



WALNUT WAY
CONSERVATION CORP.

2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATION

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO: WELLNESS WORK WEALTH

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DEAR FRIENDS,

The most powerful weapon we have to combat global warming, climate change, and pandemics are resilient communities. We believe resilient communities are places where the people and the built environment are in alignment with social, economic and environmental sustainability. That's what we're building at Walnut Way, a sustainable community. It is critical that we take control of destiny.

As we continued to face the long-term impact of the pandemic, we also saw new light as children returned to classrooms, neighbors reunited, businesses unshuttered, and vaccinations offered hope.

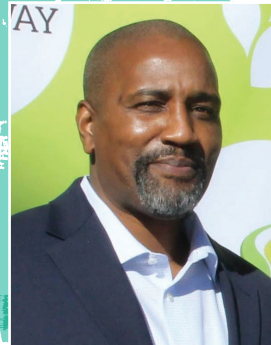
As 2021 unfolded, Walnut Way celebrated many new beginnings.

The much-anticipated Wellness Commons opened its doors to a village of Wellness, Work, and Wealth tenants ready to be a hub for community resilience.

Located in phase one of the Wellness Commons, the Taste of Lindsay Heights carry out café showcases the culinary talents of our entrepreneurs, and now bustles with friends and neighbors stopping by for a cup of hot coffee, a slice of rum cake, or a fresh smoothie bowl.

Walnut Way's social enterprise and workforce development program, Blue Skies Landscaping, moved into its first official headquarters with lots of room to grow. This project is a direct response to the tremendous growth of Blue Skies Landscaping, and their need for equipment storage, training facilities, and offices. With the help of our partners, we envision the headquarters will be a demonstration site for green infrastructure and clean energy job training in the future.

And we are not slowing down! Our progress is only possible with the collaborative leadership of our residents, board, investors, and partners across all sectors. Thank you all for your continued commitment to Lindsay Heights and our ongoing journey.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Antonio Butts'.

Antonio Butts,
Executive Director





LEAD FROM WHERE YOU LIVE



2021 HARVEST DAY FESTIVAL



What started out as a community block party, has now grown into one of Lindsay Heights' largest gatherings. Held each September, Harvest Day is a time for friends and neighbors to celebrate the end of the growing season and the abundance of our urban farms.

This year, Walnut Way's 20th Harvest Day featured the best of the Lindsay Heights neighborhood and our partnership with the Fondy Farmers Market. Held at Fondy Park, Harvest Day was filled with the sights and sounds of the diverse cultures that make up our community, which included food, music, art, and much more.



WELLNESS | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATION



BLUE SKIES LANDSCAPING

Blue Skies Landscaping (BSL) is a workforce and conservation program specializing in green infrastructure projects that also provides a full range of landscaping services in the Milwaukee area - while providing employment and civic engagement opportunities for community members.

This year, Walnut Way acquired a new headquarters for Blue Skies. The accomplishment is a direct response to BSL's tremendous growth over the last eight years, and the increased need for equipment storage, training facilities, and offices. The project will also serve as a demonstration and training site for green infrastructure and clean energy when complete.

The BSL crew worked hard this year on a variety of projects. At the first sign of spring, BSL finished up the Wellness Commons phase two green roof terrace, permeable parking lot, bioswale, and native landscaping, as well as the Unity Lutheran Backyard Project, a one acre site including a pavilion, playgrounds, volleyball court, labyrinth and bioswales. BSL offered discounted rates and in-kind labor for landscaping services to 21 Lindsay Heights residents. Overall, BSL maintained 183 bioswales, installed 10 rain gardens for Lindsay Heights residents, maintained green infrastructure at 28 unique sites across Milwaukee, and trained 4 staff in solar installation practices. This year, four BSL crew members were promoted and twelve were retained as multi-year employees.

183

BIOSWALES
SUSTAINED

21

DISCOUNTED RATES
& IN KIND LABOR FOR
LINDSAY HEIGHTS
RESIDENTS

28

GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE
ASSETS

4

STAFF
MEMBERS
PROMOTED

4

STAFF TRAINED
IN SOLAR
INSTALLATION

10

RESIDENT RAIN GARDENS
INSTALLED IN
"LINDSAY HEIGHTS"

MIDIGATING 10'S OF THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF STORMWATER

Residents of Lindsay Heights are doing their part to mitigate stormwater by implementing green infrastructure assets, rain barrels, rain gardens, and flowers



MILWAUKEE GREEN SUMMER PROJECT

“This project was a great way to promote civic engagement. It encouraged neighbors to participate in something that was beautifying and adding functionality to their homes, and neighborhood.” Mr. Trasmus Wright, Community Resident Volunteer and Consultant.

The Milwaukee Green Summer project is initiated and funded by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). MMSD worked alongside Bay Ridge Consulting and Mr. Trasmus Wright, to install green infrastructure at properties in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood. Rain barrels and gardens help reduce water pollution by collecting rain; mainly from roofs, driveways, or other hard surfaces, and by absorbing the water into the ground naturally. Green infrastructure is a cost-effective way to reduce runoff from properties.

89 rain barrels were distributed and 30 installed so far, and four rain gardens were built. Mr. Wright appreciates when residents walk through the neighborhood and experience the beauty brought in by the rain barrels, rain gardens and flowers.

YOUTH LEADERS

“My favorite part was the dynamic of the group. We all brought different assets to the program that once put together, helped us accomplish great things”, Kimora Eubanks, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, freshman, and former growing youth leadership intern.

This season, Kimora Eubanks, Jaraya Smith, and Iliyana Smith developed skills and gained knowledge in a variety of urban agriculture methods such as, learning about different types of fruits and vegetables, knowing how to identify weeds from grass and plants, how to space out the seeds in the soil to properly plant them, and much more. The teens worked tirelessly to make sure there was great quality fresh produce on campus to share with neighbors, sell at the local grocery stores, restaurants, and at the nearby Fondy Farmers Market. The youth loved seeing everything they planted growing and coming to life.



WORK | ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



60
VOLUNTEER HOURS &
60
VOLUNTEERS ACTIVATED
THE GARDENS

3
GROWING YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
INTERNS HIRED

19
DIFFERENT TYPES OF
PRODUCE GROWN IN THE
GARDENS

275 LBS
OF PRODUCE SOLD
TO WHOLESALE
CUSTOMERS

WE GROW YOUTH LEADERSHIP

LINDSAY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT = RESIDENT POWER + CONTROL

Walnut Way is leading the charge to launch a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) in Lindsay Heights. The NID will offer new resources to property owners seeking critical home repairs and connect them to other resources. This is an important part of stabilizing quality housing in our neighborhood, and helping home-owners sustain their properties longterm.

In 2021, the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Improvement District development team connected over 20 residents with housing resources, funding from partnering banks and community granters for home repairs, and first-time home-owner opportunities.

The team held several virtual Town Hall meetings in 2021, as well as a Healthy Homes Resources fair that took place in November. The event focused on resources and services for creating resilience and building equity in the Lindsay Heights community.



In addition, the development team gathered 200 petition signatures in support of the Lindsay Heights NID. The Initial Proposed Lindsay Heights Operating Plan was submitted to the City Office of Development and the Office of the City Attorney in October for review and approval. The Milwaukee Common Council hearing to adopt the NID will take place in the first quarter of 2022.

THE COMMONS



MREA'S PRESS EVENT HELD AT THE IWC CONFERENCE ROOM IN CELEBRATION OF THE SUCCESS OF THE GROW SOLAR GREATER MILWAUKEE PROGRAM.

In its first year of operation, the Innovations and Wellness Commons (IWC) phase II has quickly become an important community resource for health and resilience. Now fully occupied, The Commons phases I and II are busy with community programs and resources, including the opening of Taste of Lindsay Heights and Designway.



MILWAUKEE OUTREACH VISIT - LINDSAY HEIGHTS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION HELD AT THE IWC CONFERENCE ROOM.



Holding nine tenants and serving the community needs — The development of phase I is the restoration of an existing commercial property, while phase II is a one and a half story, newly finished construction development.

Tenants of both phases include Milwaukee AHEC, United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee, Marrika Rodgers MS, LPC Counselor, Bridgett Wilder, Nutritionist and Coach, Benedict Center, Designaway Apparel Printing, Taste of Lindsay Heights Cafe, Milwaukee Center for Independence, and Fondy Food Center.



WELLNESS COMMONS GREEN FEATURES

Stormwater management features incorporated into the design of building including solar and battery storage!



GREEN TERRACE



PERMEABLE PAVEMENT
PARKING LOT AND BIOSWALE



The pillar used in this rain garden was one of the pillars from the front entrance of the Natatorium building that opened in 1902 - where is now The Commons.



Designaway is off to a great start in its first year. Launched in April, 2021, Walnut Way's custom direct-to-garment apparel printing social enterprise, Designaway, built its team and is off and running. Designaway is a grassroots social enterprise founded by residents from the Lindsay Heights neighborhood to build leadership, influence, and community wealth. Day to day operations including preparing and printing merchandise for our affiliates, custom bulk orders, new business development and onboarding, and connecting with neighborhood partners, artists and other creatives.

Designaway's goal is to continue to grow, and produce high-quality prints and exceptional customer service.

Designaway affiliates include Pink Umbrella Theatre Co., MESH Co-op, The Milwaukee Theater Alliance, The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), ArtWorks for Milwaukee, various Imagine MKE individual artists, and others. To order your own custom merchandise, visit www.designaway.org.



DESIGNAWAY

By Walnut Way

OVER
11,000
PRINT RUNS ON
THE BROTHER GTX
PRINTER

15,156
VISITORS TO BOTH
THE DESIGNAWAY
AND VARIOUS
AFFILIATE SITES

70K
IN GROSS
SALES

298
ORDERS
PLACED

\$8,871.⁰⁰
IN AFFILIATES'
SALES

21
NUMBER OF
AFFILIATES

WELLNESS COMMONS | TENANTS

TASTE OF LINDSAY HEIGHTS

TASTE OF
LINDSAY
HEIGHTS



Taste of Lindsay Heights (TOLH), officially opened its doors during a grand opening on October 2nd, 2021. TOLH is an initiative of Walnut Way's Community Wealth Building campaign which identifies resident skills and assets and helps them turn these into economic opportunities.

TOLH is a carryout cafe featuring cuisine from local food entrepreneurs, and a place for budding food entrepreneurs to take their business to the next level. The new cafe makes sure chefs have the proper resources and support for success in a collaborative environment. Lindsay Heights residents and neighboring communities benefit from a space to create and sell food, connect and eat well.

Featured food entrepreneurs representing a wide array of tastes and styles include Rum Cakes by Paula, GLDN HNY, Inc., Kreative Fruitz, Simple Snacks, Kyric's Lemonade, Aunt Manda's Beverages, Delectables by Donna, as well as Funky Fresh. The café has a base menu, and features other local talents through Pop Up's.

Visit www.tasteoflindsayheights.com to learn more!

WEALTH | ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Aaria & Philip Troiano
Amanda Maqueia
Ann Beier
Becky Perdue
Benedict LeFort
Breanna Fabry
Brian Klabunde
Carole Geddes-Engel
Carroll Bogert
Christian Cleaver
Christel Wendelberger
Clare Foy
Cynthia Haq
David and Pat Rierson
David Iverson
Dawn Hutchison-Weiss
Deborah Bozewicz
Denise Adams
Douglas McCabe
Dyanna Czeck
Ella Dunbar
Eric & Kim Tweeden
Frank Foersterling Lynne Woehrle
Geroge C Kaiser and Donna Kaiser

Guy Stearns
Hanna Seabright
Hart Ford
Jacob and Cara Bidwell
James Stein
Jason Losen
Jean DiMotto
Jeremy Vogt
John B. Haydon
Jonathan Lippold
Josie Cusma
Judith Martel
Kathy Powers
Katie Toske
Keith Conners
Kevin Rodgers
Kristin Schrank
Kyle Kleinbeck
Larry Pesch
Lawrence Pesch
Lisa Conley
Madelaine Tully
Madeline Day
Malcolm Gatford and Toni Soward-Gatford

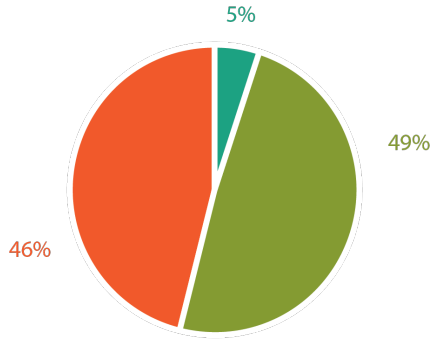
Martenzie Johnson
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William Keeler III III
Yvonne McCaskill
Zetta Williams

FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESS DONORS

American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.
Artery Ink
Aurora Health Care
Bader Philanthropies
BRICO Fund
Classic Slice
Fidelity Charitable Trust
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
Fund for Lake Michigan
George L.N. Meyer Family Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Heil Family Foundation
Hope House of Milwaukee Incorporated
Jack C Loyda Associates
JayKay Foundation Fund
Knight Barry Title, Inc.

League of Conservation Voters, Inc.
Marquette University
Network for Good
Nonprofit Management Fund
Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Garden Conservancy
U.S Charitable Gift Trust
United Way Of Greater Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Usinger Foundation, Inc.
Zilber Family Foundation
WISPY, LLC

SOURCE OF FUNDS



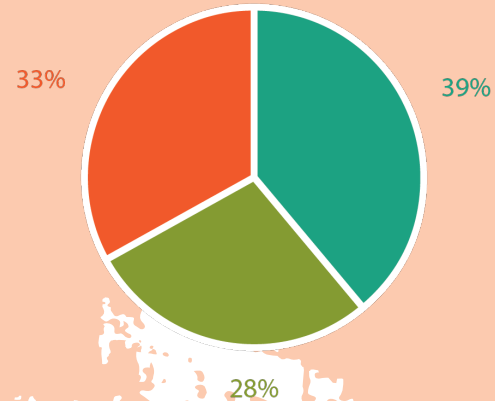
 **Philanthropic Support**
1,250,275 (49%)

 **Social Enterprises Earned Revenue**
\$1,175,139 (46%)

 **Rental Income**
\$118,498 (5%)

USE OF FUNDS

-  WELLNESS | Civic Engagement 28%
-  WORK | Environmental Stewardship 39%
-  WEALTH | Economic Development 33%



2021 OPERATING BUDGET: \$2.54 MILLION



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LaVonda Graham, *President*

Annie Robinson, *Vice-President*

Monique Graham, *Secretary*

X'Zayvion McCoy, *Treasurer*

Heidi Moore

WALNUT WAY STAFF

Antonio Butts,
Executive Director

Amanda Maqueia

Andrew Adams

Antwan Bogan

Aton Fox

Carlos Lathan

Chandra Ellis

Damien Johnson

Desmond Parker

Hector Zelaya Garcia

Henry Hopkins

Jacob Liptack

Jerrilynn Freelon

Katelin Princ

Jevon Prowell

Jose Zelaya Garcia

Laura Pehmoeller
Tyriek Foster
Vonadrian Scott
Worthington Hortman

SUPPORT TEAM

Cassandra Flagg
Dawn Hutchison-Weiss
Emonia Barnett
Kimberly Eubanks
Marylin Mitchell
Pastor Teresa Boyd-Thomas
Russell Borkin
Trasus Wright



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):

- 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 \$ _____.

GIVE A GIFT TODAY AND HELP MAKE AN IMPACT!

DONATE ONLINE AT
WWW.WALNUTWAY.ORG/DONATE



OR PLEASE COMPLETE
THE FORM & RETURN TO:

Walnut Way Conservation Corp.
2240 N. 17th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205

Explore your company's matching gift policies! To make a gift in honor of someone or to make a pledge, stock, mutual fund, or electronic funds transfer, contact us at 414-264-2326 or email development@walnutway.org.

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THANK YOU!



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