

# RENEWAL NEWS

**IF I CAN DO IT,  
ANYBODY CAN!**

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RENEWAL  
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

FALL 2024 EDITION  
VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1

**NOTHING IS  
IMPOSSIBLE**

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BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER**

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**OUR UNIFYING FOCUS MUST BE ON WE, NOT ME**

[WWW.COMMUNITYRENEWAL.US](http://WWW.COMMUNITYRENEWAL.US)

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# COMMUNITY RENEWAL

CONNECTING PEOPLE • CHANGING LIVES • TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



**53,000**

MEMBERS OF THE WE CARE TEAM (PEOPLE CONNECTED TOGETHER THROUGH CARING)



**4,000+**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH HELPED THROUGH FRIENDSHIP HOUSE PROGRAMS



**1,900**

TRAINED HAVEN HOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK LEADERS



**370**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FRIENDSHIP HOUSE PROGRAMS IN 2024



**174**

STUDENTS HAVE EARNED THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA AT THE ADULT RENEWAL ACADEMY



**55%**

AVERAGE DROP IN MAJOR CRIME IN OUR FIVE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE TARGET AREAS



**11**

FRIENDSHIP HOUSES LOCATED IN 6 TARGET NEIGHBORHOODS, WHERE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ARE HOSTED

Community Renewal connects people from all walks of life to restore safe, caring and vibrant communities. We restore hope and renew the spirit of cooperation among neighbors, businesses, churches, schools and other groups.

We envision a world where every person is safe, loved and fulfilling their highest potential in the community.

**HOW WE DO IT:** We focus on three prime strategies:

**RENEWAL TEAM:** The team works citywide to unite individuals, churches, businesses, civic groups and others as caring partners building a stronger city.

**HAVEN HOUSE:** Volunteers unite neighbors on the block where they live. They place "We Care" signs in their yards and bring neighbors together through various activities.

**FRIENDSHIP HOUSE:** These are homes built in low-income areas and lived in by Community Renewal staff who help turn impoverished neighborhoods into havens of hope.

**DONATE TODAY!**



GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT

[WWW.COMMUNITYRENEWAL.US](http://WWW.COMMUNITYRENEWAL.US)

and click on the **DONATE** link

OR

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION **TODAY!**



# “WE’RE BUILDING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER”



**By Cortland Jones,**  
Events and Social Media Coordinator

**T**he Highland Friendship House has continued to be such a special place for our community, and it’s amazing to see how much these children are growing. We’re packed to the brim with more than 50 boys and girls and a waiting list of more who are eager to join. Watching these kids thrive has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

For the kids who’ve been with us for

two years or more, we’ve seen incredible improvements. When they started, many struggled with their grades, but now we’ve got students making the honor roll and two who were even selected as Students of the Year! Seeing them mature academically and socially is a privilege I wouldn’t trade for anything. Each milestone, big or small, feels like a win for us all.

So much of our success is thanks to our amazing team. Jayme Titlow, our Kids Coordinator, brings such a joyful, loving spirit

to the work every day. Jayme’s huge smile lights up the room, and she’s always patient and gentle, showing each child they’re valued. Her experience in schools and church ministry has been invaluable — she has a natural way of making kids feel safe and confident.

Then there’s Clyde Jones, our Youth Coordinator, who combines guidance and playfulness with a steady hand. Clyde’s experience in schools, church ministry and leadership training is evident in how he connects with the kids. They look up to him and know they can trust him, and he constantly encourages them to work hard and believe in themselves. Clyde has a knack for bringing out their best, and it’s clear how much they benefit from his positive influence.

We’ve made plenty of fun memories, especially on our field trips. Exploring local history, visiting places like the Strand Theater, and spending time at summer camps have opened up new worlds for the kids. These experiences are special not just for learning new things but for building connections and showing the kids they’re part of a bigger story in their community.

And we couldn’t do it without the support of our community. So many incredible people and organizations have rallied around us — from mentors and volunteers to donors. Together, they’ve created a safety net, showing the kids there are people who care and want to see them succeed.

Looking forward, we’re excited to get the kids involved in service projects. These projects will let them experience the joy of giving back to their own neighborhood, teaching them they have the power to make a difference. We’re raising not just good students but good citizens who take pride in their community.

The Highland Friendship House is more than a program — it’s a family, and I’m grateful to be a part of it. Watching these kids’ journeys has challenged, stretched, and inspired me. The changes I’ve seen in them remind me that this work truly matters and that we’re building something beautiful together.



***Seeing them mature academically and socially is a privilege I wouldn’t trade for anything. Each milestone, big or small, feels like a win for us all.”***

- Cortland Jones, Events and Social Media Coordinator



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 ARA GRADUATES!

**W**e celebrated the Class of 2024 at our Adult Renewal Academy with a beautiful commencement service at Noel Memorial United Methodist Church. We now have a total of 174 graduates – adults who didn't finish high school but who have now earned their high school equivalency diploma and are on their way to a successful future! Be inspired by these words from two of this year's graduates!



*I knew I had to do something to get to where I wanted to be in life. I worked at a nail shop and one of my customers was an ARA instructor and she told me to come try it. That atmosphere was so good to help me get to where I wanted to go. Now that I graduated, I'm going to BPC (Bossier Parish Community College) in the fall for software development. I'm proud to say I am actually starting college! You might be feeling like you are a failure and can't achieve anything in life, but once you are here, you will have the support you need to get where you want to go. Just look at me! I'm going to college!"*

- Jasmine Kaomisay



*They showed me so much love and so much support. I can go so far in life now thanks to ARA. Now I would like to become an aesthetician and I also want to go back to school for business. It is never too late to go after your dreams and goals. Do not be discouraged! There is always time to become a better person, to move further and become something much bigger than you are. Do not lose your light. Always shine as bright as you can and always strive as hard as you can. Be the best person that you can because the sky is the limit! I've done it and if I can do it, anybody can do this!"*

- Skylar Clark



What a joy it was to see neighbors all across our community coming out of their houses to fellowship together for National Night Out in October! Let's stay Connected in Caring throughout the year and keep working to make our cities stronger, safer places - one neighbor at a time!

Special thanks to Red Ball Oxygen Co. for providing backpacks and school supplies for our Allendale Kids Club this year! And special thanks to Chick-fil-A on Youree Drive in Shreveport for providing a delicious meal!



Shoutout to First Guaranty Bank for teaming up with our Barksdale Annex Friendship House! Together, we spent valuable time with the kids, crafting, learning, and having a blast!



Make plans now to come on one of our Thursday tours in 2025 to learn more about Community Renewal and how you can get involved! Check the schedule at [www.communityrenewal.us](http://www.communityrenewal.us).

A huge round of thanks to the students and staff from Word of God Academy who spent part of their Missions Week volunteering with us! We are thrilled when students are connected in caring!

# NEW ON THE TEAM!



**Antoinette Needham**

## “I PRAY THAT MY TESTIMONY WILL INSPIRE THEM AND ENCOURAGE THEM”

**A**ll through her teenage years, Antoinette Needham kept fighting the same battle over and over again – a struggle against the hopelessness that kept pulling her down.

She had her first baby at 16 and was unable to finish high school. Her childhood dream of becoming a teacher was fading away.

“I felt lost. I was existing, but not living. I was in a dark place and I started searching for a way to cope,” the Shreveport native said.

After one unsuccessful attempt to earn her high-school diploma, Antoinette dealt with fears of living alone and failing her children. She knew something had to change before it was too late.

A friend told her about Community Renewal’s Adult Renewal Academy. Now married and regaining some of the hope she had lost, Antoinette and her husband started classes at the ARA, graduating in 2021.

“They helped me learn how to dream again and have hope for a better community and a better life,” she said.

Moving forward with mentors and a new dedication, she then became Allendale neighborhood ambassador and knew that she was finding a new purpose in life with Community Renewal. She is now the community

coordinator at the Barksdale Annex Friendship House, overseeing the Kids Club.

“I pray that they will never lose the desire to learn because education is the master key to many things in life,” she said. “I pray that my testimony will inspire them and encourage them to do the right thing.”

Antoinette sees families in her area dealing with poverty, low education, broken homes and other issues.

“I pray they can reach whatever dream they have regardless of whatever odds might be stacked against them. I do not want them to ever feel like they are alone,” she said. “I want them to be encouraged and be involved in the community because we are better together.

“We all come with our flaws, but if we can just see beyond the flaws, we can see the beauty in people and help them reach their potential. If we can extend grace and care to another person, we can make the world a better place.”



***We all come with our flaws, but if we can just see beyond the flaws, we can see the beauty in people and help them reach their potential.”***

- Antoinette Needham, Barksdale Annex community coordinator



**DeCedric and Mirekle Bowman**

## “WITH GOD ON OUR SIDE, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE”

**D**eCedric Bowman saw the need for men to be mentors and decided he had a larger role to play in helping to guide youth struggling to find their place in the world.

One day he shared his thoughts with good friend DeTrevon Moore, community coordinator overseeing youth programs at our Cedar Grove

Friendship House. They spoke the same language and vocalized the same goals.

And when DeCedric learned the same position was open at the Allendale Friendship House, he knew the next chapter in his life was about to begin. DeCedric stepped into that role last spring.

“Statistics say these kids are not going to be anything because of where they are from and how they were raised. And I want to help,” said DeCedric, a welder and mechanic who describes himself as a jack-of-all-trades.

“I want to make sure they know they are not counted out. They can still make it. Regardless of what people may say, they are able.”

DeCedric and his wife, Mirekle, have four children. She looks forward to working with him in Allendale.

“We came here and felt like we were home,” she said. “There are a lot of kids who don’t have hope. There are a lot of kids who don’t have love in their family. We are here for them and we are here to show everyone love.”

DeCedric was raised by a single mother and his grandmother and they instilled values in him that he wants to pass on.

“I want to make sure all these kids know that if they don’t have a father figure in their life, I am here for them,” he said.

“My hope here is that this neighborhood grows – grows in respect, grows in love, grows in God. I want to bring everyone together and let them know that the village is possible if everyone plays a part.

“I am so determined. With God on our side, nothing is impossible. We are going to get it done.”

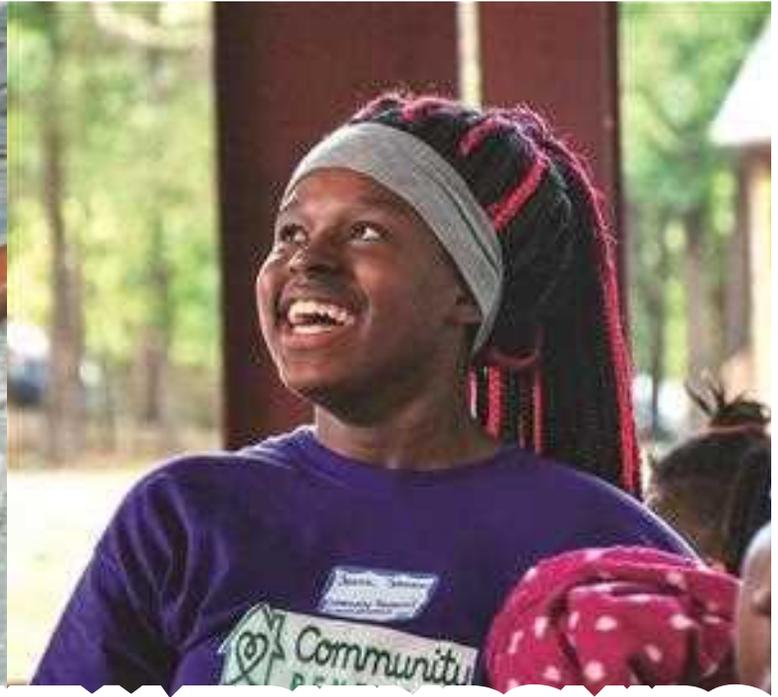


***My hope here is that this neighborhood grows – grows in respect, grows in love, grows in God.”***

- DeCedric Bowman, Allendale community coordinator

***There are a lot of kids who don’t have hope. We are here for them”***

- Mirekle Bowman



## “WE ALL BUILD NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND LEARN TO COOPERATE”

Spending time with other kids is more like confidence-building. We try new things and learn fun facts about each other. These camps also help with socializing skills. We all build new friendships and learn to cooperate.”

– **Deshayla, MLK Youth Club**

“The trip to Schlitterbahn was a lot of fun. I’ve never been to a water park that big. The wave pool was my favorite part.”

– **Amaury, MLK Youth Club**

“This was my first time going out of town. I really enjoyed myself and I cannot wait to get in the wave pool again.”

– **Jalen, Cedar Grove Youth Club**

“I attended the babysitting training class at LSUS and learned all about how to run my babysitting business. I got to go to Houston to see The Lion King and that was my first time ever seeing something soooooo, like, Wow! My little sister said she was going to be extra good next year so that she could do more stuff like this.”

– **Sha’Royalty, Barksdale Annex Kids Club**

“This summer I attended the District Attorney camp and it was truly amazing. I had a blast and I’m looking for more in my time at the Friendship House. Thank you for this opportunity.”

– **Keirstyn, MLK Youth Club**

Your support makes a tremendous impact on the lives of our Friendship House youth! **Please scan the QR code to make a donation today!**





# LIVES ARE CHANGING THROUGH WE CARE SCHOOLS

**S**econd grader Beth regularly shops with her mom at Kroger. When the groceries are collected, Beth always insists on getting in line to see her favorite checker, Ms. Rose. One day she gave Rose a signed Caught-You-Caring card to recognize the many positive ways Rose's kindness affects everyone in her line. Rose placed the card where all customers in line could share her joy in what Beth sees. Doing, seeing, hearing about, writing about, reading about, or thinking about caring acts produce brain chemicals for improved health, well-being and learning. Kasie Mainiero recently shared this story from among many she experienced as principal of University Elementary, the first We Care School.

Beth was a student at University, where she participated in a We Care School (WCS) pathfinder project, Caught-You-Caring (CYC). The idea is to grow relational leadership skills for seeing good in other people by writing descriptions of their caring acts. Pathfinder Projects are experimental initiatives that cumulatively create a path toward an outcome we imagine and together lovingly innovate into existence. Imagine our school community creating pathways to a culture of caring as the foundation for learning and community.

Mansfield Elementary principal Amanda LaFollette, Louisiana 2025 Elementary Principal of the Year, reflected on an inspiring inaugural 2023-24 year. "A We Care School reinforces what people are and gives them the confidence to be who they are," she said.

What does it look like if education prepares students to find meaning, purpose and opportunities in their community? Principal Nicolas Cunningham and the North Caddo Elementary/Middle We Care School core team made this challenge a priority. Cathy James ignited core team creativity by recalling years ago "Career Hops" taking students to Vivian, Louisiana, community businesses.

The conversations led to an initial pathfinder project: take students to the Vivian Police Department to express gratitude for a safe community and learn about policing while growing relationships. This visit was documented and promoted through school student media programs. Citizen feedback encouraged principal Cunningham. After the students' visit, police voluntarily increased their presence around the school. This welcomed response produced an unintended consequence: increases in parents being ticketed for improper car child restraints.

Among pathfinder practices is adjusting our path based on what we learn from our actions. The adjustment was a school and police partnership to train parents in proper car child restraints. The partnership grew to include businesses and individuals. As trust grows, network resources increase. A new program, Carseat Giveaway, was created. Every request was filled with extras for future needs.

The next North Caddo pathfinder project was a students' Fire Department visit on National First Responders Day. The following month a students'

trip to North Caddo Medical Center (NCMC) included a school assembly invitation for the CEO and his administrative team to receive the first "We Care Business Award." NCMC leadership attended, bringing Christmas gifts for all the kindergarten students. Their action inspired the District Attorney's office to purchase bicycles for every kindergartener.

North Caddo's success inspired Marceline Tingue, administrator at the Beryla Bilingual K-12 We Care School near Yaoundé, Cameroon. Marceline and her leadership team organized student gratitude visits to the local police department. This pathfinder project began healing long-entrenched tensions between community and police.

Involving Beryla School parents in the caring cards game inspired another pathfinder initiative, a self-organized "Parents Care Team." Marceline told a story about a student walking home in the rain who saw an elderly lady exposed to the weather. The student gave her umbrella to the grateful woman. When the student arrived home, her father responded to the compassionate act with anger, then complained to the school "We Care Office" about influencing his daughter's disregard of costs to her family. Twenty members of the Parents Care Team responded to the father with understanding, offering to pay for or replace the umbrella to encourage the student's kindness as a positive example for others. One caring act led to another – and the father was transformed.

# COMMUNITY RENEWAL CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!



**C**ommunity Renewal International celebrated its 30th anniversary in October with special guest Esteban Moctezuma, Mexico's Ambassador to the United States. Moctezuma served as keynote speaker at our 30th Anniversary Banquet at the Shreveport Convention Center.

While here, Ambassador Moctezuma also met with some of the area's business, technology, medical and educational organizations. Those who attended the meeting included representatives of the Louisiana Economic Partnership, the Port of Caddo Bossier, Ternium USA, Inc. Prolcec/GE, CPKC (which resulted from the merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern Railroad), Fibrebond, Biomedical

Research Foundation, LSU Health Shreveport, Ochsner LSU Health, Small Business Consulting Corporation, Bossier Parish Community College, Louisiana Tech University, Southern University of Shreveport and Centenary College.

Ambassador Moctezuma also visited Riverside Elementary School to learn about the We Care School program which Kasie Mainiero, a former principal of University Elementary, developed in partnership with Community Renewal. Mainiero now is with the Caddo Parish School System as a Child Well-Being Specialist. She described the process she implemented and which has been adopted by the principals of eight Caddo schools who also attended the meeting. The new Superintendent of the Caddo Parish School

System, Keith Burton, expressed his enthusiastic support for the We Care Schools program based on the Community Renewal model.

Founded in 1994, Community Renewal is a movement of hope that restores the foundation for safe and caring communities by building intentionally caring relationships. We have grown from working on a few blocks in Shreveport to having an impact on cities around the world! Three primary strategies — Renewal Team, Haven House and Friendship House — are used to turn neighborhoods into safe havens of friendship and support. Major crime has dropped an average of 55 percent in its Friendship House areas in Shreveport and Bossier City.



# COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS FROM THE CROQUET CLASSIC!

**W**e want to thank everyone involved in the 2024 Croquet Classic! We had a wonderful event on the LSUS campus as 32 teams played to benefit our Adult Renewal Academy! This fun event brings people together from all walks of life to help our community! Thank you one and all for your support! Watch our social media pages for information about the 2025 Croquet Classic next spring!



## CONGRATS TO THE WINNING TEAMS:

### RECREATIONAL DIVISION

1ST PLACE - Marie Harper & Lecie Israel  
2ND PLACE - Billy Dudley & John Dudley

### INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

1ST PLACE - David Oliver & Claudia Oliver  
2ND PLACE - Ann Leonard & Keitha Marcotte

### COMPETITIVE DIVISION

1ST PLACE - Brad Gosslee & Kempton Schwab  
2ND PLACE - Mark Hebert & Drew Hebert

## AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FIELD SPONSORS:

*Action Mobility Services*  
*Bistro To Go*  
*Bridges to Beauty*  
*Carr, Riggs & Ingram, CPAs and Advisors*  
*Cheyland*  
*Enterprise Mobility*  
*Fairway Partners, LLC*  
*Gosslee Property Management*  
*Hebert's Town & Country*  
*Kosmitis Bond, Professional Law Corporation*  
*Metro Aviation*  
*Marci & James Moore*  
*David & Claudia Oliver*  
*Red River Chevrolet & the Good Neighbor Chevy Dealers, Inc.*  
*Anne & Paul Wilson*  
*Chick-Fil-A*  
*Rhino Coffee*

## AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

**T**hank you for being such a faithful partner in this ministry! Your generosity has impacted the lives of thousands in the local community and others beyond. Thank you for your life of stewardship. As we expand the outreach and impact of this work, we ask for your continued support.

Exciting News for donations made before the end of the year: \$500,000 has been given by multiple donors as a Matching Challenge! That's right, a Challenge for other partners to Match that \$500,000 by Dec. 31, 2024!

Several key areas where these funds are needed and will be allocated include:

- *Healthy Meals & Snacks for Friendship House Children & Youth*
- *Educational Experiences (children/youth camps, field trips, college tours, etc.)*
- *Friendship House Repairs & Updates*
- *Youth Character Building Curriculum*
- *Partnership Development Efforts (for housing, healthcare, employment, educational needs)*

- *Adult Education (GED) Teaching Personnel*
- *Passenger Vans (2) for Student Transportation*

Please consider a special year-end donation of \$100, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000 or more to help us meet this \$500,000 Challenge. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL, NONE TOO LARGE! EVERY \$1 COUNTS. PLEASE CONSIDER A MONTHLY RECURRING DONATION OF \$10, \$25 OR \$50 PER MONTH. WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE AND A ROLE TO PLAY. Together, we can build safe and caring communities where every child can live into their full God-given potential.

### YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE

by scanning the QR code, at [www.communityrenewal.us](http://www.communityrenewal.us) or by mail to: **Community Renewal, P.O. Box 4678, Shreveport, La. 71134**





# OUR UNIFYING FOCUS MUST BE ON WE, NOT ME

By Mack McCarter  
Founder, Community Renewal

***This was written in the fall of 2016, after the presidential elections, and I wanted to share it again here, after another round of elections to remind everyone: We are better together!***

**A**s I write these words to you, I am perched on a high stool at a coffeehouse in our nation's capital looking out at a normal intersection of pedestrian foot traffic where street meets avenue.

Hurry is the speed limit here. The ebb and flow of folks is like a riptide of swirling coats and head-wraps of many colors all battened down and buttoned up and zipped past the chin to beat the chill. The coats are thick, but they hide something warm and wonderful. A "you." A "me." A "them." A "we."

So here "we" are. "We," the people. There is a chill of cold conflict in the air. It is being raised to an art form all around us. Icy winning is everything. And I just don't know how long we can protect the warmth of our feelings and our hearts from this freezing stab.

Win! Cable news is a 24/7 argument. Radio talk pours accusation. Internet flashes assaults from all sides. And Tweets?! We have institutionalized and industrialized the "double-dog dare you" into an emotionally eroding, friendships-ending death spiral. The consequences of "must win" are utterly profound. And every election only increases the power and speed of the maelstrom clutching this ship of state in unresolved conflict. Fighting precariously borders on the unceasing.

Our "we" cannot hold when the "me" only seeks to win.

The Battle of the Somme just came into my mind. You will remember with me that it was the largest battle of World War I on the Western front. It lasted for four months. On the first day of the battle, the British jumped out of their trenches and charged the German lines. It was the bloodiest one day ever for Britain's army. They had 57,420 young men killed or wounded in one day. Overall, 1.3 million men were the total casualties in the battle. When the Battle of the Somme was over, the British army had advanced six miles to another stalemate. Six miles. History

has witnessed that the "war to end all wars" left a world in seemingly ceaseless conflict.

So, too, the trench warfare of our elections. Each time a side surges. Immense energy and dollars are expended. Back and forth. Back and forth. The no-man's land of who rules changes hands, but the conflict goes on. Winning is elusive. But the feelings deepen. This must stop. But how?

Surely we know that we must allow one another the simple gift of our own convictions that really are our deeply held beliefs. And we must hold as precious our deeply embedded feelings that are the soil out of which our convictions grow. But we also know that while our individual feelings and beliefs are crucial to our lives, it is the community of blended beliefs and feelings that is the only protection of our individuality. We must celebrate our diversity as we all commit to common values that transcend each of us for the good of all of us. But how?

A picture, a people, and a man are now coming to mind as an answer. I'm amazed to remember. It was in the spring of 1963. I was eighteen and had just had my impacted wisdom teeth removed. I was at home on the couch missing school and watching TV. I was about to witness a seminal truth and turning point in human history.

For some weeks, the civil rights movement had been laboring in Birmingham, Alabama, seeking realization of common humanity. The news cut in. Children and youth marching and singing "We Shall Overcome" turned a street corner, and there at Kelly Ingram Park waited police, fire hoses, and dogs. Three pastors in their liturgical robes leading the children (some as young as eight years old!) knelt in the street in prayer. As they prayed, the children walked forward.

I witnessed what we all now remember as the Battle of Birmingham. Except only one side chose to fight the old way. Their fire hoses were set at a level "that could strip the bark off of the trees and separate bricks from mortar." Their dogs were set at a level to rip and tear warm human flesh to pieces. The children walked forward. And all hell exploded over them.

My life changed that day on that couch. I was sobbing. I am sobbing now as I write to you. I can't help it. But I wasn't the only one. America changed that day. So did the world.

My friend Reverend Nelson H. Smith was thirty-three years old when he knelt in the street in his robe along with Reverend A. D. King and Reverend John Porter that day. Then, on a Sunday, May 16, 1994, N.H. and I were walking together in Kelly Ingram Park. He had asked me to preach at his church, New Pilgrim Baptist, that morning for Friends and Family Day. And now we were there in the park when we walked up to the statue of the praying pastors. N.H. was there kneeling with the others in marble.

We stopped. Silent. Then he said, "Mack, Movements must never change from something to heal into something to win. For then they never win the will of man, and they never heal the heart of man."

And now I remember, we must stop trying to win for the "me" and we must commit above all to heal the hurt in our land for the "we." Only then can we win the world for our children. Only then can they march and sing their way into a new future.

Rene Descartes observed, Cogito ergo sum. "I think therefore I am." I guess maybe that holds some truth. But I believe that I will follow the ancient proverb out of the heart of Africa, "Because we are I am." It just fits better with the Birmingham children's banner, which read, "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for My sake, [which is the good news of God's Love for all of us] will find it."

Community Renewal is here to help us truly win by walking together and caring for one another. Come join with us, and we will be today's bridge to a new tomorrow. Your "me" will get better and better, I promise.

So "We, the people!" That's exactly the prescription the Doctor ordered to heal a "you," a "me," and a "them" mentality.

"We!" The people of planet earth. Warm and wonderful.



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# BOOK TELLS THE INSPIRING STORY OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL

**T**he inspiring story of Community Renewal is now available in book form! **How to Remake the World Neighborhood by Neighborhood** was released in November 2022 in paperback by Orbis Books. The 168-page book was written by our founder, Mack McCarter, and Tim Muldoon, a Boston College professor, scholar, and author or co-author of ten books, and editor of two others.

The book tells the story of how Mack returned to his hometown of Shreveport after many years as a pastor in Texas. He found a city that was racially divided and suffering from violence. With a small group of like-minded people, he intentionally and proactively began engaging with residents from all parts of the city who wanted to be connected in caring. Seeds were planted and in 1994 Community Renewal was formally founded.



*Mack McCarter has spent a lifetime forging loving communities out of complete strangers. This revealing and thoughtful book documents how caring, friendship, and the gift of kindness can bring about powerful changes in our world."*

- Lee Cowan, Correspondent, CBS Sunday Morning

## GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

*How to Remake the World Neighborhood by Neighborhood* is available at our office at 838 Margaret Place and is also available on Amazon. Don't miss your chance to have your own copy of this inspiring work! This book also makes a great gift!

