BUFFALO, NY

The Neighborhood Micro-grant Program

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

The purpose of The Neighborhood Fund is to jumpstart solutions to challenges faced by our community, and to creatively engage residents to become more active, involved, and engaged in Buffalo’s future. The Neighborhood Fund will organize the review of applications by a committee of community leaders on a quarterly basis for grants that are each under $1,000. Winners will not only receive funds but also consulting and programming support from the Neighborhood Fund. The only follow up requirement for the winners will be a public presentation about the successes or hardships they faced at our sixth month review event. The purpose of this event is to encourage accountability and also to allow other community members to learn from the experiences of other change agents.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

Small grassroots initiatives can contribute to the revitalization of communities, yet they are often overlooked by traditional funding sources. This is particularly true in the City of Buffalo. Furthermore, many citizens are unfamiliar or unprepared to complete the complicated grant applications that many foundations require. Also, the resources required to complete these applications might be worth more than the amount of money requested for smaller projects. Thus, an alternative yet sustainable funding structure is needed to fund projects in Buffalo, NY. This structure would provide immediate smaller grants to grassroots community improvement projects through a simpler and more transparent grant application process than traditional application procedures.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

• Explore different sustainable organizational models
• Look for a partner to house the fund during the start-up phase
• Explore funding opportunities
• Start fundraising and grant writing

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

• Legal Assistance, Strategic Planning Assistance, Funding, Partnerships

FUNDING RANGE

• $50,000 - $100,000

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

Aimee Buyea
Sugar City
aimee.buyea@gmail.com

The Neighborhood Fund aims to fund small grassroots initiatives that strengthen communities from the ground up; promoting positive change one step at a time.