Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership

Annual Report 2018

EMPOWERING RESIDENTS THROUGH PROGRAMMING AND PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF WARREN AND TRUMBULL COUNTY

#BuildingABetterWarren
INTRODUCTION

Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership has arrived—literally. After spending 8 years Building a Better Warren, in 2018 we moved into our permanent home. Of the nearly 300 vacant houses we helped transform into homes, the one at 736 Mahoning Avenue is now our office and a campus for all of our programming. The organization now finally has a true home base, but more importantly TNP has established its long term commitment to Warren and Trumbull County. We are here for the long haul.

In addition to the renovation of an abandoned historic property, TNP built an additional structure to house our jobs training program, Building a Better Warren. In order to build the workshop, the organization had to demolish a unsavable derelict vacant structure (one of over 250 demolitions completed in Trumbull County in 2018). TNP has also re-purposed a vacant lot (one of 150 land use projects in 2018) for use by its Garden Resources of Warren Program.

TNP continues its work in the community—housing renovation and home ownership, demolition, land use, food access and the mitigation of the impact of food deserts, community organizing, public art, and neighborhood clean-ups. Property rehabs, vacant land use, farmers markets and playgrounds, community organizing and activism, grass roots community and economic development done from the ground up has always been and will continue to be our work. We will now do that work from a residential site that serves as the model of our approach, and a symbol of our commitment.

This summer, we worked with the Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County and a group of local artists to host Occupied Warren. The project was meant to challenge ideas of vacancy, and expand the collective imagination of what is possible. TNP will continue to pursue the home ownership and blight remediation our neighborhoods deserve, we will continue to push for the increased access to healthy food and green space our residents need, and we will continue to organize, activate, and beautify Warren and Trumbull County. We will do this from a new home and with a renewed sense of purpose, and most of all with a commitment to pushing our community to radically reimagine the very notion of the realm of what’s possible.

Matt Martin
Executive Director
## Financials

### Revenue

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<td>Government Contracts</td>
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<td>Program Income</td>
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### Expenses

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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>TCLRC</td>
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<td>GROW</td>
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<td>Warren Enriched</td>
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<td>Building a Better Warren</td>
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*2018 Unaudited

** Please see TCLRC Annual Report for TCLRC Financials
Neighborhood Revitalization in Warren & Trumbull County

Vision
The vision of TNP is to transform communities into meaningful places where people invest their time, money, and energy into their homes and neighborhoods; where residents have the capacity to manage day-to-day issues; and where neighbors feel confident about the future of their neighborhood.

Mission
The mission of TNP is to empower residents through programming and projects that improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods of Warren and Trumbull County, Ohio.

Madeline LaPoll served as an intern at TNP in 2018. - TNP partners with colleges and universities to facilitate academic internships and other collaborations.
Trumbull County Land Bank

Returning Derelict Vacant Property to Productive Use and Creating Home Ownership

The mission of the Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation is to return land and vacant abandoned properties to productive use, reduce blight, increase property values, support community land-use goals, and improve the quality of life for all county residents.

In late 2010, the Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation (TCLRC) was established by the Trumbull County Treasurer’s Office with support from the Trumbull County Commissioners and the Trumbull County Prosecutor. The TCLRC and TNP have partnered since the inception of the Land Bank, and went into a contractual agreement in March of 2013 because of a shared commitment to increase the quality of life throughout Trumbull County by returning derelict vacant property back to productive use. TNP manages the sale, transfer, disposition, demolition, rehabilitation, and reutilization of all Land Bank-owned property.

In early 2018, TNP was awarded $100k through the Ohio EPA’s Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR) to remediate a contaminated Class C gas station, including demolition of the structure, removal of underground petroleum storage tanks and soil contaminant remediation, along the 422 Corridor in Girard. In late 2018, TNP was awarded an additional $250k to allow for further environmental testing and remediation on the site to ensure the property is environmentally sound for future development.

Demolition

Total Completed To Date

Residential Properties
697

Commercial Properties
3

Private Properties
80

$3,852,669.97 Invested Countywide for Residential Demolitions in 2018

Through the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP)

800 Residents reached to receive input on properties in their community, educate them about potential hazardous materials emitted through demolition and renovation, and to discuss how the Land Bank can better serve our community.
Side Lot Incentive Program - A homeowner on Kenilworth Avenue in Warren used their side lot incentive card combined with personal investment to install a fence and landscaping on their newly purchased side lot.

Vacant Land Reuse

“The Land Bank did such a great job on the demolition and the lot. The Side Lot Incentive Program is a fantastic program, I was so excited because nobody ever gave me nothing in life and this was the first time and I put it to good use... I can mow both lots in 45 mins!” - Deloris Green

Vacant Lots Sold (to date) 1,027

Vacant Lots Sold (in 2018) 167

Side Lot Incentive Program

The Side Lot Incentive Program, funded in 2018 by a $10,000 grant from Huntington, provides a $250 gift card to Lowe’s for eligible residents who have purchased a side lot from the Trumbull County Land Bank. The gift card enables them to purchase tools, materials and supplies to make improvements to the property.

156 Side Lots Sold
19 Side Lot Incentive Cards Awarded
11 Buildable Lots
11 Greening Installations on Post Demo Lots
197 Board Ups
500+ Tires & Over Five Tons of Litter & Debris Removed from City Streets & Clean-Ups
20 Community Partners Provided Support
1,465 Hours
75 Community Service Clients
In addition to working directly with the public to create home ownership opportunities, TNP and the TCLRC collaborate with local non-profits and other partners to renovate salvageable houses and establish homes for owner occupants. In 2018, TNP worked with Habitat For Humanity, Trumbull Career and Technical Center, Trumbull County YouthBuild, United Returning Citizens, Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority, and Adopt-A-Home.

All of these groups have stepped up to not only save vacant houses, but to serve their own constituents and target populations by creating home ownership and tapping into the spirit of volunteering and donations that helps move our community forward.

At the 2018 Ohio CDC Association Conference Mikenna McClurg and Korey Gall received the Ned D. Neuhau sel Housing Award for their role in providing affordable housing and being advocates for our community!
Improved Properties Sold

- **Owner Occupant**: +70%
- **Investor**: +28%
- **Non-profit**: +2%

Vacant Land Inventory

- **11 Agricultural** (137 Acres)
- **35 Commercial** (26 Acres)
- **1,129 Residential** (200 Acres)
- **1,175 TOTAL** (363 Acres)

Inventory Management

- **33 For Sale**
- **121 Pending Demolition**
- **8 Reserved for Renovation**

**BEFORE**

- Sale Price: $3,000
- Rehab Amount: $51,729
- Market Value: $68,575

**AFTER**

- Fully renovated home through the TCLRC’s Deed-in-Escrow Program

**6446 OLD STATION**

**HUBBARD, OH**
BABW

Building a Better Warren

Full Time Jobs with Benefits Created for the Residents of Our Community to develop their professional skills through on-the-job training in activities that directly benefit the community they live in.

- 1,644 Individual Cuts on Vacant Properties
- 4 Hazardous Trees Removed
- 197 Board-ups completed on blighted properties
- 203 Pre-demolition properties salvaged to reduce waste taken to landfills
Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership’s Building a Better Warren (BABW) program connects the need for resident-driven community revitalization with job creation, putting residents to work in full-time, and year-round jobs doing the work of blight remediation. The program offers residents training and employment in renovation, deconstruction, landscape installation, and vacant property maintenance in order to stabilize the city’s vacant housing stock, mitigate the impacts of blight, and create home ownership opportunities.

Program participants build marketable skills, gain long-term employment, and have the chance to develop professionally, all while directly improving their community.
TNP’s Garden Resources of Warren (GROW) Program is a multi-faceted vacant land reuse program that seeks to mitigate the impact of food deserts and support the development of a robust and sustainable local food system in Warren through the support of community gardens and other community greening projects. GROW also encourages the use of native species and raised garden spaces, as well as developing programs and projects that promote healthy behaviors such as eating a healthier diet and living an active lifestyle.

Urban Agriculture

Community Gardens & Technical Support

GROW provided technical support to 17 garden projects in the city of Warren and surrounding communities. Technical support includes soil testing, supplies, general advice, project planning, starter plants, fundraising assistance, or other needs as identified by the community garden leader.

GROWing Garden Leadership

In 2018, the GROWing Garden Leadership Conference was spread out over 3 sessions so that current and future community gardens could attend the sessions that were most important to their work. Sessions included Community Garden Record Keeping and Fundraising, Recruiting Community Garden Volunteers, and Community Garden Communication, Story-Telling, and Events. There were a total of 12 participants for various parts of the conference and each participant was given an easy to use workbook with all the of the information presented at the classes.
Seeds to Soil

The Seeds to Soil Project had another successful year in 2018, giving away over 2,400 starter plants to community gardens in the city of Warren. Unforgiving temperatures made the team nervous but the plants started by 10 volunteers in the Roosevelt High Tunnel provided another bounty of tender starter plants for our community gardeners to share. The goal of the project is to help offset some of the costs associated with starting a garden plot.

GROWing Together - Children from Dickey Community garden volunteer with their mom to start plants for their garden.

GROWing Better Gardens

GROW not only provides a space for people to garden, it offers the education to garden more efficiently. In 2018 GROW hosted 7 classes on topics such as Vermicomposting, Pest ID and Plant Disease, Growing Season Extension, Soil Health, and Canning. Total attendance for the GROWing Better Gardens Series was 60. This is a 40% increase as compared to 2017.

2,400
Plants Distributed

07
Classes

60
Participants

09
Average Participants Per Class

10
Volunteer participants

Every flower must grow through dirt.
Warren Farmers Markets

Courthouse Square

The Warren Farmers Market at Courthouse Square, held weekly on Tuesdays from 3pm to 6pm, saw a steady increase in sales and attendance in 2018. The total sales were reported at $29,864.64 and average attendance was reported at 226 weekly with an average of 11 vendors reporting. The market held 15 cooking demonstrations, live entertainment, and activities at the market for families to enjoy. Live music was provided weekly by the Fine Arts Council of Trumbull and the free weekly yoga class was sponsored by Body Bliss Connection LLC.

Farmers Market in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL OVERVIEW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markets</td>
<td>21 Markets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Market Attendance (2017)</td>
<td>3,918 Visitors</td>
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<td>Market Attendance (2018)</td>
<td>4,073 Visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Market Sales (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Market Sales (2018)</td>
<td>$29,864.64</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>COURTHOUSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average Market Attendance (2017)</td>
<td>217 Visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Market Attendance (2018)</td>
<td>226 Visitors</td>
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<table>
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<th>QUINBY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average Market Attendance (2017)</td>
<td>36 Visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Market Attendance (2018)</td>
<td>70 Visitors</td>
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Quinby Park

The Warren Farmers Market at Quinby Park was held monthly on Fridays from 3pm to 6pm, and saw a 94% increase in participation in 2018. The market was promoted heavily through a grass roots door knocking campaign conducted by TNP’s Community Organizers and supported by Community Concerned Citizens II to bring awareness to healthy food access in Warren’s southern neighborhoods.
Market Payment Incentive Programs

The Warren Farmers Market works with various partners to accept a variety of payment programs that are designed to make fruits and vegetables more affordable to low income individuals, seniors, and those with long-term chronic illness.

**POPClub**

The Power of Produce (POP) Club, a 10-week program for children ages 5-12 at the Warren Farmers Market, was tailored from a successful national model built by the Farmers Market Coalition. As part of the Power of Produce Club Toolkit, a guidebook, an activity book, fliers, passports, and POP Bucks were provided.

**2018 SUMMARY**

- **POP Club Households**: 57 Families
- **Average POP Club Attendance**: 19 Visitors
- **Total POP Bucks Distributed**: $760.00
- **Total POP Bucks Redeemed**: $524.00

**INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

- **SNAP Program**: $2,476.00
- **Produce Perks & Rx Programs**: $7,164.00
- **Nutrition Program WIC Coupons**: $1,430.00

Children try a new fruit or veggie every week to join the Two Bite Club & earn POP Bucks.

POP Bucks are spent by children with local farmers on fruit and veggies to eat at a later time.

60% of parents reported their children asked for the recipes & produce from the market at home.

60% WIC Program Participation Increase

94% Quinby Market Participation Increase

4% Courthouse Market Participation Increase

60% of parents reported their children asked for the recipes & produce from the market at home.
GROWing Healthy

GROW approaches health holistically with the GROWing Healthy workshop series focusing on nutrition, mindfulness, and active lifestyles. In 2018 GROW hosted 7 classes on topics such as Vegetable Fermentation, Healthy Living 101, Immune Health and Managing Stress, Joint and Organ Health, Daily Health, and Journaling for Wellness. Classes were taught by Jessica Sowers of Body Bliss Connection LLC, Sophia Buggs of Lady Buggs Farm, and Ginny Taylor from Women of Wonder. Total attendance for GROWing Health & Wellness was 82, a 28% increase in participation as compared to last year.

Journaling for Wellness classes were ran as a pilot workshop focused on creating healthy habits to deal with stress. The class was well received and added a complementary component to other health and wellness classes offered from the program. When participants were asked if they would take another wellness based journaling class, 100% of survey participants responded yes. The workshops were held in the gardens which also provided opportunities to promote community projects and the beautiful spaces available to enjoy within the city.

Cooking Demonstrations

It’s important for people to see food prepared and taste those foods, particularly if it’s something they aren’t used to. The GROW program sponsors cooking demonstrations and provides samples of healthy food at each market and other community outreach events throughout the year. The program hosted 15 cooking demonstrations with 418 participants in 2018. Some of the featured recipes were Sweet Kale Salad, Sautéed Zucchini and Yellow Squash with Garlic, and Dairy Free Carmel Apple Rice Pudding.
Other Health & Wellness Programming

Every week, in partnership with Body Bliss Connection LLC, the Warren Farmers Market hosts a yoga class that is open to all skill levels. The class is a wonderful way to fight stress and provides a safe space for those that may have never tried yoga previously. Thanks to a gracious donation from Body Bliss Connection in 2018, the Warren Farmers Market now provides mats for those that may not have their own or would like to join the class on a whim while shopping at the market.

Discover Your Bliss - The Warren Farmers Market Yoga Class is open to all ages and skill levels.

What’s In Season - A local food advocate teaches market attendees how to make a citrus vinaigrette for a basil, tomato, onion, & cucumber salad.
Community Organizing & Food Access

The purpose of the Warren Healthy Food Access Campaign is to engage and educate residents about the current state of food access in the city of Warren. Over the summer of 2018, canvassers door knocked on 1521 doors on the SE and SW sides and collected 818 surveys from residents about food access and impediments to healthy eating, with a majority of residents stating that income and food cost are major challenges. 100% of surveys indicated that residents would like to see more produce offered at stores. Many residents were already aware of the lack of access to healthy foods and expressed the need for a grocery store on the SW and SE sides of the city, and many older residents stated that they have someone go to the store for them because of distance. We also heard from many youth challenged by limited access to healthy food. Many of the GROW Program’s interventions are designed to respond to these challenges and mitigate the impact of food deserts.

GOOD FOOD HERE

Through the GOOD FOOD HERE Program, small convenience stores in the city sold 60 pounds of produce. Currently two local stores participate in the program- SMART Food Stores in Southeast Warren and Lit’l Macs in Northwest Warren. Both locations are interested in increasing the amount of fresh and local foods they supply in their stores, and GROW seeks to continue working with them and any small businesses that would like to expand their current fresh food offerings and the various payment options including SNAP and WIC.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Key</th>
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<tr>
<td>Survey Participants</td>
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Community Outreach & Events

The GROW program held two large networking events with nationally renowned authors that have devoted their work to food security and food systems advocacy. In April, Andrew Fisher presented on his book *Big Hunger* at an event hosted collaboratively with the Healthy Communities Partnership of the Mahoning Valley. The event was held at the Raymond John Wean Foundation and attracted participation from individuals and organizations throughout the Mahoning Valley. Also in April, Mark Winne (pictured above) discussed his latest book *Stand Together or Starve Alone* at an event hosted at the Warren YWCA. Mr. Winne also facilitated a workshop and brainstorming session for residents and stakeholders of the Mahoning Valley to work through some of the food access issues that plague the area. GROW representatives also attended 20 outreach events to promote Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership and the programming available through GROW, reaching over 286 individuals.
Warren Enriched
Volunteers Lending a Hand

Jane’s Walk
A series of free neighborhood walking tours were celebrated with walks on the Warren bike trail, Palmyra Heights, and Downtown Courthouse Square, sponsored by an AmericaWalks! Community Change grant. Walking clubs and walk audits were held at Quinby Park and Highland Terrace.

Beautification Projects

21
Beautification Projects Completed
Neighborhood Associations

In collaboration with Warren City 1st Ward Councilman and Neighborhood Liaison Larry Larson and with support of the NWNA, HPHNA, Community Concerned Citizens II, SESCA, Roosevelt Neighborhood Watch and Kenmore Neighborhood Association, we developed and implemented the Neighborhood Leadership Council. Four meetings were held with over 75 in total attendance. Leadership Council members spoke at City Council on issues of shared concern, organized neighborhood patrols and will continue to meet in 2019 and beyond with opportunities for collaboration on policy advocacy.

Clean-up Efforts

TNP partnered with multiple organizations and hosted volunteers for various projects in 2018 including the Chemical Bank-Chemical Cares Day, Tribune Chronicle Make A Difference Day, Trumbull County Community Work Day, and United Way of Trumbull County’s Day at Work.

United Way At Work - The annual United Way at Work projects throughout Trumbull County serving veterans and homeowners sixty years of age and older was also held.

TNP partnered with Health Educator Jenna Amerine of the Trumbull County Combined Health District and The Healthy Community Partnership’s Active Transportation and Complete Streets Committee to host a Complete Streets Town Hall with David Shipps, Ohio Director of Toole Design Group.

3,000+ Volunteers Connected to Projects in the City with 5,100+ Hours of Volunteering

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Lots to Love Projects

Clean-up Efforts Throughout the City

47

15
In addition to four new public art installations in Warren neighborhoods and public art trolley tours during Warren Homecoming, in 2018 TNP partnered with the Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County on Occupied Warren, which featured over a dozen artists temporarily re-purposing a vacant house with multi-medium installations. Occupied Warren was a huge success, documented by photo and video by the D5 Group. The project is hosted at ArtOfWarren.com. TNP also hosted the Quinby Park kick off for a Celebration of Arts and Culture with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

**Art Sculpture** - Artist Tony Armeni installing the steel sculpture at Quinby Park with a bird bath for function and beauty.
Residents discussing future improvements to Warren’s Quinby Park to be installed by TNP thanks to funding from the William Swanston Charitable Foundation

Community Organizing

Jr. Organizers

Junior Organizers Ashley Cobb, Taavy Powell, Cam King, Makai Sims, Bresha Meadows, Michael Jordan, Envy McDaniel and Devonte Wright, wrote and received a Wean Neighborhood Success Grant in 2018. Through that project, these facilitated a mentoring program out of the Trumbull Homes community center working with other youth in the community ranging from 8-18 years of age. Each session was led by the Jr. Organizers with the concept of changing the world. Sessions include opportunities to learn about mental health and trauma, anger management, group discussions, poetry literature, arts and culture. Youth organizing is crucial empowerment for young voices in our community, and helps build the next generation of community leaders.

Rising Star

Community Organizer Miles Johnson won the Ohio CDC Association’s Rising Star Award for 2018! In addition to his work with the Junior Organizers, Miles also lends support to Reach One Teach One sessions at the Warren YWCA and Jefferson Elementary School focusing on social emotional learning, projects including art installations, poetry writing, and creative expression.

Miles also continues to organize residents of all ages to address issues in Warren, and managed various campaigns including Ohio Votes, which registered over 400 new voters, and outreach in partnership with the Eastern Ohio Education Project. In 2018 he was also honored with a Trumbull County African American Achievers Award and a 97.4 FM Unsung Community Hero Award. Organize!
#BuildingABetterWarren