Dear Friends & Supporters,

Thank you. The past year has been one of growth and progress for Wilkinsburg and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation, in large part because of the dedicated support of people like you.

Last summer, we kicked off our fiscal year in July with a party to recognize our many, dedicated volunteers. And as we welcomed the fall season, we hosted our first fundraising gala, Meet Me at the Station, raising nearly $50,000 through corporate sponsorships, donations, and ticket sales. The event was held outside of the Wilkinsburg Train Station just before construction began.

Regarding the Train Station, we raised an additional $2 million this year toward the restoration, bringing our total raised to nearly $5.5 million since initiating our capital campaign last year. Building construction began and continued through the winter months, with completion slated for Fall 2019.

In the spring, we celebrated our second annual Two-Way Street Fest, doubling the size of the event, and despite the rain, engaging dozens of local entrepreneurs and over 1,500 people during the day-long festival in the central business district.

We’re excited to share more about these and our other annual milestones with you in this report. We look forward to even more growth and progress in the years to come, and hope that you will join us as we continue sharing the Good All Over Wilkinsburg.

Bernie Wetzel
Board Chair, 2017-2018
10. New businesses opened in Wilkinsburg, including five in the Central Business District.

24. Local businesses supported through grants & loans, workshops & marketing assistance.

$3.5 million. Invested in the Central Business District.

52. Wilkinsburg youth supported through mini-grants to local organizations.

$2 million. Raised toward the restoration of the Wilkinsburg Train Station, bringing the total raised to $5.5 million.

15. Positive press stories written about Wilkinsburg as a direct result of WCDC press releases.

7. Commercial properties sold in Wilkinsburg.
We support local businesses and work to attract new businesses to Wilkinsburg by developing key properties, such as the Wilkinsburg Train Station and Lown Building, and providing financial and technical resources to both established businesses and start-ups.

This year, we had the opportunity to support 34 entrepreneurs who participated in our CORE Four Business Incubator. We've awarded these eight-week courses in fall 2017 and spring 2018. Since introducing this workshop series in 2015, we have supported over 200 entrepreneurs.

In addition to this work, we welcomed 10 new businesses to Wilkinsburg this year, including five in the central business district! To build on this momentum, we continue to promote available real estate in our commercial corridor and regularly meet with local entrepreneurs and developers interested in investing in the community.

We also received funding from Neighborhood Allies to support and implement programming around food-focused businesses in Wilkinsburg, particularly on South Avenue and Wood Street. This source of funding will help to supplement our available funds for facade renovation work and our other business support efforts.

We work to improve the perception of Wilkinsburg and strengthen connections to the community by promoting local businesses, sharing positive stories, and engaging people in meaningful, inspiring experiences in the community.

This year, we hosted two main events: Altwire Mix of the Station, a new fundraiser at the Wilkinsburg Train Station, and the second annual Two-Way Street Fest on Wood Street, in the heart of Wilkinsburg’s business district.

Together, these events engaged thousands of residents and visitors and created local businesses, helping to raise more than $30,000 for our organization.

We also produced 10 stories about some of the new businesses that recently opened in Wilkinsburg, including Pittsburgh FTT, Tiffany’s on Wood, Madeleine Bakery & Bistro, Pizazzin, and a Wave of Mind.

Through funding received from PNC, we will continue our work around the Good All Over campaign and small business promotion throughout our business district.

This work will include producing new marketing materials to promote Wilkinsburg real estate and resources, installing window decals and signage, and sharing more stories from our small business community.

We focus on safety concerns and creating complete streets as well as reducing litter, planting trees and flowers, and installing street furniture throughout the business district.

This year, through a collaboration with Wilkinsburg Borough and Chamber of Commerce, we began engaging business owners who are interested in establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) to support regular clean ups in the central business district.

Additionally, we continued to work with Wilkinsburg Borough to implement recommendations from our traffic circulation and parking studies.

Both of these studies offer our businesses increased accessibility of our business district, making it easier to navigate for cars, buses, bikes, and people.

We also continue to look for opportunities for public art and placemaking, and we are currently in our second year of the “The Temporary Public Art” program, a partnership between Neighborhood Allies, Office of Public Art, Wilkinsburg Arts Commission, and our selected artist, Jennifer Chenoweth.

Jennifer continues to work on her Wilkinsburg-based art and community engagement project, Come Over, Come Eat, Come Play.

The project consists of a series of pop-up community events and gatherings, with a focus on sacred spaces and historic architecture throughout the borough.

We provide funding to organizations within Wilkinsburg that support the academic and civic endeavors of our youth. Over the past four years, thanks to a grant from the Howard & Hall E. Miller Foundation, we have been able to engage and support even more local groups.

This year, we awarded grants to the following organizations:

- Borealis to Bethoven - to support the organization’s Summer Program, which aimed to engage up to 30 Wilkinsburg youth between the ages of 6 and 14 through the lens of music and making,
- Confirmation Button Church - to support the Next Generation Ministry’s efforts to expose participating youth to the rich history and contributions of African Americans throughout history,
- Wilkinsburg Family Support Center - to support this youth-based resource center for the community by providing resources for youth and families.

Since we started this program in 2010, we have supported over 40 youth. In addition to funding, we regularly provide marketing and promotional support to youth organizations and promote their events and programs.
2017-18 friends & supporters

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Good All Over
Wilkinsburg: Good All Over

At the WCDC, our mission is to promote the revitalization of Wilkinsburg through business & residential development; organizational & individual civic leadership; and ethnic & cultural diversity. Support your community! Donate to the WCDC at wilkinsburgcdc.org/donate.