

BRIDGES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2021





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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

For the last 50 years Manna Bible Baptist Church has enjoyed the privilege of ministering in the Pimlico/Park Heights Community. The foundation of this ministry is based on the biblical mandate to engage with and serve our community. It is this mandate that led the Church to launch a community engagement initiative through the creation of an outreach focused non-profit – BRIDGES Community Development Corporation.

Serving our community for the glory of God is at the heart of everything we do at BRIDGES. It centers us as we deliver services to members of the Park Heights community. As our name indicates, BRIDGES seeks to find ways to bridge the gap between needs and resources. During 2020, in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic, we have been able to continue our work despite economic disruptions and a variety of life's everyday challenges we all face.

While we can't predict the future, the BRIDGES' team is clear and resolved in our mission - to engage and partner with the local community to effectuate sustainable transformation and change in the human spirit and built environment.

By leveraging the talents and resources of public, private and philanthropic partners, we were able to accomplish what no one sector or organization could achieve on its own. By bringing together the passion and commitment of donors, advisors and community leaders, we are creating solutions that will impact and benefit lives for many years.

This year's annual report, our first, highlights how we have continued to build on the foundation of service from the last 50 years to affect renewal through programs we hope will have a long-term impact in our community. Through the execution of our strategic plan, we will grow, we will learn and we'll be flexible to adjust as needed to achieve success.

We invite you to learn more about our work, our partners and our stewardship. Join with us in making an impact and bringing transformation to the Park Heights community.

Michael A. Gaines, Sr.
CEO BRIDGES Community Development Corporation

OUR MISSION

BRIDGES Community Development Corporation exists in order to engage and partner with the local community to effectuate transformation in socially challenged urban centers through enriching and empowering services and to create sustainable change in the human spirit, all to the Glory of God.

THE VISION

BUILD ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS

DEVELOP HIGH QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PROMOTE BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH





2021 AT A GLANCE

9,960

Boxes of food were received from donors.

5,400

Families were served through our food pantry.

75

Volunteers participated in our programs, including one returning citizen.

4

Vacant townhomes were purchased for renovation and eventual purchase by 1st time homeowners

PROGRAM UPDATES

NUTRITION CENTER & FOOD PANTRY



Our Food Pantry has been in operation for over 15 years under the auspices of Manna Bible Baptist Church. We have become known as a dependable source of food within the community. We are working to expand our services to include a state-of-the-art Nutrition Center and other resources to meet the needs of the community.

Our future goals include conducting workshops to promote and motivate interest in the use of healthier food choices, which would include reading and analyzing food labels and recipe sharing and to provide prepared meals for the homeless population in the community.

REAL ESTATE



Vacant buildings is an all too prevalent blight in many Baltimore neighborhoods.

In December of 2020, we purchased 4 vacant rowhomes in the 3000 block of Spaulding Avenue. With this initiative, our goal is to purchase and renovate vacant houses in our community. These homes will then be sold to homebuyers who might not otherwise be able to experience homeownership.

We work closely with real estate agents and community organizations to educate and

assist first-time home buyers with the purchasing process. We believe that with access to the right tools, our community members will become empowered to gain the confidence and resources to fulfill their potential

In cooperation with our Health and Wellness department, we are building a brand new, modern Nutrition Center. This Center will house our Food Pantry, a commercial kitchen, office space and other spaces for programs that are vital to the health and growth of our community.



COMMUNITY HEALTH



Health disparities are a real concern in communities such as ours. Through our Community Health projects we hope to have a positive impact on the health and wellness of our community by providing education and access to health-related resources.

Our projects are specifically targeted toward three main areas:

- Preventing disease and injury through educational opportunities such as health fairs and workshops
- Improving health through screenings and referrals
- Enhancing overall quality of life

Realizing that a community can only change its wellness when its members are engaged, BRIDGES partners with community members and organizations to eliminate or reduce factors that contribute to health problems and to introduce new components that promote better health.

EDUCATION



The BRIDGES After-School Tutorial program seeks to bridge:

- the education gap between schools and community
- achievement gaps using an integrated holistic approach
- the gap between what a student already knows and what he/she should know, teaching them to capitalize on their strengths while overcoming their weaknesses.
- the communication gap between parents, teachers and students to strengthen learning relationships

and align student success goals with the classroom and the home.

- the coordination gap between schools and the community to ensure students excel and become engaged in the community as productive citizens and mentors for the next generation.

Our after-school tutorial program has been in operation since 2017 and we have had the privilege of coming alongside parents and school teachers to assist children in reaching grade level proficiency in Language Arts and Mathematics.

GARY'S STORY

When Gary started attending the Community Outreach Ministry at Manna Bible Baptist Church, we had no idea the impact that we would have on him and he would have on us. After participating for several months as a regular attender during the Monday morning outreach, Gary wanted to know what he could do to help. He began volunteering and since then, he has become a valuable part of the Food Pantry team.

Gary is a longtime resident of the Pimlico community. Having moved from incarceration, drug use and unemployment, he has become a productive member of the Pantry staff and the community at large. Gary's story is a great example of what BRIDGES is all about... *Connecting today to a brighter tomorrow.*

Unfortunately, Gary passed away in January of 2022. His smile and positive attitude will certainly be missed.



“He [Gary] has a wonderful disposition. Anything you ask him to do he does it willingly and with a smile.”

-Doris Collins,
Director of Operations
BRIDGES Food Pantry

OUR FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

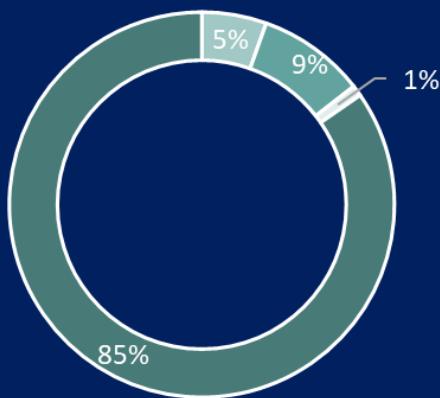
In 2021 we received donations from various sources. Mt. Airy Bible Church and Manna Bible Baptist Church provided monthly financial support for our Food Pantry.

In addition to these monetary contributions, the pantry received donations of food and household items from, Wegmans in Owings Mills , Whole Foods of Mt. Washington, Giant, BJ's, First Fruit Farm and the Rock City Church/CanCan.

We were also the grateful recipients of a Community Catalyst Operating Grant and a Community Catalyst Capital Grant from Baltimore City.

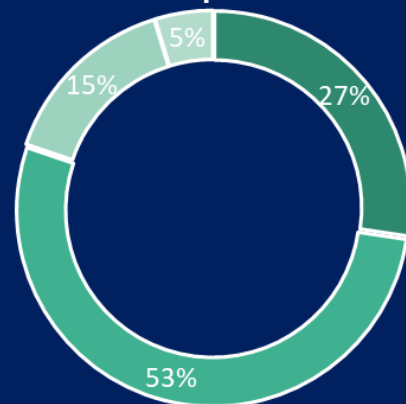
We are pleased to report that the careful management of the resources received allowed us to stay within our 2021 budget and actually realize a surplus for the year.

2021 Revenue



- Mt. Airy
- MBBC
- Individual Donors
- Grants

2021 Expenses



- Program Services
- Personnel
- Operating Costs
- Equipment/Supplies

LOOKING AHEAD

2022

This year has been filled with many success and a few challenges as we learn to navigate in a post-COVID 19 world. Through it all, our team has remained clear about our mission and we have persevered.

We are looking forward to renovating the four vacant houses and welcoming new homeowners to the community. We have our sights set on a few projects for 2022 and we are always looking for more ways to impact our community in a positive way.



Demolition of building to begin the site preparation for our new Nutrition Center/Food Pantry



Hire 4 new team members to enhance operations and expand our services to the community



Begin construction on our Spaulding Avenue townhome rehabilitation project.

BELVEDERE PLACE

... a Beautiful View

We are committed to investing our expertise and resources to bring about a revitalized and thriving community. Since 2016, we've been supporting our community members in a variety of ways and measuring our success not by our size or finances but by more qualitative measurements such as the scale and effectiveness of our efforts.

We are partnering with a number of organizations and community members to establish a vibrant, urban, mixed income neighborhood that builds on the existing strength of our community. This strength will be enhanced by surrounding investments and nearby amenities to advance the safety, health, education, employment and overall well being of the area's residents.

BELVEDERE PLACE INITIATIVES



1. Belvedere Avenue



2. Nutrition Center & Pantry



3. Multifamily Residence



4. Townhouse Restoration



5. Queensbury Park

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

GIVE A SINGLE GIFT

Make a single gift to help keep BRIDGES' mission moving forward.

GIVE A RECURRING GIFT

By giving monthly, you'll be providing BRIDGES with stable and ongoing support that allows us to make plans to be a bridge between today and a brighter tomorrow.

VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for helping hands to get the work done. Please email Alexis Johnson at aljohnson@bridgescdc.org to get information about volunteer opportunities.

BRIDGES Community Development Corporation is a registered 501c3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible.

Please visit our website: bridgescdc.com

THANK YOU!

We couldn't have done it without your help.

Thank you for being part of the BRIDGES community.

Thank you for believing in our mission.

We are forever grateful.

The BRIDGES Team



email: bridgesconnect@bridgescdc.org ~ website: bridgescdc.com