



Revitalize

Community Development Corporation

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Mission Statement

"Revitalizing homes, neighborhoods & lives through preservation, education and community involvement."

Revitalize CDC has identified the following goals to ensure it realizes its mission: (1) preserve homeownership and reduce the risk of homelessness, (2) increase energy efficiency and overall health and safety of the house, and (3) improve the quality of life, sense of community and civic pride for residents.

History

Revitalize CDC is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1992 as Rebuilding Together Springfield (RTS), an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit working to preserve affordable homeownership. In October 2014, the State of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development certified the original organization (RTS) as a Community Development Corporation; and was renamed to Revitalize Community Development Corporation (RCDC). Since its inception the organization has completed over 600 homes and nonprofit facilities with the help of 10,000 volunteers and hundreds of sponsors investing a dollar value of over \$29 million into our community. Revitalize CDC completes an average of 50 home repair projects each and every year.

Where We Work

Our focus is in the cities of Springfield and Holyoke, however we work throughout Hampden County, Massachusetts. Revitalize CDC is the only nonprofit in Western Massachusetts that is performing free (versus 0% or low-interest loans) critical repairs for low-income homeowners.

Our Work: Revitalize CDC performs much needed repairs, modifications and rehabilitation to the homes and nonprofit facilities of low to moderate-income families that include: families with children, military veterans, the elderly and people with special needs. We leverage the investments of donors, grantors and volunteers to make significant home repairs that stabilize neighborhoods, strengthen the tax base, and allow veterans and elderly homeowners to "age in place."

Revitalize CDC developed a 10-year Strategic Plan focused on 'bricks and mortar' called GreenNFit Block Rebuild to revitalize 10 contiguous blocks in the Old Hill Neighborhood impacting over 250 homes – almost 1,000 residents – with the help of more than 80 sponsors/collaborators and 10,000 volunteers. Community gardens are being created and neighborhood playgrounds improved. In the last year the organization repaired 68 homes across Springfield, including 62 homes on the block at the 4th Annual Green-N-Fit Neighborhood Rebuild 2016. These homes were along Lebanon Street, Nelson Avenue, Monson Avenue and Greene Street. 90+ sponsors, 39 funders, 56 individual donors, and 1,200 volunteers made neighborhood revitalization a reality! In 2015, Revitalize CDC expanded the geographic service area from Springfield only to include nearby Holyoke, another city with blighted housing. The GreenNFit strategy will be implemented there as well.

REO Rehab Program

REO or Real-Estate Owned properties are generally acquired as a result of a foreclosure. Revitalize CDC rehabs the property making them energy-efficient, safe and healthy and then makes the home available for purchase to a low-income and/or first-time homebuyer. The family is required to complete first-time homebuyer education and counseling classes.

YouthBuild USA Job Training & Readiness Program

Revitalize CDC employs two licensed trainers and one supervisor that work with the YWCA/YouthBuild Program. Our organizations have collaborated for the past four years providing job-readiness training to at-risk students ages 17-24. Job-training skills focus on construction and safety skills working on existing home repair projects. Revitalize CDC also assists in placing the students at internships and at job-openings upon graduation.

Impact of the Community Investment Tax Credit

With the added capacity that the Community Investment Tax Credit provides, Revitalize CDC will be able to:

- Continue to implement the GreenNFit strategy in the target neighborhood and expand to other neighborhoods in Springfield, renovating more than 75 homes per year.
- Fully extend the GreenNFit strategy in Holyoke to complete critical repairs for 10 family homes per year.
- Scale up our Age-in-Place collaboration with Bay Path University's Occupational Therapy group to work with elderly homeowners in identifying and completing the critical repairs necessary to facilitate remaining safely in their homes.

Preserving affordable homeownership and revitalizing our community