



WALNUT WAY
CONSERVATION CORP.

WELLNESS

WORK

WEALTH



Annual Report 2019

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the talents and contributions of many, Walnut Way's innovative and integrated approach to improving the Lindsay Heights neighborhood through Wellness, Work, and Wealth has earned increasing support and success at the neighborhood, city and national level in 2019.

Blue Skies Landscaping is putting people to work. This year, our innovative social enterprise was recognized by The Partnership for Resilient Communities, a prestigious national program which supports community-based climate resilience, and the Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development & Innovation (MANDI) award for economic development.

Our Community Wealth Building program is spurring economic opportunities for residents. This new program created new relationships and created pathways for building wealth.

Our Wellness Programs heal people and changes lives. Historic oppression and poverty weigh heavy on our minds and bodies, and Walnut Way's wellness programs have become a touchstone for our community and beyond.



Every day, I am impressed with the creativity, talent and passion within our community. Please enjoy our look back at 2019!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light teal rectangular background. The signature reads "Antonio Butts" in a cursive, stylized font.

Antonio Butts,
Executive Director

Health Center 5818



Our mission is to sustain transformation of economically diverse and abundant communities through civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and creating venues for prosperity.





Meet Ed Wingard, Spoken Word Artist & Green Ambassador

Ed Wingard is a father, community organizer and a gifted poet and performer. Ed is passionate about shifting the mindset of young men like himself to shine light on opportunities beyond the confines of neighborhood statistics. He facilitates conversations with community leaders around supporting young men and their leadership. He is a budding entrepreneur with a social mission to support other performing artists with his growing collective, *The Cre8ive Public*.

GREEN AMBASSADORS ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

From knocking on doors to reporting potholes, Green Ambassadors are residents of Lindsay Heights that advocate for neighborhood improvements and safety. Funded by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Walnut Way hired two ambassadors to pilot the program.

"Being a Green Ambassador is helping me gain a ground-level perspective about what needs attention in the community," said Ed Wingard, Green Ambassador.

Ambassadors connect neighbors to community events, maintain neighborhood safety and cleanliness and give Eco Tours highlighting "green" sites.

NEIGHBOR NIGHT

MINDFUL EATING & NUTRITION SERIES

This year we forged new partnerships to strengthen our programming. Thanks to support from American Cancer Society, we offered robust year-round cooking and nutrition classes centered around mindfulness. Classes were taught by author and nutritionist Bridgett Wilder, and caterer, Chef Anomalous Campbell.

Over the course of the program, we reached hundreds of participants and created spaces for connectedness, multi-generational connections, healthy food conversations and goal planning. Bridgett Wilder will continue to support individuals on their wellness journeys, as a tenant in Phase II of the Innovations and Wellness Commons.



“I want to thank the wonderful ladies hosting the Mindful Eating Series at Walnut Way, Chef Anomalous Campbell and Nutritionist and author Bridget Wilder, wonderful healthy food and great education regarding the effects of certain foods on our bodies. I appreciate the time these ladies have given to this program and all their efforts to positively impact the community! My daughter and I will continue to support this effort as we continue to take control of the narrative regarding our health!”

- Lekisha Leonard, Neighbor Night Participant





“ When I found out about the soil and lead levels in my daughter, I wanted to be a stay at home mom. I didn’t understand why people my color couldn’t be at home with their children. ”

MY STORY BY CHEF ANOMALOUS CAMPBELL

HOW IT BEGAN

I hit a rough patch in my life so a friend invited me to Core EL Centro for an affordable program for our children to play. While waiting, I saw a flyer for the Growing Healthy Soil (GHS) gardening workshops at Walnut Way. I ended up taking the free class and through the program, I learned that there were extremely high lead levels in my backyard soil. I had my daughter’s lead levels checked and found out she tested 7 mcg/dL, on the lead scale, where 5 was

considered very serious and requires action. Walnut Way and everyone included at Walnut Way immediately wrapped their arms around me and my family. All of these interesting people sparked a flame in my life, like Angela Smith, the Healing Circle Facilitator; Antonio Butts, the Executive Director; Nate Gilliam, the GHS Coordinator; and an array of other beautiful people. Jeremy, the Environmental Stewardship Specialist, came and installed a new garden bed in my backyard. It was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. Gardening has offered my family food, tranquility, and togetherness.

PRIOR TO WALNUT WAY

At the time, I was working for MPS as a janitor for 14.5 years. When I found out about the soil and lead levels in my daughter, I wanted to be a stay at home mom. I didn't understand why people my color couldn't be at home with their children and why I had to work so hard and have other people raise her. Fast forward, Angela, asked me to cook for a group that meets at Walnut Way called The Healing Circle for Women. I cooked for her...and this person liked it and that person liked it...and it spread throughout the community. **It was amazing.**

WHERE I AM NOW

Through my collaboration with Walnut Way I've had the opportunity to become a full time entrepreneur. **Full time entrepreneurship has allowed me to be a healthier, happier mother full time.** I have a wonderful support team and have now catered for American Cancer Society, Medical College of Wisconsin, City of Milwaukee, Housing Authority, Metcalfe Park Community Bridges, Alices Garden, Fresh Empire Milwaukee, Pearls for Girls, America's Black Holocaust Museum and all sorts of other events offered at Walnut Way. I now have my own catering company called Anomaly Catering and I owe it all to programs offered at Walnut Way. **Thank you to my community and everyone involved.**

BLUE SKIES LANDSCAPING LEADS WITH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Walnut Way's Blue Skies Landscaping is growing and building capacity. Since 2012, we have increased the skills and certifications of our workforce, which allows us to take on bigger and more complex projects.

With the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office, BSL launched a series of green infrastructure and clean energy projects, including our first solar installations. In addition, Lindsay Heights earned The City of Milwaukee's first "Eco-Tour" neighborhood designation. Funding was awarded by the national Institute for Sustainable Communities, to help make our community more climate resilient.

At the Sherman Phoenix, a community-owned marketplace, BSL is giving the entry plaza a big boost. With designs from New Eden Landscape Design, BSL is replacing the asphalt eye-sore with a green oasis featuring a raingarden, bioswale and permeable pavers to capture water. Customers will also enjoy outdoor seating, planters, and lighting for evening use.





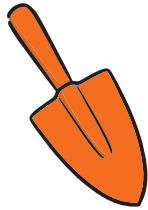
THE GREEN RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY CELEBRATED ADVANCEMENTS IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, CLEAN ENERGY, AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS LINDSAY HEIGHTS.

AN AWARD WINNING TEAM

LISC Milwaukee (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) honored Blue Skies Landscaping with a MANDI Chase Economic Development Award that honors business and economic development. The prestigious MANDI Award is LISC's annual Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) award ceremony.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BY THE NUMBERS 2019

5 new
green
infrastructure
projects



150
bioswales
maintained
by BSL

13 BSL
sustaining
green
jobs

100,000
gallons
of water
diverted

1,000 lbs
of produce
sold to local
restaurants



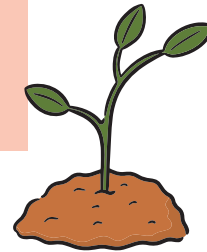
5 park
projects
installed

4 new
canned
products

PROTECTING OUR WATER

During heavy rainstorms, polluted stormwater overflows into Lake Michigan from Milwaukee's combined sewer system. That's why protecting our freshwater is an important conservation and job sustaining effort for Blue Skies Landscaping. In the landscape, BSL replaces cement with permeable pavement and builds bioswales and rain gardens using native plants with deep root systems to absorb stormwater, thereby reducing the impact on our sewer system.

TBD



URBAN AGRICULTURE

Walnut Way maintains over 60 fruit trees on our campus where vacant lots once stood. Our cherries, peaches, pears, apples, and even plums make their way across the city in the form of canned preserves and fruit baskets sold at the Fondy Farmers Market and at local restaurants.

\$600,000
earned
revenue
by BSL



INTERNS DEVELOP A DIVERSE SKILLSET IN AGRICULTURE

Stacy Whitters, pictured center, returned for his second year as a Growing Youth Leadership Intern. The program is a first job for many teens where they dedicate their summer to hard work in the fields yielding abundant harvests. This season, Whitters developed his skills in a variety of urban agriculture methods like aquaponics, green-house growing, preservation, and making compost to enrich the gardens.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPIRIT BRINGS COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



As economic growth from downtown reaches into our community, we want to make sure our current residents are prepared to benefit. This year, we implemented the Community Wealth Building Campaign Program with residents interested in economic development. The program increased awareness of alternative economic development strategies such as cultivating neighborhood assets, growing resident ownership and control, and collaboration with anchor institutions.

26 residents were interviewed by five neighborhood connectors who captured the skills, interests and desires related to their economic life. As a result, neighbors are:

- Starting new employment
- Winning job bids for their home and landscape businesses
- Selling food, products and services at the Fondy Farmers Market
- Creating a support group for food entrepreneurs

Most importantly, neighbors were able to build relationships that stimulate economic growth.



THE ART OF COMMUNITY CREATES ABUNDANCE AT HARVEST DAY

Our 19th Annual Harvest Day festival truly demonstrated this year's theme, the Art of Community. Together, we celebrated the abundance that working collectively creates. In partnership with Fondy Food Center, Harvest Day was held at Fondy Park and Market, which was fully bloomed and buzzing with activity!

Vibrant music from local bands was heard across the market. Crowds gathered in amazement as The Milwaukee Flyers tumbling team flew through the sky. Hot and spicy food aromas filled the air from local vendors like That Salsa Lady who sources her ingredients from the Walnut Way gardens whenever possible.

ArtWorks for Milwaukee unveiled their latest inspiring mural which was created by teens that interned at Walnut Way this summer. The Kids Zone was fluttering with STEAM activities and butterfly face paintings thanks to support from residents, MSOE, Kohl's Color Wheels, and sponsor 88NINE Radio Milwaukee.

Even the bees were buzzing as they enjoyed the park's flowering raingarden. We anticipate another fruitful Harvest Day next year, as we gear up for our 20th anniversary!



EMONIA BARNETT,
NEIGHBORHOOD
CONNECTOR

“

I did not feel the same about the community until I started walking, meeting and talking with the neighbors. This led me from calling Lindsay Heights "THE community" to "MY community."

”

MY STORY: BY EMONIA BARNETT

EMONIA REFLECTS ON HER ROLE AS A "NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTOR" AND "WARRIOR AND UPLIFTER" IN LINDSAY HEIGHTS

I moved back to Milwaukee to be caregiver for my father who had lived in Lindsay Heights 30+ years. He loved the community and knew many of the people who lived here; he was especially concerned for the children.

I did not feel the same about the community until I started walking, meeting and talking with the neighbors. This led me from calling Lindsay Heights "THE community" to "MY community." I met other liked-minded people in the neighborhood. As a group, we walked our community meeting neighbors, listening to the history, concerns and the love people have for Lindsay Heights. Our walks lead to the formation of a supportive community group that focuses on "good 53206 neighbors," effective neighborhood activities and research to assist with improving neighbor's lives and homes. Our group is called Warriors & Uplifters of 53206.

This involvement lead me to the pilot program at Walnut Way, Community Wealth Building Campaign (CWBC), an amazing and potentially life changing initiative. Economic development is an important aspect of any community and our community in particular. CWB, asset-based focus offers an alternative and innovative approach to economic development, growth, cooperation and collaboration. I LOVE IT! In the program, I am a Neighborhood Connector where I had the chance to interview residents about their skills, talents, and interests. I love being involved with the talented, enthusiastic, risk-taking people who're moving toward meeting their goals for themselves and Lindsay Heights.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to Kyle's support, Walnut Way can advance our Environmental Stewardship mission and grow our department. In 2019, we employed 16 full-time staff. Thank you Kyle for your sustaining support!

KYLE KLEINBECK

Kyle Kleinbeck is passionate about the environment and community. He is a chemist and lab scientist focused on the development of global HIV prevention and contraception technologies. He has a strong interest in renewable energy, food systems, and social cohesion for a thriving future.



"I support Walnut Way because they are leading the exact type of growth that Milwaukee requires by prioritizing our social challenges as an essential element of building our greener future. They remind us that thriving ecologically-friendly communities require a focus that extends far beyond solar panels and rainwater capture barrels. Walnut Way knows that we must get connected within the community first. The approach Walnut Way uses is the most inspiring community organizing that I have ever seen and is the foundation of exactly the type of community I want to be part of, in which we may all build a green future together.

If we are successful in following Walnut Way's leadership, our kids will inherit a thriving city whose positive impacts will reverberate outward to the whole state and far beyond."

-Kyle Kleinbeck, Walnut Way Donor



Pictured above, a portion of the Summer 2019 mural created by Lead Artist Mikal Floyd-Pruitt, Assistant Lead Artist Nicholas Lagrone and interns Lisbeth Lopez Cordero, Iyanna McCarty, Tracina Ragsdale, and Aria Thomas.

ARTWORKS FOR MILWAUKEE

Our partnership continues to flourish with ArtWorks for Milwaukee. In 2019, ArtWorks coordinated two art based internship programs at Walnut Way with Milwaukee teens. Two murals were completed and installed on the Walnut Way campus and at nearby **Sunshine Park**, a recently revitalized City of Milwaukee Home Gr/OWN owned vacant lot on 14th and North Avenue. Our Blue Skies Landscaping team installed the park.

The murals convey themes of unity, respect, and safety. The interns gathered input from the community through surveys and by speaking to neighbors.

ArtWorks for Milwaukee is a local non-profit for teens that integrates 21st Century life skills training with community art making. In 2006, ArtWorks created the iconic Caring Neighbors Mural, located adjacent to Walnut Way's gardens in the alleyway. In 2018, a team of professional and teen artists restored the caring neighbors mural to its original vibrancy.

Thank you to ArtWorks for Milwaukee and all of our partners who continue to make our collective impact stronger each year.

THANK YOU DONORS!

Walnut Way would like to thank those that show their support in many ways, through volunteering, sponsoring events, teaching classes, donating their time talents and funds, and lending an extra hand throughout the year to help advance our mission to sustain economically diverse and abundant communities through civic engagement environmental stewardship, and creating venues for prosperity. Thank you!

INDIVIDUALS

Bibi Momsen
Brenda Skelton
Brian Grill
Carmen Gonzalez
Darlene Bundy
Deborah Wible
Deborah von Schmidt-Pauli
Dolores McDonagh
Ellen Carriere
George Philippides
Gina Meronek
Jacob Bidwell
Jake Renyolds
Janet Thompson
Jill-Anne Fowler
Jim Zeisler
Julie Whitted
Katherine Miller
Kathy Powers
Kelsey Vaught
Kyle Kleinbeck
Laura Cantrell

Meredith Bourne
Nancy Swain
Paige Chapman-Layland
Pamela Mehnert and Lisa Maskowski
Robin Timm
Sarah Christman
Sharon Willis
Steven Kurtz
Thomas Carter
Thomas Skadow
Toni Soward-Gatford
Tyler Huebner
Tyler Johnstone
Wanda Montgomery

FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Cancer Society
Arzbaecher Family Foundation
Aurora Healthcare
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.
Ceres Family Foundation
CDBG (should we list as U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development?)
Focus on Energy
Fund for Lake Michigan, a donor advised fund of
the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
The Grainger Foundation
Greater Milwaukee C? What is this?
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
ELM II Fund
(other funds)
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
M. Drake Breskvar Fund for the Improvement of
Human Life
Greendale Community Church

Harley-Davidson Foundation
Heil Family Foundation
Institute for Sustainable Communities
LISC Milwaukee
RENEW Wisconsin
United Way
Zilber Family Foundation

HARVEST DAY SPONSORS

88NINE Radio Milwaukee
Brewers Community Foundation Inc.
Children's Community Health Plan
Digicopy
Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin
lloyd consulting, inc.
Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative
Reginald Baylor Studio
RitzHolman CPAs
SHOW - Survey of the Health of Wisconsin
Superior Foods
We-Energies Foundation

SOURCE OF FUNDS



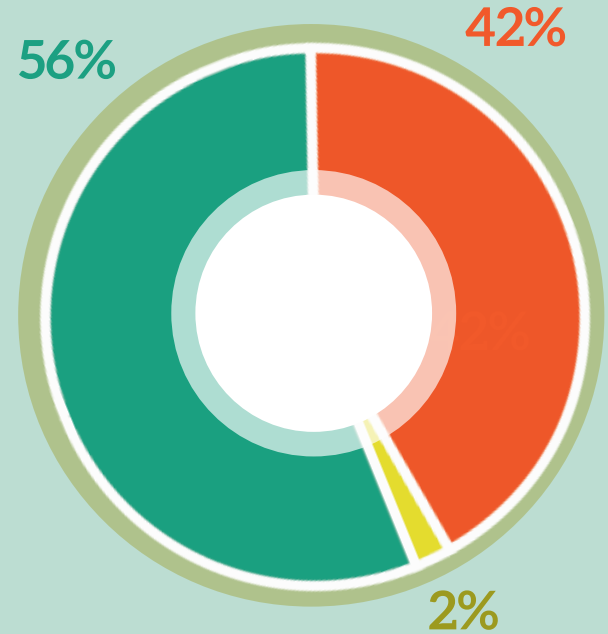
Philanthropic Support
\$755,187 56%



**Blue Skies Landscaping
Earned Revenue**
\$566,331 42%



Rental Income
\$26,775 2%



2019 USE OF FUNDS



WELLNESS | Civic Engagement 64%

Community Engagement
Neighbor Nights
Wellness Programs



WORK | Environmental Stewardship 9%

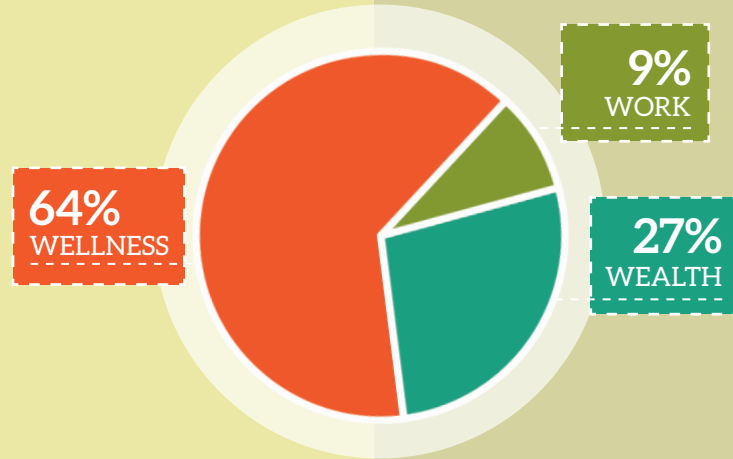
Blue Skies Landscaping Employment Program
Urban Agriculture
Growing Youth Leadership Internship



WEALTH | Economic Development 27%

Innovations and Wellness Commons
Property Management
Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support

2019 Operating Budget: \$1,110,280



MURAL DESIGNED BY:
Alisha Dall'Osto Tina Bounds
Joseph Rout Lee Wilson
Laquitta Walker Kayla Rojas
Aaron Reed Marcelles Brown



I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SUGGESTED GIVING LEVELS:

- \$50 \$250 \$750
 \$100 \$500 \$1,000

DESIGNATE MY DONATION FOR (CIRCLE ONE):

- Innovations & Wellness Commons Capital Campaign Phase II
 Operating/Programming

TRANSACTION TYPE (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY):

CHECK My check payable to **Walnut Way Conservation Corporation** is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

CREDIT CARD Please bill my credit card \$ _____

Card type (circle): Visa MasterCard Discover

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ (mo)/ _____ (year) CVS Code: _____

Signature: _____

RECURRING PLEDGE: Bill my credit card \$ _____ a month/year (circle) for the next _____ months/years (circle) for a total pledge of \$ _____.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A CARING NEIGHBOR!



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WALNUT WAY
CONSERVATION CORP.

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