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 Institute for Sustainable 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 disinvestment 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,

Antonio Butts,
Executive Director
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, he describes, are like himself, that face challenges in the neighborhood. 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 The American Cancer Society, we offered a robust program of 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, inter-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 The Medical College of Wisconsin, City of Milwaukee, Metcalfe Park Community Bridges, Alice’s Garden, Fresh Empire Milwaukee, Pearls for Teen 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 (BSL) 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 in 2018 and 2019, including our first solar installations. The Walnut Way Center and the Innovations and Wellness Commons now have solar systems which help power the buildings. 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.

Operating as the prime contractor at 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 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.
LISC Milwaukee (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) recognized Blue Skies Landscaping with a MANDI Chase Economic Development Award that honors business and economic development. The prestigious MANDI Awards are LISC’s annual Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) award ceremony.

THE GREEN RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY CELEBRATED ADVANCEMENTS IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, CLEAN ENERGY, AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS LINDSAY HEIGHTS.
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
BY THE NUMBERS 2019

**BSL's Green Infrastructure Projects Divert Thousands of Gallons of Stormwater Each Year**

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.

**Urban Agriculture**

Walnut Way maintains over 120 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.
Stacy Whiters, 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, Whiters developed his skills in a variety of urban agriculture methods like aquaponics, green-house growing, preservation, and making compost to enrich the gardens.
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 (CWBC) 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 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.
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 often sources her ingredients from the Walnut Way gardens.

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!
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 a caregiver for my father who had lived in Lindsay Heights for 30 plus 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. CWBC’s 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 are moving toward meeting their goals for themselves and Lindsay Heights.
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
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.
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!

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FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Cancer Society
Arzbaecher Family Foundation
Aurora Health Care
Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable
Focus on Energy
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
Fund for Lake Michigan, a donor advised fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
George L.N. Meyer Family Foundation
The Grainger Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
  M. Drake Breskvar Fund for the Improvement of Human Life
  The Ceres Family Foundation
  ELM II Fund
Greendale Community Church
Harley-Davidson Foundation
Heil Family Foundation
Institute for Sustainable Communities
LISC Milwaukee
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
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
**FINANCES | 2019**

**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** 43%
- Community Engagement
- Neighbor Nights
- Wellness Programs

**WORK | Environmental Stewardship** 51%
- Blue Skies Landscaping Employment Program
- Urban Agriculture
- Growing Youth Leadership Internship

**WEALTH | Economic Development** 6%
- Innovations and Wellness Commons
- Property Management
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support

2019 Operating Budget: $1,110,280
THANK YOU FOR BEING A CARING NEIGHBOR!

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 $ ________.

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.

Walnut Way is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

You can make your donation securely online at www.walnutway.org/donate.

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

OR

Complete and detach this form and mail to:
To make a donation online, visit our website at www.walnutway.org/donate!

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