



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

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

Volume 1, Issue 1

March, 2000

## Over 1,700 voices Gather to Bring Housing Home!

**"Bring Housing Home! Bring Housing Home! Bring Housing Home!"** was the chant of over 1,700 voices as BREAD members gathered on Monday, March 27 to challenge Mayor Michael Coleman to implement the Jubilee Housing Plan. The meeting was held at the Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Dr. Eugene Lundy, pastor.

During the meeting, Mayor Coleman made the following commitments to: 1) seek \$50 million for the Trust Fund (toward which \$20 million has been dedicated from the City); 2) join BREAD in calling for the participation of Franklin County in the Trust Fund. The Mayor studiously avoided a commitment to encourage the County Commissioners to increase the title transfer fee as a mechanism for supporting the trust fund, and he avoided making a commitment to support inclusionary zoning within the City limits. The Mayor did offer support for the BREAD proposal to use tax abatements to support center city housing development, but referred the matter to his newly created Housing Task Force. Fr. Stan Benecki, chair of the BREAD Jubilee Housing Committee, has been appointed to that Task Force. The Task Force has been asked to complete its work by September 30.

Over the past fifteen months B.R.E.A.D.'s Jubilee Housing Committee has documented the incredible housing needs and problems facing this community. 34,556 low-income families pay more than 50% of their income for housing. 59,127 low-income households pay more than 30% of their income for housing. There is a deficit of 21,892 units of affordable housing for low-income families. At any given time, there are 3,328 homeless families in Franklin County. While this is the housing need in our community, there has been very little local political leadership to solve the housing problem. Mayor Coleman's commitment of \$20 million for a Housing Trust Fund is a long-awaited first step. But

when compared to the City's \$40 million investment in the infrastructure for the Nationwide Arena, \$20 million does not look like so much.

The Jubilee Housing Plan was initially proposed to Mayor Greg Lashutka in an Aciton Meeting on May 16, 1999 at the North Education Center. The meeting was attended by close to 1,500 people from BREAD member congregations. Mayor Coleman went on record at B.R.E.A.D.'s Fall Assembly (when he was a Mayoral Candidate) as a supporter of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. In the State of the City address earlier this month, Mayor Coleman again reiterated his commitment to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. There remains still something of a gap between what appears to be Mayor Coleman's design for a Housing Trust Fund and what the BREAD organization has proposed.

The numbers and personal stories are brutal. With the Jubilee Housing Plan, the B.R.E.A.D. Organization has offered a real plan to turn the tide on the gaping holes in housing in this community. It is a matter of justice and a matter of fairness. It is time to Bring Housing Home!

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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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1015 E. Main St.	(614) 258-8748
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# Issue Updates

## Reading Initiative

The B.R.E.A.D. Education Committee has continued to work on monitoring and implementation of DI (Direct Instruction), since the introduction of this instructional method at ten Columbus Public elementary schools in 1999. Members meet monthly with JP & Associates, the consulting firm hired by CPS to train teachers and principals. They also meet regularly with CPS Superintendent Dr. Rosa Smith to review the DI program, discuss strengths and weaknesses, and, implementation. They have also met with Dr. Jerry Silbert, of the University of Oregon, Portland, one of the authors of the Direct Instruction materials..

Co-operation between the B.R.E.A.D. Committee, CPS, Dr. Smith, and JP & Associates has been good. Several suggestions, such as geographic clustering, have been accepted.

Fifteen CPS educators will fly to Houston, Texas on March 27 to visit Wesley Elementary School for a first-hand look at DI in action. Previous B.R.E.A.D. sponsored visits have created better understanding of the truly amazing accomplishments of this method.

Four members of B.R.E.A.D. will also participate in this trip: Bishop Christine McGee, Jackie Reedus, Vanessa Velez, and Alice Porter. They look forward to an exciting visit, with an eye to being better able to present information on DI to interested groups of parents, as well as their own congregations.

## Project Clean Sweep

*By Gaye Reissland*

It's nearly Spring again and we all know that as the temperatures rise, so does the crime. The BREAD congregations in Precincts 6 & 12 will resume meetings around issues of crime and safety. Project Clean Sweep will begin meeting again in April 2000. We felt it was very effective to meet with public officials from the Police, Code Enforcement, Health, Sanitation and the City Attorney's Office on a weekly basis. At the meetings information from the anonymous hot spot cards is shared with pertinent departments and the next week we receive reports back on the action taken on the area of problem. The meetings will be at First English Lutheran (1015 E. Main St.) on Tuesdays at 2:00p.m.

**To report criminal activity, hazardous conditions, health concerns or any other sort of nuisances safely and anonymously, send a letter or post card to:**

Project Clean Sweep  
P.O. Box 7017  
Columbus, Ohio 43205

## First Source

*By Lance Schreffler*

Franklin County and the City of Columbus joined together to kick-off their FIRST SOURCE program for representatives of over 30 community-based employment agencies on March 1. BREAD advocated for the implementation of the First Source program as part of the Fairshare Abatement Campaign two years ago. The program was passed into law in October, 1998 with the first contracts signed in December, 1998. It is a program that has been adopted by the city and the county. When a business receives a tax abatement, First Source requires that business to *look first* among low-income residents (City of Columbus abatements require City residency) to fill jobs created through the abatements. The agreement sets goals for Franklin County to refer twice as many applicants for any covered position and for companies to seek to hire at least 50% of the employees from the First Source pool.

The company has the responsibility for committing themselves to use First Source as the agency that will find them qualified candidates for positions for which First Source feels it can find applicants.

First Source works with the many agencies in the community to find candidates. The company is not allowed to advertise the positions until it is shown that First Source cannot find qualified candidates. First Source is given 30 days to fill the position which assumes that the company will give First Source that much lead time for applicants. First Source works at sending two persons for interviews for each job position. There is follow-up when a person is rejected for the position, to try and enable the applicant to equip themselves with what skills and/or attitudes will make the applicant acceptable.

There is as yet not enough history (15 months) for there to be any evaluation as to how the program is working. It can be said that currently there are 8 companies operating under this contract and there are 12 more that are in some process in the negotiations. In the short and long run, this program by Franklin County Human Services Dept. is working to change the face of "welfare."

*B.R.E.A.D. was represented at the meeting by John Aeschbury, Ed Hoffman and Lance Schreffler.*

# B.R.E.A.D. ACTIONS

## Jubilee Housing Plan

- 1) **Creation of an Franklin County-City of Columbus Affordable Housing Trust Fund to provide significant local support for the creation of needed 22,000 units of affordable housing.**

*We propose that the City of Columbus pass a bond issue to support this fund and that the Franklin County Commissioners increase the title transfer fee from \$1 per \$1,000 to \$3 per \$1,000 valuation to raise \$8 million per year.*

- 2) **Adopt an MPDU Ordinance which would require developers to include affordable and low-income housing in any development (example, Montgomery County, Maryland).**

*Specifically, we propose that any developer who builds a project of 25 units or more be required to include 10% of the units as affordable to moderate and low-income households.*

- 3) **Develop a Housing Reinvestment Plan for the Center City with a mix of incentives to spur housing. Such a plan should include:**

- *aggressive land banking of vacant lots and abandoned housing*
- *a \$5,000 bounty on the rehabilitation of homes slated for demolition.*
- *fast-track permitting for housing development in center city neighborhoods.*
- *waiver of sewer and water tap fees for homes built on vacant infill lots where water and sewer service has already existed.*

***In February, 1998, BREAD proposed the following tax incentive for housing development as part of the Fairshare Abatement Plan:***

*A 50% property tax abatement on the increased value of new or rehabilitated housing in census tracts where the median income is at or below 50% of the median income for the Greater Columbus MSA.*

## ***COTA Hires Access to Jobs Coordinator***

The Poverty & Jobs Committee, co-chaired by Elder Carl Gray and Mr. Jack Bush, launched its work at the first B.R.E.A.D. Action in February, 1997. Since that time, committee members have put in countless hours working with COTA officials, City of Columbus officials, and so forth to help increase the transportation options for center city residents. Throughout this campaign, several things have become clearer and clearer. The Committee has achieved a measure of success with increased bus routes from center city neighborhoods to outerbelt jobs. B.R.E.A.D.'s success has even become a national model for how grassroots organizations can affect this problem, *but* the work is not yet complete.

Following the February, 1998 meeting, the Poverty and Jobs Committee has followed up on three opportunities. First of all, the committee was invited to participate in shaping the transportation portion of Franklin County's Welfare-to-Work plan. The Plan which is going to the County Commissioners in June for their approval calls for four initiatives: 1) transit center initiative; 2) circulator initiative; 3) expanded service initiative; and 4) information initiative. This plan calls for COTA and Franklin County to work even more closely to overcome the transportation barrier which gets in the way of work. Although the County faces certain restrictions on how it uses TANF funds to support increased transportation, John Hahn, the Director of Human Services, has agreed to work with B.R.E.A.D. and COTA to increase access to transportation.

Secondly, B.R.E.A.D. is working with Ron Barnes, the COTA CEO/General Manager to plan for a "Regional Conference on Transportation" to be held later this year. The purpose of this conference will be to develop support and strategies to make sure that public transportation is working for all of our citizens and for the whole community."

Finally, B.R.E.A.D.'s work on transportation and work issues has generated national attention. The organization was featured in the most recent issue of *Shelterforce Magazine*. B.R.E.A.D. has also participated as a founding member of the Transportation Equity Network (TEN). As a founding member of TEN, B.R.E.A.D. will be addressing concerns about transportation to jobs in a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater in mid-July.

The challenge to use transportation to open opportunities for all of Columbus' citizens remains before us. But, your work and the dedication of the B.R.E.A.D., Poverty & Jobs Committee has already changed the face of Columbus.

# 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.*

## **The Way of Holiness Church**

1088 Weber Road

Bishop Christine C. McGee, Pastor

The Way of Holiness Church was founded in 1979 by Chief Presiding Bishop Dr. Christine C. McGee, based upon the Scripture Isaiah 35:8, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." The Lord began to give Bishop Dr. McGee a vision to equip His people, and train them to go into the world and be a sign of God's Word. Bishop Dr. McGee instituted a curriculum to train on every level of ministry including

- \* Bible Survey

- \* Ecclesiology (Church Government)

- \* Ordination Preparation

- \* Survival Kit & Living Your Christian Values for New Saints.

- \* In addition, Dr. McGee is an Extension Class Supervisor for The International Seminary, which affords the opportunity for Theology and Christian Education degrees to the ministers. One of the most important aspects of Dr. McGee's ministry includes "Inner Healing," a ministry that enables people from all walks of life to be totally delivered of generation curses, psychological wounds, and vicious cycles of life, in order that they might grow spiritually into the standard of Holiness God has ordained for all that call upon His name.

God's vision in Dr. McGee is coming forth mightily. With growing congregations of approximately 300 in churches in Columbus, Ohio, Amite & New Orleans, Louisiana and Watertown, NY, Dr. McGee is making full proof of her ministry.

## **BROAD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

760 East Broad Street

Sr. Pastor David Van Dyke

Located on the corner of East Broad Street and Garfield Avenue, BSPPC is a congregation of almost 1,100 members. Led by three clergy (1 Senior and 2 Associate pastors), governed by The Session, with a Board of Deacons and a Board of Trustees, we seek to serve our neighborhood with several important programs. Members come from around the city, as well as the immediate area. Some members are lifelong members, descended from the Founders. Some are more recent members, attracted by our welcoming and open attitude.

Our Social Outreach Programs include the Infant & Toddler Center, offering child care for area residents; the COMPASS Program which offers counseling on jobs, family budgeting, and plans for a brighter future; and a Food Pantry where clients are received by referrals. Another popular program is RAINBOW – a six week summer skill enrichment program for neighborhood children ages four to eleven.

An important focus at Broad Street Presbyterian is Social Witness in daily service in the lives of those around us, not just Sunday services.

# Calendar

## MARCH

March 27

*BREAD Action Meeting, 7 p.m.  
at Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith, 1200 Brentnell*

March 30

*Youth Concerns Research Committee, 7 p.m.  
at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1003 W. Town St.*

## APRIL

April 4

*Membership Committee, 7 p.m.,  
First English Lutheran Church, 1015 E. Main St.*

April 6

*Clergy Caucus: 9:30 am, Christ Lutheran Church  
BREAD Board Meeting: 7 pm, North Broadway UMC*

April 8

*Rethinking Justice: 8:45 am - noon,  
Bethany Presbyterian 206 N. Garfield Avenue*

April 13

*DI Review Meeting: 4:00 pm, Northgate*

April 14

*BREAD/COTA Reporting Meeting: Noon, Corpus Christi*

April 24

*BREAD office closed*

April 27

*Jubilee Housing Committee, 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, 414  
E. North Broadway Ave.*

*Youth Concerns Research Committee, 7 p.m.  
at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1003 W. Town St.*

## MAY

May 4

*Clergy Caucus: 9:30 am, Christ Lutheran Church  
BREAD Board Meeting: 7 pm, North Broadway UMC*

May 20

*Rethinking Justice from a Jewish Perspective, 1-4 p.m.  
Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 E. Broad St.*

May 23

*BREAD Team Assembly: 7 pm,  
First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W. Weisheimer*

May 25

*Youth Concerns Research Committee, 7 p.m.  
at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1003 W. Town St.*

## JUNE

June 3

*Rethinking Justice Workshop, 8:45 a.m.-12 noon  
The Way of Holiness Church, 1088 Weber Road*

June 8-10

*DART Advanced Workshop  
Lake Yale Conference Center, Lake Yale, FL*

# LEADERSHIP TRAINING

*The mission of B.R.E.A.D. is to draw together people of faith in order to build the power of people of faith to address issues of justice and fairness in the Columbus community. To accomplish this mission, the organization recognizes the need for ongoing leadership development and the creation of relationships of accountability within and between congregations that will allow people to honestly challenge one another. To foster this kind of environment, B.R.E.A.D. contracts annually with the D.A.R.T. Center for national training, local training events, and on-site consultation with leaders and organizers.*

## Rethinking Justice Workshops

As part of membership recruitment and on-going leadership training, BREAD leaders have developed an introductory workshop which will be presented as many as ten times during 2000. The purpose of the workshop is to provide new congregations for an opportunity to learn about the principles of congregation-based community organization and the work of BREAD. Topics include: "The Prophetic Call", "Using Anger and Power Effectively", "Busy Work v. God's Work", "One-to-ones: the secret weapon." The workshop generally lasts for three hours and are held on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. To schedule one for your congregation or to find out when the next workshop will be held, call the BREAD office at (614) 258-8748. The next Rethinking Justice workshop will be held at:

### **Bethany Presbyterian Church**

206 N. Garfield Ave

Rev. Michael Miller, pastor

**Saturday, April 8**

**8:45-12 noon**

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## DART Clergy Conference: The Weightier Matters

*by Cantor Jack Chomsky, Congregation Tifereth Israel*

The first week in February provided an opportunity for nine BREAD Clergy to attend the national DART Clergy Conference in Miami, Florida. There were approximately 80 clergy from BREAD and other DART organizations in the Midwest and Florida. The focus of the conference was "The Weightier Matters: Beyond Charity to Justice."

The conference provided an opportunity for BREAD Clergy to get to know one another more deeply. From exploring Route 1 to finding a decent restaurant on Monday afternoon, to exploring religious and organizing issues together with other acronyms such as CLOUT (Louisville, KY), LEAD (Dayton) and MOP (Muskegon, MI), it was a worthwhile trip. BREAD clergy exhibited a special affection, closeness and trust.

The most valuable things I experienced at the conference in terms of the presentations were the opening address by Rev. John Shyne of MOP and Rev. Cindy Weber's demonstration of teaching the Direct Action model— "From Anger to Justice." Rev. Weber is active in CLOUT (Citizens of Louisville Organized & United Together).

We returned to Columbus prepared to challenge ourselves and each other to devote the energy and intellect necessary to carry BREAD's important work forward in our congregations and our Columbus.

Participants in the DART Clergy Conference were:

Bishop Christine McGee, The Way of Holiness  
Fr. Fred Benda, Holy Rosary & St. John  
Rev. Mark Nodo, Faith Lutheran Church  
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey P. Kee, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Rev. Lee Anne Reat, St. John's Episcopal  
Cantor Jack Chomsky, Tifereth Israel  
Rev. Kevin Dudley, New Salem Baptist  
Rev. John Aeschbury, Lead Organizer

# YOUTH CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Youth violence is a continuing and growing problem in Columbus and Franklin County. The FBI reports that the number of juveniles arrested for murder in Ohio increased by 101% between 1988 and 1992. The Columbus Division of Police reports that juvenile arrests for crimes against persons increased 140% between 1990 and 1996. Once thought to be the exclusive domain of adolescent males, records indicate a growing number of young females are now committing crimes. The Department of Youth Services estimates that 90% of youth committed to DYS have problems stemming from alcohol and substance abuse. (Information provided by the Franklin County Prevention Institute).

All too often, problems are identified but not addressed effectively by the community. Programs have been developed in other parts of the country which are demonstrating dramatic results in the reduction in youth violence, substance abuse, and gang activity, which increasing school achievement, goal orientation, and job readiness. Through the concerted efforts of public and private collaborations and through public policy improvements, the issues facing youth in Columbus and Franklin County can be effectively addressed.

Chaired by the Rev. Lee Ann Reat of St. John's Episcopal Church, B.R.E.A.D.'s Youth Concerns Committee has been begun a series of meetings with individuals, government entities, services organizations and providers, the Columbus Public Schools Administration officials, the Columbus Metro Parks and Recreation Department, Health officials, and, the Columbus Police Department to begin to build cooperative relationships, identify their responsibilities and concerns, and develop a Youth Issue to be presented at the Fall 2000 Assembly, for consideration by member congregations.

Meeting are held at St. John's Episcopal. 210 W. Town Street. See Calendar for meeting dates. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend and participate in the work of this committee.

*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*

## Membership Committee

Over the last four years, the B.R.E.A.D. Organization has grown from 23 to 38 member congregations. The growth has signaled the arrival of new leaders, new energy and an expanded vision for the organization. Growth also creates challenges for any organization. To address both the opportunities and challenges, B.R.E.A.D. has created a Membership Committee, chaired by Billy Reedus.

The task of the Membership Committee will be: 1) recruit new member congregations; 2) coordinate the orientation of new member congregations; 3) target current member congregations for expanded leadership development; and 4) coordinate the participation of BREAD leaders in DART Training.

Six congregations have joined the organization during 2000. BREAD's goal is to grow to 50 member congregations by the end of 2000. Other goals for the Membership Committee are: a) target six congregations for expanded network development; b) recruit 25 leaders for DART training and 15 leaders for DART Advanced Training; and c) hold at least two Rethinking Justice workshops per quarter.

# **The Support Drive is Coming...**

In June and July, the BREAD Organization will be conducting our annual support drive. Last year, individuals, small businesses and corporations invested \$70,000 in the work of BREAD. They invested because they believed that the work we do is in the self-interest of our great community. As we begin preparations for our 2000 Support Drive, we thank you for your support. The following corporations made support drive investments in BREAD last year.

**Bank One  
OSU Hospital East  
Motorists Insurance**

**Dominion Homes  
National City Bank  
Robert Weiler Company  
Abercrombie & Fitch**

**Scotts  
DFS  
Crane Plastics**

**One company gave anonymously to the organization.**

**B.R.E.A.D. Organization  
1015 East Main St.  
Columbus, OH 43205**



***B.R.E.A.D. Team Assembly***

***First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Road***

***Tuesday, May 23, 2000***