



**COMMUNITY
MATTERS**



SECTION 1:

ABOUT COMMUNITY MATTERS

OUR MISSION

We exist to create a thriving and more just community by removing barriers to opportunity.

OUR MODEL

A thriving and more just community exists when all people have sustainable families, access to education, opportunities to share their strengths, and quality spaces to live and work.

PILLARS OF A THRIVING COMMUNITY



WHY FOUR PILLARS?

Our work was founded in 1971 when residents in Lower Price Hill came together to address our community's dropout crisis. Neighbors started by tutoring each other around kitchen tables and they continued to grow the work over time into a non-profit organization, then called the Lower Price Hill Community School.

Over the past 50 years, our work has continued to grow as our neighbors partner with us to identify and co-develop new opportunities. Each pillar is a core component of what our community has created with us to build a thriving and more just community.

WHO WE ENGAGE

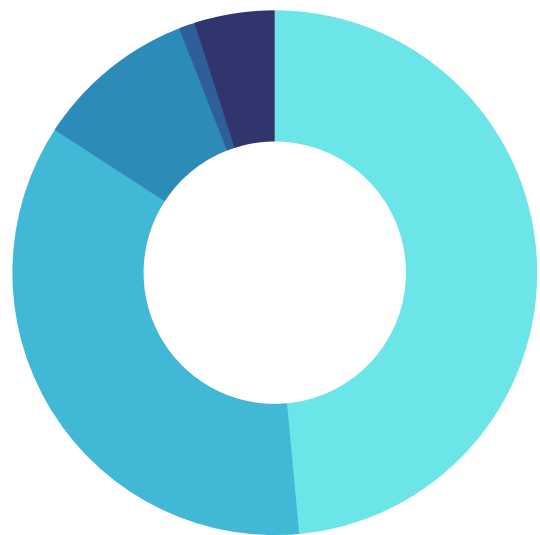
2000+

families engage with our programs each year



Top Zip Codes

66% in 45204 (Lower Price Hill)
20% in 45205 (East Price Hill)
8% in 45238 (West Price Hill)
5% in 45211 (Westwood)
1% other

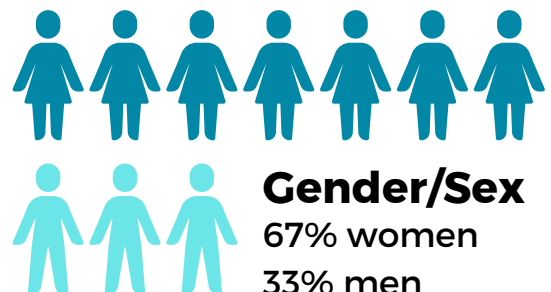


Race & Ethnicity

49% Black
36% White
10% Hispanic/Latino
1% Asian
6% Other

95%

of our partner families live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level



OUR HISTORY

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- 1971** ● LPH residents start the Lower Price Hill Community School.
 - 1985** ● Residents establish a partnership with Xavier University to create new higher learning opportunities in LPH. (In later years the partnership changes to Chatfield then Cincinnati State.)
 - 1998** ● St. Michael Parish closes its doors.
 - 2008** ● LPHCS takes ownership of St. Michael Campus and residents ask LPHCS to continue the work of the food pantry and thrift store.
 - 2012** ● LPHCS launches renovation campaign for St. Michael Campus and establishes ESOL program.
 - 2014** ● LPHCS rebrands as Education Matters and creates Community Matters, a new organization to expand its community work.
 - 2015** ● Saint Michael Campus renovation is completed with Tax Credits, The Sanctuary opens as an event venue.
 - 2016** ● Residents and CM open the Washing Well.
 - 2017** ● EM and CM reunite organization leadership.
 - 2020** ● EM launches online, fee for service courses, and GED testing site.
 - 2021** ● CM begins renovation of 47 affordable apartments with LPH Thrives, Campus Tax Credit project compliance ends.
 - 2022** ● Education Matters and Community Matters merge operations and unite as Community Matters.

KEY DEFINITIONS

COMMUNITY

We define community as the people who partner with us in our mission. This includes residents of LPH, students in our education programs, customers at the Washing Well, people who come to the food pantry, and all others who engage with our work.

NEIGHBOR

Neighbor refers to those we partner with in our programs. Instead of using words like "client," we use neighbor because it better reflects our mission and values.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing is housing that costs 30% or less of a household's monthly income. Total costs include rent or mortgage and utilities.

STRENGTHS- BASED

We use a strengths-based approach in all of our work. We see and invest in the ideas, strengths, and skills that all people possess because people are the greatest asset in our community.

SYSTEMIC POVERTY

Poverty is a result of policy and systemic structures. While hard work and individual responsibility are important to success, they do not guarantee success due to the systemic barriers that create low wages, poor housing conditions, underperforming schools, and other systemic issues.



IMPACT OVERVIEW

FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY



LONG-TERM VISION

All partner families have the resources to achieve their goals.

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

Opportunity Hub

PEOPLE ENGAGED

600 families

WHY WE DO THIS WORK

We recognize poverty as a system of policies and structures that cause and perpetuate the barriers that our neighbors face. Systemic poverty has led our community to having one of the lowest life expectancy rates and one of the lowest annual household incomes (around \$15,000 per year) in Cincinnati. We know that people, as the most valuable asset in our community, deserve the opportunities, support, and resources needed to thrive.

HOW WE DO IT

Our Family Sustainability team partners one-on-one with our neighbors to tackle systemic barriers, build family assets, and create new opportunities. Our role is to serve as a partner alongside our neighbors to remove barriers and build opportunities. We are committed to the following core principles of our work: people are treated with respect; programming adapts and evolves around the goals our families set; we center people's strengths, and; we do not treat people as a problem to be fixed.

FY24 KEY FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Partner with 600 families each year to address emergency needs and build family sustainability.

Maintain 75% success rate with partner families (success is defined by the partner family).

150 families increase family self-sufficiency each year.



IMPACT OVERVIEW

EDUCATION PATHWAYS



LONG-TERM VISION

All people in our community have access to the education necessary to accomplish their goals.

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

Education Forward

PEOPLE ENGAGED

500 students

WHY WE DO THIS WORK

Education is critical for individuals and communities to thrive. We were founded in the 1970s by our neighbors in Lower Price Hill to address the dropout crisis facing our community when roughly 98% of students did not complete high school. Today, we continue to face persistent barriers to quality education, with 44% of our neighbors without a high school diploma. The opportunity to advance ones education is a critical component of a thriving community.

HOW WE DO IT

Our education programs offer one-on-one instruction for high school equivalency and support for students as they advance their overall education goals. We provide wrap-around support, like free onsite childcare and bus tickets, to remove barriers for students. Above all else, our work is to create a positive, student-centered environment where our neighbors can re-engage in learning and achieve their goals.

FY23 KEY EDUCATION PATHWAYS GOALS

Enroll 350 students.

43% of students gain at least one measurable skill level.

40 students graduate with their high school equivalency certificate.



IMPACT OVERVIEW

RESIDENT LEADERSHIP



LONG-TERM VISION

Residents lead community initiatives, own businesses, and hold power over community institutions.

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

LPH Community Gardens, The Collective, Neighborhood Action Team, Justice League

PEOPLE ENGAGED

80 Resident Leaders
400 neighbors engage with initiatives

WHY WE DO THIS WORK

Our neighbors are the reason we exist. Our organization was founded by residents looking to build new opportunities and tackle challenges. Today, our work continues to be driven by the ideas and strengths of our neighbors.

Our Resident Leadership programs invest directly in resident-led ideas and initiatives and work to grow resident power over community institutions and assets.

HOW WE DO IT

We partner with our neighbors to explore and advance ideas that make our community stronger. We support community leaders, help raise the resources for resident led initiatives, and co-create programs at CM. Our core commitments: all people are paid for their expertise and time, we evaluate power structures in every decision and program, and engaging with our community is embedded into all of our programs and initiatives.

KEY RESIDENT LEADERSHIP GOALS

Engage 40+ Resident Leaders to lead 20 initiatives/projects that advance community ideas and power.

80% of youth who partner with Justice League, increase social supports and avoid harmful activities

Resident Leaders serve as the primary voice for community advocacy and civic power.



IMPACT OVERVIEW

THRIVING COMMUNITY



LONG-TERM VISION

Lower Price Hill is a vibrant and affordable place to live and work.

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

LPH Thrives, The Sanctuary, Washing Well

PEOPLE ENGAGED

650 WW customers
58 families live in affordable housing
30+ neighbors host events at The Sanctuary

WHY WE DO THIS WORK

A thriving community includes affordable, high-quality housing, resident-led businesses, public spaces centered on resident use, and opportunities for personal development that are available to all.

Our Thriving Community work seeks to build upon the other pillars of our mission to invest in the long-term success of the Lower Price Hill community. Our work was founded in LPH, and ultimately, our mission ties back to the success of our neighborhood.

HOW WE DO IT

We work alongside our neighbors to transform physical assets into thriving places to live, work, and play. We develop affordable housing in partnership with key partners like OTRCH and Habitat for Humanity, we support resident owned business development, we operate the Washing Well laundromat, and we manage The Sanctuary as a hub for community events.

KEY THRIVING COMMUNITY GOALS

Affordable housing: Manage 47 quality, permanently affordable apartments with LPH Thrives and 5 units of CM housing

Resident Led Businesses: 1) Washing Well provides 600+ families with affordable laundry, 2) support 3+ resident small businesses each year.

Community Assets: 1) advocate for and support resident control of public assets, 2) transform physical spaces to support resident owned businesses. 3) operate the Saint Michael Campus and The Sanctuary as core community assets.

PROGRAMS MAP

LPH THRIVES APARTMENTS
47 apartments, 3 storefronts

PROGRAM SPACE

P1 - Washing Well

P2 - LPH Fitness Center

p3 - Outerspace

P4 - Joe Williams Family Center

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
PARTNERSHIP -Single Family Homes**

MAIN CAMPUS

M1 - Main Building

M2 - The Sanctuary

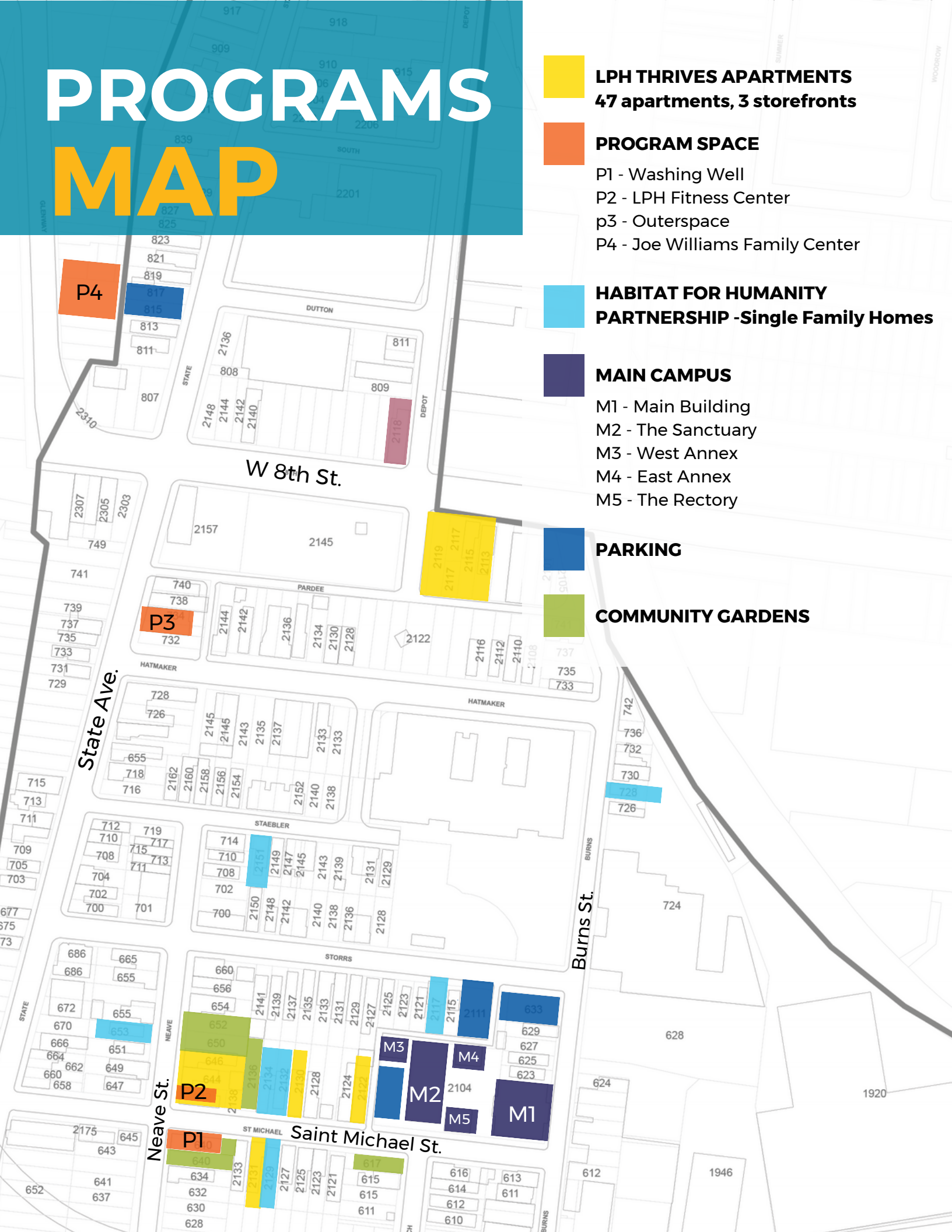
M3 - West Annex

M4 - East Annex

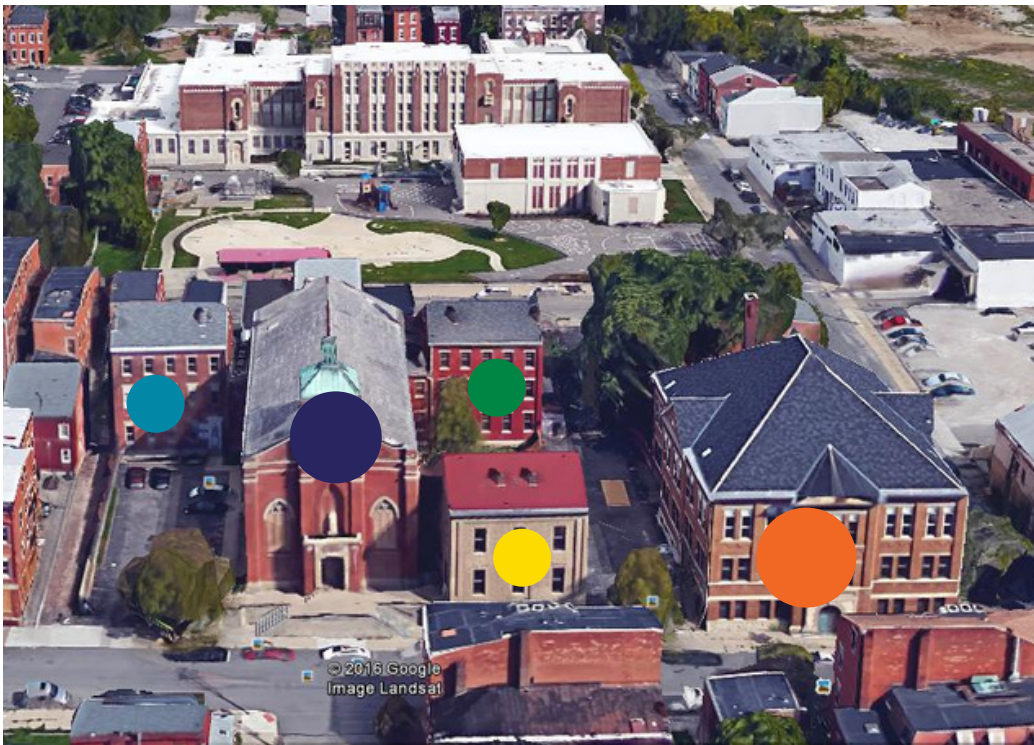
M5 - The Rectory

PARKING

COMMUNITY GARDENS



CAMPUS MAP



- Main Building
- The Rectory
- The Sanctuary
- East Annex
- West Annex

Campus Directory

Main Building

Floor 1
Opportunity Hub
Community Market Food Pantry

Floor 2
Education Forward (GED)

Floor 3
Classrooms
Admin Offices
Pearson Vue Testing Center

East Annex

MUSE Cincinnati Women's Choir
Groundwork Cincy

West Annex

Sanctuary Office
3 apartments

The Rectory

Casa de Paz