

**BARTLEY-
DECATUR
NEIGHBORHOOD
CENTER**

Building Dreams, Nurturing Community

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Updates and Campaign Announcement

August 2012

As a Friend of the Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center, Inc. (BDNC), we would like to take this opportunity to share some updates and announcements with you. It has now been a year since we, at BDNC, opened our doors to the public; and what a year it has been! Thanks to the help of many friends like you, and several corporate partners, we have managed to get this first year “under our belt” and are moving forward at full steam into the challenges/opportunities that lie ahead.

We are so pleased to have reached this milestone and to have partnered with many others over this last year in our efforts at *building dreams and nurturing community*. In fact, our list of partners and clients has grown to include Empire Bank, Liberty Bank, Missouri State University, Caring Communities, Ladies’ Civic League, NAACP, See How Opportunity Works (SHOW), the board of Historic Lincoln Cemetery, Learning4Today, Springfield Community Center, Inc., Deliverance Temple Ministries, Timmon’s Temple C.O.G.I.C., Community Foundation of the Ozarks, and of course, neighborhood residents!

In November of last year we were recognized by the North Springfield Betterment Association for the beautification and improvements to Springfield’s north side, represented by our accomplishments at 918 E. Calhoun. We have been privileged to serve resident individuals, children, and families by finding out what they would like to see happen in their neighborhood and working to become more responsive to their perceived needs, goals, and dreams.

Our survey of neighborhood residents has revealed that they are most concerned about employment, financial budgeting, housing issues, health care, and education (including earning a GED). Comments by those surveyed also cited desires for after school tutoring, “neighborhood watch” programs, and “better neighborhood communication.”

This first year has helped us get a better handle on exactly what it takes to keep the basic operations of our organization and facilities up and running, while pushing forward to take full advantage of our unique capacities and addressing the very real needs of our community. In a number, that baseline is approximately eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000). We are fortunate that, unlike many organizations for whom that figure would not even cover rent, we have a relatively low overhead. This allows us to offer the wonderful, state-of-the-art amenities of our

facility to our neighbors at a base cost of less than \$50 a day! We truly believe that the cost/benefit ratio is a rare find in Springfield. The steadily increasing demand for computer/internet access alone is something well documented in our community (as evidenced by the Springfield-Greene County Library's recent "Google Chromebook" initiative). BDNC is poised to help meet this and other demands of Springfield's center city neighborhoods in a way that is literally within walking distance of where individuals and families live.

Having shared these updates with you, please allow me to turn to the other important purpose of this letter. We have presently undertaken a rather ambitious goal. That goal is to raise the entirety of our annual base operational support (\$18K) within the next 30 to 45 days. Accomplishing this goal will make it possible for our board to turn its full attention towards uninterrupted service, expanding partnerships, and the development of staff and programming goals.

We are so grateful for the help and support that you have already given us and are fully aware that we would not have reached this point without it. Now, at this time when the opportunity to help meet the needs of our neighbors has never been greater, may we ask you to please carefully consider what you can do to help us meet our immediate financial goal? We are confident that with the continued partnership of our supporters, we can not only successfully complete this campaign, but can spring forward in our support of Springfield's center city residents.

I would be remiss were I not to mention the fact that your contributions are tax deductible and that there are also "naming opportunities" available for those who may be interested. To date, our board room, community room, and computer resource room, among other areas, are examples of such opportunities.

We are seeking business/corporate contributions in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range and individual/"friend" donations of any amount. For questions or more information about any of the items presented in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by mail, email, or phone.

Thanks again for all you do to make Springfield a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

Mark

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