



## Justice Ministry/Rodef Tzedek Update February 2019

### **Elder Care Committee**

BREAD's newest committee is researching problems affecting senior citizens such as transportation, home healthcare, and other challenges. The Kirwan Institute provided a study stating that "In Franklin County, there is a nearly 27 difference in life expectancy for seniors living in different neighborhoods." The committee will continue to meet with local agencies to learn more about what is causing this issue. The study also shared that by 2040, Franklin County's senior population will increase by 94% -meaning that if nothing is done, this injustice will continue to escalate. If you have any stories regarding Elder Care, please contact the BREAD office at 614-220-9363.

### **"Families First and...Housing Now!" Committee**

The committee is taking groups to Columbus City Council meetings and to Franklin County Commission meetings to press for more funding for affordable housing. At these meetings, Network Members are sharing about their housing struggles. The committee plans to attend every Council and Commission meeting until April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please join them! They are also planning a "See the Need Tour" with the Kirwan Institute. Elected officials and their staff will be invited to see current housing conditions and the need for more affordable housing.

### **Juvenile Justice Committee**

Last summer, we celebrated that 112 staff were trained by the International Institute for Restorative Practices! Now BREAD will be planning next steps with the District to monitor and measure the outcomes of Restorative Practices and continue to work towards more training and support for teachers. Our committee will be visiting schools that had staff at Restorative Practices trainings and meeting with the new superintendent of Columbus City Schools. The Pittsburgh Public Schools 2 year study finally came in and showed a 36% drop in suspensions for schools that had IIRP training! We want those same results for our district!

### **"Hire and Better Pay! Don't Throw Away!" Committee**

Councilmember Elizabeth Brown reported that 5 companies have taken advantage of the new ordinance to encourage construction companies to hire people with criminal backgrounds. BREAD will be seeking a year-end evaluation of the ordinance's impact. BREAD is also working collaboratively with Ohio State University to create worker-owned cooperatives in Linden. Initial discussions involve the creation of a food processing and distribution hub that would market products to OSU and other anchor institutions in Central Ohio. BREAD and OSU will be hosting two forums in March in Linden to increase awareness. We have been accepted into the final stage for receiving grant funding which will allow our group to contract with an outside consultant for one year to move us in the right direction toward a worker-owned business in Linden.

### **"Welcome Columbus" Committee**

This committee is spearheading a group of 11 organizations to press the Columbus City Council to set up a municipal ID program. The municipal ID feasibility study (commissioned by the Columbus City Council) has been completed! The committee will be following up with the Columbus City Council to push for implementation.

**\*Save the date: Nehemiah Action – Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Location: Celeste Center (717 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211). Arrive by 6:40 pm for preparatory remarks.\***