



Profile of the Organization

BREAD's mission:

The mission of the BREAD Organization is to build the power of people of faith to act effectively to solve local community problems. BREAD, through its member congregations, listens to surface community problems, researches problems to develop winning issues, mobilizes its members to get commitments from public officials to implement those solutions, and follows through to make sure that those commitments are enacted. The organization is a broad-based 501 (c)(3), non-profit corporation, non-partisan, interfaith and multi-racial.



2,576 people called for justice at the 2009 BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting on Monday, May 4 at Veterans Memorial

Issue Accomplishments of BREAD

BREAD and BREAD-member congregations have taken successful action on several community issues in its thirteen years of existence. Each of these issues has improved the quality of life in our community; several issues brought about permanent changes that will have a long-lasting impact on Columbus. Listed below is a sample of some of the issue victories of the organization:

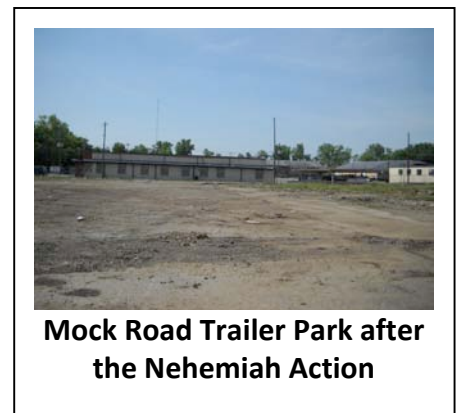


Mock Road Trailer Park Before the Nehemiah Action

Vacant and Abandoned Housing: BREAD launched a new campaign at its 2009 Nehemiah Action Meeting to focus the attention of City and County officials on vacant and abandoned housing. BREAD called for immediate action on 85 of the "Worst of the Worst" properties and a task force of stakeholders to identify and push for best practices to streamline the process of

addressing these houses.

Raising a Red Flag on Truancy: BREAD got County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien to agree to convene stakeholders from local schools, Juvenile Court, and others to develop a comprehensive truancy reduction plan. A pilot version of the KEY Truancy Program was implemented in December 2007 and has resulted in over 200 mediations and 150 goal



Mock Road Trailer Park after the Nehemiah Action

attainments from chronically truant children.

Jubilee Housing Campaign: BREAD's Jubilee Housing Campaign succeeded in getting Columbus and Franklin County to create the Columbus-Franklin County Affordable Housing Trust Fund. BREAD has worked aggressively to monitor the work of the fund and has negotiated for more stringent reporting and targeting requirements. In 2008 alone, the fund made loans totaling \$5.8 million to produce 805 new units of affordable housing.



Living Paycheck to Paycheck: BREAD launched the campaign of the Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending at its 2007 Nehemiah Action. The result was the passage of House Bill 545. This legislation reduced the interest that payday lenders can charge from 391% APR to 28% APR.

Drugs and Crime: Since 2008, BREAD has been working to strengthen the Franklin County Drug Court program. Drug Court is a proven tool to reduce the costs of prosecuting and incarcerating non-violent drug related offenders and reducing the re-arrest rate for these offenders. Judge Guy Reece, the Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, has committed to champion the expansion of Franklin County's Drug Court from the current capacity of 50 to a capacity of 300 cases, and to work towards implementing national Drug Court standards in Franklin County.

The experience of working and winning on these and other issues has also helped the organization to develop a core of grassroots leaders who will shape the future of Columbus.

Membership of BREAD

Membership in BREAD has grown to 52 congregations representing over 40,000 members. BREAD congregations come from throughout Franklin County, from New Albany to the Near East Side, from Linden to Upper Arlington. The membership is very diverse racially, religiously, and economically. BREAD congregations are united by their common desire to successfully address a cross-section of community problems.

Leadership Development

BREAD invests significant time and energy in developing grassroots leaders through sponsorship in national training, local workshops and on-going action-reflection processes. The organization is a "school for public life." Grassroots leaders develop a number of skills – planning, conducting public meetings, developing successful strategies, negotiating with decision makers, fundraising – that are necessary to impact serious community problems through the organizing process.

"What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"

-Micah 6:8

June 2009