



Let's Get Together Collaboration Is Everything!

Jacob's Ladder™ Community Development Corporation began in 2004 as a small assembly of well-intentioned individuals with a heart to heal the landscape in the inner-city of Memphis, TN. We have developed into a high-functioning community development corporation with 30 demolitions, 23 complete renovations, 80 parcels re-mediated of blight and misery, 50 more improvement projects and 25 more demos slated for the year 2017. As a faith-based organization focused on the wholistic revitalization of the Belt Line community of Memphis, we have found that ***collaboration is everything*** in relationship-building for a better future in this low-income, under-served neighborhood that has experienced significant disinvestment. In fact, it is the only effective strategy - to leverage our resources with multiple partners with the same vision for our community. Since our incorporation as a 501(c)(3) charity in 2004, 50 different groups have joined us to improve our service area, including the University of Memphis, Memphis Police Department, the Shelby County Land Bank, churches and local businesses. Our blight and crime re-mediation efforts are designed to create community connections, as we clean the canvas together. In 2017, we will cut and maintain almost 100 parcels that were historically considered chronic problem properties and served as open invitations for criminal enterprise. We have renovated 23 houses and completed another 50 community improvement projects, including roof repairs, a store front mural and a community garden. Our Youth Center features an after-school program offering tutoring, literacy and cooking classes. Many neighbors consider this space a safe sanctuary for their children, especially during crime up-ticks where street violence prevents outdoor play. Our current lead project, entitled "Boston Street: A Learning Corridor for Children" (see website video), is a collaborative project between our Youth Enrichment Center Director, Steven Hardrick, connections to Orange Mound Schools and help from the afore-mentioned agencies.