



**SLAVIC
VILLAGE**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Mission

“Slavic Village Development works with and for its residents, businesses, and institutions to promote civic engagement, community empowerment, and neighborhood investment.”



CHRISTOPHER ALVARADO | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ten years ago, our neighborhood was featured on the cover of **The New York Times Magazine**. Unfortunately, it wasn't because of the new corporate headquarters Third Federal Savings and Loan had built or the transformation of a little-used rail spur into the Morgana Run Trail. Broadway Slavic Village was highlighted as the center of the foreclosure crisis in the middle of a city that had one of the highest rates of vacancies and foreclosures in the nation.

However, Alex Kotlowitz, the author of “All Boarded Up”, also told a story of strength and resilience. Many of the folks who he interviewed are still fighting for this neighborhood and are responsible for the hundreds of new residents who have bought homes in Broadway Slavic Village over the last ten years. They have drastically decreased the number of distressed and vacant properties that plagued our streets. And, they have been responsible for programs and initiatives that have brought peace and stability to the thousands of neighbors who call this place home.

We are not yet done with our work, and we are not yet where we want to be. But, with the help and guidance from our neighbors and friends, we're going to be seen on the covers of magazines for years to come — but for positive reasons.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris", is written over a faint, stylized graphic of a hand with colorful fingers.

Christopher Alvarado, *Executive Director*



Ten Years of Progress

In 2009, there were 1,368 vacant properties in our neighborhood, and more home foreclosures than any other zip code in the country. Today, the number of vacant properties has dropped to 758, thanks in large part to the work of SVD's Neighborhood Stabilization Team and our partnership with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, the County Treasurer's Office, Cleveland Housing Court, and the City of Cleveland. We have been able to aggressively use the legal tools of civil and criminal code enforcement to bringing to justice absentee "investors", many of whom are engaged in speculative, bad faith dealings in distressed real estate or engaged in continuous violations of laws that govern the relationships between landlords and tenants.

Through our semi-annual Housing Workshops

as well as direct outreach by our staff to homeowners and local small-scale landlords, we have been able to not only renovate hundreds of previously vacant homes, but we've been able to give our residents the household stability that they need and deserve. Over the last three years alone, thanks to SVD's interventions, over 75 households have received home repair and improvement assistance from the City of Cleveland, CHN Housing Partners, Rebuilding Together, ESOP, Hebrew Free Loan Association, and others. And, SVD has itself raised funds to provide \$37,500 in microgrants for home repairs to residents who do not meet age, disability, or income restrictions that other programs offer. 🌿



Connecting Slavic Village to Nature and Bringing Nature into Slavic Village

Over 25 years ago, the Cleveland Worsted Mills on Broadway Avenue burned to the ground, creating a hole in the middle of the neighborhood that was eventually filled by the Boys & Girls Club. This year, thanks to our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club, the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the West Creek Conservancy, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund, the remaining four acres were opened to the public with a volley of “seed bombs” thrown by kids of all ages.

Because nature permeates our neighborhood, SVD organizes community members to plan for, develop, and maintain open spaces. At the 22nd Annual Neighborhood Summit in March, eighteen residents were recognized for their successful efforts to beautify Slavic Village. Over 80 neighborhood cleanups leveraging more than 500 volunteers took place. Two new block clubs (Mound Block Club and A.B. Hart Block Club) were formed, centered on two of our newest grade schools – and much of their focus has been on beautifying the areas seen by our youth. 🌿




Building Great Futures

This summer, Literary Lots attracted over 600 youth and adults to a vacant lot that was transformed into an immersive experience that brought to life *The Wild Robot*, and award-winning children's book. Eleven partners came together over the course of 27 days to provide programming in the form of movie nights, concerts, makers labs, and of course, book readings.

In addition to this landmark program, the Slavic Village P-16 (a partnership of over seventy schools, after-school programs, and non-profit organizations) continues to improve the educational outcomes for children in Slavic Village. Over one thousand backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed at the Back to School Fair, 80 high schoolers met with mentors at College Now Greater Cleveland's Majors Fair, and dozens of parents were connected to job placement programs so that they could increase their earning potential.

The result of all of these efforts is that the two Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools that serve most Slavic Village children (Mound and A.B. Hart Schools) both secured passing grades on the State Report Card for third grade reading achievement for the past two years.

Due to our successes over the past decade, the Slavic Village P-16 has provided the model for Cleveland's "Say Yes" program, which will provide the kinds of wrap-around services to students throughout the city that young people in our neighborhood have enjoyed for years. 



Bringing All Our Talents to Bear

At SVD, we help households achieve the dream of home ownership, expand our parks systems, improve educational outcomes for our students, battle blight and disinvestment, help people build economic stability, and keep families in our neighborhood for decades to come. Sometimes, when we're fortunate, we can achieve all of these goals through a single project.

We have been working with Cleveland Metroparks and others to create stronger connections between their parks, our trail network, and the rest of Greater Cleveland. One particular property came to their attention: a condemned house that was going through tax foreclosure. However, this particular home had a family renting it, and it had been apparent that the owner had neglected the property for several years. Despite the condition of the house, the family wanted to stay in the neighborhood – they had built relationships with their neighbors, they lived close to work, and the daughter was thriving at her school in Slavic Village.



Bringing All Our Talents to Bear *(Continued)*

Over the course of several months, SVD was able to move the house through tax foreclosure and deed the house to the family so that they could then sell it for park expansion. The funds received from the sale went towards the down payment on a home that was fully renovated to green building standards that was closer to the daughter's school than the condemned house that they had been renting.



We were able to keep one more family in our neighborhood and put them on the path to homeownership and building generational wealth. And, we believe that building a neighborhood that attracts new residents who become homeowners begins by helping people who already live here make the journey from renting to buying their own home. We are seeing this strategy pay off through the burgeoning success of Trailside Slavic Village, the new development built by Third Federal Savings & Loan that continues to bring new households to our neighborhood. 🌿



Slavic Village Has Gone to the Dogs, and We're Thrilled!

Several businesses have either expanded to moved into Slavic Village this past year. The Harvard Avenue site of the Dougherty Lumber Company now hosts Northern Stamping, a locally-headquartered company that employs advanced engineering to manufacture stamped and welded components to automobile manufacturers throughout the Midwest. SVD also assisted another business—one on the other end of the scale. Boss K9 is a specialized dog training service that focuses on canines that struggle with aggression and anxiety. Thanks to them, they help dogs and their humans build stronger and better relationships with each other.

What Northern Stamping and Boss K9 have in common is that they complement already-existing business sectors. Manufacturing in Slavic Village continues to thrive, and between Boss K9 and Neighborhood Pets, we're building the reputation as a dog-friendly neighborhood. 🐾



Creating A Stronger Neighborhood Guided By You

The last neighborhood-wide plan was written over ten years ago. Since then, we have all learned a lot about community engagement, resilience, the effects of poverty and trauma on well-being, how urban neighborhoods are affected by global climate change, and how incorporating racial equity and inclusion in decisions can build better neighborhoods where everybody can achieve. To that end, we are engaging the residents and stakeholders of Broadway Slavic Village in the writing of a new neighborhood plan. The long-standing “Friends of Slavic Village” quarterly meetings have been re-imagined as “Neighbor Nights” where residents come together to share assets and build projects that create stronger communities. And, we have engaged 22 “Neighborhood Stewards”—residents who represent the diversity of our community and who are building their capacity to reach and harness the potential of all members of our community in order to plan a better and stronger neighborhood. 🌀



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SVD Revenue and Support

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Sources: Total \$2,839,030

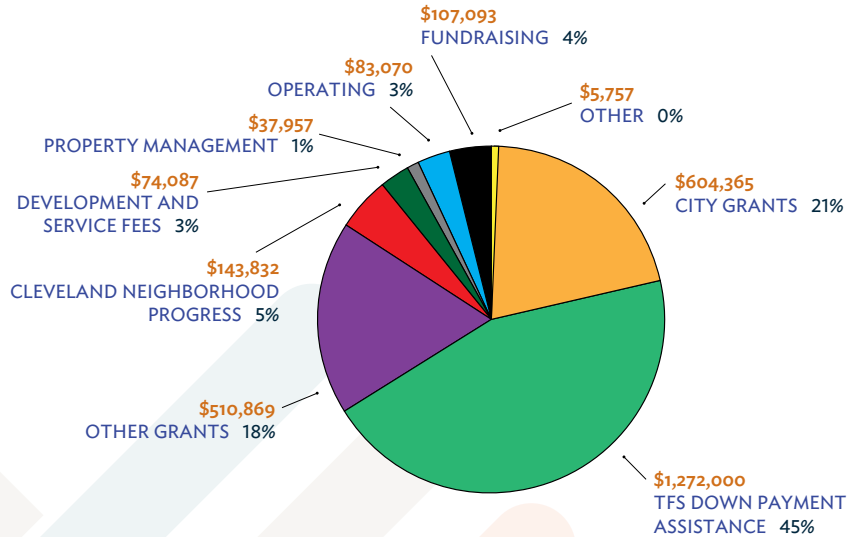
Revenues and Support:

City Grants \$604,365
 TFS Down Payment Assistance \$1,272,000
 Other grants \$510,869
 Cleveland Neighborhood Progress \$143,832
 Development and service fees \$74,087
 Property management \$37,957
 Operating \$83,070
 Fundraising \$107,093
 Other \$5,757
Total revenues and support \$2,839,030

Property management \$172,618
 Housing production \$215,968
 Special projects \$437,508
 Commercial development \$237,396
 Real estate \$33,328
 Code enforcement \$123,964

Support Service:

Management and general \$169,628
 Fundraising \$40,020
Total expenditures \$2,919,407
 Change in net assets \$(80,377)
 Net assets at beginning of year \$1,604,389
 Net assets at end of year \$1,377,017



Program Services:

Community organizing \$199,417
 Consumer services \$1,289,560

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