Neighborhood Connections
A program of the Cleveland Foundation
Lookback – 2003 -2018

Community Network Building
& Neighbor Up
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Growing inclusivity – building social capital through philanthropy

Social capital as:
Economic and cultural capital where social networks are central. Transactions marked by reciprocity, trust, and cooperation. Goods and services are produced for a common good.
Growing inclusivity – building social capital through philanthropy

Neighborhood Connections

Started by the Cleveland Foundation as an effort to encourage more authentic community engagement in Cleveland’s neighborhoods.

Philanthropy that values investments in time and relationships as much as it does money.

It builds a ‘partnership’ approach where ongoing training, technical support, and relationship building are as important as a grant.
Cuyahoga County median income: $45,300
Cleveland median household income: $26,580
Montgomery County median household income: $100,350
Cuyahoga County median home value: $122,200
Cleveland median home value: $67,500
Montgomery County median home value: $506,100
Cleveland Poverty rate: 36.%
Cuyahoga County Poverty rate: 18.3%
Montgomery County poverty rate: 6.9%

Since Year 2010
Population US + 5.9%
Population Maryland + 4.7%
Population Cleveland - 2.7%
NEIGHBORHOOD TYPOLOGY, BLOCK GROUP
SINGLE AND TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

BLOCK GROUP TYPOLOGY, DETAILED

REGIONAL CHOICE

STABLE

TRANSITIONAL

FRAGILE

DISTRESSED

Conditions within neighborhood areas.

Map Source, Acknowledgement: NEOCANDO,
City of Cleveland, Planning Commission
Department of Community Development

Cuyahoga River Valley

Year 2006
Political / Economic Context
Funding for Cleveland Communities

City Wards
Block Grants
Community Development Groups
Funding Intermediaries / NPO’s
Local Area Foundations
Neighborhood Connections
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Neighborhoods Connecting

Active network weaving amongst community groups and individuals within and across neighborhoods
Organizing and facilitating peer learning communities
Creating a series of Community Conversations
Connecting grantees to larger initiatives
Hosting Final Report Parties for grant recipients, so they can learn from one another
Connecting seasoned grant recipients with those first applying, or learning something new, the NC Grassroots Directory
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Building social capital by offering trust, by giving the responsibility of managing change, and the resources to foster change in one’s own local environment.

- The grant application process
- Interviews with applicants by grant review - peer group
- Peer group selected from within neighborhoods
- Grant committee responsible for grant reviews
- Peer groups develop and manage grant
- Grantees become involved in larger social network –
- Some grantees become members of grant review committee
The grant application process as a teaching tool and learning opportunity.
“Part of the Magic, is the modesty of its goals” — Cynthia Lewis NC Program Manager.

- Support grassroots projects throughout Cleveland;
- Develop grassroots leaders;
- Connect them to community initiatives.
- Grant range: $500 to $5,000.

**Neighborhood Connections by the numbers**

- 2,400 grants provided. 55% - 60% Award ratio.
- Develop grassroots leaders: 150+ Grant Review Committee members – 3 year terms.
- Connect people to community initiatives – and to other agencies.
- Neighbor Up Network: 2,500+ members. Approximately 300 jobs created.
- Tangible impact within the City and elsewhere.
Neighbor Up

- Launched in 2013 - based on the belief that communities can not “program” their way to meaningful change.

- Change is driven by a shift in norms, culture and practices.

Logo designed by Neighbor Up member Gwen Garth
Community Network Building

Use networks made up of residents, employees at area nonprofits and representatives from regional institutions to begin transforming “poor people’s” service environments and dysfunctional community infrastructure into environments that all people seek – those designed to feed aspirations.
2014: Neighborhood Connections holds a Ground Learning Conference
200 people from all over the United States arrive.

Other visits:

The Denver Foundation
Rocky Mountain Cooperative
The Community Foundation of Elgin Illinois
Pittsburgh Neighborhood Allies
The Daniel Community Foundation – Virginia
Hunt Family Foundation – Pittsburgh
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Houston Family Foundation
A new way of making change in Cleveland & East Cleveland.

Led by residents.
Fuel your power with Neighbor Up.

Neighbor Up Spotlight
focuses on members of Neighbor Up, a network of about 2,000 Greater Cleveland residents making positive change in their neighborhoods.

"There are so many sincere and passionate people in our city doing little things everyday to improve their neighborhoods," Carol said. "The podcast showcases what they're doing and what's positive in our communities."

Each 15-minute episode is like listening in on a kitchen table conversation between Carol and two Neighbor Up members talking about their work, our city and what it means to Neighbor Up.

On iTunes & Soundcloud

Your neighbor is doing big things

Check out "Neighbor Up Spotlight" created and hosted by Cleveland resident Carol Malone — shining the spotlight on unsung heroes in our neighborhoods.
CITY CLEVELAND – FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS Beautification Project - 2005
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