



NEIGHBORHOOD **ALLIES**

Q2 & Q3 2021

*Report
To Our
Allies*



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Community Spotlight

2020 was a year unlike any other in recent memory. Yet, we found hope and inspiration in the tremendous outpouring of support from our partners as we fought to care for and protect our neighbors. We became a stronger organization, adding new talent and capacity. It is our privilege to share our 2020 Report to the Community! We are so immensely grateful for all of your support, commitment, and dedication to making our communities stronger, safer and healthier. [Read more.](#)



Grantee Spotlight

While COVID-19 caused many of our 2020 Love My Neighbor! grantees to postpone their community projects, some grantees were able to pivot their work to adapt to or even directly address the pandemic. We want to highlight all of the great projects that did take place in 2020, and give a sneak peek at all of the projects that will take place over in 2021! [Read more.](#)



To the right, see a mural in Wilkinsburg created by Meshwork Press, the Wilkinsburg Youth Project and the Braddock Youth Project.

Funder Spotlight

Over the past five years, Neighborhood Allies has developed Economic Opportunity for people of color, vulnerable populations, and under-resourced communities. Now, in the face of economic fallout due to COVID-19, our initiatives have become more essential than ever. We continue to expand, providing more services to greater segments of the population, and building long-term financial stability.



Thank you to PNC for awarding Neighborhood Allies a \$60,000 grant towards our continued Economic Opportunity work! The grant will help to fund initiatives such as the Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center and Fund My Future PGH, among others. [Read more.](#)

Community Ownership | Neighborhood Allies Supports Children of Steel - a Free Online Tutoring Service for Elementary Students - through Mentorship and \$800 Sponsorship Award

When Taylor Allderdice High School student, Jennifer Lin, began attending school remotely during 2020, she quickly realized the devastating impact that COVID-19 would have on education. In response to this, Jennifer reached out to peers who might be interested in providing free tutoring to students in grades K-5. Many of her peers answered the call. [Read more.](#)



Since their launch in 2020, The Children of Steel:

- Have been utilized by students from 40 elementary schools and 42 zip codes
- Obtained 211 high school tutor volunteers
- Provided free tutoring to 169 elementary students
- Started 8 chapters of COS at Pittsburgh area high schools and reached out to friends or family attending high schools in New York, Virginia, Mississippi, and Arkansas to start national chapters.

Equitable Development | Trade Institute of Pittsburgh Temporary Workforce Housing

We joined The Trade Institute of Pittsburgh (TIP) and other project partners at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the renovation of a duplex that will serve as temporary housing for TIP students as they complete their training programs. While living in the house they will

receive wrap-around support services and simultaneously develop in-demand carpentry and masonry skills while maintaining the house. As participants complete the job training, obtain employment, and achieve stability, ACTION-Housing, Inc. will assist in finding permanent, affordable housing.

Neighborhood Allies provided a \$75,000 grant in 2018 that has since leveraged an additional \$460,000 from a variety of other funders and partners in order to bring this project to life. The Trade Institute of Pittsburgh will formally launch this pilot model in 2021. [Read more.](#)



Q2 & Q3 2021 Healthy Neighborhoods Highlights

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Q2 & Q3 2021 Healthy Neighborhoods Highlights



Market Confidence | Real Estate Co-Powerment Series Graduates 68 Participants Since March 2020!

Like so many other things, the Real Estate Co-Powerment Series looked a little different during 2020; yet, that didn't stop us from equipping community members with the knowledge and skills to be involved in the development happening in their communities. Omicelo Cares taught courses virtually amid the pandemic, and thus provided 68 more passionate individuals with valuable real estate knowledge and a support network that enables them to become active and meaningful participants in their community's revitalization. The Real Estate Co-Powerment Series has graduated 9 cohorts over 5 years, with over 90% of participants identifying as African-American and 55% of participants identifying as women. During this time, average course sign-ups have increased by 300% with a recurring waiting list. Over 50 real estate investment properties have been purchased by graduates.

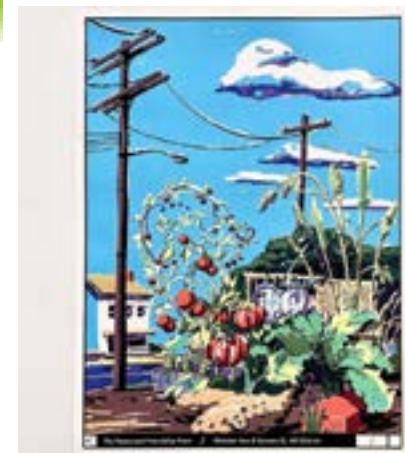


Please join us in celebrating the graduates of the 7th, 8th and 9th cohorts of the Real Estate Co-Powerment Series! [Read more.](#)

Neighborhood Image | Media Coverage | Local artist highlights Pittsburgh community gardens in silkscreen series

Through a collaboration with Neighborhood Allies, local artist Charlie Barber began a series of silkscreen prints of seven local urban gardens. The prints are created and sold through [Pullproof Studio](#), and all proceeds will go to the gardens featured.

"I wanted to make supporting these places as easy and attractive as possible," says Barber. "My hope is that more people know about them, that they continue to serve the communities they're embedded in, and, you know, they get a little more attention."



To help guide his efforts, Barber reached out to Tamara Cartwright at Neighborhood Allies. Together, they came up with the idea to highlight local gardens, and Cartwright put him in contact with seven urban garden owners around the city, from Ms. Natalie Thomas of Positive Effect Garden in Beltzhoover to Denise Rudar and Maya Guerin of Gardens of Millvale. [Read more.](#)

Quality of Life | Neighborhood Allies
and Steel Smiling Launch Innovative
Organization-in-Residence Pilot Program



The Organization-in-Residence initiative is an innovative pilot program co-created by Neighborhood Allies and Steel Smiling. The intention of the program is two fold—to incubate a nascent and growing, Black-led organization to eventually launch as an independent non-profit entity and to bring a holistic, more person-centered approach to community development by aligning Steel Smiling’s Black mental health programs with Neighborhood Allies’ economic mobility and digital inclusion work.

Through this innovative partnership, we endeavor to develop a model that suits the specific and individualized needs of Steel Smiling, yet is flexible enough to be replicated and adapted for equitable growth across the sector. In sharing our infrastructure, Neighborhood Allies is embodying the practice of “Transformational Capacity Building” by working to mitigate the racial inequities that often prevent nonprofits of color from serving their community members to their highest potential. Our hope is that this partnership alignment will begin to shift local paradigms.

The launch of this program represents the evolution and growth of a long-standing relationship between Neighborhood Allies and Steel Smiling, which is grounded in mutual respect and foundationally aligned missions, that until this point, were disconnected from an operational standpoint. Through organic growth, the Organization-In-Residence model was something that was created over a two-year period—beginning with a bundled fiscal sponsorship and Catalytic grant that Neighborhood Allies provided to Steel Smiling in 2019.

At the core of this innovative model is the intention to disrupt inequitable patterns of investment and resourcing when it comes to building capacity for Black-led, Black-focused nonprofits and other non-profits of color in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region. With this partnership, Steel Smiling will have heightened capacity to meet the needs of those they serve by accessing Neighborhood Allies’ organizational infrastructure. Having the ability to share in these structures, policies and services means that the Steel Smiling team will be able to both broaden and deepen their reach in ensuring that every Black person in Allegheny County has at least one positive mental health experience by 2030. [Read more.](#)

“This partnership will help us meet the exponential mental health and wellness needs of our Black neighbors in a more comprehensive and holistic way,” said Steel Smiling Founder and Managing Director, Julius Boatwright. “At a time when racial and economic disparities continue to grow, we’re positioned to address these inequities through a one of a kind accelerated, scalable, and sustained model.”

Q2 & Q3 2021 Healthy Neighborhoods Highlights

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

NEW FUNDING AWARDS

Neighborhood Allies Q2/Q3 2021 Grant Awards

Centralized Real Estate Accelerator

- Anonymous \$700,000
- Richard King Mellon Foundation \$300,000
- Hillman Family Foundation \$100,000
- First National Bank \$50,000

Economic Opportunity For All

- Wells Fargo \$25,000
- City of Pittsburgh \$30,000 (Financial Empowerment Center)
- Citizens Bank \$10,000 (Fund My Future)
- KeyBank \$2,000 (BankOn Allegheny County)

Steel Smiling

- Olson Trust \$30,000
- Opportunity Fund \$30,000
- YWCA \$5,000

Anti-Racist Learning Group

- The Pittsburgh Foundation \$10,000
- FISA Foundation \$2,500

Get Online Go Online (GOGO)

- Wells Fargo \$25,350
- Crown Castle \$10,000

Operating

- McAuley Ministries \$50,000



President's Special Initiative Award Winners Q2 - Q3



DeOndra Parker



Ben Emswiler



Tamara Cartwright



Demi Kolke



Violet Graham

New Staff Members



Itha Cao joins our team as the Senior Program Manager for Digital Inclusion. In this role, she will oversee and manage our Digital Inclusion work, including the launching of our Digital Inclusion Community Centers and Level Up 412. This includes the formal launch and ongoing program management of three local learning centers that will provide community members of all ages with digital skills and entrepreneurship training, STEM education, and workforce development opportunities through advanced technology and educational resources.

TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Fund My Future is OFFICIALLY part of Neighborhood Allies!



Fund My Future is now part of Neighborhood Allies and we couldn't be more excited! Now, Fund My Future families in Allegheny County will have access to more resources and Fund My Future community partners will be connected to more communities and programs through a larger network.



With this move, we also welcome Toni Corinealdi as Senior Program Manager of Empowerment and Outreach!

Toni joins our team as the Senior Program Manager of Empowerment and Outreach.

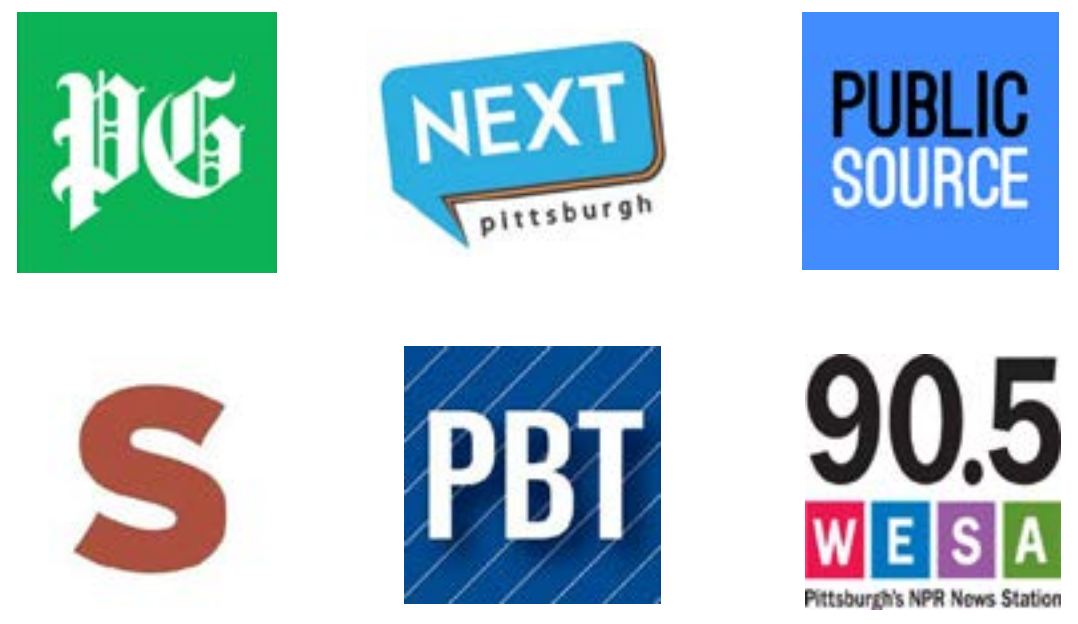
Prior to joining Neighborhood Allies, Toni served as the Community Outreach Director for Fund My Future, a program created by the Propel Schools Foundation that aims to encourage saving for children's futures and healthy savings habits overall. Over the years, Toni has served as a vital partner to Neighborhood Allies' Economic Opportunity work through Fund My Future; but now, she will be bringing Fund My Future to Neighborhood Allies full-time!

Toni's vision is that ALL children have a basic savings account by the start of school, giving children a jumpstart on life, building their confidence and preparing them to reach their lifetime goals. [Read more.](#)



Q2/Q3 2021 Media Coverage

- 90.5 WESA | Five Ways Pittsburgh Hopes To Make Its Water System More Equitable | [Read the article](#)
- Post Gazette | ‘We want to support the community’: Big Tom’s gets \$500K to expand barbershop at important Hill District site | [Read the article](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times | F.N.B. debuts Hill District Gap Lending Program | [Read the article](#)
- Public Source | Why is UPMC spending millions on affordable housing? It’s less about the mayor than about health and investments | [Read the article](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times | Program to grow youth savings accounts joins Neighborhood Allies | [Read the article](#)
- NEXT Pittsburgh | Neighborhood Allies and Fund My Future PGH team up to support kids’ financial literacy | [Read the article](#)
- Office of the Mayor | Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center Wins Grant For Eviction Prevention Efforts | [Read the release](#)
- Shelterforce | Rescue Plan has Billions Available for Housing, Advocates Urge Officials to Take It | [Read the article](#)
- Office of the Mayor | City, Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation and Partners Showcase Affordable Housing Development Projects in the Upper Hill District Neighborhood | [Read the release](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times | Three local centers providing free STEM learning courses | [Read the article](#)



PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

YOUR ALLIES

Team Members

- Presley L. Gillespie, President
- Stephanie Chernay, Chief Operating Officer
- Sarah Dieleman Perry, Director of Economic Opportunity
- Talia DePasquale, Director of Communications and Storytelling
- Shad Henderson, Director of Equity and Community Partnerships
- Matt Madia, Director of Real Estate Services
- Violet Graham, Controller
- Demi Kolke, Senior Program Manager of Corridor Revitalization
- Glenn Grayson Jr., Senior Program Manager for Neighborhood Development
- Toni Corinealdi, Senior Program Manager of Empowerment and Outreach
- Jael Jones, Senior Program Manager for Real Estate Services
- Itha Cao, Senior Program Manager for Digital Inclusion
- Tamara Cartwright, Program Manager for Social Impact Design
- Javier Janik, Program Manager of Economic Opportunity
- DeOndra Parker, Operations and Program Support Manager
- Ben Emswiler, Executive Assistant and Office Manager
- Chelsea Contino, Communications and Outreach Program Manager

Board Members

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- David Serafini, Treasurer
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- Mamadou Balde
- Jane Downing
- Sallyann Kluz
- Majestic Lane
- Henry Horn-Pyatt
- Michael Sider-Rose

Core Funders

Anonymous Donor
The Pittsburgh Foundation

Program Funders

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Aurora
Bank of America
Bank of New York Mellon
BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania
The Benter Foundation
The Birmingham Foundation
The Buhl Foundation
Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund
Citizens Bank
City of Pittsburgh, Community Development Block Grant
Computer Reach
Crown Castle
Dollar Bank
First Commonwealth Bank
First National Bank of PA
First Niagara Bank
FISA Foundation
Google
Grable Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
Hillman Family Foundation
JP Morgan Chase
KeyBank
KeyBank Foundation
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
McAuley Ministries
National Equity Fund (NEF)
National League of Cities
Olson Trust
Opportunity Fund
The Pittsburgh Technology Council
Phillips
PNC Foundation
PNC Charitable Trusts
Richard King Mellon Foundation
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Reed Smith, LLP
Staunton Farm Foundation
Urban Redevelopment Authority
Verizon
Wells Fargo
YWCA Greater Pittsburgh



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