

Progressive Alliance CDC NEWSLETTER



September 2024

Volume 1 Issue 2

SPRING 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

PACDC hosted four community programs this past spring: Digital Ambassador, MicroEnterprise Networking, Tech Savvy, and Work Forward. We have provided business acumen to over 85 small businesses and placed 100 percent of our participants on jobs averaging between \$18-\$22 an hour. 100 percent of our Tech Savvy program members learned basic cell phone skills like text messaging, sending pictures and emails.



WEST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

The West Akron Neighborhood Plan will serve as a unified vision for neighborhood leaders, residents, the city, and other stakeholders, helping to steer future priorities, initiatives, and investments in the community. This plan will thoroughly assess the neighborhood and provide strategic recommendations for economic and community development. Our aim is to revitalize and enhance the neighborhood to improve the quality of life for our residents.

ABOUT PACDC

The mission of Progressive Alliance Community Development Corporation is to enhance and advocate for the neighborhoods of West Akron by promoting a healthy community to foster sustainable economic growth.

Our vision is to see West Akron as a thriving and inclusive community with a strong residential and economic base where every individual has the opportunity to achieve personal goals and economic self-sufficiency.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- **MicroEnterprise Networking Program**
 - September 9- November 25
- **Inspire Program**
 - October 3- November 21
- **Work Forward 2.0 Program**
 - October 7- November 14
- **West Akron Neighborhood Plan Community Talk**
 - October 29 at 6 pm



PROGRAM SUCCESSES

Our **Digital Literacy** program has supported the Akron community in a variety of ways. The Summit County Connect Program, in partnership with the County of Summit, bridged the gap in the digital divide by providing laptops and/or hotspots to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible participants in Summit County. We provided 1021 laptops and 927 hotspots across Summit County. The **Tech Savvy** program provides basic technology skills for adults ages 50 and over using Northstar Digital Literacy Curriculum and individualized lessons created by the facilitator. **The Digital Ambassador Program**, also utilizing the same curriculum, provides intermediate and advanced technology users the opportunity to become certified in Microsoft, Google, Social Media, Canva and Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications. As a result of the Tech Savvy and Digital Ambassador programs, 100 percent of our participants are technology sound and confident.

Our **Work Forward** program focuses on an individual's ability to grow their skills and develop the tools they need for business success and ultimately, be placed on a job at the end of the program. The sessions include: interview skills, resume writing, communication skills, how to find a job, how to complete an application, and accountability. They also include sessions from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services- NEXT Program and Financial Literacy from the Financial Empowerment Center sponsored by United Way. As a result of our programming, 100 percent of our participants have not only completed the program, but have been placed on jobs averaging between \$18-\$22 an hour.



Our **MicroEnterprise Network** program has held five cohorts so far. We have served 85 small business participants ranging from start up to 10 plus years in existence. The project objective is to provide small business development training to grow and sustain businesses within the community as a pathway to self-sufficiency. The goals of the project are: Recruit and enroll applicants for the project; implement evidence-based best practices to start, expand and sustain businesses for enrolled participants. The program has provided participants with access to capital -finding to start and sustain a business as well as access to networks to launch and grow a business with guidance and support. From an equity lens, the goals and objectives align and prioritize with the stated concerns and requests of the community and cohorts.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Diantha Freeman was excited to attend the PACDC Tech Savvy Program. As an 86 year old West Akron community member, all she wanted was to learn how to use her iPad and stay in contact with her family. However, the Tech Savvy Program provided so much more! Mrs. Freeman learned how to create calendar appointments, send emojis in text messages and even learned how to create alarms so she would not miss her appointments. Mrs. Freeman was so inspired by the Tech Savvy Program, that she retired her old flip phone and upgraded to a new iPhone!! Congratulations Mrs. Freeman on becoming "Tech Savvy!"



FALL 2024 PROGRAMMING

Progressive Alliance CDC & PNC Bank



Inspire PROGRAM

Thinking of starting a business? This program is for you!!

DANIEL ROBINSON
VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
PNC BANK

THURSDAYS FROM 6 PM- 7 PM ON ZOOM

- OCTOBER 3-
- OCTOBER 10-
- OCTOBER 17-
- OCTOBER 24-
- OCTOBER 31-
- NOVEMBER 7-
- NOVEMBER 14-
- NOVEMBER 21-

BUSINESS EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

- BUSINESS GOALS-
- BUSINESS STRUCTURES-
- BUSINESS PLANS-
- OBTAINING & USING BUSINESS CREDIT-
- BUSINESS BANKING-
- FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-
- FINANCIAL EMERGENCIES-

Register at tinyurl.com/1024inspire or contact 330-252-7180
progressivealliancecdc@gmail.com



Inspire Program

- Learn how to start your own business
- Get your LLCs at the end of the program
- Register at tinyurl.com/1024inspire



Elevate your business expertise during six engaging Zoom sessions

MICRO ENTERPRISE Networking

-SEPT. 9 & 30-
-OCT. 7 & 28-
-NOV. 11 & 25-
6 PM- 7 PM



Business Operations
ERICK PARKER, GLOBAL BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Business Finance
JOI WILSON, J.W TAX SERVICES

Register at 

MicroEnterprise Networking Program

- Upskill your knowledge in Business Operations
- Get fiscally responsible with Business Finance
- REGISTRATION IS CLOSED



WORK FORWARD PROGRAM 2.0

Employability Skills
Job Placement after 3 weeks
OSHA 10 Certification, PPE and a \$250 Stipend


OCTOBER 7, 2024-
NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Mondays and Thursdays from 5:00 pm- 7:30 pm



New Hope Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
1706 S. Hawkins Ave.
Akron, OH 44320

CONTACT US
330-252-7180
progressivealliancecdc@gmail.com

Register Today
<https://tinyurl.com/workforward20>



Facilitated by DeLores Stewart & Sharonda Sammons



Work Forward 2.0 Program

- Refresh your job skills
- Guaranteed job placement
- Get OSHA 10 certified
- Register at tinyurl.com/workforward20



COMMUNITY MEETING

Learn more about the
West Akron Neighborhood Plan



Tuesday, October 29, 2024



6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

New Hope Baptist
Church Fellowship Hall
1706 S. Hawkins Ave.
Akron, OH 44320



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