

### OUR MISSION

*ANDP develops, finances and advocates for affordable housing at scale that promotes racial equity and healthy communities where families thrive.*



**THE PROBLEM** At a time when many resident leaders are retired or approaching retirement, preparing the next generation to assume leadership roles in the community will be critical to building and sustaining healthy neighborhoods.

Families thrive in safe and healthy neighborhoods. But communities rarely achieve such desired conditions without informed and engaged residents. As times change, so do attitudes, markets, and neighborhood conditions. Retired Baby Boomers and Gen Xers preparing for retirement have begun to reduce their engagement in neighborhood and community leadership roles. Who will fill the void left by these seasoned voices?

**WHY IT MATTERS** Creating ongoing opportunities for current and aspiring resident leaders to grow their skills has become increasingly important in these times of considerable social, civic, and political unrest.

Given current issues of affordable housing, equitable economic opportunity, public safety, and more, it is vital to provide ongoing leadership training opportunities to build the skills of existing and emerging neighborhood leaders.

**SOLUTIONS** To help strengthen neighborhoods from the inside out, ANDP provides resident leaders with free access to local, state, and national experts through its Neighbors Together program.

First launched at the annual NeighborWorks Week in 2015, Neighbors Together was designed to be a training and leadership development event to arm residents with the information and tools needed to strengthen communities during the Great Recession. The event was well-received by neighborhood leaders, and ANDP was asked to continue to offer the free training event.

Now in its sixth year, Neighbors Together conducts leadership training on two levels:

1. Each year, ANDP identifies at least seven residents from its 10-county service area to participate in NeighborWorks America's National Community Leadership Initiative (CLI). The goal of CLI is to empower residents to serve as community leaders. During the three-day training, participants convene and discuss solutions to common neighborhood challenges, such as public safety, police relations, and, more recently, the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.
2. These residents leaders take these learnings and develop local, solution-based projects and initiatives to implement within their communities and produce a free day of training made available to all metro Atlanta neighborhood leaders.

## TRAINING LEADERS



**Carol Yancey** has lived in Oakwood Trails for 22 years. During the recession, she became leader of the Neighborhood Watch group and started an annual Back to School backpack which evolved into a popular annual community block party. Carol participated in Neighbors Together and now serves on the ANDP Board of Directors. She was selected for the national “Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership” in 2019.



**Monica DeLancy** has participated in the Neighbors Together leadership training program since 2016. Her program, *We Thrive in Riverside Renters Association*, created out of ideas that came to her during a NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute. She got a boost with a \$50,000 grant from the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation.

**OUR IMPACT** Hundreds of metro neighborhood leaders have participated in ANDP’s Neighbors Together program, strengthened their leadership skills, learned how to further address their neighborhood’s specific issues, and many have identified funding for their work.

**Training Future Leaders** - 30 metro residents have been selected to attend NeighborWorks America’s National Community Leadership Institute, and subsequently joined the Neighbors Together team. After participating in Neighbors Together for nearly a year, team members move forward with the information and resources they’ve gained in the process to address their neighborhood concerns. Most team members return to attend the annual training events to further understand issues and skill development.

**Expanding Training Opportunities** - Since 2015, Neighbors Together team members have planned and executed five annual in-person Neighbors Together training events, engaging more than 500 active, committed neighborhood leaders. In 2020, the virtual Neighbors Together event included more than 200 virtual participants, with an additional 1,000 views of the event video after the event.

**Next Level Leadership** - Several CLI and Neighbors Together team members have taken their engagement to the next level by running for elected office or participating in additional leadership training programs.

**Funding for Neighborhood Programs** - Neighbors Together program participants have successfully learned to apply for and receive funding to support their neighborhood-based programs and initiatives. Several have received multiple years of funding from the Community Foundation’s Neighborhood Fund and one recent neighborhood leader received a \$50,000 grant from The Oprah Winfrey Foundation.

**CLOSING THE GAP** ANDP has announced an unprecedented plan to create and preserve 2,000 units of affordable housing by 2025. The \$440 million plan includes 500 single-family homes offered for affordable homeownership, 250 single-family homes offered for affordable family rentals, and 1,250 affordable apartments. To learn more, visit us online: [www.andpi.org/ctg](http://www.andpi.org/ctg).

**THERE’S MORE** To learn about ANDP’s development, capital, and community engagement, visit us online at [www.ANDPI.org](http://www.ANDPI.org)