



The Grassroots Leader

"We are the leaders we've been looking for"

Summer 2001 Volume IX, Issue 3

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RURAL LEADERS TO EXPLORE CDC

By Nancy London

Over the years, Grassroots has heard a variety of concerns from those living in rural Lorain County. These concerns include: a shortage of affordable housing, particularly for elderly and others with special needs; difficulty accessing social services; and lack of control over the development of local lands. Although many of these issues mirror those troubling Lorain County's urban communities, others are uniquely rural problems.

Recognizing that a rural CDC could help address these and other concerns, Grassroots posed the idea of such a CDC to leaders in the rural community. The leaders expressed interest in the potential benefits of a rural-focused CDC but wanted to learn more from those who had already created rural CDCs to address similar needs. As a result, Grassroots, with the help of Heartland Circle, Life Links, and several Township Trustees, set out to organize an educational forum on the prospect of a rural CDC in Lorain County.

This forum, entitled "Rural Community Development Forum: Having a Voice in Your Community's Future," will take place October 11th from 5:30-9:30 in the New Russia Township Hall and is open to the

public (though interested parties must RSVP--see below). The forum will provide an opportunity for those in, or involved with, the rural Lorain County community to hear about the successes and challenges of establishing and operating rural CDCs from a panel of current rural CDC directors. The



panelists will be:

- Kathy Durand, Director of Rural Appalachian Housing Development (RAHD), an Athens County, Ohio CDC focused on local housing needs. RADH's main activities are conducting emergency home repairs and developing affordable housing.
- Reverend Fer-Rell Malone, Director of C.E.N.T.E.R., a faith-based CDC located in Way Cross, Georgia.
- Jim Bentley, Director of East Central Ohio Housing Network (ECOHN), a CDC based in Cambridge, Ohio "uses tax credits to create affordable housing and social services for the in new housing developments.

In addition, Nicole Opfer, Director of the Midwest office of the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), a nonprofit corporation headquartered in Washington, DC. will discuss financial resources available to rural CDCs. She will also discuss the tools and resources that HAC can provide, including loans, technical assistance, research, and information.

In breakout sessions following the panel presentations, forum participants will have the opportunity to discuss issues relating to rural CDCs with the panelists and other community members. We hope that this event will act as an incubator for ideas that address the concerns of rural Lorain County by presenting what has already been accomplished and envisioning what is possible.

Grassroots welcomes all interested community members to participate in this exciting event. Dinner will be provided to forum participants. Although the event is free, those interested in attending *must* RSVP by either calling Grassroots at (440) 277-6504 or emailing Nancy London at nancy_london@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

And members were involved with this organization.

The Grassroots LEADER

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NEW!

DONATION ONLINE

Grassroots Leadership Development Program, Inc. Adds Instant Online Donation Ability *Donate Now!* Button allows Grassroots to accept online credit card donations

July 27, 2001 - Today, Grassroots Leadership Development Program (www.grassroots-leadership.org) announces a new feature on its website. The *Donate Now!* Button, provided by nonprofit Internet foundation eGrants.org, allows Grassroots to receive credit card donations directly through its website. With at least 112 million people using the Internet today, the *Donate Now!* Button is expected to open up a large new audience of supporters.

Grassroots expects that this new audience of donors will help them to further their mission of supporting and expanding neighborhood - based leadership and organizations to encourage and provide for action on issues.

The technology behind the *Donate Now!* Button was created by eGrants.org to ensure that small to midsize social change organizations, like Grassroots, are not left on the wrong side of the "digital divide". "The *Donate Now!* Button was designed to allow nonprofits doing good work for positive social change to have the same online capabilities as larger organizations," said China Brotsky, Executive Director of eGrants.org.

"We are a community - based organization," said Jack Kilroy, Executive Director of Grassroots. "We rely upon the support of individual contributors. The *Donate Now!* Button provides a fast and easy way for current and new donors to support our work."

Visitors to the Grassroots website can simply click on the *Donate Now!* Button and immediately be taken to a customized donation page. The page uses the newest secure server technology to guarantee that credit card donations are safe, secure and private.



Call for reservations!

Grassroots Leadership invites you to participate in a three-part Fall 2001 Affordable Housing & Community Development Series

All sessions will be held at the Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center Room 219



**Friday, September 8, 2001-“ Financial Management Basics for Board and Staff”
8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

If you want to understand the funding, reporting, cash flow, accounting, and terminology for your CDC or non-profit housing group, this workshop will help you understand your role and will teach you how to oversee the finances of the corporation.

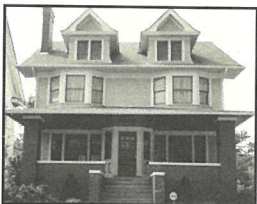
Friday, October 12, 2001- Two-part workshop Morning session:” Becoming a Better Spokesperson; afternoon session: “Why Communications? Why Media? Creating a Strategic Plan ” 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Part One: How you would you respond if on the media hot seat? With aplomb? Or, would you inadvertently damage your organization’s reputation? Prepare and control an interview by learning the preparatory steps, statistics and sound bites that clearly state your message. **Part Two:** Learn how to create carefully planned events that will help brand your organization’s mission over time. Learn from the Pros how to assemble a media kit, create a media list, cultivate relationships with reporters, and initiate relationships with the media of your choice. **Sign up for one or stay for both.**



Friday, October 26, 2001 “This Old House” Neighborhood Historic Preservation Program .8: 30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Assisting you and your organization in rehab projects for your “Old House” including: Financing, hiring contractors, and solving particular old house problems. Bring pictures of your old house challenges and get real help from successful experts.



Participation is Free but seating is limited. Please reserve your place by calling Daisy Maldonado, Community Development Coordinator at 440-277-6504 or fax your reservation at 440-277-7946.

Another project of Grassroots Leadership sponsored by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, May National Credit and Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland.



SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION



United States Department of Housing
and Urban Development

LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING CONTINUES

The Leadership Skills Training Program continues with the advanced session this fall. The eight-week course is set to begin on October 2, 2001. Classes will be held at Grassroots Leadership Development Program Inc. 1875 North Ridge Road East, Suite A, Lorain, on Tuesdays, October 2nd through November 27th with the exception of November 6th (election day). From 7:00p.m. To 8:45p.m. Instructors will cover materials that assist organizations in their efforts to strengthen their organizations with emphasis on organizational structures, planning, and participation.

For more information please contact Grassroots Leadership Development Program Inc. @ 440-277-6504 Attn: *Erica L. Williams*.

Please Vote!

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

➔ *See inside for detail*



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