

Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

EXTENDING HEALING AND HOPE



Bishop Leonard Dow
OCCDA Board
President

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Letter from Our Board President

***Do not despise
these small
beginnings,
for the Lord
rejoices to see
the work
begin.
(Zechariah
4:10 NLT)***

I have found that in ministry when God is leading to begin something new this often starts small and feels rather insignificant. This was the case in 2002 at the early stages of OCCDA. I remember asking myself "Is the investment from OCMC to dream, pray, discern, plan and patiently wait on the Lord, really worth it?" This was a legitimate question because at the time "these small beginnings" were barely making an impact in our congregation or addressing challenges facing the Oxford Circle community. Rather surprisingly scripture tells us that it is exactly at the point of *small beginnings* that the Lord is rejoicing to see the work of the Kingdom of Heaven entering into the earth - in Oxford Circle!

Friends, inside this year's annual report, I am excited and humbled to share what began as very small beginnings and has continued to mature and expand greatly in 2015. I firmly believe that our Lord is rejoicing with us as we:

- Partner with Carnell Elementary through the Family Resource Center
- Expand our Out of School programs by 100 kids at Carnell (2016)
- Grow our Adult Ed program classes for GED and ELL
- Mature our imprint in OC and Philadelphia with the inaugural World Food Fair and Flea Market and An Evening of Thanksgiving Jazz concert

On behalf of the OCCDA board and the Oxford Circle community I want to say thank you for not despising our very small and humble beginnings! We thank you because not only did our small beginnings not deter you but over the years you have joined us in rejoicing to see God's work in Christ begin here in new ways. We also thank you because you have personally or corporately taken the time to: dream and pray with/for us, to faithfully financially donate, to volunteer your time to serve on our board, a committee or an upcoming event, and to advise and/or discern with us as to what is God's preferred future for us and our community. Indeed it has been out of our small beginnings that the Lord is rejoicing with us as God's work continues into 2016!

Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association

OUR IMPACT

Our mission:

To extend healing and hope in the Oxford Circle community, believing that God's purpose of reconciling all people to Jesus leads us to minister on spiritual, physical, social and economic levels.

Our ministries provide a choice that can lead to liberty and address the urgent needs of our community. We pray that we can be the doorway for those who are brokenhearted, are bound by the issues of life, and believe that physical and spiritual poverty is all that God has in store for them. We know that real, transformative help for a lifetime and an eternity comes from Jesus Christ who loves the whole person, body and soul.

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD... has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor... to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness the prisoners... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness... They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations." (Isa. 61:1-4)

Leadership and Education: Our purpose in ministering to children, youth and adults is to develop, nurture, and retain current and future leaders.

After School and Summer Camp programs for Urban Youth: Our capacity to serve the diverse population of K-8th grade youth in our neighborhood through *homework help, educational enrichment, and the arts* continues to grow! This Fall 2015, we were awarded an extension of our grant from the 21st CCLC, Pennsylvania Department of Education to continue serving **80 students throughout the school year!** In January 2016, we received news that we have been approved to open up a 2nd site at our neighborhood public school, *Carnell Elementary*, which will allow us to serve an **additional 100 students!** Many of the students' parents speak English as their second language and express gratitude for a program that can help them supplement their child's learning outside of school as they may struggle with helping them at home. In addition to Homework Help, our students attend classes in Math, Literacy, Science, Computer Programming, Art, Conflict Resolution, Cross-Cultural Awareness, and Choir. Our partners include: **Oxford Circle Mennonite Church; Mennonite Central Committee; Mission Year** (intern); **Franklin Institute** and **NASA** (science); **Catholic Community Services** (parenting support); and **Philadelphia Youth Network** and **Fels High School** (volunteers).

GED/ESL Classes – Our Adult Education programs are led entirely by volunteer instructors through weekly classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00pm. English as a Second Language classes are provided for persons to improve English speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. ESL classes saw such an increase that the program was divided into beginner and advanced classes. The focus of GED classes is on improving basic skills in math, reading, writing, social studies, and science to prepare for GED testing.

In 2015 we had a dramatic increase in attendance of our adult education classes. **23 students** attended ESL classes, with 9 attending the beginner class and 14 in the advanced class. Additionally, **11 students** attended GED/ABE classes, with **2 receiving their GED and 5 taking portions of the exam!**

Preschool – In response to community requests, we are in the planning stages to start a preschool serving children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Additionally, the classrooms will serve a dual purpose of providing an education wing for Oxford Circle Mennonite Church's growing children's program. Currently there are 90 children from age 1 to 12th grade. We currently are planning to have the program ready to open by Fall of 2016.

Carnell School Redesign and Family Resource Center – We are very excited to be a successfully funded School District Redesign Partner. We are working with the administrative staff of our local elementary school, Carnell, to move to a project-based learning model that will allow them to provide high quality education to our community children. This year is the first year of implementation and they have already seen educational progress! Coming from the bottom 25% 2 years ago, Carnell is now ranked 2nd for academic performance, growth, and climate when compared with 22 schools that educate similar populations, and ranked 18th out of 59 when compared to all elementary schools in the city, including traditional public and public charter schools.

As a part of the Redesign, OCCDA is opening a Family Resource Center (January 2016) inside the school. This will allow us to provide non-academic support services to families so that children can be better prepared to learn in class. Thanks to generous funding from the **Clemens Family** and the **Schowalter Foundation**, we have renovated the physical space renovated and will hire a PT Coordinator and case manager (2016). **Sussman Auto** also donated furniture for the fit-out.

OUR IMPACT



Family Support: Our purpose in ministering to families is to nurture support networks that enhance family stability and reconciliation.

Bridge of Hope program (BOH) – Bridge of Hope brings together professional staff and trained church mentor groups to empower homeless and at-risk single mothers and children. We made the very hard decision this fall that this was our last year of operating a BOH site. Although there is an ongoing need for support, we have been unable to find the needed mentor groups.

Christmas Toy Store – In 2015, we hosted the 4th Annual Toy Store in partnership with Calvary Church Souderton. In addition, Ayuda, By Grace Alone, Calvary of Wyncote, Carnell Elementary, Catholic Community Services, Esperanza Health Center, Grace & Peace, Interfaith Hospitality, Kingdom Life, Maternity Care, Tender Loving Care, Timoteo, and Oxford Circle Mennonite Church all contributed through referrals and volunteerism. In all, **150 families and over 450 children** were served! Remaining toys were donated to children who spent the holidays at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Additionally, Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church contributed by donating gift cards for participating families.

Family Support Workshops – Catholic Community Services hosts a monthly *Parent Café* for parents to discuss challenges and strategies for parenting. Additionally this fall, Jen Leaman coordinated a *Middle Schools Options Workshop* to educate parents on the process of selecting and registering for the middle school.

Community and Economic Development: Our purpose is to develop opportunities for sustainable employment and business development.

Back to School Day – Our 15th Annual Community Festival was held in partnership with Calvary Church of Souderton and the Christian Women's Project. Calvary provided dental screening and cleaning. We also distributed **300 grocery bags and 1000 school bags (per child)** provided by MCC Material Resource Center, Lacher Insurance and Calvary Church of Souderton.

Job Training – In spring 2015, we partnered with ShopRite and other local employers for a 6-week pilot course. Upon completion, participants were referred to partnering employers.

World Food Fair and Flea Market – This year we hosted our 1st World Food Fair and Flea Market. The fair celebrated our diverse neighborhood through food, fellowship, and a bustling flea market. The food represented the home countries of those cooking and was provided by OCMC members, teachers from Carnell, and community participants of OCCDA. We raised \$3300 thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, [Pharmacy of America](#) and [Levick Multiservices](#).

Emergency and Holiday Food Assistance – We provided emergency food bags and other assistance thanks to our partnership with the [MCC Material Resource Center](#). We distributed the following in coordination with our community partners: **1000 grocery bags** and **150 comforters**.

Food Trust Farmer's Market – The Farmers Market was on site weekly from June – November. Seasonal produce was sold by an Amish Lancaster County farmer, and food vouchers were provided to community seniors and low-income families.

Organization stability: Our goal is to provide for the long-term health of our organization and community by making wise decisions that ensure our viability.

Donations – Thanks to your ongoing support, we have reduced our property debt by \$1,000,000 since 2009! We also thank those of you who continue to faithfully support the ongoing work of our program ministries. It is your support that allows us to build strong relationships that point to Jesus as the reason we are here. We praise God for all of you!

Property – In addition to providing space for our congregation and community ministries, we rent 75% of the space to other organizations who complement the mission of OCCDA in their service to our shared community. This rental income covers our mortgage and ongoing maintenance costs.

Volunteers – Our work would not have been possible without our amazing volunteers. They included high school students and adults from throughout Philadelphia, along OCMC members. We especially want to acknowledge [Calvary Church of Souderton](#), our Adult Education instructors, and our board members.

OUR LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIALS

Staff 2015

Executive Director: Anita Lyndaker-Studer
 Program Director: Chris Pender (Jan-June), Alfred Essandoh (June-present)
 Finance/Property Director: Richard Rohrer
 Advancement Coordinator: Lauren Moyer
 21st CCLC Coordinator: Katie Gard
 21st CCLC Operations: Daniella Pierret (Spring 2015), Christa Cobb
 21st CCLC Instructors: Carla Stucky, Bill Stucky, Ebony Ocasio, Fiona Baynard, Matia Jones, Rhonda Alsbrook, John Findley, Zoraida Ortiz, Seth Miller, Janelle Junkin.
 21st CCLC Group Leaders: Alex Petiote, John Pierret, Talia Pierret, Elvys Puente, Loukysha Stanley, and Kai Tinsley
 21st CCLC Advisor: Dr. Raquel Estevez-Joyce (Fall 2015)
 City Vision Intern: Prescious Washington (Jan - Sept)
 MCC SSW Intern: Lacey Malone (Summer)
 MCC IVEP Intern: XiaoHua Wen (Jan-July)
 Mission Year Interns: Lezlee Witmer (Jan-Aug), Tonya Delatorre (Sept-present)
 Technology: Ryan Moyer
 Education Coordinator: Joe Beech (Volunteer)
 GED Volunteer Instructor: JoEl Rohrer and John Camburn
 ESL Volunteer Instructor: Gwen Young and Kali Guess

Board of Directors 2015

President – Bishop Leonard Dow
 Vice President – Hong Tran
 Treasurer – Randy Kratz (Jan-June), Carlos Rodriguez (July-present)
 Youth Member – Zahir Guess (Jan-June), John Malone (July-present)
 Members –
 Ken Rush
 Mary Dallasta
 Pete Prunes
 Petra Opett
 Raquel Estevez-Joyce

Financial Report

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

	2014	2015
Revenue:	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Program Fees	6834	13450
Grants	156216	328839
Fund-Raisers	340	4184
Program Donations	53340	59530
Capital Donations	10500	9550
Interest	499	735
Rental Income	403909	438870
Common Area Maintenance Reimbursement	108680	152452
Total Revenue	740318	1007609
Expenses:		
Program Services	536733	622680
General and Administrative	97581	113207
Fund-Raising	79537	92273
Total Expenses	713851	828160
Change in Net Assets	26467	179450
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	932407	958874
Net Assets at the End of Year	958874	1138324
Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	258839	329891
Property	3637463	3730402
Other Assets	47967	8592
Total Assets	3944269	4068885
Liabilities		
Liabilities	109155	23353
Long-Term Liabilities	2876240	2803234
Total Liabilities	2985395	2826587

* 2015 figures provided are unaudited

Contact Information

Oxford Circle CCDA
 900 E. Howell Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19149
 Phone: (215) 288-8504
 Fax: (215) 288-8509
 Email: contact@occcda.org
www.occcda.org

