

*It takes a village...*



**Central Community House**  
At Our House, People Are Central

# The Villager

Summer 2016

## The Mission

Central Community House has been serving the people of near east side Columbus since 1936 in the settlement house tradition. Our mission is to empower people to reach their full potential, to be self-supporting and to live cooperatively with all others.

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[www.cchouse.org](http://www.cchouse.org)

## Central Community House Celebrates 80 Years of Service!

Central Community House was incorporated in 1936. Following the historic Settlement House model, the organization exists as part of the fabric of our community and welcomes all ages to come together to learn, play, share their gifts and find assistance when needed.

2016 marks the 80th anniversary of Central Community House and we will celebrate the milestone at our annual Village Maker Awards. This event embodies the concept that "it takes a village" by honoring those who work to better our community.

Special guest, Antonio Daniels, will serve as a keynote speaker along with his mother Alice Daniels, LSW, who is a consultant to Central providing parent education and engagement. Antonio and his siblings grew up as part of the CCH family. Antonio graduated from St. Francis DeSales and Bowling Green, then went on to a career in the NBA including playing on the 1999 Championship team, the San Antonio Spurs. He is now co-host of *The Hardline* for ESPN Radio and is an analyst with Fox Sports Oklahoma.

The Village Maker Awards raises funds for our many services for local families in need including emergency/basic needs assistance, social work programs, youth/teen programming, jobs assistance and more. In addition to the inspirational stories of our keynote speakers and award winners, guests enjoy live music, a cocktail reception and a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased online at [villagemakerawards.eventbrite.com](http://villagemakerawards.eventbrite.com), or make arrangements by calling 614-545-2708 or email [info@cchouse.org](mailto:info@cchouse.org).



Providing Support & Empowerment Since 1936  
**Central Community House**  
At Our House, People Are Central

Join us for the  
**80th Anniversary Celebration &  
Village Maker Awards**

July 20, 2016 ~ 6-8 p.m.

\$50/person.

[villagemakerawards.eventbrite.com](http://villagemakerawards.eventbrite.com)



Featuring keynote speaker  
**Antonio Daniels**  
Columbus native, 1999 NBA  
champion & sports analyst

## Donors Get a Sneak Peek at the English Center for Art & Community

Operations will soon begin at the renovated former long-time home of Central Community House. Special friends and donors to the Walter and Marian English Center for Art and Community were treated to a tour and reception of the house and carriage house at 1251 Bryden Road.

The site served as Central's home from 1965 to 2005 when the organization moved to Main Street. Since then, plans were made to renovate the facility due to growth of the popular teen arts/mentorship program Transit Arts and opportunities to rent the facility as a revenue stream.

Property records date back to 1891 with the original owner being Willis E. Carpenter. Research shows that he was a salesman and owner of Belknap-Carpenter Company Wholesale Boots and Shoes. He was also instrumental in forming the Columbus Driving Association which built Driving Park into a major Harness Racing track, and was a founding member of the Order of United Commercial Travelers of America.

The property will host an array of community-building activities and will be available to the public for meeting/

event space rental, as well as offer offices and an apartment for lease. The Carriage House will now serve as art studios and the home-base of Transit Arts.

### ***In Memoriam:***

Mrs. Connie Smith was a great friend to Central Community House with a special fondness for the young artists of Transit Arts.

Her support was instrumental in renovating the English Center as she presented a Challenge Gift agreeing to match all donations to the effort for a time. Connie passed away in December and she will be greatly missed, but we are confident her spirit will be felt throughout the space she helped make happen. Pictured is Connie admiring the work-in-progress mural that graces the lobby of the English Center and will contain the names of all who contributed to the project.



## Central Spotlight

*Featuring stories of members of the  
CCH community*



Eunice Givens Smith as a touring member of *Porgy and Bess*.

Mrs. Eunice Givens Smith has attended our Thursday South Side Senior Group for about a year and her favorite part of the group is all the positive interactions she has with the other group members.

She recently retired as a Soprano Soloist with the Broad Street Presbyterian Church where she worked and sang for 30 years, but her love of singing began long before that. She grew up singing with her mother and sisters. However, while she was a student at East High School a special music teacher, Alma Porter Terrell, took an interest in her talent and began to teach her classical music. Her teacher then entered her into singing competitions, which she won. She was a member of the Michael Frazier Chorale during high school and enjoyed being a part of the group.

When Eunice graduated high school she had never considered the possibility of college, but a colleague encouraged her to audition for The Ohio State University. She was accepted into the music education and performance program. Eunice also studied music at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in New York. She became a professional member of Opera Columbus and, not only sang locally, but also had the opportunity to travel to Europe touring for shows such as *Porgy & Bess*. She traveled back to Europe while she served as a Board Member for the Columbus Children's Choir. She also worked full-time for Franklin County Children's Services as a Case Manager and Intake Office Manager for 30 years. She has a son, stepson and one grandchild who will also graduate from East High School next year.

## CCH Links Youth to Summer Jobs

Ianna Turner, a sophomore at Fort Hayes High School, is returning for her second summer working as a Junior Worker in Central's Summer Camp. She said, "Last year I was 14 and it was my first working experience. I was kind of nervous, kind of excited. I love Central Community House and the people in it."

Central Community House partners with the Godman Guild in offering Summer Youth Employment for those ages 14-24. This allows youth to work eight weeks each summer in community-based employment and internships with their wages subsidized through Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services.

The summer begins with a two-day training where participants are taught the skills needed to find success on the job. They are also helped to open bank accounts and learn about saving and budgeting.

At the end of training, participants interview with at least two of the employers to practice those skills and gain exposure to different opportunities. Job sites include various Summer Programs at local churches and other nonprofit partners.

The program gives youth the opportunity to gain work experience, build a resume and have a good reference for future job searches.

"It is hard for even a good kid like me to get a job," said Ianna.

Ianna is a 4.0 student who credits the program with helping her transcripts and keeping her and the other workers out of trouble over the summer. She wants to be a real estate developer or work in finance in her future career.

Another aim of the program is to help struggling families. Participants must live in households under 200% of Federal Poverty Level that contain children in need.

"I'll use my check to help my mom pay my drill team fees and plan to save at least fifty-percent. I hope to invest in something someday," said Ianna.

[www.cchouse.org](http://www.cchouse.org)  
[www.transitarts.com](http://www.transitarts.com)  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

## Q&A with Danny Schlingman

CCH is proud to introduce our new Community Organizer, Danny Schlingman. Danny will be in charge of neighborhood events and help resident groups identify and address issues and opportunities. He is passionate about community advocacy and giving opportunities to those who need it most.



### What is your background?

I have my degree in English and Political Science from University of Dayton. From there, I went to the Peace Corps where I worked in education and development in Armenia.

### What led you to this line of work?

It definitely started with the Peace Corps, with the experience of working in a community that was in need of different things, different opportunities. It was interesting for me to help out and work with the people. That experience pointed me in the direction of what I wanted to do.

### What exactly is community organizing?

It's kind of exactly what it sounds like! It's getting with the community, listening and speaking to them, finding out their wants and needs, their talents and assets, and putting that all together. It's connecting like-minded people to each other and to resources that are available to them so they can get involved and give back. It's all a symbiotic relationship between the people and the organizations like civic groups and public entities.

### Why do you think community organizing is so important and why having events around the community is?

It's to give people a sense of unity, a sense of their neighbors. It gives them a sense of identity, pride in their neighborhood and their community. It gives them something to stand up for. When they have pride in their neighborhood and where they came from, it's easier for them to stand up and fight for it.

### What events will be going on at CCH this summer?

We have our monthly community dinners, which will continue through the summer. We are working on planning a National Night Out in August. The Columbus Children's Parade is coming up in September. We also have our Late Night Basketball program at City Rec Centers and a monthly block party at First English Lutheran Church.

### How can more people get involved?

They can always come here and contact me for volunteer opportunities of what's going on. They can also look into their local civic associations. They are always open to people coming in and offering their opinions and input. Just come out and come here!



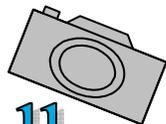
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# CCH Photo Album



Drumming fun with Art in the House



Kids visiting Santa at the Holiday Open House.



Planting pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness.



Transit Arts dancers and painters perform at the Columbus Arts Festival