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MISSION

Allen Neighborhood Center is a place-based, non-profit organization that serves as a hub for neighborhood revitalization and for activities that promote the health and well-being of Lansing's Eastside community and other stakeholders.

For seventeen years, ANC has pioneered, and continues to offer, programs in health education and outreach, housing improvement, food security and nutrition education, youth development, commercial corridor revitalization, and social capital building.

We do all of this with the generous support of the engaged and unique Eastside community.



A LETTER FROM **PRESIDENT, SARAH SCHILLIO**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In 2015, Allen Neighborhood Center celebrated its 16th birthday! It has been humbling over the years to see the outpouring of community support each time ANC launched a new program. That support, along with the staff's amazing drive and the involvement of hundreds of neighborhood volunteers, is what has made each program successful and unique.

We have matured as an organization over the past 12 months, ending the year with a unified office space, a fresh logo, and a new database to better track services and funding. Now, after years of fairly rapid growth, ANC is committed to focusing on deepening the effectiveness of its current programs and building revenue streams to support them far into the future.

As we head into 2016, we are confident that, working together with all of you, we will continue to strengthen Lansing's Eastside.

Sarah Schillio, President of the Board of Directors
Allen Neighborhood Center

A LETTER FROM DIRECTOR, JOAN NELSON

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2015 theme for Allen Neighborhood Center was **unification**:

- We moved from our main service center (since 1999) and our 2nd floor administrative offices into a **newly renovated storefront three doors west to connect with our Allen Market Place facility**. We are now one contiguous space, more connected physically and programmatically than ever before. Our new consolidated space is located at 1611 E. Kalamazoo. It is spacious, bright and welcoming. Please stop by to visit and check it out!
- Board and staff, with input from longtime supporters, went through a 7-month-long **rebranding process**. As often happens with these processes, we re-affirmed our original intent, deepened our understanding of 'neighborhood' and the way it defines our approach to community building, and adopted a brand new logo. The logo is a beautiful mosaic of blue (a traditional Eastside color) and 'green' (a major ANC focus). The mosaic captures ANC's broad agenda of health, food, housing, and more.
- We **developed an agency-wide database**, allowing us to more easily track services and outcomes across our comprehensive and integrative programs.

The year was both challenging and rewarding. As we head into 2016, we feel that we have a solid foundation upon which to build a more sustainable organization. In partnership with neighbors and supporters, we look forward to continuing our efforts to build an even more connected, healthy, and vibrant Eastside.

Joan Nelson, Director
Allen Neighborhood Center



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2015, our Outreach and Engagement team provided health enrollment services to neighbors (Medicaid, Ingham Health Plan, IHP-Dental, Affordable Care Act), assistance in connecting with a medical home, Market Walk (an integrated food and fitness initiative in which 175 members earn tokens to our Farmers Market by walking/exercising), the Breast Health Club (focusing on women's health issues), and links to a wide range of public health, housing and human services.



ANC's Outreach team connected with

4,100

neighbors in 2015.

A current housing focus includes a continuing partnership with the Ingham County Land Bank and Lansing Community College Construction and Design Technologies Department, in which construction students gain real world experience in sustainable construction by restoring tax foreclosed homes on our E. Kalamazoo Corridor. In 2015, the first of these houses was completed and sold to a new neighbor who was delighted to move across the road from his "favorite farmers market"!

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

200

neighbors enrolled in health coverage, food assistance, and State Emergency Relief.

“ I found the outreach crew to be incredibly helpful and patient, and I imagine they are that way with just about everybody who walks through there. They treated me more like a neighbor than a client – like friends who were helping me out. ”

–Julia Miller

In addition to administering our health and housing programs, our Outreach Team provides technical support for many of the 25 all volunteer-driven small neighborhood groups on Lansing’s Eastside.

They also manage ANC’s communications:

- Active Neighboring News, a weekly e-bulletin distributed to 2,400 people.
- The Eastside Neighbor, a quarterly hardcopy newsletter delivered to the door of 3,500 households.
- www.AllenNeighborhoodCenter.org, our richly detailed website.
- Multiple Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts.
- Annual door-to-door canvass, involving engaging neighbors in front porch conversations about the “state of the neighborhood”.

5,327

miles walked by Market Walk participants between May and October.

16 neighbors walked 100 or more miles, and 1 person walked 315 miles!

Finally, the Outreach team hosts quarterly Active Neighboring Café’s, topical gatherings of neighbors that focus on emerging opportunities and challenges.



BREADBASKET PANTRY

Allen Neighborhood Center, working closely with residents on the Eastside, has been building community around food issues since early 2000. These efforts have produced a set of neighborhood-crafted and synergistic food programs.

Breadbasket, started in 2000, was the first of ANC's food programs. Every Tuesday in 2015, the Breadbasket Pantry distributed 200 pounds of bread donated by Panera's, 700 pounds of produce provided by the Greater Lansing Food Bank, and several boxes of sweets from Bake N Cakes to approximately 100 neighbors. Neighbors tell us that they value Breadbasket not only for the wholesome food, but for the welcoming and congenial setting, recipes utilizing items available that day, and the ease of access to our Outreach team to discuss other services.



Super volunteer Dan McMaster preparing for BreadBasket

25,000

pounds of food valued at \$1.69/lb, or \$42,250, was distributed to 853 neighbors, who visited Breadbasket 5,287 times.



ALLEN FARMERS MARKET

The **Allen Farmers Market** brings fresh, locally grown and produced food into the neighborhood. In 2013, the Market became a year-round enterprise, offering a scaled down version of our sprawling outdoor Market from mid-October to mid-May.

During the 2015 market season, our vendors offered produce, bread, eggs, meat, cheese, baked good, ready-to-eat foods including BBQ from Red's Smokehouse, authentic Ethiopian cuisine from Teff-rific, Mexican food from Ofilia's, and beer brewed on-site from Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale. The Market also provided an opportunity for neighbors and others to connect with one another, learn about resources and upcoming events at our Outreach Table, listen to local musicians under our Music Tent, and generally enjoy a convivial weekly activity that has become an important part of the civic culture of the Eastside.

A popular feature of our Market continues to be our Market Bank where patrons can purchase tokens with debit, credit, and SNAP (including year-round Double-Up Food Bucks!)

In the year ending September 30, 2015, just under \$65,000 in market tokens were redeemed by vendors, with \$25,000 coming from SNAP/Double-Up (a 16% increase over 2014). Based on vendors' self-reports of cash sales, we conservatively estimated that 30% of currency spent in the Market passes through our Bank, suggesting an annual economic impact of \$215,000.

23,461

patrons attended the year-round Allen Farmers Market in 2015. The outdoor market drew 600-1,100 patrons each week, while the indoor market drew roughly 200 each week.



Hunter Park GARDENHOUSE

The Hunter Park GardenHouse is an urban agricultural resource center where neighbors meet to grow food, flowers, and community. Many GardenHouse programs encourage and assist neighbors (youth and adults) to grow produce for personal consumption. Other programs provide affordable access to the super-fresh and super-local produce grown in the Park. Operations are headquartered in a year-round, 30' X 96' heated greenhouse, located in the 13-acre park. In addition to raised-bed production in the greenhouse, nearly an acre of parkland was under cultivation during the 2015 growing season. In addition, a demolished Land Bank home adjacent to the park provided an additional lot just in time to meet increased food production targets for the coming year.

255

volunteers and interns spent a total of 2,853 hours at the GardenHouse.

322

people attended our workshops in 2015.

Educational Workshops

The GardenHouse, a hub for urban gardening and farming education, is introducing neighbors to successful small lot gardening. In 2015, 15 workshops were offered, including Beekeeping, Construction Basics, Fruit Tree Care, Planning Your Garden Year, Seed Starting & Transplanting, Soil Care, Organic Pest & Disease Management, Composting, Gardening Basics, Permaculture 101, Flower Arranging, Intro to Food Preservation, Freezing & Drying, Water Bath Canning, and Fermentation. 191 unduplicated people attended those workshops!

Community Supported Agriculture

Our Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA) offered four seasons of produce to 64 neighbors in 2015. Our CSA is renowned for its flexible payment options that include work shares, SNAP, and Double-Up Food Bucks payments at the weekly pick-up in our Market.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

The GardenHouse also serves as headquarters for two robust youth programs, the Youth Service Corps (YSC), which is a job, leadership, and life skills training program for 11-17 year olds, and Take Root, a nutrition and fitness education program for 5-10 year olds, utilizing a gardening curriculum.

Allen Neighborhood Center's very first program back in 1999 was the Youth Service Corps. Now 16 years old, the program has morphed into a 'green corps,' focusing on food access. 2015 projects included:

- The Garden-in-a-Box Project, a program involving the building and distribution of 2'X 2' garden kits with soil, fertilizer, and plants to neighbors with limited income, gardening skill, and/or mobility. The 20 boxes distributed by YSC members in 2015 brought the total number of boxes distributed in the neighborhood over the last six years to 128!
- The Edible Park project, where youth design, plant, and tend to edible ornamental beds to create a small orchard of fruit trees, fruiting bushes, perennial herbs, and annual crops in designated areas throughout the 13 acre Hunter Park. In 2015, youth added two fruit trees to the 25 already planted and expanded Edible Park by 40%, as well.
- The Fruit Tree Project, a program involving the mapping of neighborhood fruit trees, planting additional fruit trees throughout the neighborhood, and dividing fruit harvest among neighbors and youth participants. In 2015, youth harvested over 40 pounds of fruit.
- Park Cart, a program involving youth cooking and baking healthy snacks, using produce harvested from both Edible Park and the Fruit Tree Project, and selling those snacks at a mobile cart during the Allen Farmers Market. In 2015, youth were at the Farmers Market for 12 weeks and sold more than \$500 of value-added products.

147

youth participated in our Take Root (6-10 year olds) and YSC (11-17 year olds) Programs. Total attendance over the year was 1,436!

In 2015, Take Root Garden Club had 107 unduplicated and 793 duplicated youth attend programming sessions. Youth Service Corps had 40 unduplicated and 643 duplicated attendees.



ALLEN MARKET PLACE

The **Allen Market Place** (AMP), which opened in late 2013, serves as a multi-functional food resource center and food hub. In 2015, it provided a home for Breadbasket and a winter venue for our Farmers Market.

The AMP also features two **Commercial Kitchens** to support nutrition education, culinary job skill training, food entrepreneurship, and cooking classes to celebrate the diverse foodways and cuisine of the Eastside. The cooking kitchen has been open since early 2014. In 2015 we opened the **Wash-Pack Kitchen**, offering cold storage (large walk-in cooler, chest freezers, reach-ins) and dry storage (cabinets, pallet shelving) for use by farmers, food processors, and neighbors seeking a place to store late season harvest or bulk purchases.

The cooking kitchen has become a popular site for youngsters interested in perfecting their cooking skills. In 2015, members of ANC's Youth Service Corps, 4-H groups, a Home Schooling Group, and Boy Scouts made regular use of this community asset.

The incubator aspects of the kitchen have been especially lively in 2015, drawing over a dozen bakers, smokers, fermenters, ready-to-eat preparers, and even a microbrewery.



Red's Smokehouse,
our first kitchen renter, graduated to the Lansing City Market in 2015, though they still return on Market Day to offer delicious ready-to-eat barbecue to patrons.



Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale,

founded by two Eastsiders, each with 20 years of home-brewing experience, has been incubating with us for over a year. The brewery is preparing to move into its own renovated space in early 2016!

“ I believe that in the future we will need more Allen Neighborhood Centers. I think people want to live in a **gritty Sesame Street**. ANC is a model for how we can continue to cross boundaries, break down walls, and help people live together.”

—Matt Jason from Sleepwalker

EXCHANGE FOOD HUB

The AMP facility also supports the Exchange Food Hub, providing aggregation and distribution services to mid-Michigan growers and food producers (including the growing number of very small and small urban farmers in Lansing). Currently, this online wholesale market features the products of 96 producers and 113 commercial and institutional buyers. Interested visitors can log onto our online wholesale market and shop for local food including a wide range of produce, eggs, meats, cheese, baked goods and more. It's a one-stop-shop for supporting local growers and producers (and getting delicious food for your table!).

In 2015, the Exchange piloted the **Veggie Box** program, involving the weekly delivery to worksites (a minimum of 5 employee-subscribers) of delicious boxes of locally sourced vegetables and fruits. Subscriptions included add-on shares of bread, eggs, meat, coffee, and more.

In 2015, we hosted 11 workshops for farmers and food producers on topics including, Boot Camp for Farmers, Growing Your Internet Presence, Effective Crop Planning, Developing a Farm Safety Plan, How to Use Local Orbit, Who Licenses Your Food Business, Diversify Your Revenue Streams, Crop Storage and Post-Harvest Handling, Choosing the Right Certification for Your Farm, How to Start Your Food Business, Breaking into Wholesale Markets and Cottage to Commercial. These workshops drew 110 attendees.

110

Farmers and Food Producers attended 11 business-related workshops in 2015.



VOLUNTEERS



Over 510 people volunteered with ANC in 2015, contributing over 10,000 hours of service. This is the equivalent of five full time staff members!



What this center means to me is that this is a place, an organization, that cares for the people that reside in this neighborhood. They are very helpful because they care for our health, they care for our food, they make sure that we get enough food to eat, and they are very friendly – they mean a lot.



– John Ugwoagonwu



VOLUNTEERS ARE INDISPENSABLE

“ It’s like the hub of the neighborhood; everyone knows about this place. It’s a neighborhood center. A center of the neighborhood. It’s given me a sense of community that I never had before. Allen Neighborhood Center is colorful and it’s accepting.”

—Colton Hughes



“ ANC is important because it helps the community! They help people – young, old, African-American, refugees, whoever. They just help people and don’t even ask, who, what, where, when and how; they don’t have you jumpin’ through hoops with question after question, just, ‘Come on in and we’ll see what we can do for you.’ ”

—Alfred Jackson



Every project and service we offer depends upon our generous volunteers!



FUNDS

Sources of Funding 2014

Source	Amount (\$)
Grant Income	503,952
Program Income	48,553
Contributions and Fundraising	28,694
Other	662
Total	\$581,861

Program, Administration, Operating Costs 2014

Origin	Amount (\$)
Housing, health, and community-building services	470,250
Management and general	62,992
Fundraising	15,860
Total	\$549,102

January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015
Projected Costs & Sources of Funding-
\$638,711.54
(Annual audit to be completed April 1, 2016)

“We can begin by doing small things at the local level, like planting community gardens or looking out for our neighbors. That is how change takes place in living systems, not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously.”

— Grace Lee Boggs, writer and social activist

DONORS

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2015 Non-Cash Donations

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Bach-Electric
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Dave Muylle, Muylle Construction
ELFCO
Evy Jackson
Foods For Living
Go Green Trykes
John Lindenmayer
Larry Bennett Construction
Larry Halm Construction
Panera's Bread
Pat Harrington
Ten Pound Fiddle/Sally Potter

2015 Grant, Corporate, Civic Support

Beta Theta Pi
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MI
City of Lansing
Capital Area Religious Cable TV Association
Capital Area United Way
Capital Region Community Foundation
Comerica Bank
Dart Foundation
Fair Food Network
Gannett Foundation
Garden Club of Greater Lansing
Gorsline-Runciman
Greater Lansing Food Bank/USDA-LFPP
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Independent Bank
Ingham County Urban Redevelopment
Ingham County Health Department
Ingham Health Plan Corporation
Jim Noble Realty
Komen Mid-Michigan
Lansing Area Community Trust Fund
LEAP-Lansing Economic Area Partnership
Meridian Garden Club
Michigan Community Service Commission
Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Dev.
Michigan Nutrition Network
Neogen Corporation
PNC Bank

Pentecost Foundation
Power of We Consortium
R.E. Olds Foundation
Pentecost Foundation
NCR-Sare Foundation
Sisters of Mercy Foundation
State Farm Foundation
Unity Spiritual Renaissance Church
USDA- Farmers Market Promotion Program
USDA-MSU Partnership

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McLaren
MSU Community and Economic Development Program
MSU-Federal Credit Union
MSU Center for Regional Food Systems
Peckham
Physician's Health Plan
Schertzing, Eric
Sparrow Health System
Two Men and a Truck
Unity Spiritual Renaissance
Williams Auto World

ANC BOARD MEMBERS



President, Sarah Schillio



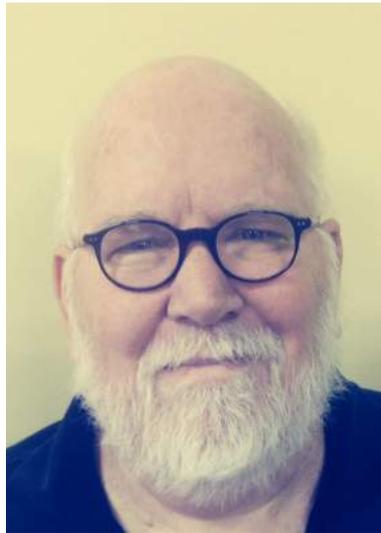
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Secretary, Corie Jason



Treasurer, Dan Dowsett



Member, Rick Kibby



Member, Janet Kincaid

Not pictured: Velma Kyser

OUR FAVORITE QUOTE

“Community is the immediate and intimate sense of belonging. Much more than a physical space — though it may be geographically bound — community is an experience.”

— Ron David

ANC STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE



Joan Nelson and Debbie Diesen

GARDENHOUSE/EXCHANGE



Alex Bissell, Stephanie Onderchanin, Rita O'Brien, John McCarthy

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



Rachel Sprich, Denise Paquette, Kat Logan

FARMERS MARKET



Eric Jurkovich, Julia Kramer, Julia Miller and Andre Perry

“Some people are fortunate enough to earn their livelihoods in jobs that directly help to create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.”

— Robert Alan Silverstein



“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community... and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.”

— George Bernard Shaw

