

B.R.E.A.D.

People of Faith, Building Power, To Do Justice



B.R.E.A.D. Newsletter

Jep Hostetler, Editor – 299-1961

April 2009

Nehemiah Action Meeting

Monday May 4th — 6:15 p.m. registration

Veterans Memorial•••Free Parking•••Child Care



2,200 people gathered last year at the 2008 Nehemiah Action to call for a stop to the revolving door of crime and drugs in our community by strengthening the Franklin County Drug Court, regulation of payday lending and increased early enrollment in ELI early childhood programs.

The major focus of the 2009 Nehemiah Action Meeting will be on two serious community problems:

Neighborhood Blight

- There are over **5,200 documented vacant** houses in Franklin County (and many more undocumented);
- Blocks with accessible vacant structures have **twice the crime rate** as blocks without.
(See the back for more information on blight)

Healthcare

- **Over 152,000 people do not have health insurance** in Franklin County (2008 Ohio Health Survey). Access Health Columbus found that there were at least **71,000 low-income people that need access to primary care.**
(See the back for more information on healthcare)

Neighborhood Blight (continued)

- **1 in 5 houses are vacant** in Weinland Park and the Near South Side; 1 in 6 are vacant in Franklinton and King Lincoln.
- There were **10,000 foreclosures** in Franklin County last year, affecting 100,000 people.
- In North Linden, property values decreased by \$8,750 when there were 3 or more vacant properties on the block.
- The City of Columbus **lost over \$8 million** in property taxes due to vacant and abandoned houses in Columbus in 2007

Sample Best Practices

- Flint, Michigan developed a model land bank program that aggressively seeks to acquire and redevelop vacant buildings.
- Case Western University (Cleveland) manages the Northeast Ohio CANDO system to integrate information from tax delinquencies, code enforcement, land sales so that city, county and neighborhood leaders can coordinate efforts.
- Targeted campaigns to clean up the worst of the worst (The Dirty Dozen in Toledo).



This house is burned out, vacant and left to decay on the East side of Columbus.

Healthcare (continued)

- **Infant mortality for African American children is more than 15 deaths/1,000 births** in children up to one year old. This rate is significantly higher than rates in Cuba (5.3), Croatia (6.4) and Lithuania (7.0). Overall, infant mortality in Franklin County is twice the national average. Experts report that this is largely due to the lack primary care.
- **When people do not have health coverage, they use the Emergency Room.** This is the most expensive way to provide primary care and often leads to patients becoming sicker because they delay treatment.
- Community Health Centers in Ohio provide 340,320 medical homes for low income families at a cost of \$515/patient. Franklin County has three Community Health Center providers that operate eight sites (Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, Capital Park Health Center and Lower Lights Health Center.)
- The federal stimulus package contains \$1.5 billion to build new facilities for community health centers. Existing facilities are grossly inadequate and substandard in Franklinton (Lower Lights Health Center), Northeast Columbus (Capital Park Health Center), and Southside (John Maloney Health Center). These inadequate facilities dramatically limit the ability of those clinics to serve patients.
- BREAD will work to get stimulus funding to support the development of at least three new health center facilities

The 2009 Nehemiah Action Meeting will include follow-up actions to:

- Close loopholes on payday lending;
- Support the expansion of the KEY Truancy Program;
- Mark progress on expanding utilization and capacity of the Franklin County Drug Court

Rally for Justice Ministry/Rodef Tzedek Network Members: April 20th at Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 E. Broad St. Plan to be there by 6:30 p.m. so that you can park and find your seat.