



Carol moved to Dorchester in 2001 only to see dark and dirty streets and empty lots full of rocks and broken glass. Her children didn't feel safe going outside to play and she couldn't call her neighbors her friends. **But in the last ten years, her life has changed and she has seen her community come together** in an effort to create a safe and caring neighborhood.

"For the longest time it wasn't safe for my special needs son, Eric, to be in our neighborhood. Kids were hanging on the streets doing anything and everything. Now he is able to come home from his program on the weekends and he is secure here," says Carol.

Over the last 10 years, Carol, The Boston Project, and the people of TNT have made Elmhurst street a friendly place; a home where she can knock on a neighbor's door and ask them for a bowl of sugar.

The Talbot-Norfolk Triangle (TNT) neighbors group began formally in 2003 when a group of frustrated neighbors came together in outrage over the pollution produced from school buses idling on their neighborhood's streets. With the help of The Boston Project and the Codman Square NDC, residents passed restrictions and established city enforcement for the usage of school buses within their community. From this struggle, the group *TNT Neighbors United* was birthed!

The Boston Project's commitment to the TNT neighborhood is a reflection of our commitment to the principles of Christian Community Development. We value listening to the community first as the best posture for neighborhood development. Neighbors take ownership and have pride in their community work, and BP supports them by providing leadership and serving in the background.

WORK

"Owning a business in this neighborhood is an investment in future generations."
~ Larry, small business owner

"It is a pleasure to be able to work in the same community that invested in me and raised me."
~ Antoine, local employee

This year is the 10th anniversary of TNT, and it's well-worth celebrating the progress we have made.

People like Larry, Ivelise, Noreen, Al, Suzanne, Neil, Ms. Edith, Steven, Carole and Carol (plus many more) have been successful at changing the



Larry (second from right) takes a break from his garage to check in on BP youth employees working on the community garden.



Carol (right) and Sarah Riddle, of TNT Parents United.

LIVE

"TNT reaching 10 years is evidence of the fruitfulness of Boston Project pursuing Christian Community Development on 13 particular streets. We have created a strong community that has knit itself together, creating a healthy and safe place to live and be."

~ Paul Malkemes, TNT Neighbor, Executive Director of The Boston Project

WHAT IS TNT?

TNT stands for the "Talbot-Norfolk Triangle," a 13-street area in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Home to 525 low-to-moderate income families, we are a minority-majority neighborhood with 95% of residents identifying as people of color. Most of our prayers, programs, and partnerships focus on working alongside neighbors here to build a strong community characterized by God's shalom.



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neighborhood for the better. **Rather than focusing initiatives around crisis and crime, TNT has come together with more of a wholistic approach.** TNT's five core values focus on: Public Safety, Children and Youth Development, a "Green and Clean" Campaign, Planning and Transportation Needs, and "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." City-wide, TNT is known by politicians, agencies, and foundations as one of the cities more active, diverse, and engaged neighborhood groups.

The relationship between TNT and The Boston Project is often seen as seamless.

Over the past decade TNT and Boston Project have come a long way in creating leadership opportunities for neighbors. There are 25-30 neighbors in leadership roles whether on the Youth Council, the Parents Council or the Steering Committee. Everyone has an important role and contribution to make.

"I never thought I would be part of TNT, but one day one of my neighbors came over to my house and encouraged me to join the Parents Council," said Carol. "Eventually I joined and now I am on the Parents Council and the Steering Committee! **There is so much good work being done and I have never felt safer and happier in my own neighborhood.**"

Carol concludes, "The Boston Project has been so good to me. They kept my child, Eric, away from harm. When I need help, they are always there. My kids are well-informed and they want to do better. They have established a wholesome group of people who care about the community."



WORSHIP

"The reason I send my kids to the Elmhurst Park Program is because they feel safe, but most of all because everything is so Christ-centered. I feel like God is present whenever I come to the park.
~ TNT Parent, about BP's summer park programs

▲ Gospel hip-hop artist Sea-tt performs during a Family Fun Night, with his impromptu backup from some of our junior high guys.

▼ May teaches "Real Life," our Bible study for teenagers.



PLAY

"The park means I don't always have to feel stuck inside the house." ~ Dana, 8

"This is my favorite camp. I have made a lot of friends here." ~ Shanel, 9

"I like how we have fun, make friends, and get good food to eat."
~ Lisa, 8



◀ Elmhurst Park is one of the greatest achievements of TNT. Opened in 2009, it is a safe and fun place for kids to play.

This summer, Elmhurst Park Kid's Program averaged over 70 kids a day!

A TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN TNT

← PRE-2003
Neighbors form "Friends of Elmhurst Park" to advocate for a children's park.

FIRST 'BEING THANKFUL FOR MY COMMUNITY' DAY
an annual clean-up and pot-luck lunch.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS
begin in the park, bringing people of all ages together for "block parties."

MASTER GREENSPACE PLAN CREATED
to address the issue of many vacant lots in our neighborhood.

MILLENNIUM 10 COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS
allows neighbors to define priorities for the next 10 years.

TNT PARENTS UNITED
launches. Today, they plan Family Fun Nights and hold forums on education and parenting.

2003 ~ 2004 ~ 2005 ~ 2006 ~ 2007 ~ 2008 ~ 2009 ~ 2010 ~ 2011 ~ 2012 ~ 2013

TNT NEIGHBORS UNITED FOUNDED
after a successful bid to reduce local pollution by school bus storage.

TNT ASSEMBLES THANKSGIVING BASKETS
for local families in need during the holiday season.

ELMHURST PARK GRAND OPENING
TNT Neighbors United worked for 11 years to see this project to completion.



PEACE GARDEN & COMMUNITY GARDEN
are planned and built by local teenagers, transformed from vacant lots.

TNT BECOMES AN 'ECO-INNOVATION DISTRICT'
and is recognized by a national organization for community initiatives and planning.

BOSTON PROJECT: INCUBATOR FOR NEW MINISTRIES

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CAFE



What an awesome privilege to serve as a fiscal sponsor for a new ministry. Back in 1995, Dorchester Temple Baptist Church (now Global Ministries) did this for us. The Pastors and Deacons affirmed the vision that this group of 20-year-old “kids” had for neighborhood ministry and invited us to make the church our home. Now it is our season to give back.

Below is an interview with our newest fiscal sponsor, Rachele Gardner and Crossroads Community Café (CCC):

RACHELE, WHAT IS CCC? Crossroads Community Café is a new social enterprise that celebrates good food, good company, and good news in Codman Square. Our goal is to have a café that is fun, serves delicious and healthy food, and equips youth through meaningful employment.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE? It's a business that focuses not only on the bottom line (\$\$\$), but also on the positive social impact.

WHY ARE YOUTH SO IMPORTANT TO YOUR BUSINESS? I see youth as being the heart and soul behind Crossroads. Youth will take charge of every aspect of the business. Youth have so much to offer and a real passion for making their community a better place.



This summer CCC employed four teenagers as part of their pilot project, “Crossroads in the Commons” - an outdoor café at a weekly farmers market. From our teenagers...

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING AT CCC? I enjoyed learning from Chef Didi new skills and new recipes. – Justin

WHAT WAS A SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE? Going to Tavolo Restaurant. I got to meet the owner and it was a different experience. We got a private tour, got to see the kitchen and see how a restaurant really works. – Shaulita

HOW DID THIS JOB EQUIP YOU? It prepared me for long-term goals and shaped my life. You have to make your money rather than

waiting for things to be handed to you. Rachele put time and effort into this, and it showed me if you want something done you have to put time and effort into it. – Romaine

BACK TO YOU, RACHELE: WHY USE BOSTON PROJECT AS YOUR FISCAL SPONSOR? Having BP as a fiscal sponsor has been absolutely crucial not only for logistical reasons but even more so for the spiritual foundation. I could have asked anybody to be the fiscal sponsor, but it's been so important to be surrounded by the Christian community. BP is an example of how faith is integrated in a really authentic way into everything they do, but in a way that doesn't exclude, but invites people to experience the Gospel.

To learn more about Crossroads Community Café, contact Rachele at “rachele@tbpm.org” or follow them on facebook.



Ways You Can Pray For The Boston Project

PRAISE GOD for the work He is doing in our neighborhood, a passion within staff to see deep spiritual change in our youth, for your help in reaching our \$10,000 summer miracle goal, for hundreds of volunteers serving with us in the past 8 weeks, a gifted and energetic summer staff, for TNT Parents United leadership in our community, for 43 teen jobs, for all our funding and community partners.

STRONG AND SAFE END TO THE SUMMER. Pray for God's peace in our community. One 10-year old boy was hit by a car near Elmhurst Park this summer. Pray for healing of his broken leg. We work with 80-100 youth per day – ask God to watch over each one.

LASTING CHANGE IN YOUTH. Our daily prayer is for God to transform the lives of our young people, from the 4-year olds up to the 20-year olds. Ask God to use the staff, Bible studies, our work and life skills training, and mentors to speak into their lives.

LONG-TERM PLANNING. This fall we hope to convene neighbors and partners to develop a 5-year strategic plan for The Boston Project. Pray for God's provision of funding (approximately \$7,500) to work with consultants and neighbors for 4-5 months. We still need to raise \$2,500 to begin this work.

Please Pray



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Special Update on...

The Summer "Miracle Goal"

Summer 2013



Neighborhood Ministry House

In June, we shared a need of \$10,000 for our kid's summer park program via facebook and email. The need was so great that we called it our "Miracle Goal" because we knew it would take a miracle from God to reach it in the two weeks before our program began. We were blown away by the response - friends of the ministry gave generously, and we're glad they did, because **this summer, we averaged close to 70 kids a day at the park.** Children were able to receive a free lunch, and then participate in creative Bible lessons, arts and crafts activities, special guests (see below), fun fitness, and much more. Your gifts also allowed us to hire four (4) amazing teen staff to help run the park program.

At the end of the summer, The Boston Project held "The Big Event," our closing program which brought over 300 people together to celebrate all our children's success. The kids from the Elmhurst Park program capped off an amazing night by singing "Our God is Awesome," followed by a children's liturgical dance team performing to the song "There is Power in the Name of Jesus" (Break Every Chain). BP Staff Percy shares, "As I watched our kid's choir sing "Our God is Awesome," I was reminded of the scripture that says "praise will come from the lips of children" (Matthew 21:6). Many of them don't go to church or hear much about God, but the park program this summer taught them about their Maker and His overwhelming love for them."



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THANK YOU!



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Pictures: 1) BP Staff Nyeshia practices a dance to "There is Power in the Name of Jesus" (Break Every Chain). 2) The New England Aquarium brought a live touch-tank for children to experience marine animals. 3) We were able to provide a free lunch to children every day of our summer program. 4) Having fun in the shade of the play equipment on a hot day. 5) The ReadBoston Storymobile came once a week, and provided each child with a free book to take home. 6) Two of our four amazing teenage staff spend the day pushing swings, bandaging skinned knees, teaching crafts, and caring for kids. 7) BP Staff Ben teaches children how to create a garden at home, and of course, compost. 8) The playground was a safe and fun place for kids to come all summer, and so it was always full. 9) A story-teller from the Storymobile captures the kids' imagination.

Financial Update for the Ministry

Programs like the Elmhurst Park program are possible only through the generosity of people like you. Our General Fund covers operating costs for the Neighborhood Ministry House, which include children and teen programs and faith-filled outreach. **We invite you to give a donation today.**

56% Thanks!

2013 Goal: \$75,000

Raised to date: \$41,945 ▲ Current Gap ▲ Need to date: \$50,000