Our name, Nehemiah, comes from an ancient faith leader who brought his community together to strengthen the identity of their people and to rebuild the walls of their city—brick by brick. Our task today is much the same.

2015 was a good “building and strengthening” year for Nehemiah. Our youth education and leadership programs for K-12 kids had great impact that helped keep those students a step ahead of the achievement gap. Not only did we influence academic success, but we also helped develop character, cultural identity, and leadership skills.

Our Reentry Services, Family & Community Wellness, Economic Development and Leadership Capacity Development programs all thrived in 2015. One of the reasons was they were led by a strong staff team of talented and committed individuals who give of themselves for the sake of our community.

There is much to celebrate – and there is much work ahead.

Together Building,

Rev. Dr. Alex Gee, Jr.
YOUTH EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

ACE – Academic Center for Excellence
In 2015 Nehemiah’s ACE program helped close our community’s academic achievement gap through year-round efforts, piloting new in-school programming at Lincoln Elementary School. Our ACE Director, Ozanne Anderson, worked alongside teachers in the classroom to increase engagement and foster academic success. Weekly enrichment programming helped youth to sharpen math and literacy skills, while also developing confidence and leadership skills. In July & August we offered our six-week academic / leadership program, serving more than 50 youth aged K-8th grade. Our summer program targets math and literacy skills, and helps youth develop a positive racial identity, character, and leadership skills. ACE’s “Revealing Our Excellence, Achieving through Discipline” summer 2015 theme was well received by parents and students, teaching key principles of excellence and self-management strategies.

  Program Director:  Ozanne Anderson
  Youth Served:  61
  Volunteers: 18
  Volunteer Hours: 1,620

BROTHER – Building Real Opportunities That Help Everyone Rise
BROTHER is Nehemiah’s strategic program reaching African American middle school boys, guiding them to a productive, healthy manhood. BROTHER combines the power of a same-race mentor who understands African American culture with a robust, active learning strategy centered on topics such as identity, self-esteem, character, choices, and their academic and employment futures. BROTHER served African American middle school boys at Wright, Sherman and O’Keefe Middle School. We built effective mentoring relationships and fostered high expectations. At weekly in-school meetings we openly discussed race and culture along with conversations that developed the capacity and leadership skills of these young men.

  Program Director: Anthony Ward
  Youth Served: 37 attended weekly meetings
  Volunteers: 2
  Volunteer Hours: 10

Madison Inspirational Youth Choir
Nehemiah’s youth gospel choir works to spread the message of hope, strength and the power to overcome. Youth from age 10 through high school develop discipline, teamwork, and leadership as they engage in this artistic community. The youth develop their musical abilities, while at the same time becoming part of a supportive, inclusive community that encourages perseverance and promotes hope.

  Program Directors: Julie Saffold & Jasmine Zapata
  Youth Served: 16
  Volunteers: 11
  Volunteer Hours: 623
In December, we did several Christmas Carol events. The most memorable was our performance for a small group of homeless individuals who were huddled outside near the state capitol. When our ten-minute mini-concert was done, one of the men cried and told our group how special it was for him that somebody cared to bring him music and joy. That’s what this choir is all about, spreading a message of hope, strength and the power to overcome.

REENTRY SERVICES

Each year 500-700 men leave prison and return to Dane County. Hundreds more men complete their jail sentences and return to our community. Nehemiah’s Reentry program provides a wide array of culturally competent and relevant services to meet the needs of these men.

**Housing:** Our emergency and transitional housing promotes successful reentry through preventing homelessness.

**Coaching:** Our reentry and recovery coaching, *Man Up*, increases the likelihood that these ex-offenders can successfully transition back into our community.

**Advocacy:** Our assistance in helping these men build self-respect, develop healthy relationships, and get jobs makes it possible for these men to rebuild their lives.

**Employment:** Our employment initiatives connect men with opportunities throughout Dane County, and offer them the support they need to succeed in the workplace.

Program Director: Anthony Cooper, Sr.
People served: 362

FAMILY & COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Nehemiah’s Family & Community Wellness program operates in the Allied neighborhood, one of the poorest areas in Dane County. Through our Community Chaplain we meet individual, family, and group needs. Our efforts ensure that residents can access essential services and receive support for healthy living and healthy choices for the mind, body, soul, and spirit.

Visits to the Chaplain increased by 100%, evidence that residents are improving their lives by taking initiative around health, spiritual, and personal needs. Nehemiah’s Community Chaplain helped lead the effort to create a Community Cooperative, which will focus on meeting residents’ needs for access to fresh, healthy food, and the creation of a full service grocery store.
Through partnerships and ongoing educational support, the community’s ability to work together increased as people stepped into essential leadership roles.

Program Director: Gloria Manadier Farr
People Served: 235
Volunteers: 34
Volunteer Hours: 74

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2015 Nehemiah laid the groundwork to launch an Entrepreneurial Loan Fund that will support expansion and essential upgrades of existing African American owned small businesses, and will help launch new African American owned businesses.

Our loan fund will help Madison move beyond current economic inequities by building wealth within the African American community. We have the opportunity to nurture and develop a strong culture of entrepreneurship and local business ownership within the African American community. Our loan fund will give entrepreneurs and existing small business owners access to flexible and affordable financial capital, complemented by ongoing professional business coaching and advisory services.

We will support those we lend to with ongoing Lending Circles. Lending Circles are recognized international best practices that result in greater rates of success for start-ups. These circles will provide accountability, support, problem-solving cohorts, and directed learning activities. We are excited that community members with business acumen and professional skills have volunteered to facilitate these Lending Circles.

An investor has committed $100,000 to launch the African American Entrepreneurial Loan Fund.
Director: Carrie Vanderford Sanders

LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Nehemiah Center for Justice & Reconciliation offers workshops to educate and share awareness about mass incarceration and its impact on everyone in Wisconsin. Dr. Karen Reece, Director of Research and Evaluation for Nehemiah, began these efforts in 2012 to dispel misconceptions about individuals who are incarcerated, and to make the community aware of the financial and personal costs of mass incarceration.

Dr. Reece presented this information to area churches and hosted a three-part workshop series at Fountain of Life church in 2015, covering the following topics:

Workshop #1 - What’s the Problem? Mass Incarceration Defined
Workshop #2 - The Prison System: Purpose & Programming
Workshop #3 - Community Corrections: Life after Prison

Program Director: Dr. Karen Reece
People Served: 186
Volunteers: 5
Volunteer hours: 17
PEOPLE & PARTNERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Dr. Alexander Gee, Jr.
President, Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development
Lead Pastor, Fountain of Life Covenant Church

Eric Farnsworth
Attorney, DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C.

David A. Hart III
Assistant Attorney General, State of Wisconsin

Kirbie Mack
Retired

Dr. Floyd Rose
President, Wisconsin Supplier Development

Carrie Vanderford Sanders
Vice-President of Lending FCI

PART-TIME STAFF

Ozanne Anderson, Director of ACE

Rasheed Atlas, Director of Communications

Sue Cotten, Director of Community Relations & Development

Aaron Hicks, Reentry Associate

Gloria Manadier-Farr, Community Chaplain

Randy Olson, Director of Operations

Julie Saffold, Director of Madison Inspirational Youth Choir

Barry Sherbeck, Communications Associate

Charles Taylor, Reentry Assistant

Carrie Vanderford Sanders, Director of Community & Economic Development

Anthony Ward, Director of BROTHER

Jasmine Zapata, Assistant Director, Madison Inspirational Youth Choir

2015 NEHEMIAH GRANT FUNDING PARTNERS

Blackhawk Church (Advent Conspiracy Grant)

Bradshaw Knight Foundation

Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund

Dane County Human Services Youth Programs

Door Creek Church (Advent Conspiracy Grant)

Evangelical Covenant Children’s Ministries Fund

Evangelical Covenant Compassion, Mercy & Justice Fund

Grace & Mercy Foundation

United Way of Dane County

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have an important role as Nehemiah pursues its mission.
Thank you to all our volunteers who gave their time and talent to bring hope and transformation to Madison’s African American community.

FULL-TIME STAFF

Rev. Dr. Alexander Gee, Jr., President/Founder

Rich Henderson, Executive Manager

Anthony Cooper, Sr., Director of Reentry Services

Dr. Karen Reece, Director of Research & Evaluation
The Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development engages the Madison community to empower African American individuals, families and communities to bring about hope, transformation and justice.

FINANCIALS

INCOME

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JOIN US

Nehemiah’s success depends on our partners who volunteer, advocate, support, pray, and give financially to enable these efforts to foster hope, justice, and transformation.

Join us in praying, learning, and engaging Madison’s communities, schools, neighborhoods, government agencies, and employers. Sign up for email newsletters and follow Nehemiah’s Facebook page. Give financially as you are able.

Find ways to join us at http://nehemiah.org
TRANSFORMING THE FACE OF LEADERSHIP

NEHEMIAH CENTER FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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