



# NEWS FOR JUSTICE MINISTRY /RODEF TZEDEK NETWORKS

**BREAKING NEWS** VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BREADORGANIZATION](https://www.facebook.com/breadorganization)

## Nehemiah Call to Action on Zoom!

The pandemic has exacerbated community problems faced by Franklin County residents.

Although we cannot gather in-person, we must gather virtually!

**May 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
**Nehemiah on Zoom**

This one- hour, online event will provide:

Updates on our current efforts around elder care and jobs; and

A Call to Action to press for solutions to problems heightened by the pandemic around affordable housing and gun violence.

**On housing:** With so many people losing their jobs or seeing a reduction in income, the housing crisis has gotten worse. We will call on our public officials to take steps to prevent evictions and keep people in their homes.

**On gun violence:** We can save lives and save communities by pressing officials to implement a proven, national model that's worked in major cities across the U.S.

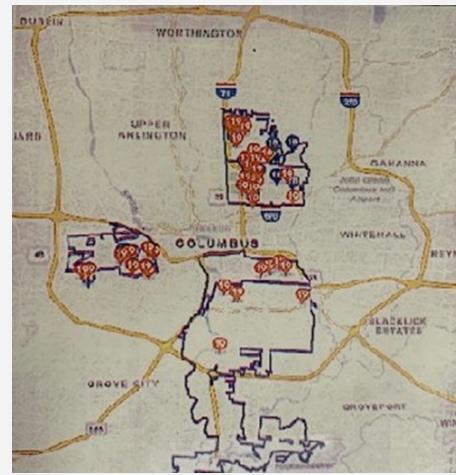


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**Nehemiah Action Zoom Link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88089909307>  
 Meeting ID 880 8990 9307

## Adopt a Proven Model to End Gun Violence



**Map of the murders in 3 hot spots, Linden, Hilltop and Near East Side**

Violent groups, in certain hot spots in Columbus, are responsible for many of the shootings in our neighborhoods. Grinding poverty, fear, and easy access to a \$25 gun are all contributing factors. Cities across the country are using a proven strategy to encourage young

men to give up this lifestyle. We are fortunate in Columbus to have the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative already in place due to B.R.E.A.D.'s previous action in 2016 and 2017. This program has been lauded by all who are involved and those who participated in the "call-in" presentation. applauded the care and concern with which the message that the shooting must stop was conveyed. In fact, the participants did not go on to reoffend and some have left probation supervision.

There are many resources already funded to intervene with violent groups. The problem is that the community does not feel safer; the numbers indicate the gun violence has not been reduced in a significant way. The B.R.E.A.D. gun violence research committee is recommending strengthening accountability by coordinating all this activity under the National Network for Safe Neighborhoods recommended group violence intervention strategy. The 2 year contract for tightening up the data analysis and teaching a coordinated strategy to intervene is \$370,000. When compared to the tragedy of losing a family member and the estimated cost per murder of \$2.5 million, this is a small amount to pay to get a measure of how we can successfully eliminate 40 murders a year .

# Covid-19 Symptoms (from Web MD)

## Common Symptoms

Chinese researchers found that the most common symptoms among people who had COVID-19 include:

Fever: 99%

Fatigue: 70%

A dry cough: 59%

Loss of appetite: 40%

Body aches: 35%

Shortness of breath: 31%

Mucus or phlegm: 27%

Symptoms usually begin 2 to 14 days after you come into contact with the virus.

## Other symptoms may include:

Sore throat

Headache

Chills, sometimes with shaking

Loss of smell or taste

Stuffy nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

If you have any of these symptoms, isolate yourself. This means staying away from other people as much as possible, even members of your family. Stay in a specific "sick room," and use a separate bathroom if you can. If you have symptoms and are at high risk of complications because of your age or other health conditions, call your doctor in addition to isolating yourself.

## Serious Symptoms

Call a doctor or hospital right away if you have one or more of these COVID-19 symptoms:

Trouble breathing

Constant pain or pressure in your chest

Bluish lips or face

Sudden confusion

You need medical care as soon as possible. Call your doctor's office or hospital before you go in. This will help them prepare to treat you and protect medical staff and other patients.

**Strokes** have also been reported in some people who have COVID-19. Remember **FAST**:

**Face.** Is one side of the person's face numb or drooping? Is their smile lopsided?

**Arms.** Is one arm weak or numb? If they try to raise both arms, does one arm sag?

**Speech.** Can they speak clearly? Ask them to repeat a sentence.

**Time.** Every minute counts when someone shows signs of a stroke. **Call 911 right away.**

Lab tests can tell if COVID-19 is what's causing your symptoms. But the tests can be hard to find, and there's no treatment if you do have the disease. So you don't need to get tested if you have no symptoms or only mild ones. Call your doctor or your local health department if you have questions.

From the editor: Many may have seen some or all of this information. As a heavy consumer of news, some of this information was still new. It is front of mind for many of us, so it may be worth a read.

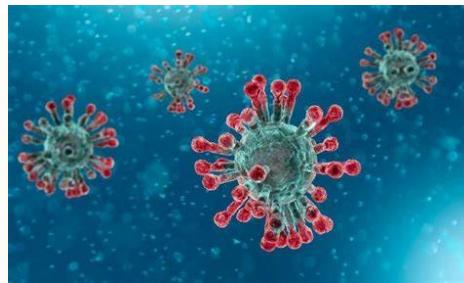
We care about each other. That is a primary reason we pursue justice. Those who must stay at home to protect the health and safety of our front line heroes, live in hope and give thanks for all of those who care for us.

## Covid-19

We need safety. Right now, that is a struggle. Here's some tips from CDC.gov.

### Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Maintaining good social distance (about 6 feet) is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.



**Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.**

### Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

**Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Also, routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.**

### How easily the virus spreads

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious, like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, which means it goes from person-to-person without stopping.

**The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people.** Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggest that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious.

### People at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

**Older Adults   People with HIV      People with Asthma  
People with Disabilities      Pregnancy and Breastfeeding  
People Experiencing Homelessness  
Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups**

Based on currently available information, **older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.**

Many of us are very tired of staying home. It appears those who are compromised and part of the higher risk group should stay put. It can be time of retreat in your own home. It's an opportunity to reach out and stay in touch. Fresh air is amazing. For those who want a new tech challenge, Zoom video conferencing is easy, fun and free. Begin today by visiting <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->. We'll see you at the Nehemiah Action on May 12. See the link to the meeting on page 1.

## Emergency Housing Solutions Needed! Join Us May 12

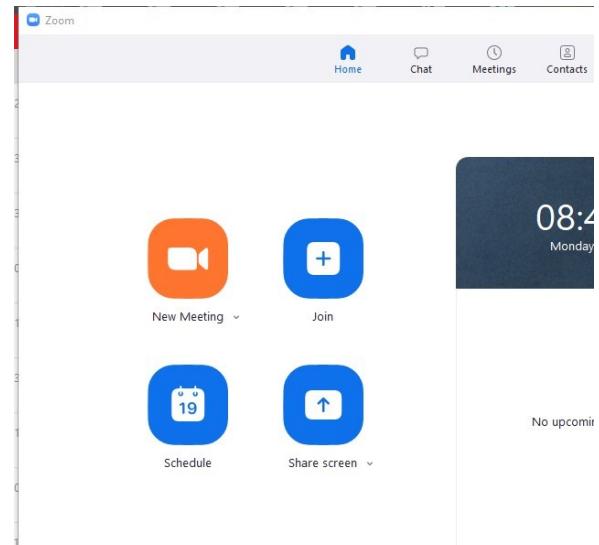
In 2018, we learned in our research process that 54,000 low-income families were spending more than half of their incomes on housing! This is right here in Franklin County. Many of these families make less than \$42,000 a year.

These are people working at fast-food restaurants, grocery stores, and health home care aides. These are single parents, adults with disabilities, recent college graduates, and senior citizens.

They were struggling BEFORE the pandemic. Local housing professionals have announced that hundreds of additional families are now struggling to afford housing due to the pandemic. Now, the crisis is getting worse as people find themselves without jobs or with reduced incomes. That's thousands of people and their families. If they get behind in their rent or mortgage for 2 months, they could be on a path toward eviction or foreclosure. This is unacceptable!

On May 12th during the Nehemiah on Zoom, BREAD's housing committee will push for needed, emergency solutions related to the housing crisis. They will announce a "call to action"! The committee will press Columbus City Councilmember Favor to follow through on her commitment to work with BREAD to develop a plan to create more affordable housing. They will also work to get a commitment from Mayor Ginther.

**supporting families**  **changing futures**



## Meet Clarissa Epps



A Suffolk, Virginia native, Clarissa Epps loves a story. It turns out this love of stories, including those in the scriptures, are part of what inspires Clarissa's justice organizing.

Clarissa's father, who grew up in Southampton County where the Nat Turner rebellion took place in 1831, felt the impact of discrimination. Her Dad cautioned Clarissa and her brother that they may be mistreated, because they are black. He also taught them to treat people fairly.

When we think of why we do justice, Clarissa remembers a recreation center being torn down to improve the view of a cultural arts center nearby. Even though she was a child, she saw the impact on the kids in the neighborhood who now had no recreation center. There was no organizing or power to demand a new center. She remembers parents complaining about the loss. At that point, she began to feel an urge to seek solutions and do something about problems like these.

About a year after graduating from Virginia Tech, while she was working as a substitute high school teacher, she sought some career advice from a counselor at Virginia Tech. The counselor told her about the website, Idealist.org. She found the opportunity with DART and has been here with us in Columbus since 2012.

We justice seekers know we need to be in for the long haul. Clarissa's faith is her source of joy and hope. She is a member of a couple prayer groups. Her

patience is sustained by learning from history and how long change takes. She does not forget the stories of people who can't visit a school or take back an item to the store, because they have no ID. The housing stories are painful to hear but are not forgotten. We are in this together.

Clarissa shares some gifts she developed with her Mom and Brother. She records video mini "Black Church" sermons. Be sure to ask her about her You Tube Channel and Facebook stories.

## Social Distancing - Stay Safe Ohio until May 29, 2020 Order Highlights

16. Social Distancing Requirements: maintain at least six-foot social distance from other individuals, wash hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible. Covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly clean high touch surfaces, and do not shake hands.

Some of the actions businesses are required to take:

- a. Required measures. Essential Businesses and Operations and businesses engaged in Minimum Basic Operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including where possible:
- b. Designate six-foot distances. Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance.

Have hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers. Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations. Implement separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers. Post online whether a facility is open and how best to

reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

Intent of this Order. The intent of this Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling additional day to day activities to continue, to slow the spread of to the greatest extent possible.

When people need to leave their places of residence to perform or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times and as much as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.



## Inspiration for the Congregation Investment Drive!

From the Editor: Asking fellow congregants to invest in BREAD during the Congregation Support Drive is hard for some of us. I know some of my network members are struggling financially, and I worry they can't afford to invest. This article about Caesar Chavez inspired me to challenge my assumptions about whether people can afford to invest. *In 1966 Chavez and the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) met with sympathetic clergy to discuss fund-raising tactics, monthly dues, and other types of member's commitment. This selection from the meeting highlights Chavez's moral argument behind asking for money from the poor.*

When we began in 1962, we were aware of the histories of those unions which had preceded us. For 80 years every organizing struggle had ended with reports such as this: "The workers are not ready for the union. They did not do their share to get organized." But almost every honest report of failure included another statement: "We had to stop organizing or temporarily disband because we ran out of money." When we started there were people who wanted to give us money. In fact, one lady offered us \$50,000 to organize workers. When I said, "No," she was very hurt. I told her, "If I take the money now that would be the worst thing I could do. I don't want the money. Some other time I will, but now." The AFL-CIO had just spent a million and a half dollars and they failed to organize farm workers. So why did we think we could do it with \$50,000? We started with the principle that no matter how poor the people, they had a responsibility to help the union. If they had \$2.00 for food, they had to give \$1.00 to the union. Otherwise, they would never get out of the trap of poverty. They would never have a union because they couldn't afford to sacrifice a little bit more on top of their misery.

The statement, "they're so poor they can't afford to contribute to the group" is a great cop-out. You don't organize people by being afraid of them. You never have. You never will. You can be afraid of them in a variety of ways. But one of the main ways is to patronize them. You know the attitude: blacks or browns or farm workers are so poor that they can't afford to pay for their own group...

I went to a farm worker's home in McFarland, 7 miles south of Delano. It was winter. Winter in the valley means no work. I knew it. And everyone knew it. As I knocked on the door, the guy in the little two-room house was going to the store with a \$5.00 bill to get groceries. And there I was. He owed \$7.00, because he was one full month behind plus the current one. So I'd come for \$7.00. But all he had was \$5.00. I had to make a decision. Should I take \$3.50 or shouldn't I? It was very difficult. Up to this time I had been saying, "They should be paying. And if they don't pay, they'll never have a union." He gave me the \$5.00. We went to the store and changed the \$5.00 bill. I got the \$3.50 and gave him the \$1.50. I stayed with him. He bought \$1.50 worth of groceries and went home.

That experience hurt me, but it also strengthened my determination. If this man was willing to give me \$3.50 on a dream, when we were really taking the money out of his own food, then why shouldn't we be able to have a union – however difficult? There had never been a successful union for farm workers. Every attempt had been defeated. People were killed. They ran into every obstacle you can think of. The whole agricultural industry along with government and business joining forces to break the union and keep them from organizing. But with the kind of faith this farm worker had, why couldn't we have a union?

So we set out to develop exactly that kind of faith. And by the time the strike came, we had that kind of resolution among members. Only a small percentage of the workers were paying dues. But it was ingrained in them that they were going to have a union come hell or high water. That's the kind of spirit that kept us going and infected other farm workers -- this little core of people who were willing to stop taking and sacrifice to get it done.

Four years later, two weeks after we signed our first contract with Schenly Vineyards, the man I described earlier came up to me and produced a company paycheck. He said it represented almost 300% more than what he was making in 1962. "Remember the \$3.50," he said. "That was my investment."

### Easy ways to invest

1. \*NEW!\* Venmo @BREAD-Organization
2. \*NEW!\* Cash App at \$BREADOrganization
3. Checks made out to "BREAD Organization" with your congregation's name in the memo line. Mail checks to BREAD 404 S Third St. Columbus, OH 43215
4. Pay Pal: Robert Sievert-  
Wagner bread.organization@sbcglobal.net

5. Direct deposit from your bank to BREAD's PNC account Account # 4209505104 Routing # 041000124
- \*\*Direct deposit may be an option that they can also do online through their financial institution's app or website
6. Columbus Foundation: <https://columbusfoundation.org/the-giving-store/nonprofit-directory-listing/BREADOrganization/2027>