



# Annual Report

July 1st, 2024  
thru June 30, 2025



# A note from our Executive Director...

Dear Community Members,

For over five decades, the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has been dedicated to "keeping Cleveland Heights in good repair!" Your steadfast support has been the bedrock of our mission to empower homeowners and stabilize neighborhoods. We've provided vital financial aid, essential tool access, and education to thousands, making our community stronger one home at a time.

Today, we stand at an exhilarating new threshold. We are not just looking back at our successes; we are looking forward with a bold new vision to address the evolving needs of our aging housing stock and, critically, invest in the next generation of homeowners and skilled tradespeople.

We are thrilled to share the pillars of our new Strategic Plan and invite you to be part of this exciting growth:

## **1. Launching Our Future Youth Programs**

We believe that home maintenance skills should start young. Our new initiative aims to introduce youth to the fundamentals of home repair, providing valuable, hands-on experience that builds confidence and potentially sparks interest in skilled trades careers. By teaching the next generation, we are fostering a long-term culture of sustainable homeownership in our community.

## **2. Expanding Core Programs & Reach**

Building on the success of existing programs, we are strategically expanding our services. This includes broadening access to our popular educational workshops and Tool Library beyond our immediate area, ensuring more residents can access the resources they need. We are also working with city partners to streamline financial assistance processes, making it easier for homeowners to access grants and low-interest loans for critical health and safety repairs.

### 3. A Strategic Plan for Sustainable Communities

Our new three-year strategic plan focuses on long-term sustainability. Key initiatives include:

1. Addressing the Housing Stock: Targeting critical issues like lead abatement and energy efficiency improvements to create healthier, more cost-effective homes for families.
2. Innovating Education: Developing new educational series, such as "Practical Sustainability: New Thinking for Older Homes," to equip homeowners with modern solutions for older houses.
3. Forging Stronger Partnerships: Collaborating with neighboring communities and organizations to maximize collective impact and share resources effectively.

We look forward to not just in the business to better houses, but we look to build brighter futures and a more resilient community for everyone.

With immense gratitude for your continued trust and support,



**Keesha Allen**

Executive Director  
Home Repair Resource Center



# Organization Overview

## *Our History*

In 1970, a small group of concerned members of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church gathered to assess the needs of Cleveland Heights and the fear of deteriorating neighborhoods and house values. Out of that discussion was born the small nonprofit, FHC Housing Corporation - which subsequently became HRRC, the Home Repair Resource Center.

## *Our Mission*

Since 1971, Home Repair Resource Center has been empowering homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities through a creative mix of self-help programs that include financial assistance, financial education and home repair skills training.

## Our Team



*Tikeesha Allen*  
Executive Director



*Denise Wallace*  
Dir. of Homeownership



*Anne Goodfriend*  
Education Cord.



*Jim Kunselman*  
Class Administrator



*Yalanda Medina*  
Accounting Manager



*Carolyn Ostrom*  
Community Resources



*Wesley Walker*  
FAP Coordinator



*Shannon Ward*  
FAP Coordinator



*Nancy Burcham*  
Office Volunteer

## 2025 Board of Directors

Austin Gilchrist  
Allison Hennie  
Sam Lapidés  
Katie Veasey-Gillett  
Godfrey Verdade, Board President



# 2025 Highlights

## ***Down Payment Assistance***

In 2025, the Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Program increased from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for a single home and \$50,000 for a two-family home. The DPA is a zero interest second mortgage for eligible new homeowners in Cleveland Heights.

- In 2025, we assisted 11 families with a total of \$ \$329,240 in Down Payment Assistance.

## ***Financial Assistance Programs***

### *Cleveland Heights*

- HRRC was excited to introduce the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Exterior Maintenance Grant for Cleveland Heights residents. We are helping 50 CH homeowners with necessary exterior home repair.
- We are supporting about 35 CH homeowners with our Assist Incentive Grant, Deferred Loan Match, Senior Grant, and Senior Home Stability Grant.

### *Shaker Heights*

- We received over 125 applications for the SH Exterior Maintenance Grant, Free Paint Voucher program, Senior Safety Grant and Moreland Model Block Program.

### *Cleveland*

- We helped 11 households in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood with the Huntington Bank-Buckeye Grant and the Black and Latinx Community Reinvestment Fund.

## ***Home Repair Classes***

- Total attendees for class - 1172 students
  - Project Repair - 504 students
  - Home How-To for Women - 288 students
  - Community Workshops - 380 students

***Number of tools loaned:*** 529 different tools loaned out 2646 times

*“Thank you for making this project a reality.”  
- Cleveland Heights Resident*

*“Thank you from my whole heart for making this possible.”  
- Cleveland Heights Resident who received a new furnace 8  
days after submitting a completed application.*

# HRRC Impact on the Community

**By Wesley Walker**

In May of 2025, a client was identified through the Circle East (CE) grant application, which was a home repair grant in partnership with the Cuyahoga Land Bank. At that time, an assessment of the home was completed, and the repair needs were many. The primary being the roof that needed replacement. The opening in the roof leaked for years and caused significant interior ceiling damage that had penetrated down to the first-floor dining room.

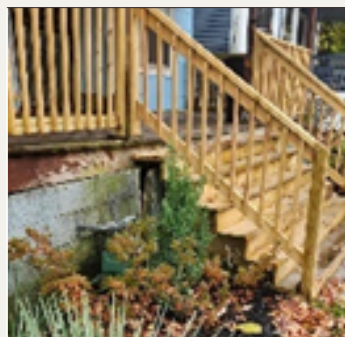
Once the roof was replaced the need for additional repairs were identified, many related to health and safety were needed. At this point the Black and Latinx Community Reinvestment Fund (BLCRF) grant became instrumental to this senior client's safety and health. Funding for the BLCRF grant was made possible by a partnership with the Fair Housing Center for Rights and Research.

Many health and safety repairs were completed with BLCRF funds. The replacement of the front stair unit and handrails. Installation of code conforming guard rails around the porch. The side entry door was replaced. All the vegetation was removed from the exterior walls of the house. The vines covering allowed the infiltration of a large number of insects. Lastly, the remaining funds allowed the complete cleaning and grooming of the yard area including planting beds, tree removal and seeding of the back yard.

The impact of HRRC's effort were very obvious. It really hit home in conversation with the homeowner's son on my last visit. He approached me at the door and had a very solemn look on his face. When I asked about his mom, he stated, "she died on Saturday past". This was somewhat shocking to me. However, when he told me how glad she was to see the improvements to her home before she died and how happy it made her knowing that her husband would have a safe home, he began to smile. I knew this made it all worthwhile. Particularly to the point of preserving family wealth, he told me that had this work not been done the family expected they would lose this home. Now, his family can keep it going.



**Before**



**After**

# Thank You to Our Donors to the 2025 Capital Campaign

## Gifts of \$1,000 and Above

Jonathan & Carol Buchter  
Katie and Jack Gillette  
Albert Leonetti and Ruth Anna Carlson  
Julie & Gary Lustic  
Seth Marks  
Tom & Marilyn McLaughlin  
Barbara McWilliams

Claudia Metz and Tom Woodworth  
Evelyn B. Newell  
Louisa Oliver  
Peggy Spaeth  
Jack and Blanche Valancy  
Diana Woodbridge

## Gifts of \$500-\$999

Beth Sersig & Christopher Brandt  
Jonathan & Carol Buchter  
Mike & Lisa Gaynier  
Malia Lewis  
Alan Mallach  
Donalene & Don Poduska

## Gifts of \$150-\$499

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The Church of the Covenant  
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Allen Wilkinson

# Thank You to Our Donors

## Gifts of \$25-\$149

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Ronald & Marsha Werman



## In the News...

Signal Cleveland, Dec. 19, 2024, Banks denied repair loans to Black Greater Cleveland homeowners

<https://signalcleveland.org/in-parts-of-greater-cleveland-banks-have-systematically-denied-repair-loans-to-black-homeowners-here-is-what-advocates-are-trying-to-do-about-it/>

New Day Cleveland, March 24, 2025, Road Trip: Home Revamp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yngMtv2pGAY>

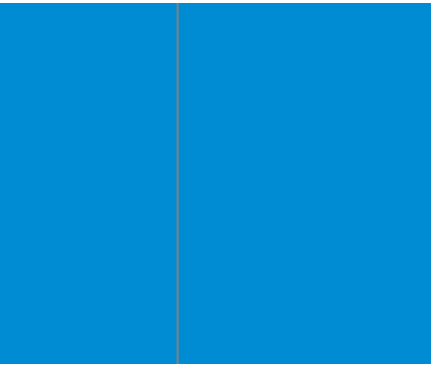
Cleveland.com, May 13, 2025, Cleveland Heights council gets update on American Rescue Plan Act spending

<https://www.cleveland.com/community/2025/05/cleveland-heights-council-gets-update-on-american-rescue-plan-act-spending.html>

New Day Cleveland, July 24, 2024, Home Repair How-To

<https://fox8.com/on-air/new-day-cleveland/home-repair-how-to/>

**Interested in becoming involved with HRRC?** Please reach out to us! Call 216.381.6100 or email [costrom@hrrc-ch.org](mailto:costrom@hrrc-ch.org).



# Thank You

We look forward to your continued partnership with us with us as we grow and change to better serve our community.



216.381.6100



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