

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

AFTER 11 YEARS, GTECH IS NOW
grounded

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“Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”
– John F. Kennedy

2017 marked a decade of service for the organization. It was a year of many changes, but it was also a year of celebration, learning, and growth - and we aren't done yet!

For more than a decade, GTECH Strategies has been dedicated to change. We've added new communities, new partners, and new Ambassadors to our network. We have expanded team expertise as a way to extend our ability to build and distribute capacity and resources in the places that need it most.

Today, we take another step forward and change our name to one that more closely reflects the work we do. Grounded in people, grounded in places, grounded in community. GTECH Strategies is now **Grounded** and we're recommitting ourselves to help people and communities drive their own transformation.

Thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of the Grounded movement. We can't wait to see what comes next!

Sincerely,

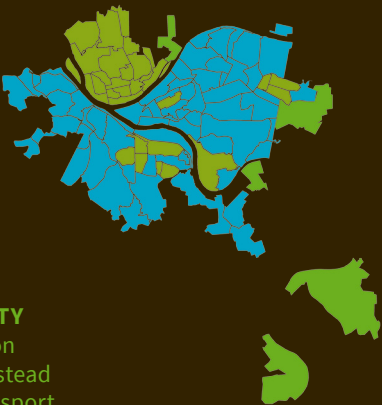


Evaine K. Sing
Executive Director

BY THE NUMBERS

32 COMMUNITIES ENGAGED

We build relationships with organizations, businesses, community development corporations, and individuals doing amazing work. We connect residents to funding, education, and technical resources. We learn from every new partner in each community we visit.




- CITY**

 - Allegheny Center
 - Allegheny West
 - Allentown
 - Bedford Dwellings
 - Brighton Heights
 - Central Northside
 - Deushtown
 - East Hills
 - East Liberty
 - Fineview
 - Hazelwood
- HOMELAND**

 - Homewood
 - Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar
 - Larimer
 - Middle Hill
 - Manchester
 - Marshall-Shadeland
 - Mt. Oliver
 - Observatory Hill
 - Perry Hilltop
 - Spring Garden
 - St. Clair



- COUNTY**
- Clairton
 - Homestead
 - McKeesport
 - Millvale
 - Wilkinsburg

26 
VACANT LOTS TRANSFORMED

2017: 26
2016: 24
2015: 19
2014: 15




26 AMBASSADORS
10 STEWARDS
5 LIAISONS


626 HOURS OF RESIDENT EDUCATION

43 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

VOLUNTEERS


1044 VOLUNTEERS
4440 VOLUNTEER HOURS

EVENTS


12 EVENTS HOSTED

DATA


12 COMMUNITIES SURVEYED

1121 SURVEYS COLLECTED

OFFICE


3 REPORTS

5 CONFERENCES

2017 ACTIVITIES

Resilience Generation
Lunchtime Lot*
Millvale Needs
Assessment*
Food City Upgrades*
Perry Hilltop Fineview
Planning*
Spring Hill Corridor
Study*

Bundled Environmental
Services*
Airspace
Two Wheels Lots of
Green
LandCare
Homewood Greening
Clusters
GTECH GSI
ReClaim Clairton
Clairton Green Playces
Northside Neighborhood
Connections
Sherwood Forest

Environmental
Education
Clairton 2.0
ReClaim Central
Lincoln Way
PGH Mobile Toolbox
CCP Learning Exchange
Remake Learning
Playlist
CommunityCare
Possibilities Project
LandLab

*Not Pictured

RESILIENCE
GENERATION



AIRSPACE



TWO WHEELS
LOTS OF
GREEN



HOMWOOD
GREENING
CLUSTERS



RECLAIM
CLAIRTON



GTECH GSI

CLAIRTON
GREEN
PLAYCE



LINCOLN WAY



NORTHSIDE
NEIGHBORHOOD
CONNECTIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION



CLAIRTON 2.0



SHERWOOD
FOREST



RECLAIM
CENTRAL



PGH MOBILE
TOOLBOX

CCP LEARNING
EXCHANGE



REMAKE
LEARNING
PLAYLIST

POSSIBILITIES



COMMUNITY
CARE



LAND LAB



Food City Upgrades
Expanded access to garden and park
100 Volunteer Hours

Perry Hilltop
Fineview Open Space Plan
Comprehensive plan identifying green and open space opportunities.

Sankofa Village
Community Celebrations
Three event series
70 Residents Engaged

Manchester
Growing Together Farm
Sustainable Return on Investment Analysis
42 Residents Interview



Lighthouse
Jr. Ambassador Program
Youth garden upgrades and development of educational curriculum

RESILIENCE GENERATION

In 2017, Grounded partnered with 8 community organizations to increase the impact and quality of their projects through the Resilience Generation (ReGen) program.

ReGen is a technical assistance program available to residents in Allegheny County working to advance community health and resilience. Selected communities receive technical expertise and financial support from Grounded in an effort to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities. The program will run through 2019 and award 24 organizations in total.

ReGen Overview
15 Communities Awarded

\$257,000
in partner investments
\$196,700
support leveraged by partners

Allentown
Lunchtime Lot
200 residents engaged in this transformation of a vacant lot.
500 Volunteer Hours

Millvale
Community Needs Assessment
Data collection to improve social service provision
381 Surveys Collected





The O-27 sewer-shed has been identified as a priority stormwater management area by the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA). It includes parts of Perry Hilltop, Marshall-Shadeland, Brighton Heights, and Observatory Hill.

The goal of the our Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) project is to maximize community benefit associated with upcoming stormwater infrastructure investments in O-27. In order to achieve this goal, Grounded equipped residents in O-27 with information so that they were well-positioned to participate in the community engagement process, we identified resident goals associated with green storm-water infrastructure (GSI), and identified the overlap of good



“It is so important to save our planet and improve the environment. My experience as a Liaison certainly made me think deeper about conservation, the “power” of rain (elements) and importance of “green” energy.”

- Maria Searcy, Perry Hilltop Community Liaison

locations for GSI, resident-identified needs, and project implementation feasibility.

As part of this process, we worked with 4 residents from the neighborhoods of Brighton Heights, Marshall-Shadeland, Observatory Hill, and Perry Hilltop. These residents worked as Community Liaisons to help maximize outreach and resident input, share educational resources with neighbors, and ensure our process is customized to meet the needs of each neighborhood.

Three demonstration projects and one watershed awareness workshop were completed in the O-27 sewershed in 2017.

182,418
Gallons of Annual
Stormwater
Capture



We engaged youth, parents, and staff from Providence Connections in Marshall-Shadeland to design a rain garden and gathering space in a community-facing green space



50
Rain Barrels
Distributed



We collaborated with residents and staff from Riverview Manor Senior Living facility to upgrade their outdoor facilities and build a wildflower meadow and flow-through planters

Collectively, the O-27 Liaisons completed 386 hours of service as Grounded's front line of stormwater knowledge and communication to their respective communities.

Over
350
Surveys
Collected



“We make things like this happen because of partnerships. Everything we’ve done worthwhile has been done through partnership, and you all have been a great partner.”

- Leon E. Haynes III, Executive Director of the Hosanna House

SHERWOOD FOREST

Following up on a successful Green Playce project at their Wilksburg facility, Hosanna House asked Grounded to help re-imagine the underutilized wooded area of their camp and event property in Forest Hills. A small wooded lot on the campus of the Sherwood Event Center was transformed into a forest play space rich with activity.

Grounded worked closely with staff to incorporate new elements for creative play and engagement outdoors. Timbers and fallen branches from the site were used for benches, balance beams, and tight-rope walks. Other items such as a stone countertop and sink were rescued from Construction Junction.

The site now includes a low ropes course, mud kitchen and shelter, shaded outdoor classroom and stage, a dry stream, and campfire ring.

Grounded staff completed the construction with help from several volunteer groups including youth from Allegheny’s County’s Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP), Starbucks, Pittsburgh Job Corps, and Hosanna House. Native plantings installed by the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association further enhanced the space.

A project that was only a seed of an idea in the spring, has blossomed in time to host summer camp adventures for years to come.

Grounded staff completed the construction with help from volunteer groups including youth from Allegheny’s County’s CISP program, Starbucks, Pittsburgh Job Corps, and Hosanna House.



Grounded’s experience in using inexpensive materials stretched each dollar. Timbers from the site were used for benches, balance beams and tight-rope walks. Other items such as a stone countertop and sink were rescued from Construction Junction.



PGH MOBILE TOOLBOX

You bring the team. We bring the tools.

When it comes to community projects, we find that there is often a lot of motivation, resources for events, and partnerships with service providing organizations but often there is a shortage of tools available to communities to sustain the caretaking and stewardship of their green projects.

Beginning in the spring of 2017, Grounded and Neighborhood Allies rolled out this shared community resource to residents, volunteer groups and organizations in need of landscaping tools for neighborhood cleanups, vacant lot

beautification, and the implementation and maintenance of greenspace projects.

The PGH Mobile Toolbox supports a growing network of residents who are ready to mobilize and transform their communities. The range of work in 2017, included the installation of a food garden, orchard, and flower garden, vacant land maintenance, community clean-ups, and preparation for neighborhood celebration events. This resource is available to residents county-wide.





“*[Grounded] has supported our ideas. They have supported us. They brought out our talents. The education was phenomenal. [Grounded] gave us resources and told us where to go for help.*”

Rhonda Lockett - ReClaim Central Ambassador

reclaimcentral

Through our previous work on the Hill District Vacant Property Strategy in 2012, Grounded learned that central Hill District residents have an over abundance of vacant lots, and a clearly stated need for more outdoor community spaces paired with a desire to become self sustaining.

In the winter of 2016, Grounded recruited 11 Central Hill District residents to become our newest cohort of Ambassadors. Over 6 months, these resident leaders participated in an educational series of classes and workshops designed to teach about the impact of vacant land and connect them to a process and the resources needed to reclaiming it.

Throughout the classes, the Ambassadors designed their own vacant lot projects and rallied their communities to bring the projects to life. By transitioning forgotten spaces into vibrant community assets, ReClaim Central equips residents to put their own ideas into action and helps fuel an ongoing revitalization process.

Today, thanks to these dedicated Ambassadors, the Hill District has four new places to meet, relax, and play.

Because these spaces were imagined by neighborhood residents, voluntarily built by their neighbors, and supported by local community organizations, the goal is for these projects to be maintained for years to come and spark more community-based actions.

11
Ambassadors



Ambassadors Pam, Ta'Sean, Phyllis, and Shamaia installed seating, flower plantings, as well as large-scale interactive games at this site on Junilla and Bedford Ave.



Ambassadors, Rhonda and Willie transformed the Serenity lot to create a safe and serene space in which to relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of the surrounding neighborhood.

834
Total
Volunteer
Hours



Tamaira, Cheryl, and Louise transitioned this lot on Bedford Ave into a space where Hill District residents can all relax, read, play games and enjoy each other's company.

Ambassadors, Gail and Brenda completed this site on Kirkpatrick St. This colorful site has flowerbeds, play-structures, shade and seating for families.





“When you’re around a clean environment it makes you feel better. When there’s trash and the grass is overgrown, it’s depressing. CommunityCare is here to help us clean up our community. It’s working and it’s going to help everyone do their part.”

Charmaine McDonald -
CommunityCare Steward



The simple act of maintaining green space improves a community’s appearance, decreases crime, and contributes to a healthy and resilient environment.

Currently, there is a shortage of resources being allocated to proactively maintain green and open spaces in the public realm, resulting in overgrown, unsafe, and inactive lots and green investments.

Additionally, this is an issue that disproportionately affects low- and moderate-income communities who may not always have the capacity to donate ‘free time’ to volunteer-ism efforts. Grounded is piloting an approach to

address this challenge by developing and testing an incentive-based stewardship model called CommunityCare.

Grounded’s CommunityCare Program adapts the traditional approach to volunteer-led stewardship to recognize, reward, and equip residents to participate in green-space maintenance work.

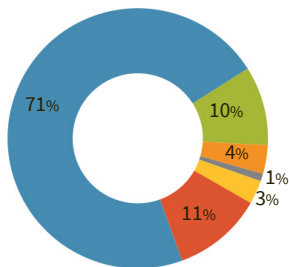
In 2017, the CommunityCare Stewards completed more than 70 hours of maintenance throughout Homewood. In early 2018, they’ll be trained to respond to a broader range of greenspace needs, including tree care and green stormwater infrastructure upkeep.



FINANCIALS*

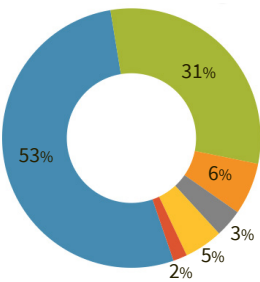
REVENUE 1/1/17 - 12/31/17

Foundation	\$ 715,213	■
Government	\$ 98,335	■
Individuals & Board	\$ 35,706	■
Corporate	\$ 9,314	■
Other Non Profit Partners	\$ 29,403	■
Earned	\$ 111,559	■
Total	\$999,530	



EXPENSES 1/1/17 - 12/31/17

People	\$ 519,151	■
Program	\$ 303,467	■
Professional Fees	\$ 63,948	■
Office & Computer	\$ 34,305	■
Facilities	\$ 47,415	■
Other	\$ 17,269	■
Total	\$985,555	



BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2017

Cash and Investments	\$ 461,845
Accounts Receivable	\$ 243,295
Other Assets	\$ 13,896
Fixed Assets	\$ 9,788
Total Assets	\$ 728,824
Liabilities	\$ 21,056
Net Assets	\$ 707,768
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 728,824

* ALL NUMBERS ARE UNAUDITED

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATION

Benter Foundation
Birmingham Foundation
Buhl Foundation
Colcom Foundation
Google Tides Foundation
Grable Foundation
Hillman Foundation
Heinz Endowments
Neighborhood Allies
PNC Charitable Trust
PNC Foundation
Richard King Mellon Foundation
The Sprout Found
McAuley Ministries
McKeesport Hospital Foundation
Highmark Foundation



GOVERNMENT

Allegheny County Conservation District
Allegheny County Health Department
Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)
Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

CORPORATE

Amazon Smile
Threadbare
Trust-Franklin Press
US Steel
Wigle Whiskey
Microsoft
Omicelo Cares, Inc
Painting With A Twist
Eat 'n Park Hospitality Group
Glassautomatic, Inc.
UPMC
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Babst Calland
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Kelly Insurance Group
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COMMUNITY

Allegheny Land Trust
Ascender
Center for Community Progress
Civic Square, LLC
ClearMind Consulting, LLC
Conservation Consultants Inc
Coro Pittsburgh
Economic Development South
Falk School of Sustainability at Chatham University
Fineview Citizens Council
Fourth Economy
Green Building Alliance
Green Mountain Energy
Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)
Grow Pittsburgh
Heinz College
Hilltop Alliance

Hosanna House
Imagebox
IOBY
Jackson/Clark Partners



Landforce
Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
Operation Better Block
Peoples Natural Gas
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Pittsburgh Major Taylor Cycling Club (PMTCC)
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Propel Schools
PULSE
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
Sprout Fund
Sustainable Pittsburgh
The Friendship Circle



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Terrell Jefferson
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Tevin J Monroe
Thomas Hussar



Tim Lydon
Todd Owens
Zaheen Hussain

PROJECT PARTNERS

Allegheny City Society
Allegheny County
Department of Economic
Development
Allegheny County Health
Department
Allegheny Land Trust
Bedford Dwellings Tenant
Association
City of Clairton



City of Pittsburgh
City Planning
Innovation & Performance
Public Works
Clairton Cares
Clairton Youth Collaborative

Clean Water Action
Community Alliance of
Spring Garden and East
Deutchtown (CASGED)
Congress of Neighboring
Communities
Duquesne School of
Pharmacy
Focus Pittsburgh
Group Against Smog and
Pollution (GASP)
Hill District Consensus Group
Housing Authority of the City
of Pittsburgh
IOBY
Landforce
McKeesport Area School
District
Neighborhood Allies
Nine Mile Run Watershed
Association
Operation Better Block
Penn Future
Pittsburgh Community
Reinvestment Group
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer
Authority (PWSA)
Propel: Andrew Street
St. James AME Church
Tree Pittsburgh
Wigle Whiskey
Women for a Healthy
Environment

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS!

AMBASSADORS

CENTRAL

Louise Powe
Gail Felton
Brenda Toley
Pamela Walker
Tamaira Binion
Phyllis Ghafoor
Cheryl Larry
Willie Larry
Shamaia Watkins
Rhonda Lockett
Ta'sean Fields



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Charmaine McDonald
Michelle Jackson
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*Thanks to those who completed their service this year



2017 STAFF

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Rebecca Mizikar
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Tom Mulholland
James Snow*
Sarah Koenig*
Ian Brown*
Tacumba Turner*
Lydia Yoder*



A vibrant, colorful garden scene. In the foreground, a gravel path leads through a garden bed filled with purple flowers and green foliage. A low, colorful wooden fence made of painted planks in various colors (yellow, red, blue, green, white) separates the garden from the path. In the middle ground, a yellow table and two white chairs are set up on the gravel. Behind them is a small wooden playhouse with a blue roof. A wire fence with yellow posts runs across the scene. In the background, a house with a green roof and a red chimney is visible, surrounded by lush green trees. The sky is blue with some clouds.

grounded