

*Annual Report*  
**2020**



January-December, 2020

## Our Mission

Cultivate CDC is a collaborative community resource in Milo-Grogan that joyfully partners with residents and stakeholders to know neighbors, foster local leadership, and ensure a vibrant neighborhood for all.



Dear Community,

As we all know, this year has brought its fair share of challenges. However, it is with joy that I reflect back on the last twelve months and all that we've accomplished with your support. True character is revealed under fire and I am so proud of who we have become as an organization and community this past season. Neighbors have stepped up more than ever to join hands and serve each other. Partners have come to the table with open arms and big ambition. Simply put, I am proud to be on this team and excited about where we are going. Thank you for following along and supporting these wonderful efforts.

Much love,

*Amy Gingerich*  
Executive Director

## 2020 Impact



# Community Challenges

We are proud to call Milo-Grogan our home. However, as neighbors coming together, we acknowledge that our community faces some unique challenges that need to be addressed.

**On-Going Development:** As developmental pressures increase in and around Milo-Grogan, we are at risk of change happening **to** us, instead of **with** us. Neighborhood Civic groups have voiced concerns about growing socioeconomic gaps.

**Health & Nutrition:** There is a lack of grocery stores, green spaces, parks, and garden space in Milo-Grogan. 33% of Milo-Grogan households experience food insecurity (perceived access to healthy foods), which is

directly linked to higher BMI and chronic disease, like heart disease, stroke, cancers, and COVID-19.

**Economic Disparity:** 45% of Milo-Grogan residents live below the poverty level, with the per capita income level being \$11,636 (154% lower than Franklin County's per capita income). There are little to no social enterprises in Milo-Grogan that build into the local economy, build community pride, and provide vocational engagement.

# Our Solutions: A Community Resource

## Know Neighbors

We believe in knowing our neighbors and being the best neighbor possible. Authentic relationships are what makes Milo-Grogan so beautiful and so strong.

## Foster Local Leadership

We believe that building into leaders on-the-ground is key to addressing root causes of broken systems and economic disparities among neighborhoods. The voices of residents need to be organized, united, and heard.

## Ensure Vibrancy for All

We believe that vibrant neighborhoods have an abundance of green spaces, gardens, parks, and access to fresh, nutritional food.

**Know Neighbors** We believe in knowing our neighbors and being the best neighbor possible. Authentic relationships are what makes Milo-Grogan so beautiful and so strong.

**Civic Engagement Events:** In 2020, we organized 46 events and workshops that were led by and with neighbors. Although COVID-19 presented us with some real challenges when it came to gathering people together, all of the events were COVID-safe and educational. Examples include Sewing Classes with Cat Mailloux, Flower Arrangement Workshops, Green Space Work Days, and Gardening Classes for Kids. Attendance at these civic engagement activities totaled over 500 attendees, both participants and volunteers.

**Newsletters:** The Milo-Grogan Civic Association Newsletters was compiled each month by the Executive Director and volunteers (special thanks to volunteers, Courtney St. Onge and Catherine Elliot) and distributed

door-to-door to 650 Milo households each month. We have 14 neighbors committed to distributing the newsletter to their street. This year, we were able to expand the newsletter to include a monthly biographical spotlight on a neighbor.

**Emergency Assistance:** We expanded our Emergency Assistance program this year because of the crises that COVID-19 created. We distributed \$11,000 dollars of care to 28 Milo-Grogan households, this included numerous runs to the grocery stores for senior citizens during Ohio's Shelter in Place order. Our hope is to maintain connection with each of these households.



## *Foster Local Leadership*

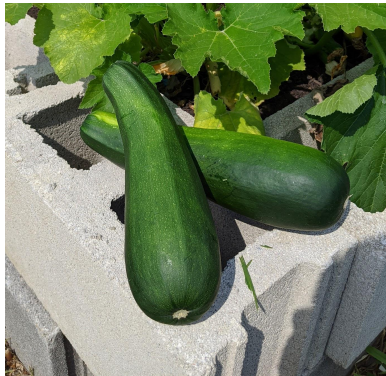
We believe that building into leaders on-the-ground is key to addressing root causes of broken systems and economic disparities among neighborhoods. As developmental pressures increase, we believe that the voices of residents need to be organized, united, and heard.

Although COVID-19 stopped us from launching our newest leadership development program (Civic Leadership Training), we were still able to strategically invest in Milo-Grogan residents & leaders.

**The Rooted House** is operating in full-swing with four women interning for the year. The residents have invested over 1,000 of volunteer hours into neighborhood initiatives and committed to routine leadership development training.

**Civic Association Support:** Although COVID-19 has prevented the Civic Association from gathering in person, we provided 20 Milo-Grogan households with Litter Pick Up Kits and continued to distribute the monthly newsletter. During our Shelter in Place order, the newsletter was the only communication some neighbors had with the broader neighborhood. We remain the Civic Association's fiscal sponsor for funding opportunities.

**Neighbor-led Initiatives:** This year brought a renewed focus on supporting initiatives that are specifically led by neighbors. We gave \$1,065 in small grants to organizations and individuals who are doing great things in Milo-Grogan, like Cat Mailloux's Sewing Classes, The Brown Foundation Community Center, the Milo-Grogan Recreation Center, and various educational workshops.



*Ensure a Vibrant Neighborhood for All* We believe that vibrant neighborhoods have an abundance of green spaces, gardens, parks, and access to fresh, nutritional food.

**Milo-Grogan Green Space:** In 2020, we hosted 31 work days in the Green Space with typically 10-15 neighbors and volunteers participating each week. We hosted weekly Garden Classes for children, alongside the Milo-Grogan Recreation Center. Over 75 lbs of produce was grown and distributed to neighbors. Over 650 volunteer hours and \$3,000 of grant funding sustained the Green Space throughout this past growing season.





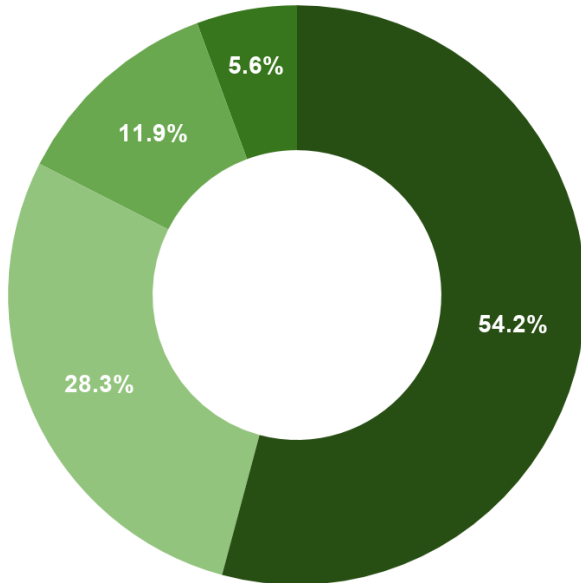
**Lee's MicroFarm in Milo-Grogan:** We are moving in an exciting direction! In 2020, we solidified plans to establish Lee's MicroFarm in Milo-Grogan, in partnership with The Lord Jesus Christ Church, a historical church in the neighborhood, and RootsUp, a local business that builds microfarms. We are raising \$200,000 to build two indoor hydroponic containers, two hoop houses, and a variety of raised beds. Fueled by our desire to address economic disparity and food insecurity in Milo-Grogan, this year-round farm will be sustained through sales to local vendors and a percentage of fresh produce will be donated to Milo-Grogan households each week.



# Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Stewardship We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

EIN 47-4564275

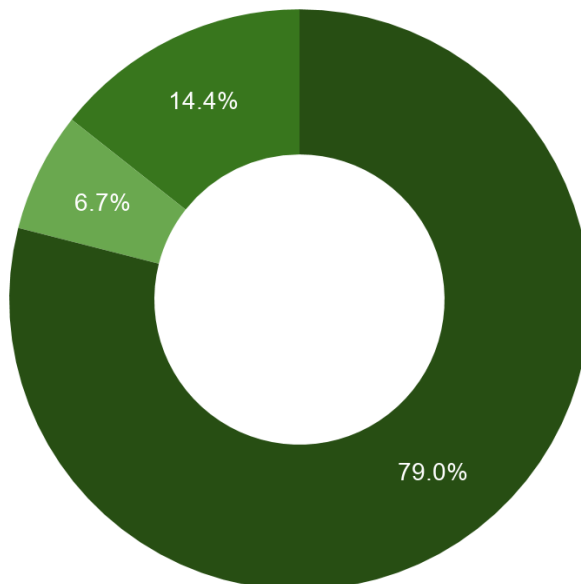
Our work in Milo-Grogan wouldn't be possible without the generous donors who financially invest in this community. We are humbly grateful for the gifts of individuals, local businesses, churches and grant funders.



## Revenue

Grants/Foundations	\$61,242.02
Sponsorships	\$32,000.00
Rooted House	\$13,446.91
Individual Gifts	\$6,355.58

**Total Revenue** **\$113,044.51**



## Expenses

Programmatic	\$81,433.04
Administrative	\$14,808.84
Fundraising	\$6,881.32

**Total Expenses** **\$103,123.20**

**Total Net Income** **\$9,921.31**

## *Join the Cause. Make an Impact.*

Here are a few ways you can take the next step to get involved:

### **GIVE**

Monthly or one-time gives support our work year-round

[www.cultivatecdc.com/support-our-work](http://www.cultivatecdc.com/support-our-work)

### **SHARE**

Follow along and share our work.

Facebook & Instagram: @CultivateCDC

### **SERVE**

Cultivate volunteers build up our organization internally through volunteer teams and externally through programming assistance. Email [amy@cultivatecdc.com](mailto:amy@cultivatecdc.com) or [kamara@cultivatecdc.com](mailto:kamara@cultivatecdc.com) to learn more about volunteering.



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