



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

"I've always dreamed of owning a house in one of the most beautiful streets in Syracuse. I couldn't be more excited to put down some roots here." J. Walter

UNPA is a not-for-profit housing organization. Our mission is to maintain owner occupancy in the University Neighborhood, and to promote the Neighborhood as a great place to live. We have been doing this since 1991.

Despite a challenging real estate market, *the toughest selling conditions in years*, some analysts say, there continues to be a strong desire to purchase owner-occupied housing in the University Neighborhood. Of the 20 buyers who participated in the FY 2012-2013 **University Neighborhood Homebuyers Assistance Program**:

- 45% were first time homebuyers
- 45% are SU/College of Forestry/Upstate Medical faculty and/or staff
- 100% agree that the neighborhood is the perfect location for proximity to schools, parks & cultural attractions
- This year we continued to see homeowners seeking affordable, move-in condition properties that will hold their value and allow homeowners to be close to downtown while being a part of a vibrant community.

For the past 19 years, UNPA has assisted more than 725 homebuyers with more than \$3 million in grants and loans; and more than 300 homebuyers with more than \$800,000+ in grants and loans within the last 5 years alone.

Neighborhood homeowners continue to improve their properties at a record pace, and looked to the **University Neighborhood Home Improvement Loan Program** to do this cost effectively. Launched in 2006, Round I originated from efforts of former Congressman Walsh to secure funding for the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative (SNI). In that round, UNPA, Home Headquarters (HHQ) and the City pooled their respective funding sources to create a low-interest home improvement loan fund that was marketed exclusively to owner-occupants within the UNPA Service Area. In Round VI, UNPA invested \$30,000 in UNSAAC allocations to assist HHQ in closing 9 additional loans. This remains a strong and well-received program.

Something else to celebrate! This past summer we watched as exterior renovations were completed on the Babcock-Shattuck House. This National Register-listed long-vacant property is situated at a gateway to the Westcott/University Neighborhood within walking distance from shops and restaurants, on a major bus route, with onsite parking, and along a principal corridor connecting the City with its eastern suburbs. As this project progresses, UNPA has committed funds to restore and renovate this iconic property. Work on four owner-occupied condominium units is well underway. Look for interior work to begin this winter with plans to have it completed by late spring, 2014.

This past summer, UNPA launched a revised **Home Improvement Assistance Grant Program** which focuses on home improvement and enhancement. Grant funds can be used for both interior and exterior improvements and better meets the needs of today's homebuyers.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The UNPA Board of Directors is proud to report we have maintained an active 15-member Board since 2001.

	<u>Member since --</u>	<u>Occupation --</u>
Officers (Residents):		
Joseph Russo, President	2008	Economic Development Manager - National Grid
David Michel, Vice President	1989	Retired from City of Syracuse
Ana Fernandez, Treasurer	2011	Associate Director of Administration, Syracuse Center of Excellence
Brad Hunt, Secretary	2012	Attorney- Mackenzie Hughes
Resident Members:		
Christine Capella-Peters	1989-91, 1995	Representative – NY State Historic Preservation Office
Christopher Davis	2010	Education Services Coordinator – Enable
Andrew Erikson	2013	Green Train Instructor, North Side UP & OCC
Eric Greenfield	2004	Research Forester - US Forest Service
Sonnet Loftus	2007	Financial Consultant - Michael Roberts Associates
Tanya Johnson-Ruffin	2010	Program Manager - Community Folk Art Gallery
Kim Parr	2013	Director of Public Relations, Latorra, Paul & McCann
Jasmine Pryor	2013	Educator,- Jowonio
At-Large Members:		
Tim Rice	1995	Community Advocate
Patrick VanBeveren	2007	Supervisor of Physical Therapy - St. Camillus Rehab Center
Khristopher Dodson	2012	Communications & Program Manager- Syracuse CoE
Ex-Officio Members:		
Eric Persons, Resident	2012	Associate Vice President, Syracuse University, Office of Government & Community Relations

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