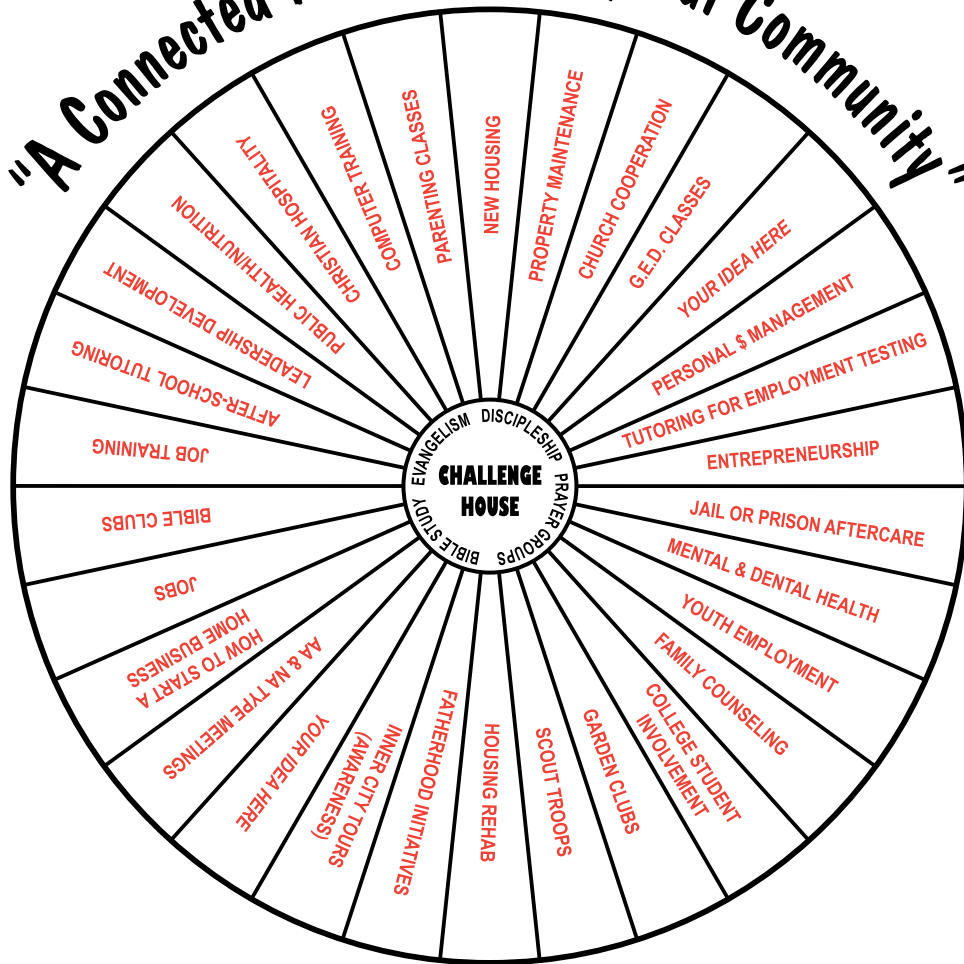


"A Connected Neighborly Hopeful Community"



CHALLENGE HOUSE MOVEMENT

"A chain is only as strong as its weakest link; a city is only as strong as its weakest neighborhood."

*Steve Shields
Sculptor, and community activist
Hopkinsville, KY*



"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Proverbs 29:18



(270) 889-3395

Recommended Website:
ChallengeHouse.org
Email:
info@challengehouse.org

Recommended Book:
Restoring AT-RISK Communities
Edited by John Perkins
CCDA.org

CHALLENGE HOUSE MOVEMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

Are Challenge Houses halfway houses?

No, Challenge Houses are residential single-family homes; the occupants are committed to Christian hospitality.

What is the purpose of Challenge Houses?

The ultimate goal of Challenge Houses is to make it easy for persons, couples, and families to live out their faith within an under-resourced neighborhood, and while there to share not only their Christ-centered reason for relocating, but to also help connect kids and adults to opportunities of education, employment, and life skills.

At its core, what is Challenge House about?

The concept of Challenge House is based on this premise: some men and women have mission-hearts but prefer to live out their faith dealing with the problems here in our own country. It has "Peace Corps" likings, but it's all-domestic, and it's all founded on The Way. A foreign missionary goes abroad and lives among the people; we believe that some Christians should do the same here at home. You do not have to be a licensed minister to occupy a Challenge House.

Is Challenge House more about rebuilding old houses or about seeing lives rebuilt?

It's much more about seeing lives stabilized and energized with faith and hope. Challenge House occupants will seek to "re-neighbor" the neighborhood, and will seek to build long-term relationships of trust and care.

Will some Challenge Houses have backyard Workshops?

Yes! The Workshops will stress workfare over welfare! What is your idea? Some of ours are: sewing classes, woodworking classes, computer training, and Scouts.

What other activities might take place, from time to time, at Challenge Houses?

AA meetings, pre-employment testing, GED classes, personal budgeting classes, garden clubs, Bible studies, parenting classes, tutoring, driver's license tutoring, chess clubs, and nutrition classes. We hope to work closely with doctors and nurses associated with public health improvement!

WHAT IS THE CONCEPT OF CHALLENGE HOUSES?

Before the turn of the 19th century, Jane Addams had established the Hull-House in Chicago, Illinois. The strategy was that social services and connections needed to overcome poverty are best administered from within the neighborhood, rather than from distant offices. The socioeconomic gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" is so vast that a fundamental change is necessary. The primary goal is to link the lives of the children and adults living in the inner-city with the lives of men and women of resource. Without daily interaction, from men and women who have achieved a measure of success in their lives, most inner-city residents will not have a sustainable support system to help them improve their neighborhood and lifestyle. It's all about "love thy neighbor"!

With the idea of Hull-House as an inspiration, and with the "relocation" so stressed by the Christian Community Development Association, the concept of the Challenge House Movement was born. The mostly dilapidated houses will be acquired and renovated with a variety of volunteer and paid labor. The Houses will remain as community resources to be occupied by persons who stress Christian faith, hope, courage, and education.

If you are interested in establishing Challenge Houses in your city, please contact us. If you are interested in living in a Challenge House and helping to restore the lives of the people living in its neighborhood, please contact us.

If you are interested in donating time, money, labor, or materials toward the Challenge House Movement, contact us!

Every neighborhood is either managed or mismanaged. Be a part of restoring hope and order to our streets! Join the Battle!

The idea of Challenge Houses is inspired by the teaching of Christian Community Development Association (John Perkins and Wayne L. Gordon) and the writings of Robert D. Lupton.

Deep appreciation is hereby expressed to the Gary Latham Family YMCA in Hopkinsville, KY for its outreach effort, 99&1 (Luke Chapter 15) and to the Christian County-Hopkinsville Development Corporation for its initiative, HIT Squad (Hopkinsville Inner-city Transformation); both organizations played key roles in birthing the Challenge House Movement.

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