

**Nehemiah Community Development Corporation
2008 Annual Report**

**Nehemiah Community Development Corporation
655 West Badger Road
Madison, WI 53713
608.257.2453**

Mission Statement

“Transforming Lives, Rebuilding Families and Strengthening our Community” - using a holistic, faith-based approach to providing culturally relevant human services.

Nehemiah Community Development Corporation – General

2008 Was a very pivotal year for the Nehemiah Corporation. After several years of strong visionary leadership within our organization, I realized that Nehemiah was in need for strong for administrative and implementation leadership. It was the entrepreneurial spirit of Nehemiah staff that helped to create exciting programs that draw participants. The lack of implementers and strong administrators really left our organization, and our community, in a lurch. Therefore, we spent much of 2008 rethinking our core business and current needs of our community. This process entailed:

- Working to reconnect with our major donors
- Working to reconnect with our county contract manager
- Assessing past mistakes and learning from missed opportunities
- Recruiting new board members
- Dreaming new realities

This process readied and positioned our organization to accept the new staff that would eventually be able to offer administrative and operational strengths to Nehemiah. 2009 has been a banner year of planning and strategic planning and it was made possible by the foundational work we did in 2008.

Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Alex Gee (Chair)
Kirbie Mack (Vice-chair)
Cassandra Edwards (Sec)
Astra Iheukumere (Treas)
Deborah Garrett-Thomas
Michael Anderson

Nehemiah Founder/President
WI Department of Revenue
Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer
WI Department of Health Services
Garrett Thomas & Co
Axley Brynelson

Staff

Alex Gee, President

Jim Huff, Economic Development

Lilada Gee, Youth Services and Women's Services

Autumn Shadis, Youth Services

Programs

MR (Male Responsibility) and Nefertiti (meaning "the beautiful one is here"):

During the 2008 school year, the Nefertiti and MR (Male Responsibility) groups continued their long-term partnership with Wright Middle School.

The girls in Nefertiti engaged in creative writing via poetry, journaling and directed writing exercises as well as artistic projects. They were given opportunity to increase their communication skills by making presentations of their writings and projects.

The boys in MR engaged in a writing project as well as relevant discussion topics such as goal setting, decision making and having a positive impact on their community.

LIGHT (Learning Is our Greatest Hope for Tomorrow):

In 2008 a new staff member took over the program about half way through the year.

The program met only one night per week at one site. We were serving about 15 youth on average per week. We had homework tutors and speakers who presented relevant topics such as good health, gang prevention and goal setting skills.

We have made many plans to expand this program and look forward to the ways it can grow in the area schools in the future.

Outcomes

Program	Outcomes
MR	Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- agreed to healthy life choices- stayed in school- avoided gang involvement- had cross-cultural friendships
Nefertiti	Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- agreed to healthy life choices- stayed in school- avoided pregnancy- victims of prior sexual abuse received support services
LIGHT	Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- improved their school attendance- improved their homework and grades- made personal and academic goals- made progress on their goals