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**Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation  
Annual Report to the Members  
October 2009**

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) is in its 35<sup>th</sup> year of working to improve physical, economic, and social conditions in the neighborhoods of Garfield, Friendship and upper Bloomfield. We seek to do this by: 1) creating opportunities for individuals in these communities to better their own economic or educational standing; 2) attacking problems that threaten the general well-being of those who live or work in them, or frustrate their ability to realize their life's aspirations; 3) finding ways to make the private market work that can create wealth and lift the economic fortunes of all. Our methods rely on involving people who are most affected by conditions as they are, and engaging them in the pursuit of remedies.

We have been guided in this work by an active, 13-member board of directors, and a staff of 8 full-time and 7 part-time employees. Our annual budget for operations and programs is in the vicinity of \$1 million, with half coming from private sources, and half from public. Over the past 12 months, we can report on the following achievements:

- We broke ground on Phase III of construction of new, single-family homes – bringing to 38 the number built or sold in Garfield since 2002. We have started planning for the construction of six more in 2010 with our partner, Garfield Jubilee Association. Additionally, two large, vacant homes on N. Fairmount St. will see renovations begin this fall, under an on-going partnership with the city's Pittsburgh Housing Development Corp.
- We laid the foundation for the development of up to 50 new rental townhouses in Garfield in 2011 to serve a working-class market seeking to stay in the East End.
- We continued to work to bring a new commercial enterprise to a nuisance bar at 5106 Penn Avenue we bought and closed in 2008.
- Our partnership with FDA to revitalize the commercial corridor, known as the "Penn Avenue Arts Initiative", welcomed new tenants to several locations on the Avenue, and attracted thousands to the monthly "Unblurred" events in the evening of every first Friday.

- We hosted monthly planning meetings with city officials and their engineering consultants to help map out Phase I for the infrastructure improvements coming to Penn Ave. in 2011.
- Our youth development initiatives continued with after-school and summer academic programs for over 100 Fort Pitt Elementary and Peabody High students. This fall, a new program will open for 30 kids at Arsenal Middle School.
- We provided administrative oversight to the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center as it worked to place over 100 adults from the East End community in jobs. We also offered 45 young people internships with private employers in the region. And 90 young people obtained summer jobs through the BGC under a contract with the city.
- We worked closely with law enforcement agencies to target high-profile actors and crime-breeding conditions, and we supported the efforts of Garfield Youth Sports and other volunteer groups in offering character-building programs through structured athletics and cultural education.
- We continue to publish our monthly community newspaper, *The Bulletin*, which informs and invites people to take advantage of the many opportunities available to make a difference in their lives and in their neighborhood.

### **What does the future hold?**

- Starting construction on another 6 single-family houses in the Garfield neighborhood by the summer of 2010;
- Finishing a housing and land use plan for Garfield that provides a script written by community interests for how long-term change can come to Garfield;
- Preparing plans with the Pgh. Housing Development Corp. to renovate three more duplex houses in the North Fairmount/Broad St. area in the fall of 2010;
- Completing design and engineering work for Phase I of the project to improve the public infrastructure along the Penn Avenue corridor;
- Refining and, if possible, expanding the reach of our after-school and summer educational programs, along with health care partnerships with local hospitals, to benefit larger numbers of public-school students in the East End;
- Establishing collaborations around programming, as well as consolidation of

administrative services, with other community development groups, to increase the efficiency of our activities without reducing their impact;

The BGC is proud of our work and our accomplishments. Obviously, none of this would be possible without those who have guided and supported us along the way. Our corporate and institutional sponsors have been critical to our mission. Over the past year, they have included:

- PNC Bank, our prime corporate partner
- The BNY Mellon Foundation
- Citizens Bank
- Dollar Bank
- National City Bank
- Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development
- UPMC's St. Margaret and Shadyside Hospitals
- United Way of Allegheny County
- West Penn Hospital

We have come to rely upon a number of public agencies, including the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority and its Advisory Commission on Community-Based Organizations, the PA Housing Finance Agency, the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development, and the City of Pittsburgh Job Training Partnership and Operation Weed and Seed offices.

We also have contractual relationships with a number of non-profit partners, including Wireless Neighborhoods, One Vision One Life, and Youthworks, that have been invaluable to us. Wireless Neighborhoods in particular has been a conduit for federal, state, and foundation dollars to support our developmental and educational programs for public-school students

And, as always, it's important to recognize that the BGC would be much less of an effective organization without a base of active members like **YOU**. It is our members who give us the credibility and legitimacy to represent the community at many, different tables.