



**Columbus Federation  
of Settlements**

# The Community Voice

*Summer 2010  
Many Communities. One Voice.*

## A Letter from CFS Inc



**By Louise Alluis,  
Executive Director**

There's nothing quite like the feeling of seeing months of collaboration

and preparation move into action. Coming to fruition are CFS efforts to provide member Settlement Houses with a comprehensive tool to efficiently and effectively measure and report the impact of their programs and services. The web-based data management system has been implemented in two agencies, and all seven agencies will be "live" by the end of the year.

The system, named JANE after Jane Addams one of the matriarchs of the Settlement House movement, is being developed by CTK (Community TechKnowledge), a company that specializes in software solutions for nonprofit human service organizations.

GroundWork group, a Columbus nonprofit technology consulting organization, is working with CFS to ensure that we have both a cost-effective product and well-planned implementation.

We also have been busy taking the spirit of collaboration across the state by participating in the new Ohio Council of Settlement Houses and Neighborhood Centers (see story on page 3).

Other collaborative work resulted in CFS hosting a Candidates Forum in April with another one planned for October.

In March CFS hosted a delegation representing the County Board of Commissioners and several non-profit family service organizations from Larimer County, Colorado. Interested in establishing a community center service delivery system, our guests spent two days with us to learn about CFS member services and our model of collaboration.

In April nearly 100 Settlement House staff attended the annual CFS educational conference. The Staff Development Committee, which consists of representatives from each of the Settlement Houses, worked for the better part of a year to bring together community experts from nonprofit and for-profit sectors alike to address issues relevant to Settlement House work.

Beginning next month, CFS will be partnering with Columbus State Community College on a COWIC-funded One Stop Youth program. Select youth will be linked by the Settlement Houses to the school for new opportunities for employment and higher education.

So many exciting developments have resulted from the collaboration of the Columbus Settlement Houses. Please read on for more great news.

*Louise Alluis*

## Columbus Federation of Settlements Inc Members

Central Community House  
[www.cchouse.org](http://www.cchouse.org)  
1150 E. Main St. 43205

Clintonville-Beechwood  
Community Resources Center  
[www.clintonvillecrc.org](http://www.clintonvillecrc.org)  
14 W. Lakeview Ave. 43202

Gladden Community House  
[www.gladden-us.org](http://www.gladden-us.org)  
183 Hawkes Ave. 43223

Godman Guild  
[www.godmanguild.org](http://www.godmanguild.org)  
303 E. 6th Ave. 43201

The Neighborhood House  
[www.neighborhoodhouseinc.org](http://www.neighborhoodhouseinc.org)  
1000 Atcheson St. 43203

South Side Settlement  
[www.ssshhouse.org](http://www.ssshhouse.org)  
310 Innis Ave. 43207

St. Stephen's  
Community House  
[www.saintstephensch.org](http://www.saintstephensch.org)  
1500 E. 17th Ave. 43219

**The Columbus Federation of Settlements enhances the capacity of its members and works collectively to support neighborhoods so that individuals and families are strengthened.**

## CFS Inc Members Impacting Columbus and Beyond

Godman Guild's June GED graduation was held at the King Arts Center where Columbus State Community College President Dr. Valeriana Moeller addressed 22 graduates. In her remarks, Dr. Moeller stated, "Earning a GED improves your quality of life; it improves the quality of life for your children and for your family; and it improves the quality of life of the community." She challenged the graduates to get the help they need to pursue higher education and also to encourage others to work toward their GEDs.



The Neighborhood House is collaborating with the Haitian Coalition of Ohio to continue to provide aid to those devastated by the January earthquake. The Coalition is made up of the Haitian American community and several Columbus churches who work to send health care professionals and supplies to Haiti to provide relief. The goal is to collect supplies and funds as long as recovery efforts are needed.

Seniors who may no longer be able to easily get around, can still enjoy the company of friends and the value of a good book in the Central Community House Senior Book Club. Monthly meetings take place in the homes of Senior participants who are homebound or living in a skilled nursing facility. In this way, senior members who are mobile will be providing companionship to those who may need visitors while also enjoying literary discussions in a group setting. Materials and gas cards for drivers are being provided thanks to a generous grant from the Henry E. Parkinson Fund of The Columbus Foundation. The CCH Senior Book Club can have up to 20 mobile participants and 5 who are homebound.

St. Stephen's Community House recently was accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an organization that recognizes service providers for meeting high performance standards and delivering quality services. The accreditation is based on review of the entire organization for its credibility, integrity and achievements.



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

When authorities intervene in a child's life and find that home care is not in their best interest, foster care with strangers can still be avoided through Kinship Care. Relatives of a child often step in to build on the strengths within the family and promote stability. Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center (CRC) offers a wealth of resources for such families in its Kinship Care Program. The program currently has nearly 30 families on its waiting list and is seeking additional funding to expand this successful programming.

Gladden Community House is looking forward to its TBDBITL fundraiser on September 16, a unique event at Ohio Stadium that allows supporters to hear the OSU Marching Band live in the Horseshoe.



Many community members came together for planting projects for the Clintonville-Beechwold CRC Community Gardens. See full story on back page.



Children from Godman Guild enjoy carnival rides. Meanwhile the celebration of Camp Mary Orton's 100th anniversary continues and staff would love to hear your stories. Please send all stories to [100years@campmaryorton.org](mailto:100years@campmaryorton.org). or 7925 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

## Fight Against Poverty 5k

Over 120 students pledged to raise awareness and funding to combat poverty in central Ohio with the Fight Against Poverty 5k held May 9. The 5k race/1 mile walk was organized by The Ohio State University College of Social Work and the College of Social Work Student Association. Funds raised by the event will benefit the Columbus Federation of Settlements. Almost \$2,400 was raised thanks to the efforts of concerned students.



Special thanks to the social work students who organized the event and sponsors: Spinelli's Deli, FrontRunner, YMCA, Jason K. Burke Designs.

## Settlement Houses Meet Throughout Ohio

Settlement Houses and like-minded community centers from throughout the state have entered into a new era of collaboration this year with the newly formed Ohio Council of Settlement Houses and Neighborhood Centers. Over 60 agencies from throughout the state are included in the effort. To date, participants have decided upon a unified agenda and schedule of monthly meetings at different sites in order to share best practices and explore common issues.

By offering a variety of locations for the meetings, executive directors are given the opportunity to see how other centers operate, while also affording the opportunity to invite local government officials from each host city so they may learn more about these vital community resources. Cultivating relationships with local elected officials in this way is expected to result in more effective advocacy by the knowledgeable Settlement House leadership which can help shape public policy to better serve citizens. A long-term goal is for Settlement Houses to be considered for funding through the State of Ohio budget as the frontline providers of many government programs.

Another goal is to develop staff who are poised to become the next generation of executive directors of neighborhood centers. In order to accomplish this, directors are encouraged to involve emerging leaders in the Ohio Council's meetings and efforts.

"Many of the executive directors throughout the state are nearing retirement age so the idea is to develop current staff so that we have strong leaders for the future," said Pam McCarthy, executive director at Central Community House.

Locally Columbus Settlement Houses will continue to collaborate with one another at the Columbus Federation of Settlements. CFS members are also actively involved in the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County, a coalition of nonprofits who provide a safety net of valuable social services contributing to the well-being of the community. Find out more about this advocacy group at: [www.humanservicechamber.org](http://www.humanservicechamber.org)

Would you like to receive our e-newsletter? Please send your request to [E-news@CFSettlements.org](mailto:E-news@CFSettlements.org). It is the policy of CFS Inc to not sell, distribute or otherwise share our mailing lists.

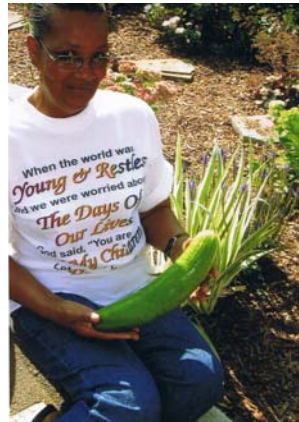
## Settlement Houses Embrace Community Gardening

Picking bushels of beans off of the vine. Cooking pasta with fresh just-picked tomatoes and herbs for a big meal. Watching sunflowers sway in the breeze. These scenes may sound like life on the farm, but they are happening in urban settings throughout the Columbus Settlement Houses this summer thanks to a variety of Community Gardening programs.

According to the American Community Gardening Association, "Community gardening improves people's quality of life by providing a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, beautifying neighborhoods, producing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, conserving resources and creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, therapy and education."

All such benefits are widely seen at the Community Gardens in place at six out of the seven local Settlement Houses. Crops such as beans, tomatoes, squash and much more are tended by volunteers and community members, then utilized to their fullest in food programs at the Settlements including being offered to families through the Choice Food Pantries in place at South Side, St. Stephen's, Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resources Center (CRC), and The Neighborhood House.

The gardens recently have been a flurry of activity even more than the usual at the height of summer because of a grant from the Community Health Funders' Collaborative that provided \$92,000 for permanent structures to increase the accessibility to fresh food and the amount of physical activity in city neighborhoods. Thanks, in part to this investment, Community Gardens have seen an increase in



capacity and new exciting additions. Godman Guild gathered neighbors to help build a greenhouse which was unveiled at a "Pedal 2 Petal" community event which promoted biking, bike safety, home gardening and healthy

lifestyles. St. Stephens and Central Community House offered similar public biking and gardening events this summer as well.

Central Community House transformed one of its gardens during a volunteer effort in celebration of Earth Day. Weeds were cleared to make room for a new stone path leading to benches and a seating area open to the public to enjoy. Arches and raised garden beds for the Senior Program have been added as well.

CRC Community Gardens have expanded to other areas of the Clintonville-Beechwood neighborhood including on land loaned by the owners of Cornerstone Deli. Volunteer Jean Byrd stated, "Nothing could be better than working in the dirt together. Along with other volunteers, I like to use the kitchen to cook up a quick meal using something from our urban garden. This gives clients and volunteers a chance to taste a vegetable or have a meal for which they may not be familiar."

*The Community Voice  
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**cfs**

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Through the help of community partners including City Year, AABE, and Key Bank, St. Stephen's Community House has established a community garden to provide fresh vegetables to its food pantry.