Welcome our newest team members.

Amplifying quality care to patients is at the heart of our mission. To that end, we are proud to introduce our newest team members: Dr. Emily Johnson and Dr. Sarah Rodriguez. Their expertise and dedication will undoubtedly enhance the level of care we provide to our patients.

Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities to Housemates, First-Time Homebuyers, and Tenants

Our ongoing collaboration with the City of Buffalo and Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency focuses our outreach and application intake efforts in West Side communities. This effort is crucial in addressing the needs of vulnerable residents and fostering equitable housing opportunities.

In collaboration with Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) WNY, we have developed a virtual training program focused on planning and implementing affordable housing development projects. The curriculum provides an overview of the affordable housing development process, including pre-development and financing and assists organizations to start site-specific analyses in order to increase the viability and likelihood of successful development projects. This curriculum aims to educate participants on the planning and development process, community engagement strategies, including joint venture partners for affordable housing development.

A new partnership in 2020 will see us working in the McKinley Park and Fruit Belt neighborhoods with various housing organizations across Buffalo, administering a Rental Assistance Fund and Rebuilding Rehab Assistance, thanks to the Anti-Discrimination Learning Network (ADLN) Grant provided by Enterprise Community Partners.

2020 Financials

The summary financial statements were audited by a CPA.

$567,634 Funded

$739,332 Invested

FORGING AHEAD TO 2021

While the pandemic may still be adjusting the way we work in 2021, we continue to provide needed resources to our communities and grow both our programming and partnerships.

Affordable Housing Opportunities

Through ongoing partnerships with the City of Buffalo and Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency, our team assisted fifteen homeowners and three first-time homeowners, investing $543,186 in solar repair and $491,910 in mortgages and homeowner assistance funding.

$543,186 (unaudited and invested in energy repair)

$491,910 (unaudited and invested in mortgage)

We collaborated with partner housing organizations through the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and Anti-Discrimination Learning Network to provide additional resources to our communities. As the pandemic continues to leave both homeowners and renters vulnerable, stabilizing housing has become one of our dominant focuses.

$260,000 invested in Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

$200,000 inquired on Grant Street in downtown Buffalo

$206,412 (unaudited and invested in housing)

Community Needs

As a result of our programs, thousands were deeply impacted and strengthened, we helped the community property owners on Grant Street complete their Buffalo Main Streets Initiative projects, improving 12 commercial units and investing almost $200,000 into our mixed-use community. All with the assistance of the NY Housing Trust Fund Corporation and Empire State Development Corporation.

$200,000 invested on Grant Street in downtown Buffalo

$395 (inquired on behalf of affordable rental housing)

$1,500 (inquired on behalf of affordable rental housing)

While our focus organizationally is on building children, we are quick to adjust and adapt to what the pressing needs are. Our staff stayed engaged with the people we serve, connecting them to not only housing resources, but legal and human resources, as well.

Our partnership with The Journey Church led to the holistic needs of our community, which is to support the Greenworks Initiative. We are engaged in affordable rental housing and food insecurity.

In our partnership with The Journey Church, we located the high needs of our community, as it pertains to the Greenworks Initiative. We are engaged in affordable rental housing and food insecurity.

Full Management and Partnerships

As with many other non-profits, the threat of fiscal instability was an increasingly challenging concern. Public and private philanthropic institutions, upon which we rely heavily, drastically cut back on their giving. ROCU sought opportunities to highlight our new project management skills and present meaningful partnerships that introduced new capital to work in order to bridge funding gaps.

$3,630 (unaudited and invested in receiving capital and new funding opportunities)

Our partnership with Mr. Oralis Bishop Church expanded access to affordable rental housing while also helping to secure a tenant building on East Devereaux into eight quality, safe, affordable rental units. Upon completion of the process a total of $23,918,194 was invested in the Devereaux Center community.

Leadership and Employee Retention

During these turbulent times, securing ROCU’s fiscal sustainability was our number one priority to provide reliable and critical services to our community. This was accomplished by implementing good self-care for all employees, reducing the work week by one day and offering flexible remote meeting arrangements when needed.

We also partnered with the Fruit Belt Community Land Trust after the description of their leadership structure. We know that securing capable leadership and program service continuity is paramount to our agency’s ability to serve and meet demands during these challenging times.

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