



THE B.R.E.A.D. REPORT

"drawing together people of faith to act powerfully on issues of justice"

Volume 1, Issue 2

June, 2000

Bring Housing Home

It is common knowledge that the BREAD Organization convened the largest community meeting on Affordable Housing on March 27, 2000. At that meeting Mayor Coleman pledged \$20 million to capitalize a Housing Trust Fund and to appoint a Housing Task Force to examine City housing policy. Fr. Stan Benecki is the BREAD representative to the Housing Task Force. What is less known is what is happening with that Housing Task Force. Thirty-one BREAD members joined Fr. Stan Benecki around the table at the Mayor's Housing Task Force meeting on Tuesday, June 13. Promises made in big public meetings have a way of evaporating if there is not sufficient follow-through. There is a lot of hard work ahead for BREAD to make sure that there is delivery on the promises.

In the Mayor Coleman's "charge" to his Housing Task Force, he said, "We must rewrite Housing history in Columbus." The challenge now is to make this historic rewriting relevant to the concerns faced by poor and working class people in our community (see Father Stan Benecki's article in this issue). B.R.E.A.D. is monitoring the research and policy development of the Task Force and anticipating the specific proposals which that group will send on to the Columbus City Council. Already some important points of tension have arisen within the Task Force. Three of them are:

- Is \$20 million enough? Mayor Coleman has committed \$20 million for the Housing Trust Fund. At the same time, we have learned that the City has already spent \$40 million for the infrastructure at Nationwide Arena and is committing \$25 million over 10 years for bike paths in Franklin County.

- Who will the Trust Fund target? Will it be targeted towards households who are earning \$22,000 or less per year (50% of area median income)? \$40,000 annual incomes (80% of area median income)? or \$65,000 (120% of area median income).

- Which neighborhoods should be the focus of development initiatives? Some have proposed that development be concentrated within the boundaries

of the Columbus City Schools. Others have proposed "older Columbus." BREAD is advocating that redevelopment activities should be targeted for low-income neighborhoods (where the average median income is below \$22,000 annually). Do we really need housing incentives for Clintonville, Beechwood, Victorian Village, Olde Towne East, or German Village?

Since March 27th, B.R.E.A.D. has also held follow-up meetings with Franklin County Commissioners to discuss the Housing Trust Fund. The County Commissioners recognize the acute housing crisis facing this community. They recognize the shortage of funding to solve those problems. They are listening to our proposal to increase the title transfer fee. BREAD is working to build a broad consensus within the community on the need for this housing trust fund.

Housing Trust funds across the country have dramatically and effectively increased the supply of affordable housing by providing local, flexible financial resources. In most cases, trust funds leverage ten additional dollars for every dollar spent. If adequately funded and structured, the Trust Fund has great potential to genuinely reshape housing history in Columbus.

*-Ed Hoffman, BREAD Vice-President
and Jubilee Housing Committee*

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The B.R.E.A.D. Report is published quarterly to highlight the work of the organization. If you have comments, please send them to:

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Kee-ing in to BREAD: Comments from the BREAD Co-President

Within the Columbus enterprise, there has been a grassroots organization that has been at the forefront of many issues that confront our city's most serious concerns, "B.R.E.A.D." As Co-President, I do not decree this as an ardent proposition for empty glory, but the reality is that B.R.E.A.D. has been a force in combating injustice and inequality. For this, we must celebrate. In lieu, we've been criticized and minimized by those who misunderstand our intentions. I believe it is particularly appropriate to reflect and bow in humble submission to our God for orchestrating such a ministry to be a force in our city.

As you are aware, some of our counterparts gaze in awe wondering how did this organization emanate. We, at times, have been characterized as being radical, pugnacious, acrimonious and un-Christian to reference a few. It is evident that somehow within the theological spectrum, someone has concluded that it is our responsibility to remain in our pulpits and parishes, rather than being genuinely engaged in the healing that can save our city.

My recent meetings with clergy from different cities points to the need for political socioeconomic intervention at every level. Case in point, B.R.E.A.D. has become an integral part of the yeast that makes our city rise. I traveled with Ed Hoffman, Vice-President of B.R.E.A.D., to Pittsburgh, to the Racism 2000 Summit, and twice with Holly Holcombe, Associate Director for D.A.R.T. (the Direct Action Research and Training center), to Richmond, Virginia in an effort to create a justice ministry there. When we arrived, they weren't optimistic that congregations comprised of Protestants, Catholics, Jews, interfaith, interracial.....could work together there for justice. After visiting again, 30 concerned constituents attended and hence, they are organizing now.

What is becoming profoundly apparent within the community of faith, is our need to

build and organize people who can hold systems accountable. As I reflect upon my three years of being a partner in social justice with B.R.E.A.D., I shall eternally remember the Reverend Andrew Foster, who has now gone on to be with the Lord, and who was a hallmark in building relationships and loving justice. Because of his legacy, I hear his baritone voice resounding as he stated to me "If you really want to be a part of something, my young Brother, that is serious about doing justice and making a difference, you need to be my protege, unlike some of my contemporaries who do not see this work as essential." Thus I say, if we love our God by continuing to work toward affordable housing, adequate transportation, faith neighborhoods, elevating the quality of education in our schools, providing ministry to the downcast and the outcast, regardless of what everyone else thinks! Having said this, it is my prayer that we can continue to stay at the table with one another and build bridges toward a greater community.

May God bless everyone in B.R.E.A.D. for their unwavering commitment to social justice, and most of all, thanks for the confidence in my leadership to have been able to serve as Co-President for these three years.

by Rev. Jeffrey P. Kee



Genia Hendrix holds an award presented to the BREAD Organization at Dr. Rosa Smith Annual Pastors's Breakfast. With Geniz (who is on the far left are Rev. John Aeschbury, Vanessa Velez, Dr. Smith, and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey P. Kee.

Bring Housing Home

By Father Stan Benecki

The Saturday before addressing 1,700 members of BREAD congregations at our March 27 action meeting, Mayor Coleman announced plans to establish a \$20 million Housing Trust Fund and appoint a task force to advise him about its particulars. In addition, he agreed on March 27 to charge the task force to investigate and make recommendations about the adoption of an inclusionary zoning ordinance for the city and to work with BREAD to seek ways of raising the additional revenues to bring the trust fund to the \$50 million requested by BREAD.

The task force did not meet for the first time until May 2 and adopted a schedule of bi-weekly meetings until August 22, considerably earlier than the previously announced September 30 final report date. Some work groups of the task force have decided on their own to meet more frequently.

A work group structure was established by the co-chairs of the task force. People other than task force members participate in the work groups. The Housing Score Card Group (in which John Aeschbury participates) will design an instrument to quantify housing needs and measure progress in meeting them. The Housing Resources Group (Stan Benecki) will structure the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and make recommendations about sources of

funds and how they will be expended. The Policies, Taxes and Fees Group (Ed Hoffman) will identify needed changes in policies, codes, fees, tax structures and other current regulations to remove impediments to housing production. The mayor also stated at the first task force meeting that this group would investigate an MPDU (inclusionary zoning) ordinance for Columbus.

With such a daunting task to be carried out in four short months, there remain significant issues in tension. The first is the reality of the \$20 million city commitment. What is in fact being proposed is that the city contribute \$2 million up front, then earmark city revenues to pay off an \$11.6 million 25 year bond issue. Thus at day one, there will only be \$13.6 million in the trust fund. The only way the \$13.6 million turns into \$20 million is if all of it is used exclusively and exhaustively to loan money to the private sector for housing production at the same rate of interest as the bond issue that raised it. In other words, no capacity building grants, no down payment assistance, no interest buy downs, no bounties, nothing but a revolving load fund. BREAD asked for \$50 million available on day one.

Secondly, the mayor's original proposal is very heavily directed to homeownership, much to the neglect of the many times more sizable problem of a shortage of affordable rental housing. BREAD insists that the affordable rental housing shortage be adequately addressed.

Thirdly, it is not at all clear that the city intends to target moderate and low income families. There has been talk of targeting those earning as much as 150% of area median family income, a figure well over \$50,000. BREAD insists that programs be targeted to benefit those earning 80% and less of area median income.

Finally there is some vagueness in the mayor's use of the term "older neighborhoods." BREAD feels the programs of the trust fund should be targeted to low income census tracts, i.e. "at risk" neighborhoods.

BREAD will continue to work hard to keep the task force on the right track. Task force meetings are open to public observers. Most meetings are scheduled from 2:30 to 4:30 on Tuesdays. Call the BREAD office for details.

Mayor's Housing Task Force

Co-Chairs

James Bowman, National Affordable Housing
Warren Tyler, Warmarr Capital, Inc.

Members include

Fr. Stanley Benecki, BREAD Jubilee Housing
David Caldwell Columbus/Franklin County Labor Council
Walter Cates, Main Street Business Association
Bill Faith, Coalition of Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Cynthia Flaherty, Columbus office of Fannie Mae
Dennis Guest, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Thomas Hart, Building Industry Association
Keith Key, Omni Management Group, Ltd.
Amy Klaben, Columbus Housing Partnership, Inc.
Bruce Massa, Massa Realty & Development
Helen McDaniel, Greater Hilltop Development Corp.
Chip Santer, SanerHousing Capital
Norm Wilson, Huntington Bank, and
Randolph Wilson, HUD

Congregational Profiles

A special feature of this quarterly newsletter will be profiles of the BREAD member congregations. Below are two profiles of two current member congregations. In the future, this section will include photos of the congregational buildings.

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

NEW SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2956 Cleveland Avenue

Dr. Keith A. Troy, Pastor

New Salem was founded in 1909 as the 10th Black Baptist Church in Columbus. Originally at the intersection of Spruce and City Avenues, moving afterwards to City and Charles Street. In 1920 the congregation moved to North Garfield, later to St. Clair Avenue, and then North Champion. On Easter Sunday 1988 New Salem settled into its present location on Cleveland Avenue. Dr. Keith Troy has served as Pastor since 1983.

New Salem Baptist is affiliated with the National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches. Membership is currently at 3500 and growing.

B.R.E.A.D. membership grows out of a commitment to be actively involved in the work of the church by daily demonstrations of God's love and through a commitment to the Great Commandment (Love one another as you would love yourself) and the Great Commission (Go you therefore to all the nations.....). We share the same values as B.R.E.A.D. regarding issues of peace, fairness and social-economic justice in the Central Ohio area.

BROAD STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1049 East Broad Street

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum

Broad Street Christian Church was founded in 1870 as Central Christian Church. First located at the corner of Third and Gay Streets, the church moved to its present site in 1907.

Broad Street Christian is a congregation of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with a current membership of 200.

We describe ourselves as a multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-generational community of faith. Our Mission Statement says: Broad Street Christian (Disciples of Christ) is a congregation of believers that celebrate diversity as it:

- Shares the Good News of the love of Jesus Christ,
- Supports its members' spiritual needs through prayer, study, fellowship, and understanding, and,
- Serves its community through ministries of reconciliation and justice.

Our B.R.E.A.D. membership is an extension of our Mission and Ministries.

Calendar

- July 4 **Holiday:** BREAD office closed
- July 6 **Clergy Caucus** at 9:30 a.m. at First Unitarian Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd.
Board of Directors, 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 955 Oak St.
- July 10 **Breakfast Forum for Realtors**, planned and hosted by Christ Lutheran Church, 2314 E. Main St, 8:30-10a.m.
- July 11 **Membership/Rethinking Justice Committee**, 7p.m.
at the BREAD office, 1015 E. Main St.
- July 13 **Youth Concerns Research Committee** at St. John's Episcopal Church, 7 p.m.
Jubilee Housing Committee at Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Catholic Church, Cleveland and Hudson Aves, 7 p.m.
- July 20 **Support Drive Reporting Meeting** at BREAD office, 1015 E. Main St., 6 p.m.
- July 25 **Mayor's Housing Task Force** (Draft Recommendations Due), at City Training Facility, 757 Carolyn Ave, 2:30 p.m.
- August 22 **Final Meeting of Mayor's Housing Task Force**, 757 Carolyn Ave, 2:30 p.m.
- September 7 **Clergy Caucus**, 9:30 a.m.
Board of Directors, 7 p.m.
- September 25 **BREAD Annual Assembly** (place to be announced), 7 p.m.
- October 2-6 **DART Five-Day Workshop** at Bergamo Conference Center (Dayton, Ohio)

Issue Updates

Direct Instruction Spells Success

by *Genia Blount-Hendrix and Laura Winters-Duke*

Ten Columbus Public Schools have ended their first year of Direct Instruction implementation. The B.R.E.A.D. Education Committee continues to monitor schools, test scores, and teacher training. After visits to various D.I. schools, meetings with teachers, parents, and JP & Associates (the firm hired by CPS to train teachers and facilitators in the DI method) consultations with Dr. Jerry Silbert of the University of Oregon, and discussions within committee, suggestions were developed and presented to Dr. Rosa Smith in a meeting May 19th that would help to improve implementation, training, and monitoring benchmarks.

Dr. Smith committed to follow-through on three recommendations and study the additional ones so that she could respond by the end of June. Specifically, she agreed to:

1. Insure that all principals and literacy facilitators have the opportunity to visit Houston's Wesley Elementary School in Fall 2000. Dr. Smith further agreed to work to see that exemplary teachers in school buildings have the opportunity to visit Wesley.
2. CPS will, in conjunction with JP & Associates, designate exemplary classrooms for at least kindergarten, first and second grades. These classrooms would serve as local models for teachers and community members interested in observing and learning about DI.
3. The role of the literacy facilitators would be strengthened so as to increase the support given to in-class instruction.

Under consideration are proposals to align one Area Superintendent to supervise DI principals, conduct reading lessons twice daily to make sure students do not fall behind and achieve mastery, require that someone other than the teacher administer mastery testing four times a year, and, develop interim benchmarks such as the Woodcock-Johnson Reading test to provide a more accurate measures of progress.

A meeting will be held with Dr. Smith, Dr. Scott, and the B.R.E.A.D. Education Committee in July, after results from the 1999-2000 school year are

collected, when these suggestions will be under further discussion.

Schools who had met the Direct Instruction progress and mastery goals were named and honored at the B.R.E.A.D. Team Assembly May 23rd. Certificates were subsequently presented to those schools and teachers who had met the target goals.

BREAD TEEN SUMMIT

The Youth Concerns Research Committee has been looking at the challenges facing young people in Central Ohio over the past six months. Reports from a number of research meetings indicate that concern for youth is high among government officials, not-for-profit program providers, and citizens. Most concern is expressed about violence, drugs, and lack of positive direction in the lives of teens and what happens between the hours of 3-6 p.m..

While concern is high, the Youth Committee wonders if commitment to action is just as high. The committee is closely following Mayor Coleman's after-school initiative to see if resources are directed toward finding solutions to the needs of young people.

As a way of involving those directly affected by these problems, the committee is planning a Teen Summit for Friday, October 20. Planning is just getting started, but the group is incorporating teaching material from the Rethinking Justice workshops, house meeting-type discussions, and fellowship activities. This Summit will build relationships between teens, introduce them to the work of BREAD, and help surface challenges facing youth people.

Anyone interested in participating in planning and implementing the Rally or in being active on the Youth Concerns Committee, should call the Rev. Lee Anne Reat (848-4236) or Vanessa Velez (853-2958).

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Rethinking Justice ... from a Jewish Perspective

By Cathy Levine, Congregation Tifereth Israel

Several months ago, Cantor Jack Chomsky, of Congregation Tifereth Israel, had a vision for reaching out to members of T.I. and other Jewish congregations with the call to justice. Thus, on Saturday, May 20th, Cantor Chomsky welcomed more than forty BREAD members to the first-ever Rethinking Justice workshop from a Jewish perspective.

Rethinking Justice workshops connect B.R.E.A.D. members with the prophetic call to work for justice. Rethinking/Jewish covered the same territory as the standard workshop, but with a few twists. Because it was held on Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath, a holiday), participants could not take notes. Instead, with the help of handouts, we had to listen, think, and remember. And, in the middle of the workshop, we held a traditional afternoon prayer service.

Rabbi Harold Berman riveted us with his learned discussion about Amos, a non-professional prophet who stirred the conscience of his people. Cathy Levine talked about BREAD as a vehicle for answering the prophetic call. Billy Reedus spoke convincingly about the power of one-to-ones to build community within a congregation, as well as building involvement in justice issues. Cantor Chomsky tied it all together by reminding us that the call to work for justice is squarely within the Jewish tradition and BREAD provides us with a wonderful vehicle for answering that call.

Tifereth Israel's BREAD team was so moved by the workshop that we plan to schedule another one, in the next few months. And, we are hoping that the workshop will become a national model for engaging Jewish congregations in faith-based organizations like BREAD.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP 2000

Operation Clean Sweep, which next meets at First English Lutheran Church (1015 E. Main Street) at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday July 11, is still actively involved in efforts to reduce crime, increase safety, and clean up the neighborhoods within Precincts 6 & 12. Residents continue to meet on a regular basis with public officials from Police, Health, Code Enforcement, Sanitation, and the City Attorney's Office. Many residents, committee members, and members of B.R.E.A.D. will participate in Neighborhood Pride Week (June 12 – 19), in association with other area organizations.

The Hot Spot Card participation has fallen off somewhat over the winter and early spring. This will be reinstated this summer. It has been so successful that it has been replicated by other citizen groups in other parts of the City. By allowing residents to anonymously report illegal activity, enforcement agencies are better able to focus their efforts in appropriate areas.

City and Police officials have now announced groundbreaking in the fall of 2001 for the new substation. Promises have been made to do more community policing within Precincts 6 & 12. An active and visible police presence is essential in reducing crime of all sorts and neighborhood residents are continuing to press for increased coverage within these precincts.

Support Drive

During June, July, and August, BREAD is devoting time to meeting our annual support drive. During the support drive, we will be seeking to build relationships and win financial and political support for our work. Congregations are organizing support drive teams and asking individuals and small businesses to invest in the work of BREAD. Corporate teams (up to five BREAD leaders) will meet with CEO's and business executives in order to introduce them to the organization, build relationships based on mutual self-interest and seek political and financial support for the work of the organization.

BREAD has a unique place in the Columbus community. No where else are people of faith coming together in such large numbers in order to give witness to their values and commitments. Precious few organizations have such a broad range of membership. And, BREAD has concrete results in important areas such as housing, reading, storm sewers, etc.

If you have any questions about the support drive, please contact the BREAD office at (614) 258-8748.

B.R.E.A.D. Organization
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Columbus, OH 43205

