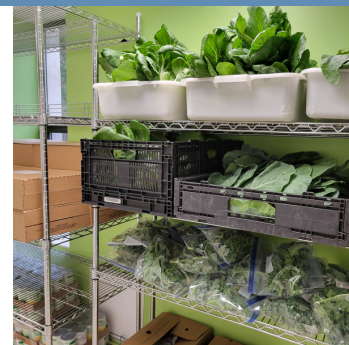




Around the Neighborhood

a quarterly newsletter by Neighborhood Ministries

Welcome to the latest edition of *Around the Neighborhood*, here you'll find updates, highlights, and ways we're serving and growing together.



In Q3, BSPC celebrated meaningful collaborations: from our first art exhibition with **Goodwill Columbus**, to our fourth exhibit *Mindful: The Art of Acceptance* with the **Ohio Art League**, to our continued leadership in developing the **Bronzeville food co-op**, along with the updates you'll find below:

About COMPASS

The COMPASS housing stability initiative addresses urgent housing needs and helps prevent evictions. In the third quarter, COMPASS provided critical financial assistance to 132 neighbors, including **72 rent payments and 60 utility assistance cases**. One of those assisted was Ms. Adama, who faced a water shutoff. Housing Resource Specialist Ms. Fikirte worked directly with the utility company to stop the disconnection, and COMPASS covered the outstanding bill.

She later wrote: *"Thank you guys, and your organization very very much, it really means a lot to me as a mother and helps me and our situation immensely. I am very thankful to you guys, for doing what you do for our people & our community!"*

Columbus Resilient Housing Initiative (RHI)

The City of Columbus recently approved \$3.4 million in local funding for the Resilient Housing Initiative (RHI). COMPASS is proud to be **one of seven** housing assistance agencies selected to provide direct services and receive essential administrative support that strengthens our ability to serve the community.

Advocacy for Housing Justice

Beyond direct services, COMPASS also works to address systemic housing challenges. Our Director, Mary Mutegei, spoke before Columbus City Council in support of the proposed **Rental Registry**—a new database of property owners designed to increase landlord accountability and promote safe, fair housing conditions for tenants across the city.





About The Food Pantry

The Pantry serves neighbors whose budgets can't stretch to cover both food and bills.

Rising costs make this even harder—since September 2024, the cost of food in Ohio has increased 4.4%, and **overall grocery prices have risen** 29% since February 2020 (per Consumer Affairs).

July through September are some of our busiest months, as family budgets are stretched even further with children home from school and additional back-to-school expenses. During this quarter, we provided milk, meat, eggs, fresh produce, canned goods, pet food, diapers, and feminine hygiene supplies to **more than 5,100 families**.

Summer also brings an abundance of fresh produce, thanks to generous individuals, community partners, and the Broad Street garden team. Their work helps fill our shelves with beautiful, nutritious food. We're especially grateful to share this abundance not only with Pantry families but also with Broadstreeters and neighbors at our monthly farmers' markets.

This summer, **the Broad Street gardens alone contributed more than 250 pounds of** tomatoes, collards, peppers, and other vegetables—enough for more than 300 servings of fresh produce for distribution.

About Bronzeville StrongStart

StrongStart is a community-driven initiative helping children build strong foundations in reading, math, and lifelong learning. Momentum is building, and StrongStart is reaching more children than ever before. Here are the latest updates:

- Since the start of the school year, **enrollment has increased by 83%**, nearly doubling to 16 regularly attending scholars.
- Mentoring has **expanded** from 2 to 4 days a week, raising support from 24 to 40 hours weekly.
- The mentor team has grown from 2 to 8—each making a powerful impact in the lives of students.
- Demand continues to rise, with enrollment expected to reach 30–40 scholars during this school year.
- Plans are underway to launch a 2026 summer enrichment program in partnership with community organizations.

Neighborhood Ministries

