Hope for Homeless at Inez Killingsworth Pointe

Inez Killingsworth Pointe is the 10th permanent supportive housing apartment building to be opened by the Housing First Partners of Cuyahoga County: Emerald Development & Economic Network, (EDEN), Inc., CHN Housing Partners, FrontLine Service, and Enterprise Community Partners. Inez Killingsworth Pointe provides 66 one-bedroom apartments to chronically homeless individuals with a disability.

Approximately 20% of those who are homeless are long-term or chronically homeless. These individuals have been homeless for more than a year, or had multiple episodes over three years totaling 365 days, but many have been homeless much longer. For chronically homeless persons, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) buildings are one of the few permanent housing options for exit from shelters or the streets. Before addressing any other issues, Permanent Supportive Housing enables people experiencing chronic homelessness to find a permanent place to call home. After moving into their home, residents are given the opportunity to participate in a number of different social services; however, housing is not contingent upon their participation in services.

The goal of PSH is to provide a secure place for residents to live, without condition, while providing access to onsite wrap-around support services to help them achieve greater independence. This initiative is based on research and experience demonstrating that housing a person, and meeting their most basic needs of food, water and shelter, before addressing other issues, is the best for long-term success.

Chronic homelessness in Cuyahoga County has dropped by 86% since EDEN opened their first permanent supportive housing complex, Emerald Commons, in 2006. Approximately 16% of the residents in Cuyahoga County’s PSH buildings are veterans. These buildings are designed to provide staff and tenants optimal engagement and socialization opportunities by utilizing common spaces, and to meet the need for individual privacy by providing each tenant with their own apartment. A community meeting room, computer lab and offices for social services, a central mail room, laundry room and a front desk reception area, which is staffed 24/7, are all designed to provide opportunity for skill enhancement, service planning, social interaction, and normalization in community living.

On Monday, December 11th, a Community Open House was hosted by EDEN, Inc, co-developer, co-owner, and property manager, at Inez Killingsworth Pointe, and nearly 70 people attended, including many members of Inez Killingsworth’s family, who was a longtime community activist and housing advocate in the Union-Miles neighborhood, and for whom the facility is named.

The Housing First coalition’s goal is to eradicate long term homelessness, and it is well on its way. With the constant dedication of staff, community supporters, funders, government agencies, and partner organizations, Cuyahoga County’s Housing First coalition is on track to end long term homelessness by 2020.

A Letter to Ward 2 Residents From Councilman Zack Reed

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

For the past 16 years I have had the privilege and honor of serving the residents of Cleveland’s southeast side. And now I am leaving that service, a service that has seen significant successes throughout our community, not necessarily because of what I did, but what together we did as neighbors, as family.

Earlier this year I committed to giving up my Council seat to run for mayor of this great city – an endeavor that did not turn out as I had hoped, but, nevertheless, a solid and honest run. So now I am passing the gavel to a new representative, to a new voice for the good people of Ward 2.

As Councilman-elect Kevin Bishop is preparing to take over, I will help him as much as I can before I set off on a new endeavor. What exactly that new endeavor will be is not completely clear at this time, but, whatever my next title becomes, I will still be fighting for social justice, for empowerment of the disenfranchised and against racism and bigotry.

I began my public career coordinating a jobs program for youth through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. I then worked on public housing initiatives for the City of San Francisco before returning to Cleveland to work for Cuyahoga County’s Children and Family Services.

So most of my adult life has been in service to the public, which, I admit, is hard to leave. But, at the same time, I am energized and excited about new possibilities and new challenges. And though I’m leaving City Hall for the time being, I’m not going very far from Ward 2, which includes Mt. Pleasant, where I grew up. Union-Miles, Mill Creek Falls and adjacent neighborhoods.

For 16 years, I have vigilantly kept my eyes and ears on these neighborhoods, directing city resources to light up, clean up and fix up various areas in need. I worked to secure millions of dollars for street repairs and millions more for ridding blight, fighting crime and improving qualities of life. Again, none of these advances would have happened without you – indeed, without us, working together for the betterment of our neighborhoods. Like a theatrical cast, we supported and trusted each other as we faced heavy challenges. And now that the curtain is closing on my term in public office, I pledge to you today that I will continue working for you, the family of Ward 2.

I leave this post with a sense of accomplishment and, honestly, a sense of battle fatigue resulting from the many struggles to secure limited federal, state and local resources for our neighborhoods. Still, we accomplished a lot. And I want to acknowledge the hard work of my long-time executive assistant Naiia Deskins who handled the day-to-day constituent calls to my office. Naiia will continue her work under the new councilman, so you’ll hear a familiar voice when you call.

I want to stress that the neighborhoods of Ward 2 have a lot of potential for residential and retail development. We have much on which to build and I see a promising and vibrant future. So at this time of transition, let us look to that vibrant future. Let us sound a clarion call to arms in the name of a future that fosters equity and justice. Together, we will get there.

Zack Reed
Councilman, Ward 2
Jasma Love is the proud owner of JazzyCakez, a home bakery where the products are created and baked with love. She prides herself on good quality, old fashioned cake. JazzyCakez specializes in cakes and cupcakes and dessert tables for all occasions. JazzyCakez is known for its Lemon Pound Cake.

Jasma also has a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and currently teaches first grade in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She is the proud wife of Minister R.M. McDougald and mom of Thomiah and Robert.

She knew as a little girl who loved spending time with both of her grandmothers in the kitchen, that she would grow up to be the successful business owner and operator of JazzyCakez.

She has over 25 years of baking experience. Most of that time, it was just for fun because that’s exactly what it is to her. Fun! It is her dream to one day combine her love for teaching and baking into another successful business.

**Winter Crisis Program**

Beginning on November 1st and operating through the end of November, the Union-Miles Neighborhood Winter Crisis Program is available to eligible Cleveland residents. Services are available with registration, until December 31st. Registration is limited to 35 people per day at 11:00 a.m. with admissions held at 10:00 a.m. Each household is entitled to one registration per household.

**WELCOME SHARON & FAMILY TO THE UNION-MILES NEIGHBORHOOD!!!**

**Union-Miles Entrepreneur Spotlight: Jasma Love of JazzyCakez**

Please like, follow and share her on social media: Facebook - jazzycakez, Instagram @jazzycakez80. She can also be reached at 216-278-4411. She looks forward to baking for and with you!
On November 20, 2017, Kim Myers and family hosted their 2nd annual Community Serving Community event. For the second year, this family was blessed and able to come together and supply over 150 Thanksgiving baskets to residents of Union-Miles filled with turkeys, canned goods and other nonperishable side dishes to help complete their holiday feast. Back in October of this year the family also hosted their 2nd annual Halloween party for the youth in the community. On behalf of the Union-Miles community, thank you for all your generosity and we look forward to working with you in the New Year. Happy Holidays to all.

Mission:
To rehabilitate vacant, blighted houses throughout Ward 2 and train Ex-Offenders/Returning Citizens for employment and income producing opportunities in the fields of housing rehabilitation or property maintenance.

Vision:
A Greater Cleveland where one mistake does not permanently prevent an individual from a bright future for one’s self and family.

For more information contact
216-341-0757
‘Youth Progress’ Program at John Adams High School

On November 15, 2017 the KNOWLEDGE Youth Organization’s “Ladies of Today” & Living in Financial Excellence (L.I.F.E.) at John Adams High School hosted the John Adams High School’s “Youth Progress Towards Graduation” Program.

This event was targeted toward families of students that attend John Adams High School so they could receive information about their child’s current grades and attendance record so that they can monitor growth. Many of our parents received awards for their continuing support of John Adams Students & Staff and Members of the ‘Ladies of Today’ & Living in Financial Excellence (L.I.F.E.) received awards for academic excellence and for their participation in the Union Miles Development Corporation MYCOM Program.

Street Clubs

Are you interested in Community Organizing?
Are you willing to speak up for your neighborhood?

If you answered yes to both come and join the Union-Miles Street Clubs and help build a better future.

For more information contact Artrice Smith of Union Miles Development Corporation at 216-341-0757 or by email atrrices@unionmiles.org