



RENAISSANCE WEST  
**COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE**  
2021 Annual Report

Inspiring Extraordinary Impact



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## Message From the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you for what you make possible at Renaissance West Community Initiative. Without the continued support of dedicated donors, friends and the community, our team could not do the work we do to end intergenerational poverty.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Renaissance West Community Initiative for their tireless work and dedication. In spite of challenges faced due to the pandemic, our team continued to guide our residents towards housing stability, helped set and achieve life goals, provided good health options and created opportunities for education and employment. Our staff continues to dedicate themselves to our organization's role as Community Quarterback; working day in and day out towards ending intergenerational poverty.

As we emerged from the pandemic this past year, Renaissance West has moved forward with much success: scholars were back in school in person, the Howard Levine Child Development Center reopened, staff returned to the community in person, Lowe's and the Lowe's Foundation pledged the largest corporate gift in our history and the inaugural Renaissance Mentors fundraising event was a success.

In the 2021 Annual Report you will read more about these successes, and you will find more examples of Renaissance West Community Quarterback's leadership supporting the residents and their children's needs and building a healthier, more prosperous future for them. We are forever grateful for those who have joined us to support the evolving needs of the residents in our RenWest community.

Yet there is more work ahead of us. It will take all of us coming together to create the lasting change we envision so that the end to intergenerational poverty will no longer be a dream, but reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Matt Hawkins".

J. Matt Hawkins



## Message From the CEO



Dear RenWest Community,

2021 was a year of establishing new norms in our community. Coming out of the isolation phase of the pandemic, we had to learn how to rebuild the in-person engagement that is a necessity for place-based work. At the same time, we solidified some game-changing aspects of virtual convening that came about for most of us out of necessity. And with it all, we remained true to our mission and vision to improve peoples' lives by ending intergenerational poverty with our holistic community-building approach.

And you, the community, remained here with us. Our resident partners continued to pursue their dreams of economic mobility through our programs and in returning to work. Our students returned to the classroom, welcomed by a new principal and administration at the Renaissance West STEAM Academy (RWSA). Our program partners offered over 160 program sessions (virtual and in-person) despite another difficult logistical year. This included over 200 families being served fresh foods by The Bulb at our weekly market, and 2 grocery distribution events via Food Lion Feeds. Digi-Bridge and Kids in the Kitchen returned in the fall of 2021; financial management classes resumed through a new partnership with DreamKey; and there were many more collaborations that continued to position our community for success.

Because of our incredible supporters, we were able to expand our service offerings. We outfitted the RenWest Training Center powered by a generous donation from Lowe's. We increased our Life Navigation services, expanded support for the LatinX Community, enhanced our Natural Learning Environment at the Howard Levine Child Development Center (HLCDC), continued our United Neighborhoods programming by the United Way of Central Carolinas, distributed over 50 laptops with services for our families, and implemented community-wide Wi-Fi with the City of Charlotte.

We are truly grateful for all of our partners and supporters. From my outstanding teammates who work alongside me with our incredible neighbors and program friends, to the support of an engaged, informed, passionate Board of Directors, we could not do this work for our residents and carry on the vision of our predecessors who dreamed this possibility.

So as we look to the coming year, we ask for your continued faith and support in even greater measure. We are proud to be a part of Renaissance West Community Initiative and grateful to have partners like you as we work to change peoples' lives for the better.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mack".

William "Mack" McDonald

## Mission

To promote a collaborative community centered on quality housing, education, health and wellness, and opportunity.

## Vision

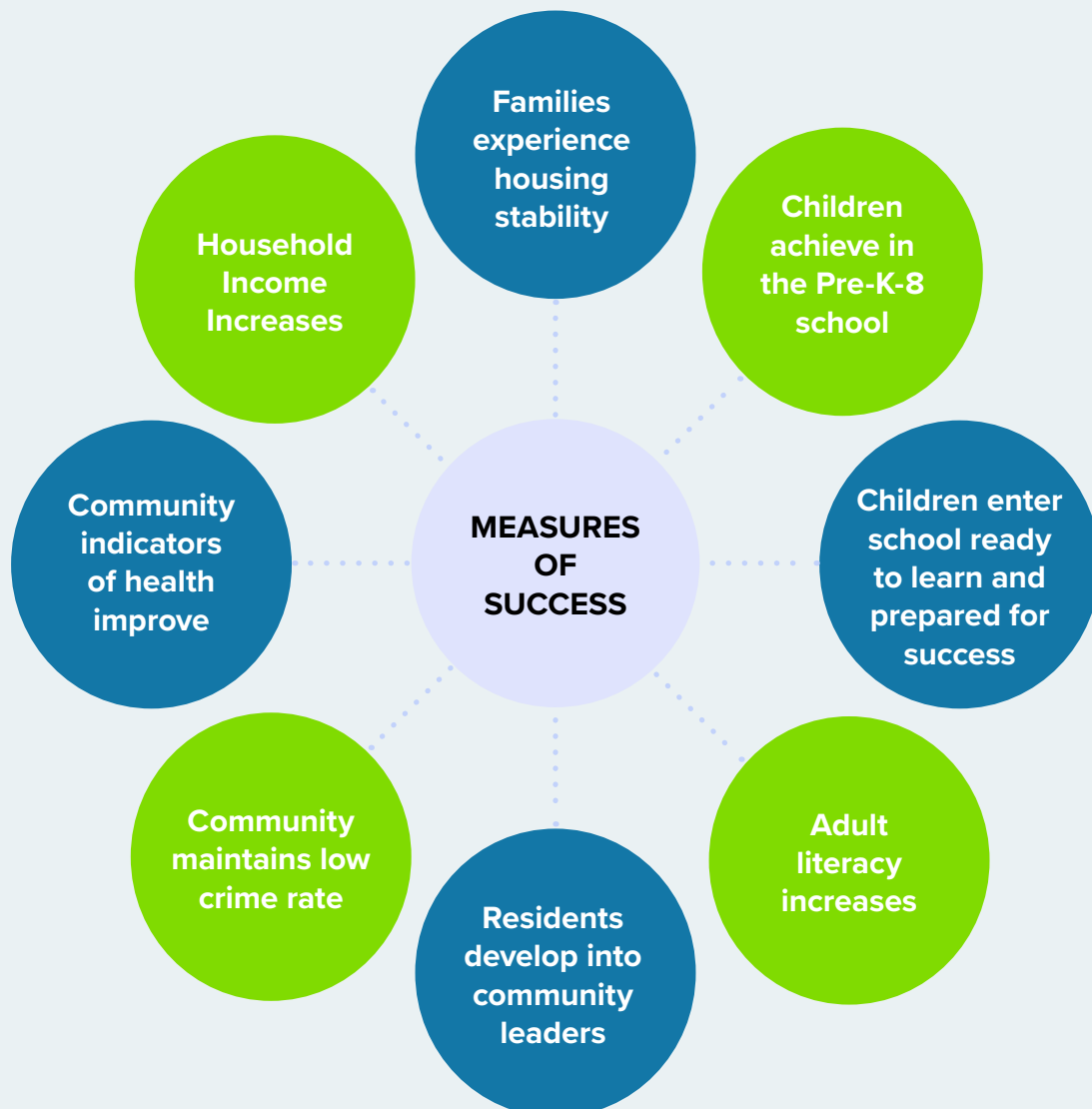
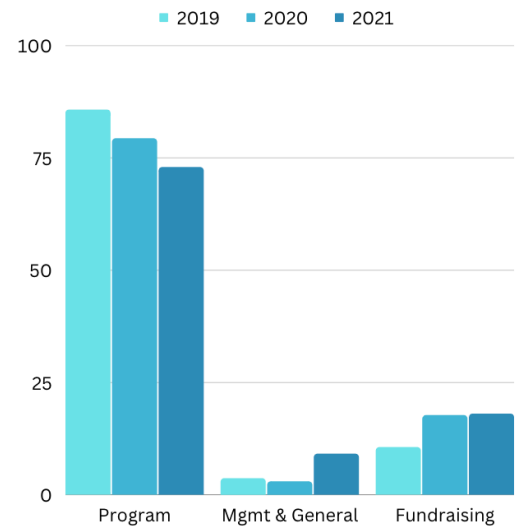
To improve economic mobility and end intergenerational poverty through a holistic community revitalization effort.

# Our Financials & Measures of Success

## Financial Overview

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Totals
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Contributions and Grants	\$ 511,861	\$ 3,651,471	\$ 4,163,332
Special Events	102,835	-	102,835
Interest Income - NMTC Financing	31,102	-	31,102
Interest Income	2,543	-	2,543
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	1,375,988	(1,375,988)	-
Total Support and Revenue	2,024,329	2,275,483	4,299,812
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	1,725,987	-	1,725,987
Support Services	216,057	-	216,057
Fundraising	426,410	-	426,410
Total Expenses	2,368,454	-	2,368,454
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	(344,125)	2,275,483	1,931,358
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	7,251,462	1,131,946	8,383,408
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,907,337</b>	<b>\$ 3,407,429</b>	<b>\$ 10,314,766</b>

## Functional Expenses as a % of Total Expenses



# Built on a History of Purpose

## About our Vibrant Village

In 2009, INLIVIAN (formerly Charlotte Housing Authority) received a \$20.9 million HOPE VI grant to revitalize Boulevard Homes, a former public housing site, into a vibrant village called the Renaissance. Community leaders recognized that housing alone wasn't moving the needle and envisioned a mixed-income community with plans for an education village and supportive services for families. The need for housing and wrap-around support services was essential.

With support from Purpose Built Communities, Renaissance West Community Initiative (RWCI) was launched to help end the cycle of intergenerational poverty and improve economic mobility for residents living on West Boulevard near the Billy Graham Parkway. RenWest today serves 1300+ residents in the Renaissance and Little Rock Apartment neighborhoods, including 800+ students at the on-site Renaissance West STEAM Academy and Howard Levine Child Development Center.

Our work to end intergenerational poverty in a geographic area that for decades has experienced the most severe impact of structural injustice and socio-economic disparities, is still in its early stages. We continue to strengthen and expand our holistic approach to achieving life-long transformation for the community through our Purpose Built model, leveraging existing institutions, networks, and capital to improve community outcomes.



## RenWest, the Community Quarterback, is at the Heart of the Purpose-Built Model of Success

### COMMUNITY WELLNESS:

The holistic place-based programs and services offered year-round at RenWest assist residents in their quest toward economic mobility and self-sufficiency. Life Navigation coaches, available to everyone, work individually with residents and families to help them develop goals and a pathway to achieve those goals. Coordinating access to health and wellness services further helps to weave a cohesive plan of care from among an often complex network of service providers, getting results and solutions for our families.

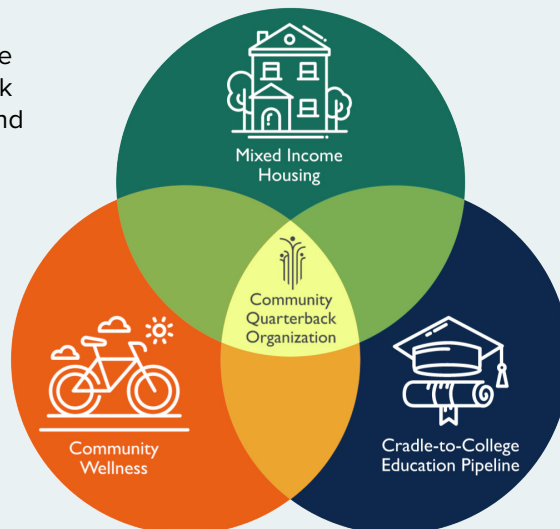
### QUALITY MIXED-INCOME HOUSING:

The Residences at Renaissance includes 334 units of residential housing comprising 110 apartments for seniors (age 65+) at The Retreat, and 224 units of mixed-income family apartments and townhomes. Mixed-income communities enable families from diverse backgrounds to become neighbors and share pride in an enhanced quality of life for everyone.

### CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATIONAL CONTINUUM:

RenWest is home to the Howard Levine Child Development Center, a five-star early learning facility, and the Renaissance West STEAM Academy, a jointly governed Pre-K-8th-grade CMS School.

Adult learning opportunities include partnerships with Central Piedmont Community College and UNC-Charlotte as well as workforce development and skills and trades training programs through partnerships that include NC Works, She Built This City, and area businesses that nurture our education village.



Defined Neighborhood

# 2021 Key Highlights

Emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, RWCI strengthened its capabilities, programs and partnerships to meet new community dynamics and the growing challenges around education, safety, skills training, health, and wellness.

Housing Stability	84%	19%	22%
	Maintained housing	Life Navigation participants qualified for home ownership	Life Navigation participants moved up to market rate rental properties
Income & Employment	63%	31%	71%
	Maintained their level of income	Increased their level of income	Residents in Life Navigation remained employed

Community Health	507	Adults & children participated in 164+ on-site programs
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289 Families received fresh produce from The Bulb’s weekly mobile market

RWCI’s Community Engagement Team held a swearing-in ceremony for the 2021 Resident Leadership Council and welcomed new members

Life Navigators expanded outreach to the LatinX children and families attending our STEAM Academy.

Education Village	667	Students enrolled at the RenWest STEAM Academy and returned to in-person learning.
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Children and families returned to a reopened, 5-star, Howard Levine Child Development Center managed by new operator, Dixon Academy.

The STEAM Academy celebrated its inaugural 8th grade class graduation with a virtual ceremony honoring student scholars and sports teams.

Dwight Thompson joined the STEAM Academy as principal for the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

Duke Energy Foundation supported STEAM and entrepreneurship enrichment activities for students.





# 2021 Key Highlights

## Renaissance West In The Spotlight

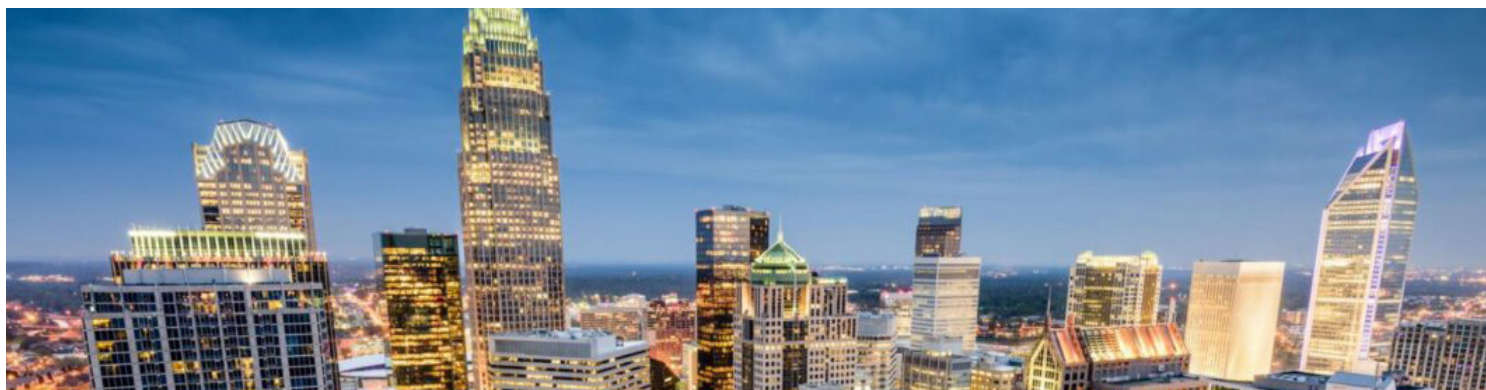
Lowe's and Lowe's Foundation committed \$3 million over three years to support RWCI's West Charlotte revitalization model. Lowe's funds will be used to expand our Life Navigation, workforce development, and community place-making programs and create an on-site Training Center -- The RenWest Training Center Powered by Lowe's. This Center is being dedicated to advancing our on-site career pathways and initiatives in skilled trades and skills training.



Secretary Fudge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mayor Vi Lyles, and representatives from area manufacturing visited and toured the RenWest campus to share and promote the administration's housing and workforce development priorities.



RWCI partnered with UNCC and JCSU researchers, local government, and community leaders to focus attention on solutions to food insecurity in West Charlotte neighborhoods that include designing community-owned, food cooperatives through the Community Innovation Incubator.



The Charlotte business community demonstrated its support for RWCI and our inaugural fundraising event, Renaissance Mentors, by lighting the Uptown Charlotte skyline with RenWest's blue and green signature colors. This lighting display was an uplifting demonstration of our community leaders' commitment to end intergenerational poverty and ensure upward mobility for all in our City.

RWCI CEO Mack McDonald was featured in a podcast focused on how the RWCI education village, including the RenWest STEAM Academy elevates educational opportunities for everyone, regardless of income.

WTVI PBS Charlotte invited RWCI CEO Mack McDonald to join a panel of local leaders to discuss Ken Burns's documentary Muhammad Ali and reflect on the champion's legacy and impact today.



# Thank You to Our Program Partners and Volunteers

Atrium Health	Digi-Bridge	One Charlotte Health Alliance
Be Whole Counseling & Wellness Services	Discovery Place	Parks & Rec
CMPD	DreamKey Partners	Public Library
CPCC	Fifth Third Bank	S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co, Inc.
Cabarrus Health Alliance	Food Lion Feeds	S.T.A.R.S.
Care Ring	Freedom School Partners	Safe Alliance
Carolina Aviation Museum	Girl Scout (Hornets Nest Council)	Sealed Air Corporation
Charlotte Rescue Mission	Habitat for Humanity	Southminster
Charlotte Speech and Hearing	INLIVIAN (Charlotte Housing Authority)	The Bulb
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	Junior League of Charlotte	UNC Charlotte
City of Charlotte	Legal Services	United Way of the Central Carolinas
Community Link	Little Rock Apartments	West Boulevard Ministries
Crisis Assistance Ministry	Loaves & Fishes	West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition
Florence Crittenton Services	NC Works (Career Center)	YDI
Cub Scouts	Novant Health	YMCA

## Partner Impact Highlights

**Luquire** advertising and marketing teams as well as interns collaborated with RWCI to help share our story of working to end intergenerational poverty.

**Sealed Air Corporation** volunteers helped restore the flower beds and gardens at the Howard Levine Child Development Center alongside our partner Basket Case Farms.

**The Junior League of Charlotte** continued to implement the successful Kids in the Kitchen program for families.

**Equitable Foundation** provided monthly appreciation meals and professional development support for all teachers and staff at our STEAM Academy.

**Food Lion Feeds** returned to the West Boulevard Corridor, ready to help alleviate food insecurity by distributing gift cards to RenWest families and groceries for the holidays.

**The Charlotte Rescue Mission** donated 50 turkey dinners to RenWest families, including a special box for a family of 12.

*“Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a society work, a civilization work.”*

- Vince Lombardi



# Thank You to Our Donors

## **\$1,000,000+**

Lowe's & Lowe's Foundation

## **\$200,000 - \$999,999**

Charlotee Life Navigators, Inc /  
Ed McMahan

## **\$50,000 - \$199,999**

Ally Bank  
Equitable Foundation  
Anonymous  
The Leon Levine Foundation  
Merancas Foundation

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Community  
Foundation  
Crosland Foundation  
The Dickson Foundation  
Novant Health  
Liz & Walker Simmons

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Duke Energy Foundation  
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PGA Tour, Inc.  
Pricewaterhouse Coopers  
Redstone Equity Partners LLC  
Rosalind & Jerry Richardson  
Andrea & Sean Smith  
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## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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Charlotte Chapter  
Penny & Matt Hawkins  
Pete Lash  
Terri & Barry Pope  
Sally & Russell Robinson  
South State Bank

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

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Laura Yates Clark  
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Jane & Marc Gustafson  
Huffman Fund  
Rosalyn Alison-Jacobs & Dr. David Jacobs  
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David Jones & E. Randall Morrow  
Dede & Steve Keckeis  
Renee Kosofsky  
Julianne McCollum on behalf of Yellow  
Duck Marketing  
William "Mack" McDonald

Messer Construction  
Jada Grandy-Mock & Lionel Mock  
Colleen Murray  
Dionne Nelson  
Parham Family Charitable Fund  
Anne & Scott Perper  
Crawford Pounds  
RJ Leeper Construction  
Jennifer Rosen  
Rob Vest  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Cheryl & Michael Wells  
Teresa & Richard "Stick" Williams

## **\$500 - \$999**

Danté Anderson  
Brian Bailey  
Bowman K. Burton  
Elli Dai  
Joanne De la Rionda  
Walter Fisher  
Michael Friedland  
Haley Gentry  
David Howard  
Justin F. Little  
John Munce  
D. Edwin Rose  
Renee Smith  
Bowdre Todd  
David Webb

## **\$100-\$499**

Lindsey Adams  
Anonymous  
Catherine Armstrong  
Katherine Black  
Charles Bowman  
Pamela Brown  
Christopher Foundation of the Arts  
Pamela Core  
Kathy Cummings  
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Bailey Golmont  
Joel Golmont  
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Gretchen Hesketh  
Sara Higgins  
Susan Horne  
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Ashley Kelley  
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Julie & David Sheffer  
Lanier Shull  
Mark Stack  
Sandra Vlahos  
Jennifer J. Ward  
Brittany Williams  
David Winslow  
Angie Zimmern

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Anonymous  
Andrew Beary  
Lisa Bottle  
Ashley Bozarth  
Corey Brown  
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Laura Warren  
Elizabeth Woodberry

Renaissance West

# ANNUAL FUND



PURPOSE  
BUILT  
COMMUNITIES

RWCI is a proud member of  
the Purpose Built Communities  
Network across the United States

RENAISSANCE WEST  
COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE

3610 Nobles Avenue, #199  
Charlotte, NC 28208



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Renaissance West Community Initiative



Renaissance West Community Initiative

## To Make Your Gift Today

1. Online Payment at [www.RWCI.org](http://www.RWCI.org)
2. Mail a check to RWCI
3. Gift of Stock at <https://www.rwci.org/our-causes/donate/>
4. Donor Advised Fund
5. Leave a Legacy and add RWCI to your will



## Your Annual Fund Gift Supports:

Early Education at the  
Howard Levine Child  
Development Center

Programming for the  
Renaissance West  
STEAM Academy

RenWest as the  
Community Quarterback  
in the Renaissance  
neighborhood, including  
Life Navigation, health  
and wellness programs,  
and adult education  
and training

THANK YOU!