



Justice Ministry/Rodef Tzedek Update January 2020

*Our congregation's Network Meeting will take place soon! Please speak with one of the Team Members about specifics. **Save the date:** Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, May 12th, at 6:40 pm at the Celeste Center (717 E. 17th Ave, 43211).

Elder Care Committee: According to the Kirwan Institute, in some neighborhoods, people on average, are dying 27 years younger than in other neighborhoods. This past December, Franklin County Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola hosted the initial meeting of the "Life Expectancy Taskforce" to collectively research this problem with other agencies and push for a solution. This committee also learned about a social worker program within the Columbus Fire Department that identifies vulnerable older adults through frequent 911 calls and connects them with a social worker who can help them get resources. We are very excited to announce that after pressing at our Nehemiah Action, they have added a 2nd social worker and have plans to continue to find funding for others.

"Families First and...Housing Now!" Committee: The committee is working with Columbus City Councilmember Favor agreed to work with BREAD to develop a plan to create more affordable housing. Because of our efforts, the County Commissioners approved an additional \$6.5 million dollars for affordable housing (by increasing something called the conveyance fee paid during property transfers). This means that an additional \$65 million will be spent by the county for affordable housing over the next 10 years. On our kinship care efforts, the statewide kinship care navigator program went into effect on December 1st!

Juvenile Justice Committee: Our work together is changing the narrative of school discipline in our community! Columbus City Schools is restoring a sense of community in schools through Restorative Practices. The first three schools to use Restorative Practices (RP) with an RP coach on staff reported 25% fewer behavior incidents than the previous year! Even more impressive, they have cut the number of out of school suspensions by nearly half! This means that kids are acting up less and in school more! The committee had their 2nd Quarterly meeting with Superintendent Dixon and will continue following up to track progress.

"Hire and Better Pay! Don't Throw Away!" Committee : Ohio State, BREAD, and the Linden Community are working together to restore neighborhood jobs by creating new businesses owned and operated by residents. Over the next year we will be contracting with a national expert who will guide us through steps necessary to create this business. More importantly we will create a foundation that will create other new businesses in the future.

Gun violence committee: BREAD has been working to learn more about the issue of gun violence in Franklin County. The committee learned that in 2019 there were 739 shootings in Columbus with the main victims of gun violence primarily being African American males over the age of thirty. We have also learned that the following areas had the most homicides within Columbus: North and South Linden, the Far East Side, and Hilltop. We are still in the process of gathering information and encourage you to join our committee. If you have any stories related to gun violence, please contact a Team Member.
