

the Stand

south side news

www.mysouthsidestand.com

Syracuse, NY

November 2011 issue 14 FREE

THE BLUES MASTER

Stevie Wolf shares his natural Bluesman talent as a musician

Home Headquarters help

Nonprofit revitalizes homes on South Side

pcp risks

Organizations team up to speak to teens

Sending message to kids about nutrition in food

Pumpkin Patch

MOBILE MARKET ON MOVE



FOUNDERPROFESSOR
STEVE DAVIS**DIRECTOR**

ASHLEY KANG

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**CHARLES
PIERCE-ELSHANTEASHIA
HARRIS ELREGINALD
A. SEIGLER

DEBORAH A. WILLIS

JOHN A. YOUNG

YOLANDA L. BECKON

MONICA RICHARDSON

**REPORTERS, EDITORS AND
PHOTOGRAPHERS**STUDENTS AT THE
S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**SPECIAL THANKS**DEAN LORRAINE BRANHAM,
JOANNE CRANER, LINDA
LITTLEJOHN, AMY FALKNER,
MARGIE GANTT, DEBORAH S. KENN,
DENNIS KIM, ASHLEY VAN HOFF,
CAITLIN O'DONNELL, RAPHAEL T.
RICHARD, RONALD J. PRATT,
ANNA DAUGHTON**CONTACT US**SOUTH SIDE NEWSPAPER PROJECT
ASHLEY KANG: (315) 882-1054
ASHLEY@MYSOUTHSIDESTAND.COMTHE STAND IS BASED OUT OF THE
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER
2331 SOUTH SALINA STREET
SYRACUSE, NY 13205**DISCLAIMER**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE STAND ARE NOT
NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ENTIRE STAFF.
THE STAND WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS FROM
ALL MEMBERS OF SYRACUSE'S SOUTH SIDE
BUT RETAINS THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH ONLY
MATERIAL THE STAND DEEMS ACCEPTABLE TO
THE PUBLICATION'S EDITORIAL PURPOSE AND
IN KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY STANDARDS.

- 4** **ENTERTAINMENT** | Read about South Side Blues legends Little Stevie Wolf and SAMMY award-winner Carolyn Kelly.
- 6** **FEATURES** | Learn about this month's South Side special achiever, Linda Green, who uses therapy dogs to promote literacy.
- 8** **COMMUNITY** | Every week, the Farm Fresh Mobile Market truck brings healthy, fresh produce to the South Side neighborhood. Find out where to get your fruits and vegetables.
- 10** **FEATURES** | Read how Home HeadQuarters is helping South Side residents and how one woman built the home of her dreams with the agency's help. Coverage runs four pages.
- 14** **FEATURES** | Find out about the Concerned Citizens Action Program, a local nonprofit that provides job training through constructing and deconstructing buildings and homes.
- 16** **COMMUNITY** | The Salvation Army welcomes seniors to its Adult Day Program after the closing of the Ida Benderson Senior Center.
- 17** **SCHOOL AND YOUTH** | A local organization is spreading awareness of PCP and the side effects of this dangerous drug. Read about their work to educate teens.
- 18** **FEATURES** | Meet Phoenix Philosophies, a local nonprofit that works to restore vacant houses and revitalize the South Side.

■ Cover photography of Stevie Wolf by Allison Milligan

CALENDAR | NOVEMBER

What: Syracuse Black Expo
When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12
Where: Southwest Community Center,
401 South Ave.
More details: This consumer trade show
highlights African-American businesses of all sizes
and will feature entertainment
More Info.: Call Sean Herring at (315) 863-8335
to learn more

What: Tomorrow's Neighbors Today Valley Meeting
When: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9
Where: Bob Cecile Community Center, 176 W.
Seneca Turnpike
More details: TNT Area 4 Valley regularly meets
on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
at the Bob Cecile Community Center
More Info.: Contact Babette Baker at (315)
448-8173 to learn more or to be added to the
group's email list

MEET CREATOR OF THE NEW WACKY WORDS FEATURE



Yolanda L. Beckon is a member of The Stand's board of directors and a native of Syracuse. She is currently a student at University College, which serves Syracuse University's part-time students. Beckon graduated as valedictorian from Bryant and Stratton College in 2003 with an associate degree in business management. She was the first Bryant and Stratton student to be published in The Post-Standard. Beckon created a new feature for The Stand that she calls "Wacky Words." Her goal is to introduce words to readers to broaden their vocabulary. Flip through the pages of this issue to see Wacky Words at work.



Last month The Stand held its first interactive Behind the Scenes workshop. We provided a unique look at our project and allowed reporters and readers to share their perspectives.

Newhouse journalism students who report for The Stand shared the process they followed to complete their recently published stories — from initial idea to reporting to completed article. This was truly an interactive session. Reporters, residents, community correspondents and business owners all had a chance to voice their insights and ideas.

Many who attended enjoyed the informal format, which allowed an open discussion to occur. We hope to provide a similar session in the future, and we encourage more community members to attend. We are interested in your story ideas and also your feedback on reporters' stories that have been published.

This month we are offering a full-day workshop for interested community members to work with a student reporter to complete a story for The Stand. These students will serve as mentors and will work alongside each attendee to help during the reporting, writing and editing process.

The session will open with a short lesson by The Stand's founder, professor Steve Davis, followed by an open discussion about story ideas. Then each mentor / participant team will venture into the community to interview for their story. Following a break for lunch, all participants will return to write their stories and upload photos. Completed articles will later be shared with the community online and possibly in a future print edition. Space is limited, so be sure to contact me by Nov. 9 to reserve a spot for the full-day workshop.

This month's issue features a number of stories highlighting local projects. Learn how the new nonprofit Phoenix Philosophies, featured on Page 18, is working to provide affordable housing to the homeless. Catch up with the latest housing developments from Home Headquarters on Page 10. Find out about a mobile market that delivers fresh produce directly to residents in this month's Strolling the South Side feature on Page 8 and meet Linda Green, of the Newland Center, who is this month's South Side Achiever, on Page 6. Even more stories are available online, including a video featuring Ma'Dears Salon. To read more, simply turn the page. To stay up to date, visit us online at www.mysouthsidestand.com, where new stories are featured weekly.

To reach me, email me at ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or call (315) 882-1054.

Ashley Kang



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 12

Full-day Journalism Workshop

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Interested community members can join our community correspondents in gaining journalism skills and completing stories for The Stand with the help of journalism student mentors.

Attendees can practice their skills at reporting, photography or even video coverage.

Space is limited. To reserve a spot, RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 9, to Ashley Kang at Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or (315) 882-1054.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor can be mailed to:

The Stand c/o Ashley Kang
South Side Communication Center
2331 South Salina St.
Syracuse, NY 13205

or emailed to:

The Stand's director,
Ashley Kang, at Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com

All letters must be no more than 200 words in length and must contain the writer's full name, address and contact information.

CORRECTION

A photo caption in last month's issue that ran with a story on Page 18 about Stone Soup Community Garden misidentified the person on a ladder in the background of the photo. The person is Kevin Frank.



> South Side resident Julius Lawrence listens to Rasheeda Alford, not shown, share her future story ideas during the Behind the Scenes of The Stand workshop in October at the South Side Communication Center. Members of The Stand are shown in the background. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

LISTEN ONLINE

the **STAND** Listen to "Slow Cooking on Hot," recorded by Carolyn Kelly, and "I Feel All Right," by Stevie Wolf and the Blues Express, online by clicking on the songs at mysouthsidedstand.com

SEE THEM LIVE

Catch Stevie Wolf with his Blues Express band later this month

When: 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26

Where: Cedar House Lanes, 813 W. Genesee Street Road, Skaneateles

More details: The Blues Express includes the father-and-son team of Jimmy and Jamar Lacey on bass and drums, respectively, and Bernie Williford on keyboards

For Wolf's bookings, call him at (315) 751-1028

Carolyn Kelly's music and schedule can be found online at www.carolynkellyblues.com

For Kelly's bookings, call Jim Paventi at (315) 380-7977

SOUTH SIDE BLUES

Two artists bring years of experience to local Blues scene

By | Reggie Seigler
A *Friendly Five*' columnist

Stevie Wolf and Carolyn Kelly have taken different career paths, but both currently perform locally

When I decided to do a story about the Blues on the South Side, interviewing Syracuse's "Bluesman" Little Stevie Wolf immediately came to mind.

I also figured that while I was at it, I would finagle a guitar lesson from him as well. Wolf was happy to oblige as we jammed at his home and talked about the local music scene and his career as a Bluesman.

Wolf, 65, originally from Greenville, Miss., is a multi-instrumentalist and front man for Stevie Wolf and the Blues Express, also known as the Blues Express. Greenville is the same part of the Mississippi Delta that produced a slew of other great Bluesmen like Muddy Waters, Pinetop Perkins, Little Milton, Earl and John Lee Hooker (cousins), B.B. King and Ike Turner.

Wolf knew many of these players personally. In fact, he toured the Midwest with the band Earl Hooker and the Soul Twisters, which included Pinetop Perkins. In a biography about Hooker called "Blues Master," author Sebastian Danchin reflected on Wolf's contribution to the band: "He was a hell of a drummer."

During his early years as a drummer, Wolf was afforded many opportunities to play with and learn from these Blues giants. Now, Wolf almost exclusively plays the guitar and sings. After years of being planted in a seat in the light of great guitar innovators such as Earl Hooker and others, he developed his own guitar skills. B.B. King once said that Earl Hooker, in his opinion, was "the best of modern guitarists." Locally, Wolf is that type of talent. I guess it's natural. He was grown from the same soil.

A South Side Blues story would not be complete without mention of the 2009 SAMMY Award winner Carolyn Kelly, who came to Syracuse from Dorchester, S.C., by way of Philadelphia, Pa., in the late 1960s.

Her first encounter singing in Syracuse outside of church was in the mid-1970s with The Soul Doctors. Their repertoire consisted mainly of R 'n' B covers of the hits of that era by Gladys Knight and Aretha Franklin.

After the stint with The Soul Doctors, Kelly started singing strictly Gospel. For decades, her conformance within the guidelines of religious dogma wouldn't allow her to sing outside of the church.

In 2003 or 2004, all that began to change. Visiting preacher David Ushery prophesied that she would be using her talents in other venues.

Kelly began to pray on it. Around that same time, she started to get calls from her old friend Roosevelt Dean. He wanted someone to do backups for his Blues band. Kelly first refused, but eventually agreed.

Todd Fitzsimmons, president of the local Blues Fest, says he's glad about her choice.



> Carolyn Kelly and Stevie Wolf both lived in the South before coming to Syracuse. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

"Carolyn is better than at least 99 percent of the national and international touring Blues acts out there," he said.

Kelly's repertoire has changed a bit since The Soul Doctors. Instead of singing Rhythm and Blues, she now sings strictly Blues. The artists she covers in addition to her own pieces include Etta James and Denise LaSalle. She even throws in some male artists like Eddie Floyd.

A Friendly Five is created and coordinated by Reggie Seigler to highlight the music and history of Syracuse's South Side music scene. If you are a local musician and have an idea for a future column, contact Reggie at reggie@softspokenband.com or call (315) 479-9620

Bennie's business dream is reality.

Yours can be, too.

Bennie McDonald's dream of owning his own company needed a jump start, and that's just what he got from the **South Side Innovation Center (SSIC)**. "They were the mentors I needed to get my business off to a successful start," says McDonald, a disabled veteran who is now president of BMD Snow Removal & Grass Cutting. "What I learned helped me exceed all my goals."

If you want to start a business, or you already have one and want to make it better, the SSIC has a full range of services and facilities, including:

- > Office space and equipment
- > Hands-on training
- > Counseling
- > Classroom courses
- > Business plans
- > Access to loans

The SSIC is a program of SU's Martin J. Whitman School of Management, a national leader in entrepreneurship. To find out how the SSIC can give you the tools you need to succeed in business, visit southsideinnovation.org or call **315.443.8600**.



LOCAL ACHIEVERS

The South Side Achiever is a new feature in The Stand that highlights an accomplished person in the community.

ORGANIZATION

The Newland Center

DIRECTOR

Linda Green won the 2006 CBS 5 Women in Leadership Award.

NOMINATE SOMEONE

Do you know a South Side Achiever? Nominate that person by contacting Ashley@mysouthsidedstand.com or (315) 882-1054

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Newland Center

- (315) 471-1446
- director@thelearningplace.org

Office Hours

- 1443 E. Genesee St.
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon Friday
- www.tlpsyracuse.org



Linda Green

Teaches others to read
with help from best friend

By | Sistina Giordano
Staff reporter

The Newland Center promotes literacy in adults and tries not to turn anyone away

A distinct dog odor permeates the old house at 1443 E. Genesee St., home of The Newland Center, a nonprofit organization that provides literacy instruction to adults on Syracuse's near South Side. It's no wonder, given that Linda Green, the director of the center, has a soft spot for animals.

"If you can't tell, I'm an animal lover," Green said as she peered down at the rescue puppy cowering under her desk. "Romeo is afraid of people, but he's great. He loves ice cream, filet mignon and 'Good Morning America.'"

Students fell in love with Romeo, too, and their interest in Green's dog sparked the idea for the center's Reading Education Assistance Dogs program. The mission of the R.E.A.D program is to demonstrate how registered therapy pets and their handlers can improve literacy skills in a positive and less intimidating manner.

"People don't realize the benefits that dogs can do for them," Green said. "They really help to ease the students through their reading."

R.E.A.D. is one of many projects that Green created since she became director in 2004, following the death of founder Phyllis Newland.

Alberta Whitaker, a bus driver for 17 years, began studying at The Newland Center a year ago. Whitaker



> A weekly adult literacy book club at The Newland Center reads "The Other Side of Yellow." | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo



> Linda Green, the executive director of The Newland Center, with her dog, Romeo. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

said she has learned a lot about herself and her reading skills in just one year.

"You see old people and young people getting a good education and getting on with life, and it makes you feel good," she said. "I really love the teachers here. They work with me and try to encourage me."

On a budget just under \$80,000, which comes from donors and grants, Green works with volunteer office staff and tutors to promote adult literacy by tapping into her personal interests. She finds ways to incorporate those interests as part of The Newland Center's learning process.

"It's a creative way of working with what you've got," she said.

Green's own life struggles led her to teach. She attended 11 different schools yet managed to graduate from high school a year early. She earned a degree in early childhood education from Columbia College, but didn't take her interest seriously until she began homeschooling her own children Michael, now 30, and Melissa, now 27.

After going through a divorce and struggling to understand her own life goals, Green turned to the Women's Opportunity Center in Syracuse in 1999. It is an organization that helps displaced homemakers enter the work force after divorce, separation or widowhood. Through the women's center, Green met Phyllis Newland, who put her to work as a volunteer.

Green's daughter, Melissa Green, described her mother's work ethic. "My mom has tried to keep Phyllis' dream alive and has given up a lot to stay and make sure

OTHER PROJECTS BY LINDA GREEN

- *Neighborhood Garden Literacy Project*
Offers students the opportunity to understand the role of literacy in the garden
- *Alpaca Reading Program*
Students visited an alpaca farm and learned about the cottage industry business
- *Ride for Literacy*
As an avid motorcyclist, Green developed this event in which motorcycles parade down the street in honor of adult literacy
- *E.S.L. learning classes*
English as a Second Language classes recently began in response to the increasing refugee population



> Inside The Newland Center. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

the students and tutors are taken care of.

“As a child I often slept on the blue chairs waiting for my mom, who worked to make sure everything was done efficiently,” Green’s daughter said. “She gave of her time and energy to making sure that everyone had the individualized attention they needed and rightfully deserved.”

Kim Jakway, a volunteer at the center who tutors and leads a weekly book club, said her relationship with Green and the students keeps her coming back.

“Linda is an unbelievably hard-working person,” she said. “She just has that community spirit of wanting to help everyone.”

Green helps in little ways, too. “We try not to turn anyone away,” Green said, as she scoured the refrigerator for a bottle of Mountain Dew for Ryan, a student searching for something to quench his thirst.

“I believe in second chances,” she said. “Can someone else do it better? Probably. But I’m trying to do the best I can with what we’ve got.”

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- Volunteers do not need teaching experience. Anyone willing to commit four to six hours a week can apply. The center will then set up an appointment for a follow-up interview, do an evaluation of their educational needs and make tutoring arrangements.
- To make a tax-deductible contribution, call (315) 471-1446 or send an email to director@thelearningplace.org
- Tax-deductible donations of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more are always accepted to help The Newland Center. Book donations are greatly needed.

Did you really think he did it all alone?



\$10 off

Any Print Job
of \$50 or more

PostNet

2363 James St. Syracuse
315.218.6223

With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer or on prior services. Offer expires 12-23-2011

\$5 off

Any UPS, FedEx or DHL Shipments

PostNet

2363 James St. Syracuse
315.218.6223

With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer or on prior services. Offer expires 12-23-2011

20% off

All Packaging Supplies

PostNet

2363 James St. Syracuse
315.218.6223

With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer or on prior services. Offer expires 12-23-2011



ON THE SIDE

WHERE TO SHOP

TUESDAY

Brighton Towers
821 E. Brighton Ave.
Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Vinette Towers
947 Pond St.
Time: 12:45 to 2 p.m.

Almus Olver Towers
300 Burt St.
Time: 3 to 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Valley Vista Apartments
122 W. Seneca Turnpike
Time: 10:30 a.m. to
12:30 p.m.

James Geddes Housing
312 Gifford St. and
427 Tully St.
Time: 2 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

Toomey Abbott Towers
1207 Almond St.
Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Syracuse Community
Health Center
819 S. Salina St.
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

FRIDAY

Ross Towers
710 Lodi St.
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mundy Branch Library
1204 S. Geddes St.
Time: 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

STROLLING *the* SOUTH SIDE

Traveling produce stand brings fresh food to residents' homes



> Tomatoes are displayed among other fresh fruits and vegetables at a Mobile Market stop. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo

By | Tara Donaldson
Staff reporter

Mobile Market aims to revitalize area by giving people access to nutritious food

Four bananas, two pears and two tomatoes: \$3.25. These are the fresh produce items that Betty Brooks, 87, bought recently without even leaving home.

On Wednesdays, Brooks goes downstairs to the lobby of her Valley Vista Apartments home to purchase her weekly produce from the brightly colored vehicle that brings nutrition to the South Side: It's the Farm Fresh Mobile Market truck.

From Tuesdays through Fridays and for special events, Mobile Market, a vegetable stand on wheels, sets up shop within the community. The truck makes its rounds to senior homes like Valley Vista, as well as Syracuse Community Health Center and Mundy Branch Library. When Mobile Market makes a stop, spreading out the day's bounty, shoppers can find everything from pears and plums to sweet potatoes and acorn squash.

For senior home residents like Brooks who might be less able or without easy access to transportation, the Mobile Market makes shopping much simpler.



> Diane Turner's Farm Fresh Mobile Market is parked by the Valley Vista Apartments. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo

"It's just perfectly convenient, and they have everything you need — all but the ham hock," Brooks said with a chuckle.

With no grocery store to call its own, the South Side was the prime location for the Mobile Market because its residents had the greatest need.

"The corner stores didn't have much and we wanted to bring fresh produce into the community," said Diane Turner, president of the Southside Interfaith Community Development Corporation. She runs the Mobile Market.

Kim Mere defends his South Side corner store,

SUGGEST A LOCATION

To submit an idea for Strolling the South Side, contact Ashley Kang at (315) 882-1054 or Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com

Jimmy's Super Saver, for its selection of fruits and vegetables, saying, "This is the place to be, whatever the people need, I got it."

But Turner says there is no competition. The more access that South Side residents have to healthy foods, the better, she said.

The concept of the Mobile Market was modeled after an idea in Oakland, Calif., called People's Grocery. Syracuse's own version materialized in 2005, in partnership with the Gifford Foundation, the Allyn Foundation, Southside Interfaith Community Development Corporation and with some help from Wegmans.

Aside from its daily rounds, Mobile Market has recently begun to collaborate with Parkside Children's Center, a division of Arc of Onondaga. The Mobile Market is considering cooking classes for Parkside fami-

lies. Maureen Fauler, a dietitian at Crouse Hospital, plans to bring a nutritional facet to the classes.

Susan Prince, director of the Parkside Center, said she is excited about the new connection.

"We have a lot of families that can't get out to the market because they don't have transportation," she said. "And groceries are just too expensive, so this will be great."

Mobile Market survives on donations from the community and grants from the state in order to keep prices low for customers. For now, it is focused on getting funding and donations to purchase a new truck.

Turner said she hopes to continue spreading nutrition to families that need it.

"My goal and vision is that we'll be expanding more and more into different neighborhoods and maybe eventually having a couple trucks."

MARKET DETAILS

Mobile Market accepts cash, credit and electronic benefit transfer cards (EBT). Coupons are available to eligible shoppers.

For more info, contact Diane Turner, Southside Interfaith CDC (315) 475-8316 ext. 319

ON THE SIDE

Syracuse Association of Retired Men Charity & Benefit Dinner

Friday, December 16, 2011

Social Hour: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m. Sharp

Best Western - Carrier Circle

6555 Old Collamer Road, East Syracuse, New York

For ticket information,
contact John Young at (315) 218-5534

Donation: \$75.00 per couple
\$40.00 per person



HENDRICKS CHAPEL

Syracuse University

A Home for All Faiths — A place for All People

Is College a Distant Dream for you?

Did you struggle in high school or earn a GED? Did life circumstances prevent you from getting the education you wanted? Where do you go from here?

Syracuse University.

University College has a special part-time program for students whose educational backgrounds may prohibit them from gaining admission to SU. The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) assists part-time students with tutoring, support services, tuition, and books.

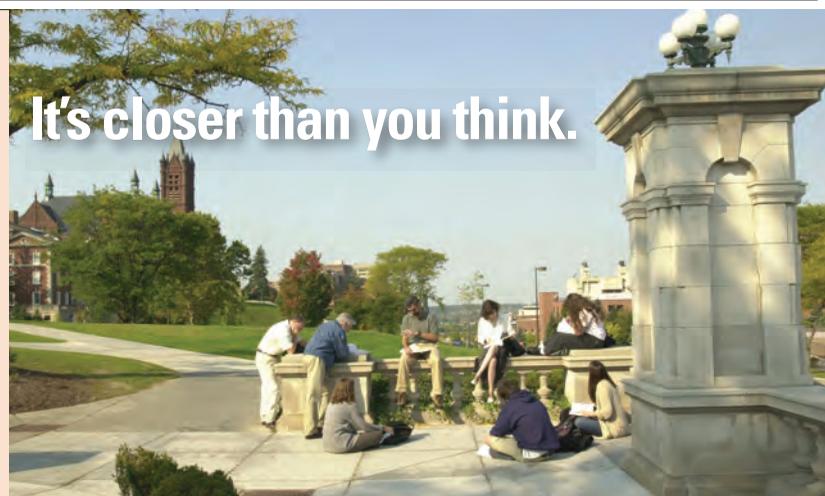
To be eligible, you must be a first-time college student and

- A New York State resident
- A high school graduate with a four-year average below 84.5, or have a GED
- Meet economic guidelines set by New York State

Attend an Information Session: November 16 at 5:30 p.m. or November 18 at noon.

Contact an HEOP representative today, and get started on the path to a better future.

Phone: 315-443-3261 | E-mail: heop@uc.syr.edu | Web: uc.syr.edu/stand



It's closer than you think.

The HEOP is funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Education.





Building a Community

> Home HeadQuarters, a nonprofit organization, was established in 1996 to channel money into the housing industry and help families. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

By | Christina Levin
Urban Affairs reporter

Home HeadQuarters helps buyers afford home financing one property at a time

A widow in her 80s once wrote to Kerry Quaglia, thanking him for fixing her roof. Now, she told him, she wouldn't have to lug heavy trash cans upstairs to catch the rainwater leaking through the cracks, and she could sleep peacefully at night, gratefully.

Quaglia, executive director of Home HeadQuarters, the nonprofit agency that did the repairs, said replacing a roof can cost \$15,000 on a larger house. "So if you're a senior citizen on Social Security, how the heck do you afford \$13,000, \$14,000, \$15,000?" he asked.

Home HeadQuarters, an organization that works to revitalize neighborhoods and create housing opportunities for people of all income levels in upstate and Central New York, often encounters such questions.

With loan programs such as its urgent care program, Home HeadQuarters can help people like the widow with the leaking roof. People can repair the homes they have lived in for decades, paying back just 20 percent of the cost at \$20 to \$25 a month, Quaglia said. Federal grants can help pay for the rest, he said.

Quaglia, who used to be the director of the city's housing department, founded Home HeadQuarters, located at 990 James St., in 1996 after growing frustrated that the city was not accomplishing enough for housing, he said.

"I just felt that as a city, we weren't leveraging enough dollars into the housing arena," Quaglia said. "We needed to do a better job trying to get banks, credit unions and other financial institutions involved in housing."

The best platform to channel more money into housing was as a not-for-profit organization, he said.

Andrew Maxwell, director of the city's Bureau of

Planning and Sustainability, said Home HeadQuarters has been a “real partner” to the city and the South Side community during the six years he has been familiar with the organization. Home HeadQuarters lends to more than five counties in New York, but “they continue to be focused on the South Side as one part of the city where their services can really make a big impact,” he said.

Terri Luckett, project manager, said Home HeadQuarters has three lines of business: lending, home ownership, and real estate and development.

Home HeadQuarters functions like three agencies in one, Luckett said, and there is a lot of interdepartmental coordination.

“We’re a very collaborative group,” she said. “There’s a lot of crossover between departments.”

Quaglia explained that as a community development lender, Home HeadQuarters gives about 800 loans a year to those denied by banks and credit unions, enabling them to fix their homes. Home HeadQuarters also qualifies for capital grants because the U.S. Department of the Treasury classifies it as a community development institution, the Home HeadQuarters website states. To date, Home HeadQuarters has received \$1.5 million in capital grants.

Home HeadQuarters promotes home ownership education with programs like the 10-hour class that teaches ownership essentials, Quaglia said. The department of Housing and Urban Development certifies this

constructing about 15 new homes in the inner city and rehabilitating about 25 “in some of the worst neighborhoods,” Quaglia said. From tax delinquent properties to vacant homes, Home HeadQuarters purchases distressed houses and renovates them, later turning them over to home occupants, he said.



> Kerry Quaglia is the executive director of Home HeadQuarters, a nonprofit housing group. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

“We don’t ever sell to investors or landlords,” Quaglia said. “We believe that the way you revitalize neighborhoods is by getting more homeowners living on the block.”

One example is the 200 block of Kennedy Street on the South Side, which had a number of abandoned homes about four years ago, Quaglia said. Home HeadQuarters has constructed five single-family residential properties there, and has sold two of three homes that are next door to each other. One is already occupied.

“It was not a street homeowners felt comfortable moving onto,” Quaglia said. “We’ve turned this from one of the least desirable streets in the neighborhood to one of the most desirable.” One of the occupied homes already has flowers on the porch, he said.

Luckett said two construction projects have been completed on Woodland Avenue, also on the South Side.

In addition to interdepartmental crossover, Home HeadQuarters collaborates with outside groups, such as Syracuse United Neighbors and the city’s department of Neighborhood and Business Development, Luckett said.

Home HeadQuarters’ ability to collaborate with others, Maxwell said, helps it maximize tax dollars.

“They make a lot of great things happen with very limited resources,” he said, stressing the professionalism of the staff.

Karen Schroeder, marketing and resource development manager at Home HeadQuarters, said its staff consists of talented, busy people.

“We have a lot of different irons in the fire,” said Schroeder, who has been working at Home HeadQuarters for about nine years. “We’re all very passionate.”

“We believe that the way you revitalize neighborhoods is getting more homeowners living on the block.”

— Kerry Quaglia

class, he said. Private counseling on basics like budget management is also available to participants, Quaglia added.

In its real estate and development track, Home HeadQuarters redevelops 35 to 40 properties a year,

HOW DOES IT WORK?

MAINTAINING CREDIT IS KEY

- Once a prospective homebuyer’s credit is approved, federal and state grant subsidies can help cover some of the cost
- For example: If a house is on the market for \$125,000, the government may provide a \$50,000 subsidy. This means the homeowner pays \$75,000
- If the buyers maintain credit and avoid foreclosure, they do not have to pay back the loan

TO SEE REFURBISHED AND NEW HOMES FOR SALE, VISIT:

<http://www.homehq.org/homeownership>

CONTACT HOME HEADQUARTERS

- 990 James St.
Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13203
- (315) 474-1939
- info@homehq.org

ON THE SIDE

HOUSING VISIONS

Housing Visions is a nonprofit organization similar to Home HeadQuarters. It focuses on neighborhoods rather than single homes. It began in the late 1980s on the corner of University Avenue and East Genesee Street at University United Methodist Church, an area that had become increasingly dangerous with crime and drug issues.

Housing Visions was created to revitalize the neighborhood surrounding the church; it since has expanded into helping low- and moderate-income families find quality affordable rental housing.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

To learn more, contact Housing Visions (315) 472-3820

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Family is one of more than 2,000 helped by home-financing agency



> Lonnie and Aishah Jones, left, pose with daughter Khadejah outside their home on Woodland Avenue. Along with Aishah's son and two grandchildren, the family lives in a home purchased through Home HeadQuarters. | Mitchell A. Franz, Staff Photo

By | Heather Wentz
Urban Affairs reporter

Fed up with renting, one Syracuse woman buys her dream home through Home HeadQuarters

Aishah and Lonnie Jones' dreams of owning their own property came true with help from Home HeadQuarters Inc., a nonprofit organization that builds new homes and rehabilitates older ones in disrepair.

Aishah Jones, a Queens native, moved to Syracuse 17 years ago for its lower cost of living. Five years ago, she took a three-bedroom apartment to share with her husband, son, daughter and two grandchildren. But after calculating that she had spent \$55,000 in rent and lacked any equity in the house, she decided the family needed to buy its own place.

"The apartment was beautiful, but over time, it became too much money to be paying for something that I'm not owning," Jones said.

She also said that it was too small and her grandchildren, then 3 and 4, were getting bigger and noisier. Jones decided to look into purchasing a home.

"I went to Home HeadQuarters for the first-time homeowner's class," she said.

Rickey Brown, the homeownership center manager, said the bulk of his job is teaching prospective homebuyers about the process of successfully purchasing a home. Brown said prospective homebuyers have to attend a 45-minute information session about the home-buying process and complete a 10-hour class, which is the one Jones took.

Later, as she drove through a South Side neighborhood, Jones noticed a partially built home. She learned that it was a project of Home HeadQuarters, but that the nonprofit had already sold it. Luckily for her, the lot next door, 113 Woodland Ave., was still on the market.

"The real estate agent from Home HeadQuarters advised me that they were breaking ground on a house next door, and he said, 'If you want, you can have the opportunity to purchase it,'" Jones said.

After that, Jones didn't waste any time. She put a down payment on the lot in October 2009 and closed on the house July 15, 2010.

Jones put down a \$500 deposit to Home HeadQuarters to secure the lot and then decided to finance the rest through a small bank called Geddes Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Since then, Jones has worked hard to make her new

house a home. From her grandsons' Spiderman-themed bedroom to her husband's "man cave" in the basement to her prized dark cherry hardwood floors that cover the first floor, she has made the house her own.

"Basically my reason for purchasing the home was for my grandsons and also to leave some type of legacy for my children," Jones said. "They will always have somewhere to call home."

Jones' story is quite common. Home HeadQuarters states it has helped more than 2,100 homebuyers in Central New York since its inception in 1996.

Financially, Brown said the organization helps homebuyers qualify for homeownership. Home HeadQuarters has programs designed to aid homebuyers with their credit, mortgage and loan applications. Brown said Home HeadQuarters receives federal and state subsidies to help with rehabilitation and loans. Syracuse Common Councilor Jean Kessner said that takes the burden off the city.

"Money that would have been coming to the city is going to them," Kessner said. "And the city seems very happy with that arrangement and has been over time."

Rehabilitated homes are mostly constructed by Opportunity HeadQuarters, a nonprofit affiliate created in 2009 to specifically help build and rehabilitate homes with "green building" in mind. Jones said her house is

New York State certified energy efficient.

"Usually they need roofs and windows replaced, things to help it become more energy efficient, such as insulation," Brown said.

The city is also starting to focus on neighborhood preservation, which means rehabilitating not only one lot, but transforming several houses on the same block to enhance the whole neighborhood.

Ben Lockwood, the director of development for Housing Visions, a nonprofit organization similar to Home HeadQuarters, said the idea of neighborhood preservation started in the late 1980s on East Genesee Street where they revitalized a poverty-stricken neighborhood. Since then, Lockwood said they have worked closely with Home HeadQuarters on South Side neighborhood preservation efforts.

Jones' residence on Woodland Avenue is a prime example of neighborhood preservation. Home HeadQuarters built her house and the one next door, and has broken ground on another lot. In addition, it owns two lots across the street, which Jones thinks will lead to more homes.

Jones also said she hopes the new units will prompt existing homeowners to take better care of their property.

"I think that's what Home HeadQuarters is gearing towards, respecting and taking care of your property," she said. "Have some pride in where you live."

CUOMO'S PLAN

Syracuse Common Councilor Jean Kessner said neighborhood revitalization falls in line with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's \$1 billion economic development plan.

Housing Visions submits an application for funding to repair housing units. Then the money received falls under Cuomo's "economic development" umbrella, which helps Syracuse increase the property value per unit. This, in turn, increases the amount of taxes going to the city. Kessner said this system is beneficial for everyone.

"I like The Stand because of the history that's in it. It's good to know who we are and what good things we're doing."

— *Deraux Branch*

The Stand Advertiser and President of Branch's Driving School & Director of Small Business Lending Unit at Empower Federal Credit Union

How to purchase an ad

If interested in running an ad, contact **Ashley Kang** to request a rate card and discuss options by emailing Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or by calling (315) 882-1054. The Stand's rate card can also be found online.

www.mysouthsidestand.com



ON THE SIDE

GETTING INVOLVED

Want to volunteer? Here are some training opportunities offered by the Concerned Citizens Action Program:

HELPING HANDS GREEN COLLAR

- Preserves resources while providing jobs and training opportunities
- Aims to buy, recycle and employ locally

DECONSTRUCTION/ GREEN ROOFS

- Provides training opportunities for young men and women through hands-on training on a job site
- Includes job coaching and education on the importance of deconstruction and sustainability

URBAN FARMING

- Addresses the lack of fresh produce for hundreds of families in poverty-stricken areas of Syracuse
- Volunteers and families work together a few hours to grow and receive fresh produce and healthy food

JOB CONSTRUCTION

Local nonprofit builds job opportunities by deconstructing old homes



> Volunteers of the Concerned Citizens Action Program deconstruct a home. | Photo provided by the CCAP

By | Laura Liera
Urban Affairs reporter

Along with construction skills, volunteers learn tips on making good impressions to land a job

The people who run Concerned Citizens Action Program like to say they keep an open door policy, meaning anyone looking for job training or better communication skills can walk in and apply for one of its programs.

The 22-year-old nonprofit, located at 2309 S. Salina St., provides training programs in environmentally friendly skills, such as building green roofs and urban farming. “As we all know, there isn’t a whole lot of jobs out there right now,” said Pam Clark, the organization’s office manager. “And this program gives them the opportunity to get involved and learn skills that perhaps they may not be able to get on their own.”

Marissa Saunders, 43, director of operations, said the group applies for numerous grants to receive funding. But since everyone is a volunteer, the program presses on regardless of winning a grant or not, she said.

One program that involves hands-on training is the Helping Hands-Green Collar program, which provides training for individuals who want to work in any type of

construction site in the future and in “deconstruction,” which has become widely associated with the green movement.

“There is a difference in demolishing and deconstructing a building,” Saunders said. “Demolishing involves big machinery and pummeling a building, and deconstruction is literally taking off piece by piece of the building or home — without damaging it — including nails, and re-using them,” she said.

The organization’s volunteers have deconstructed one residential home in Jamesville and a commercial site on West Fayette Street. The volunteers collaborate with another organization to get free Occupational Safety and Health Administration training before working on a construction site.

Neil Adams, 29, a volunteer at the organization since May, is one of the few volunteers who has taken every learning skill and opportunity offered. “Working in construction has been my dream and you have people like Marissa who are really here to help you, from getting my first resume started to being a role model that I can look up to,” Adams said.

Volunteers at the organization range from 18 to 50 years old. The construction crew currently consists of 18 men and one woman. “It’s important for people to under-

stand this isn't just for men; it's for women, too, who might be interested in any program we have," Saunders said.

Volunteers are asked to purchase a hard hat, gloves and steel-toe boots for construction training. The organization provides some tools at the job site, but asks those who have extras to bring them to share with anyone who cannot afford to buy tools.

When volunteers arrive at the organization's office and express interest in construction training, they get a rundown of the program before they even fill out an application, Clark said. Clark emphasizes to the walk-ins that it's a volunteer program, so there is no guarantee there will be a job at the end, she said. She then asks basic information about education, skills and criminal history.

The next step is an interview with Saunders, where she said she tries to gauge what people's objectives are in volunteering.

Then, the eight-week training classes begin. Classes run every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The first two weeks focus on leadership training, where Saunders said she teaches about interviewing skills, appearance and first impressions, among other subjects.

Adams heard about the organization when he was in family court and asked the judge to help him find a job because he really wanted to work to support his daughter and himself.

Volunteers' past experiences vary, Saunders said. "Neil is a calmer version of the individuals who come in.

He has never been to jail, never been in trouble with the law. Now multiply his story to a degree of adding being incarcerated, a seventh-grade education, more than three or four kids, and these are the type of men and women we help," she said.

The organization helps any person who walks through the door, with a mission to guide the volunteers and give them the opportunity to shape their lives in a positive way. "They hold us to higher standards in terms of being in a professional environment," Adams said, "and most of us aren't used to that type of standard coming off the streets."

Saunders was part of the Syracuse University Intern Fair on Sept. 21. She and Adams spoke about the organization to students interested in marketing, research and data collection.

Saunders said she was proud to see Adams take over toward the end of the Intern Fair. "I was able to sit back and watch him talk about our organization and what we did, and it was a proud moment for me because he listened and watched and was a professional," she said.

Adams agreed the program has changed him. "From the way I dress to how I speak and approach people I don't even know," he said. "I would not have been able to sit here and give an interview before but because of the communication skills I have learned here, I am able to not only give an interview but also be well prepared when I am standing in front of a possible employer."

LEARN MORE

For more information, contact the Concerned Citizens Action Program

P.O. Box 31
Syracuse, NY 13205

(315) 530-2062

<http://ccapsyr.org/>

Facebook: Concerned Citizens Action Program

You help Save the Rain. Now, help us celebrate.

Save the Rain Project 50 Reception & Celebration

Nov. 16, 2011 The Palace Theater, 2384 James Street
5:00 - 8:00 PM

As a **thank you** to community members who have done their part to "Save the Rain," you are invited to a **celebration** of Project 50.

Join us for updates on Save the Rain and mingle with community members, design professionals and Save the Rain representatives. The Palace Theater will provide complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and wine and beer will be available for purchase. **The event is free**, but please RSVP at <http://savetherain.eventbrite.com> or call 315-443-3507.



Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive

Save the Rain

ON THE SIDE

PET THERAPY

Hobie, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, acts as a mascot for the Salvation Army seniors. Hobie greets seniors each day with a tail wag and a lick in hopes of getting a few gentle pats in return.

MORE OFFERINGS

- Counselors
- Outreach Workers who help with housing issues and entitlement programs
- Nurse's office with a licensed nurse on staff to help seniors who are not feeling well, provide health education and blood pressure monitoring
- Diabetes support group

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Location

The Salvation Army Adult Day Program
749 S. Warren St.

Hours

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact

Linda McNally at
(315) 479-1313

www.use.salvationarmy.org

A WELCOMING PLACE

Salvation Army helps seniors transition after Ida Benderson closes



> John Shepard and Charley, who declined to give his last name, chat outside the Salvation Army. | Scott DuChene, Staff Photo

By | Safa Browne
Urban Affairs reporter

Salvation Army's Adult Day Program provides a variety of services for displaced seniors

The closing of the Ida Benderson Senior Center in September because of city budget cuts has opened an opportunity for displaced seniors to attend the Salvation Army's Adult Day Program. In existence for 62 years, it serves people 60 and older.

Staff members provide a variety of services, and they welcome people from Ida Benderson to join.

"There is a TV room, a library, a music room and a cafeteria, where we serve both breakfast and lunch each day," said Linda McNally, director of the Salvation Army's Adult Day Program. The cafeteria also acts as a common room for arts and crafts, ceramics, activities and games. They play dominoes, cards and Wii bowling, and they also take trips shopping to Walmart.

For the 10 days before Ida Benderson closed Sept. 30, McNally and fellow staff members visited the seniors there to introduce themselves and share information about their adult program. But McNally expressed the importance of helping the Ida Benderson seniors understand that they were not being forced to go to the Salvation Army and that they had other choices.

"I prepared lists from the county office that listed all the nutrition sites in Onondaga County and all the other senior center programs so that if they chose not to come here, they knew where their options were," McNally said. "Nobody needed to go hungry. If we could help them find one closer to where they lived, just as a form of education, that's what we did."

However, the Salvation Army does not seem to be having a problem attracting Ida Benderson seniors to its center. On the first day, 38 Ida Benderson seniors showed up, McNally said. At the end of two weeks, more than 70 seniors had registered for the nutrition program, she said.

The one activity that all seniors do together at the center, McNally said, is to share the noontime meal.

"Aging can really be a process of losses, and here we like to celebrate older people and their ability to make choices about how they spend their day," McNally said. "So our job is to offer a variety of activities and yet still let seniors either participate or sit in a chair and read the paper or watch the news on TV."

Staff members want to help the Ida Benderson seniors adjust to a new environment, McNally said.

"If you could tell which seniors are from Ida Benderson and which seniors are from here, then I am not doing my job."

RAISING AWARENESS

Agencies address the fight against drugs among Syracuse city youth

By | Camille Bautista
Staff reporter

Local organizations educate against PCP to make a difference and foster better leaders

Shallow breathing, flushed faces and numbness are a few side effects of a dangerous drug that is popular among young people.

PCP, or phencyclidine, is commonly known as “water” or “embalming fluid,” and one agency is addressing the issue and spreading awareness in city schools to lead the fight on drugs.

Prevention Network, an alcohol and substance abuse organization, has teamed up with Contact Community Services to educate teens on different drugs.

Colby Sutter, program coordinator for youth development, said he believes PCP is important to address because of its increasing popularity with inner-city youth.

“A lot of kids don’t have a lot of knowledge on it,” even though adolescents as young as 13 have had personal stories or experience with water, Sutter said.

Twenty-seven cases have been reported in the past year, according to the Upstate New York Poison Center.



> Students talk about the dangers of PCP at a local drug prevention meeting. | Allison Milligan, Staff Photo

“It’s really lethal, and a one-time decision can be a life-changing decision for kids,” said Dr. Elizabeth Berry of Crouse Hospital’s Chemical Dependency Treatment Services. She believes education is a big step forward.

In Sutter’s job to develop better leaders for society, he is attempting to provide that education. “It needs to be brought to everybody’s attention so we can educate on the dangers of it,” he said. “We don’t want more tragedy to happen for society to realize what’s going on.”

HISTORY

PCP came onto the scene in the 1960s and ’70s. It was nicknamed “embalming fluid.” The new label led to a new problem: Users would break into mortuaries and steal embalming fluid, which is poisonous. It can cause cancer and produce a high.

EFFECTS

PCP causes users to hallucinate and feel like they have superhuman strength. It also increases heart rate and body temperature. Effects can be long term. PCP can harm the brain and affect ability to react.

UPCOMING SERIES

What: Winter Learning to Learn Together Gatherings

When: Each topic held from 6 to 8 p.m. starting Nov. 15

Where: Beauchamp Branch, 2111 South Salina St., and Mundy Branch, 1204 South Geddes St., libraries

More details: Learning to Learn Together is a series of winter gatherings organized by Newell Street Community Garden that offer presentations, discussions and potluck dinners. The gatherings are open to anyone interested in gardening or social change-community issues.

This year’s topics include:

- *Laying Claim to Good, Fresh Food* by Mable Wilson **Nov. 15** at Beauchamp
- *Crossing the Border* by Aly Wane and Lydia Medina **Nov. 30** at Mundy
- *Herbs in Our Lives II* by Jeannie Shenandoah **Dec. 20** at Beauchamp
- “*I am ordinary – You are different*” a Panel Discussion **Jan. 10** at Beauchamp
- *Old Roots, New Roots II* a Panel Discussion **Feb. 1** at Mundy
- *Your Plant Growing Problems and Solutions* by Bill Manciocchi **Feb. 21** at Beauchamp

More Info.: Contact Mary Marquis at 476-3754 or Mable Wilson at 471-7063 for more information about the topics and the gatherings

SYRACUSE FEDERATION OF WOMEN’S CLUBS & SYRACUSE FEDERATION FORMERS

Invite Local Students to Enter Creative Poetry & Short Story Writing Contest

Open to Syracuse City Schools & surrounding districts in Onondaga County

Students in K-12 in 4 Categories:

- Primary- K-2
- Intermediate- 3-5
- Middle- 6-8
- High School- 9-12

ENTRY DEADLINE: DEC. 15

- One poem and/or short story per student.
- Authors must be of amateur status, entries cannot be previously published and must be original work.
- Entries must be typed, double-spaced, with minimum margins of 1”, one side only on 8” by 11” paper.
- Short stories limited to 2,000 words. Poems can be any style with a minimum length of eight (8) lines and maximum length of thirty (30).
- Entries must be written during contest year and will not be returned.
- Entries must have the following in the top right hand corner of each page: author’s name, address, telephone number, name of local club, state and district name (Syracuse Federation Formers / New York, Central District), title of manuscript, category and grade (include e-mail address if applicable).
- Certificates and monetary awards given out.
- A waiver must also be signed and attached.

Teachers call (315) 243-1750 or (315) 445-0053 to learn more



ON THE SIDE

PHOENIX FACTS

Phoenix Philosophies helps economically disadvantaged youths, recent nonviolent parolees, individuals emerging from detoxification programs, victims of abusive situations and veterans.

GOALS

- Acquire and renovate six homes a year
- Place families
- Help individuals learn a trade
- Help families buy a home after five years
- Rebuild the community
- Eliminate homelessness

CONTACT

Eileen Carr
eacarr@live.com

Gordon Stowell
(315) 450-0630

“We’re just hoping to make our corner of the world a little bit better.”

— Gordon Stowell

OPERATION RESTORE

Local nonprofit organization strives to rebuild South Side back to glory



> Gordon Stowell and Eileen Carr have worked trying to improve South Side living. | Scott DuChene, Staff Photo

By | Camille Bautista
Staff reporter

Phoenix Philosophies Inc., restores properties and provides homes to South Side community

A rising nonprofit is helping rebuild neighborhoods on the South Side, one house and one family at a time. Phoenix Philosophies Inc., a year-old organization, is focused on providing affordable housing for the homeless while renovating vacant and tax-delinquent properties throughout the city.

Gordon Stowell hopes to restore the South Side to its glory days, when dilapidated buildings and empty lots were an uncommon sight on Syracuse’s streets. A former resident of the area, Stowell started to see more houses becoming vacant and abandoned. He and his partner, Eileen Carr, sought to revitalize the community while helping families in need.

“I’ve always believed in the city, and the area has so much it can offer, if only it could do something to bring along jobs,” Stowell said. “Everybody’s willing to tear down and build new, but why not renovate to keep the look of the old neighborhood?”

The organization’s motto is, “Where people and properties rise from the ashes.” Their program will collaborate with organizations such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Vera House and Catholic Charities

to assist homeless families. Currently, they are focusing on giving a roof to veterans, who make up 30 percent of the homeless population, Stowell said.

“As for the face of homelessness, it’s not necessarily the person at the end of 690 or 81,” Stowell said, referring to the highways that crisscross Syracuse. “A lot of families are in a tough situation because shelters separate them, and with our program we’re basically looking to put them back together and have a stable environment.”

The organization outlines a program to assist a family by training an individual. Working with contractors that will renovate the acquired homes, the collaborating companies will teach the individual a trade such as plumbing, roofing or electrical work. At the end of a five-year program, the goal is to provide in-house financing for the family to buy a renovated residence.

The long-term objective is to help families become self-sustaining, bettering their standard of living while making the South Side vibrant again.

Phoenix Philosophies utilizes grant programs as well as private funding, and is gaining support from city officials. Martin Masterpole, county legislator of the 17th district, would like to help move the initiative forward.

“They appear to be making all the right moves,” he said. “I was thrilled about the idea. You can never have enough home ownership in an urban setting. The more the better.”

STRIVING TOGETHER

How community, SU partner to help rejuvenate Syracuse's South Side

By | Shante Harris El
Guest columnist

Summer music festival, other community projects show creativity of South Side residents

Community-university partnerships are research-proven forces for revitalizing communities.

The concepts of community-university partnerships include community participation and service-learning concentrated on achieving a particular goal, such as community, cultural and economic development. The benefits of community-university partnerships are mutual and include educational, financial, social, governmental and ecological improvements.

Syracuse University kept these benefits in mind when it attempted to engage the South Side residents of Syracuse in 2005. The geographic target area was a three-block radius using the corner of South Salina and Colvin streets as the hub.

SU knew that to facilitate a successful relationship, both SU faculty and students and South Side residents had to be actively involved in decision making, goal formation, planning and implementation.

Out of numerous meetings between SU and South Side residents came the beginning of The Southside Community Coalition, or the SCC. The University worked with residents to identify community needs and possible partnership projects. These projects were then reviewed by SU faculty and officially presented to approximately 50 University faculty and senior administrators on Sept. 22, 2005. The Syracuse University South Side Initiative officially began Oct. 1, 2005. The South Side Initiative is a community-university partnership program involving the SCC and SU schools, colleges and departments. The mission of the partnership is to restore, revitalize and rejuvenate the South Side.

The SCC works with SU faculty and students to create programs that have sustainable benefits for the South Side and SU. The partnership develops programs that address the economic, educational and cultural opportunities for the South Side community.

Some of the potential partnership programs identified in 2005 include: a summer music festival, a cultural arts center, a community newspaper, a technology center, an Internet café/jazz supper club and a food cooperative.

Some of the projects have already come to fruition. The summer music and art festival took place in 2006 and 2007 at the corner of South Salina and Colvin streets. The cultural arts concept began as The Kuumba Project. The program was conceived, implemented and

managed by the partnership in its first two years. It provides artistically gifted Syracuse city school children with opportunities to unlock their creative potential through free instruction in visual art, music, dance, theater and the literary arts.

In keeping with the original intent, it now is managed by the Community Folk Art Center under the new name Creative Arts Academy.

The community-operated newspaper, "The Stand," successfully launched its online edition in 2009 and its print edition in March 2010. The newspaper provides clear and balanced reporting of news and information for the South Side community and reasonably priced advertisement options.

The SCC and SU partnership sponsors an annual South Side Film Festival. Family-oriented films are shown in the parking lot of Key Bank, located at the corner of South Salina and East Colvin streets, during July.

The partnership is responsible for the South Side Communication Center, located at 2331 S. Salina St. The center serves as an open-access computer cluster providing residents with free public access to computers with Internet connection and on-site assistance. Hours of operation are 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The center provides a platform for several SCC and Syracuse University South Side Initiative projects, including "The Stand" newspaper, the Black History Preservation Project, Digital Access Day and the South Africa Meets South Side Initiative.

Syracuse community businesses and organizations are able to reserve meeting and workshop space in the South Side Communication Center.

The partnership is in the final stages of developing a food cooperative dedicated to bringing high-quality, reasonably priced foods and products to South Side residents while also creating entrepreneurial opportunities.

All of the programs developed by the SCC-SU partnership happened with the support and assistance of community businesses, agencies and organizations.

Thank you for your dedication.



Shante Harris El is vice president of The Southside Community Coalition and a member of the board of directors for The Stand

GET INVOLVED

WHAT

The Southside Community Coalition has monthly general meetings open to anyone who wants to get involved.

WHEN

5:30 p.m. every third Wednesday

WHERE

South Side Communication Center, 2331 S. Salina St.

For more information,

visit www.syrsouthside.org



Find these words on this page

Rejuvenate

To make seem new or fresh again.

Sustainable

Something that can be continued or a practice that maintains a condition without harming the environment.

Fruition

A coming to fulfillment.

How would you use these words in a sentence?

ON THE SIDE

DAY'S FESTIVITIES

The Healthcare Education Project sponsored a field trip to Tim's Pumpkin Patch in Marietta, N.Y., to help educate children about the food they eat.

Children were shown a documentary, "Nourish," which educated them on where food comes from.

To read the full version of the story on Tim's Pumpkin Patch and view a slideshow with more photos, visit mysouthsidestand.com



Find these words on this page

Maze
A confusing, intricate network of winding pathways.

Celebration
A happy occasion when people engage in some pleasurable activity.

Tour
A long trip, as for sightseeing.

How would you use these words in a sentence?

TASTE OF FARM LIFE

Tim's Pumpkin Patch features pumpkin picking, wagon rides for families

By | Tara Donaldson
Staff reporter

In celebration of the first annual Food Day, 32 South Side children and a few adult chaperones took a field trip to Tim's Pumpkin Patch in Marietta on Oct. 23. The event was part of an effort to teach children about what they are eating and how food goes from farm to plate. The field trippers spent the day bouncing back and forth across the farm taking horse-drawn wagon rides, getting lost in a hay maze, visiting animals and picking out the prettiest pumpkins.



> Melani Smith, 1, with her grandmother, Sithokozile Moyo, watches the pigs. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo



> Dyasia Clark, 10, shows off her pumpkin. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo



> The patch has more than 50 kinds of pumpkins and squash. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo



> The horse-drawn carriage at Tim's Pumpkin Patch takes passengers on a short tour of the pumpkin fields. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo



> Melani Smith, 1, gazes at the chicken coop. | John C. Liau, Staff Photo