gardeners will offer a variety of vegetables to all members of the group and sell surplus to local farmers markets for the purpose of raising funds to keep the group self sustaining.

Tremont Friends of the Tremont Farmers' Market were funded $5,000 for market operations including educational programs, cooking demonstrations, local musician showcase, and children’s corner. Additional community outreach will also be done to advertise that EBT is accepted by the vendors.

Tremont Urban Food System project received $5,000 for teen wages for working in the gardens. TUFS gives teenagers from the neighborhood an opportunity to acquire valuable job and social skills, as well as a positive work ethic.

The Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival was funded $3,807 for the “Healthy Beginnings” program within the Children’s Village. “Healthy Beginnings” is a bilingual health and nutrition program that includes related activities and entertainment.

Tremont History Project received $3,011 for a Civil War Encampment, which is a “living history” event to highlight Tremont’s history as an encampment. The funds will pay for a Civil War band.

Union Miles
The East 126th Neighbors Together Block Club of the Union Miles neighborhood will build community capacity and connections by bring youth and elderly together. The project will use a $3000 grant to provide an opportunity for the teens in the neighborhood to assist seniors and low income residents with yard care. The summer project will culminate with a block party to celebrate the new connections and good work.

University
Montessori School at Holy Rosary in the University neighborhood will be installing a school garden space. The project is support the curricula and service projects of the school. $3927 has been granted to purchase “child size” gardening tools and other equipment. The garden will provide an opportunity to welcome neighbors in and be a springboard for conversation and resident bonding.

Westown
West Park Community Coalition located in the Westown neighborhood received $4806 to provide classes to youth in reading comprehension, digital imaging and computer building. The project aims to provide an enjoyable project for the students while simultaneously improving their academic skills.