The Nehemiah Transformation
The Metro IAF Community Restoration Fund

Lead with Us!
Metro IAF Seeks to Raise $30 Million from Religious Denominations, Financial Institutions, Foundations and Individual Investors

EAST BROOKLYN CONGREGATIONS’ LEADERS STANDING ON THE LAND, BLOCKS, AND FRONT PORCHES OF CURRENT AND FUTURE 4,500 NEHEMIAH HOMES
In the wake of the worst housing crisis in U.S. history, blighted and vacant homes have disproportionately overtaken low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. African American homeownership is at its lowest level in decades. In other areas, there is rapid gentrification.

The wealth gap widens.
Renters replace owners.
Long-time, low-income residents are pushed out.

And neighborhoods that were once vibrant and thriving face the destabilizing effects of the loss of investment.
Ramsey Homes public housing where Metro IAF organized with residents to ensure new affordable rental units would return in its place in Alexandria, VA.

Rendering of the new Ramsey homes, which Metro IAF helped increase the number of affordable units by 200% from the original plan.
Our Solution

**Metro IAF Community Restoration Fund**

We want to revitalize our country’s most disinvested communities and build/preserve affordable homes in high-cost areas. Metro IAF created the Fund to finance community restoration plans of its local affiliates. It is grounded in the success of the Nehemiah Initiative first started in East New York in 1983, that transformed devastated, inner-city neighborhoods and turned low-income, working families into first-time homeowners. It is modeled after the ReBUILD Metro $10 million equity fund that’s rebuilding the East Baltimore neighborhood of Oliver, made famous by the HBO series, *The Wire*.

*In Baltimore’s Oliver neighborhood, targeted community organizing and investment have successfully reduced vacant properties 89%, from 485 to 46, and raised median family incomes by 64% between 2006-2018.*
The Nehemiah Plan takes a long-term investment strategy using risk tolerant capital to catalyze large-scale affordable homeownership and community revitalization.

It requires Metro IAF’s grassroots organizing and power to build community ownership and trust, to leverage public and private investment to finance projects, and to fight to overcome obstacles and see projects through to completion.
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Replication Strategy: Metro IAF is expanding its Nehemiah affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization model into new areas.

**Nehemiah Homeownership Units**
- 1,606 current pipeline
- 6,037 completed

**Affordable Senior Housing**
- 1,235 current pipeline
- 532 completed

**Affordable Rental Units**
- 4,638 current pipeline
- 2,084 completed

**METRO IAF HOUSING PRODUCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro IAF Projected Pipeline</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 homeownership &amp; rental units</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 homeownership units</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 homeownership &amp; rental units</td>
<td>New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 homeownership &amp; rental units</td>
<td>Jersey City, NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 homeownership &amp; rental units</td>
<td>Metro DC/MD/VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 homeownership &amp; rental units</td>
<td>Metro Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500 homeownership &amp; rental units</td>
<td>Metro Triangle Area, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In development</td>
<td>Bridgeport/New Haven, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In development</td>
<td>Greater Boston, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In development</td>
<td>Greater Cleveland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fayette Place in Durham, NC, a 25-acre vacant parcel, has development potential of hundreds of affordable homes.

- Property & land acquisition and redevelopment in blighted areas
- Finance new Nehemiah projects
- Underwrite pre-development & financing costs for homeownership & rental housing as well as community facilities
- Leverage public & private capital to Metro IAF projects
YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUND

Secured, short-term investments will not be enough to revitalize these communities. It will take risk tolerant and long-term capital.

Capitalization Goal. Metro IAF will raise $30 million for the Community Restoration Fund.

Funds Raised. To date, Metro IAF has secured $4.65 million towards the capitalization of the Fund.

- Presbyterian Church USA: $1 Million
- Bank of America: $1.5 Million
- General Electric: $1 Million
- JPMorgan Chase: $1 Million
- Capital One: $100,000
- Unitarian Universalist Association: $50,000

As Metro IAF Board member and leader in New York City, Rev Patrick O’Connor is helping to lead the Metro IAF Fund capitalization and was instrumental in securing the $1 million Presbyterian Church USA investment.

“The Presbyterian Church USA’s $1 million leadership commitment to the Metro IAF Fund is an investment in the vision, spirit, tenacity, aspirations, and production of thousands of Metro IAF leaders. We have fought and are fighting everyday for the right to own a home and/or live in a decent, affordable apartment, and to raise our families in communities with excellent schools, abundant recreation and safe streets.”

Rev. O’Connor, Metro IAF Strategy Team leader and Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church Jamaica/Queens NY
**Work with Us.** Please consider making an investment or contribution of $1 million or more to the Fund. The Fund will accept grants and investments at a minimum level of $50,000.

**The Support We Seek.** Metro IAF will work with religious denominations, financial institutions, foundations and wealthy investors to capitalize the Fund. We seek to raise:

- $6-10 Million in Equity Grants
- $20-25 Million in 0-2%, non-recourse 15-year social investments

*Bayfront is a future Jersey City waterfront development on a 95-acre former chromium site. Metro IAF’s organizing pressure has won 2,800 units to be dedicated as affordable housing after its lawsuit requiring Honeywell to clean up the chromium waste.*

*Temple Courts, Washington, DC: 518 Units. Rebuilding of public housing complex that was demolished and currently serves as city parking lot.*
## A History of Success

**Before and after of Nehemiah housing on Cypress Street in South Bronx**

### Metro IAF Affordable Housing

**Track Record Via Organizing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units Built/Preserved via Dedicated Public $</th>
<th>Units Preserved/Improved/Created Through Organizing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41,885</td>
<td>28,113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Equity Funds Raised

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity Funds Raised</td>
<td>$48,000,000</td>
<td>$40,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% Nehemiah Loan Funds Raised</td>
<td>0% NEHEMIAH LOAN FUNDS RAISED AND REPAID IN FULL</td>
<td>$13,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dedicated Public $ For Affordable Housing via Organizing

$2,425,819,000
Before and After of Fairhaven Crossing, Mundelein, IL: 50 Units

Before & After: Eden Place Nehemiah, 29 homeownership Units, Washington, DC

Before & After: A block reborn with new homes in Baltimore’s Oliver neighborhood
EAST NEW YORK

From a waste site to an opportunity for a better future, Metro IAF affiliate East Brooklyn Congregations through its Spring Creek Nehemiah development is transforming a former 45-acre landfill site into 1,800 affordable homeownership and rental housing units for working families.

CHICAGO

Metro IAF affiliate United Power for Action and Justice and its member Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) renovation of housing units near Marquette Park on the southwest side of Chicago has saved 650 families’ homes from foreclosure and rehabbed 80+ vacant properties in the community, creating a chain reaction of rising property values, improved schools and 53% decrease in crime.
Milwaukee Rising, a campaign of Metro IAF affiliate Common Ground in Wisconsin, has purchased and rehabbed 100 neglected foreclosed properties owned by five major banks, reselling the units to new homeowners who have helped stabilize the Sherman Park neighborhood.
Jackson Green Townhome community members Helen Syria, Yvonne White, Susan Robinson (left to right) standing in model unit in Jersey City, NJ.

Metro IAF leader Rev. David Brawley and 200 Nehemiah homeowners and EBC leaders demand action from NYC Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg.
“In 1983 I sang in the choir at the groundbreaking for the first 1,100 Nehemiah homes. We rebuilt our neighborhoods and saved them from destruction.”

**MS. LINDA BOYCE**
Nehemiah homeowner
Board member of Nehemiah Spring Creek Homeowners Association
Member of Saint Paul Community Baptist Church
Leader with East Brooklyn Congregations

“When they take houses like this and make them livable, it makes you have pride in them, they get people together. It changes people’s whole dynamic of just being a human being.”

**MR. RANDY JONES**
New Homeowner from Milwaukee, WI
Leader with Common Ground
Metro IAF’s 25 affiliate organizations are located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin. We are affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation’s first and largest network of multifaith, broad-based citizens’ power organizations, which has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on issues like affordable housing, health care, jobs, immigration.

“In this effort we’re attempting to build a community and not just new housing. This has become a catalytic influence in the community to bring in new families and to encourage the families who’ve chosen to stay here throughout the duration of the blight.”

BISHOP DOUGLAS MILES

Co-Chair of BUILD in Baltimore and Board Member of ReBUILD Metro
When others say it can’t be done, Metro IAF gets to work and makes the most impossible of dreams concrete and tangible realities, including:

- Securing over $1 trillion in public and private investment to revitalize neighborhoods, construct affordable housing, build new schools, libraries, parks, and community centers, rebuild public transit and water systems;
- Winning universal healthcare in Massachusetts, which became the blueprint from healthcare expansion nationally;
- Conceiving and winning the first Living Wage laws in Baltimore and New York, starting a national and international movement;
- Forcing Honeywell and PPG Industries to invest $1 billion to clean-up toxic Chromium waste sites in New Jersey;
- Winning police accountability and criminal justice reform in Cleveland, Baltimore, Durham, New York, Bridgeport, Chicago and statewide in Massachusetts;
- Training thousands of ordinary citizens how to build and exercise power over the long-term to change their schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, cities, states, and regions.
Metro IAF wins $2.3 billion to fix NYC public housing and $500 Million toward 15,000 Senior Units

**METRO IAF ORGANIZATIONS**

Action In Montgomery, Maryland  
Anne Arundel Connecting Together, Maryland  
Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development, Maryland  
Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground, Milwaukee, WI  
Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut, New Haven, CT  
DuPage United/Fox River Valley Initiative, Illinois  
Durham Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods, North Carolina  
East Brooklyn Congregations, New York  
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, Massachusetts  
Greater Cleveland Congregations, Ohio  
Lake County United, Illinois  
Long Island Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods, New York  
Upper Manhattan Together, New York  
New Jersey Together, Jersey City, NJ  
North Carolina Congress of Latino Organizations, Durham, NC  
Orange County Justice United, North Carolina  
People Acting Together in Howard, Maryland  
Prince George’s County Leadership Action Network, Maryland  
Queens Power, Queens, NY  
South Bronx Churches, New York  
The German Institute for Community Organizing, Berlin, Germany  
United Power for Action and Justice, Chicago, IL  
Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement, Arlington, VA  
Wake County Sponsors, Raleigh, NC  
Washington Interfaith Network, Washington DC
WIN Drives Progress on 1,000+ Units of Affordable Housing in DC, Winning $269 Million in Housing Funding Over Last Two Years

AIM wins Renovations in 864 apartments to eliminate mold & secures $113 Million for Affordable Housing over last two years

6,000 Metro IAF NYC leaders at City Hall Demand Action on Public Housing

Photo credit Mark Clennon
From Blight to Renewal: ReBuild Metro has renovated 350 formerly vacant homes in East Baltimore's Oliver neighborhood.