



Abayomi Community Development Corporation  
ANNUAL REPORT 2014



**Serving Youth and Families since 1998**

## Mission

To strengthen and secure families and the local community through comprehensive community building.

## Vision

Abayomi envisions being an established, fiscally sound, recognized organization, which impacts the community with quantifiable, positive results.

## Values

The board and staff of Abayomi Community Development Corporation value

### **F.A.M.I.L.I.E.S.**

**F**airness – We believe in fairness and equality for all mankind.

**A**ssistance – We believe in providing services and sharing resources that help meet the needs of our clients.

**M**orality – We value high moral character as it enables individuals to behave properly, act responsibly and make good decisions.

**I**mprovement – We will continuously work to improve the quality and effectiveness of our programs and services with a goal of achieving positive impact and outcomes for our clients.

**L**ove – Love represents human kindness, compassion and affection. Treating our clients with love demonstrates our care and concern for them and their families.

**I**nvolvement – We are involved in our community and support efforts to keep it safe, clean and livable.

**E**nrichment – We work with individuals and families to help enhance and improve their lives.

**S**ecurity – Our motto is Building Families For the Future. Stronger, more secure families lead to safer more secure neighborhoods.

## About Abayomi CDC

Abayomi Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit human services agency serving Detroit and its surrounding communities, has provided human, social and economic development programs and services to youth and families for over 17 years. Abayomi means a pleasant meeting place and is derived from the Yoruba language, a tribe in West Africa. Abayomi is a HUD and MSHDA certified housing counseling agency, an adopter of the National Industry Standards of Homeownership, and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. From youth development to housing counseling, to mental and behavioral health counseling, we work directly in schools, with government agencies and community organizations to help uplift the lives of over 2000 individuals and families annually.

Our goal is to establish an awareness of the value of family, improve socioeconomic conditions and increase the level of dignity and personal achievement within the metropolitan Detroit area.



# Letter from President & CEO

## Tawnya Morris

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and consumers of Abayomi Community Development Corporation, it is our delight to share with you our organization's 2014 progress and achievements.



The beginning of 2014 brought on rapid challenges as some committed funding sources were depleted. We embraced these unpredicted obstacles by quickly adapting with program modification and staff changes. While creatively transforming our operations to respond to our fiscal challenges, we developed policies and procedures to improve organizational efficiencies. Our commitment to improving our organization helped us to obtain our accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. This was a major achievement, one that signifies that our organization meets best practices standards, demonstrating high quality, ethics and integrity.

Another important component of our work in 2014 involved expanding our school partnerships and community collaborations, which helped to strengthen our mission and provide us with the opportunity to touch more lives while increasing our service delivery.

A review of 2014 outcomes reveal that the we continue to make progress in our commitment to positively impacting the lives of youth, improving support for families and seniors, and strengthening our community.

Since 1998, our mission has been simple...to strengthen and secure families and the local community through comprehensive community building. We value families. Our values form the groundwork for how we pursue our passion: helping people improve their lives.

With your continued support and the support of our partners, we look forward to a season of innovation and ideation that will help us continue *Building Families for the Future*.



## Letter from Board Chair

### Natalie King, Esq.

Since serving as chairperson of Abayomi Community Development Corporation's Board of Directors, I have seen much growth, maturity and innovation take place within the organization, the result of which have been measurable, and impactful benefits to the youth & families we serve. I am happy to report that the year of 2014 has shown tremendous programmatic advancement and maintenance of a standard of excellence we have come to know and expect from Abayomi.

Our organization was faced with significant fiscal challenges at the beginning of the year, but through strategic planning and smart fiscal management from our CEO, we ended the year in a strong, stable financial position. We also expanded community outreach and visibility efforts through our local school partnerships and fiduciary participation in the Detroit Red Carpet Backyard BBQ for the Hungry & Homeless, an event which feeds over 5,000 Detroit residents in need annually. Abayomi continued to help hundreds of homeowners deal with foreclosure issues, as well as assisting individuals to become first time homebuyers.

2014 was a significant year of accomplishment for our organization, as we gained accreditation from the Council on Accreditation, which represents best practices in staffing, safety, quality assurance and program delivery used by Abayomi in its day-to-day operations. We are very proud of this feat, and are confident that it will serve to further strengthen and expand our mission of helping to build better families.

We are looking forward to increasing the participation of dedicated board members, volunteers and community partners as we move forward in serving our community. The Board is committed to its role as "ambassadors" of Abayomi. We will continue to expand upon our responsibilities of raising awareness, seeking collaborations and procuring fund development opportunities to ensure the longevity of the organization. We are very appreciative of all of those that have supported Abayomi this year and hope to have your continued support in the years to come.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Natalie King, Esq., **Board President**

Dr. Larry Smith, **Vice President**

Pamela Williford, **Treasurer**

Linda Jackson, **Secretary**

## BOARD MEMBERS

Joshua Burke

Wesley Norris

Kevin Smith

Dr. John Trotter

Tawnya L. Morris

## STAFF

Tawnya L. Morris, President and CEO

Tracey Sanders Director, Housing and Economic Development

Kathleen Greely, Office Administrator and Grants

Raquel Hawthorne, Program Services Coordinator

Hannah Morris, Social Media Strategist

Anthony Allen, Clinical Supervisor

Erin Murria, Youth and Family Counselor

Carolyn McKenzie, Housing Counselor and Healthcare Advocate

Munai Newash, Housing Counselor

Sean McElrath, Housing Counselor

Martin McElroy, Billing Coordinator

## VOLUNTEERS

### *Jr. NBA Basketball Coaches*

Bruce Morris, League Director

Jonathan Sanders, Youth Clinic Instructor

Anthony Billingsley      Leonard Borner

William Broner          Daniel Dorsey

Joseph Hines            Kenneth Miller

Martin McElroy          John Webb

Devin White            Louis Johnson Jr.

Rico Sanford            Kevin Gardner

Reggie Watson          Talfred Waire

Brian Johnson          Quentin Crumbey

### Others

Anita Gordon

Joseph Childers

## INTERNS

Lark Stokes



# Programs and Services Accomplishments

With its 2014 Annual Report, Abayomi Community Development Corporation celebrates 17 years of service to Detroit and its surrounding communities. Our accomplishments are highlighted below.

## Housing and Economic Development



**Homebuyer Education** and down-payment assistance were provided to 90 clients, of which 45 became first time homeowners receiving an average grant of \$7,500.

**Foreclosure Prevention** clients were provided property tax and mortgage modification assistance to over 300 clients with an average grant of \$3,500.

**The Center for Financial Advancement (CFA)** helps individuals achieve economic security through financial capability counseling, benefits screening and income supports. This education will lead to behavioral changes that will give consumers the tools they need to escape poverty and build assets.

**Financial Capability Counseling is offered within the CFA.** Clients were educated on budgeting, ways to save, ways to reduce debt, how to avoid scams and improve credit scores. Revised budgets resulted in an average savings of \$30 - \$60 per month per client. Over 75 individuals were served.

**New St. Mark Family Life Center** received facility upgrades within the gymnasium totaling close to \$9,000 thanks to Daniel and Jennifer Gilbert. A \$100,000 grant from the City of Detroit helped with other building renovations. Thank you indeed!

**Expanded Partnerships** with PNC Bank and First Merit Bank helped us to expand service delivery for our housing education program and increased our access to additional banking products and financial services for our clients.

## Youth Development



**Jr. NBA Youth Basketball Program** provides opportunities for confidence building, teamwork and competition through sports. Our league had over 200 youth ages 7-14 enrolled and our clinic had 12 youth ages 5-6 enrolled.

**Girl Talk Mentoring** provides middle and high school girls the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics in an effort to improve their mental, emotional and academic well-being. We offered this program in Ferndale University High School and Sampson Webber Academy. Over 50 girls participated.

*Abayomi Community Development Corporation*  
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Detroit, Michigan 48219  
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[www.abayomicdc.org](http://www.abayomicdc.org)

**Checkmate** teaches youth how to play chess while enhancing their decision making and strategic thinking skills. Over 20 youth participated.

## Family Supportive Services



**Healthcare Advocacy** includes the assessment of each client's health insurance needs. We obtained Health Care Assessments from 200 clients. With the assessments, we were able to provide information and referrals for free or reduced health care services, for free or reduced costs for prescription drugs and helped clients facilitate enrollment in the ACA Healthcare Marketplace when applicable. We also partnered with MichUHCAN's Health Insurance Assistance Pilot Program. We provided 25 referrals that resulted in 5 clients receiving financial assistance with their monthly healthcare premiums, enrolled 10 clients in Obamacare and helped 10 clients see an average savings of \$350 per month on prescription drugs expenses.

**The Village Family Reunification Program** provides counseling to families who are in need of short-term counseling, support, and/or therapy to help deal with family dynamics when substance abuse is present in the home. In 2014, we served 67 families.

**Be Well Counseling Services** provides counseling to persons who are affected by the challenges of daily living in the areas of family functioning, grief and loss, past abuse, relationships, self-image, depression and more. In 2014, 5 families received counseling services.

**Family Empowerment and Strategy Series** are workshops that provide families with the education they need to manage their lives with the goal of improvement and empowerment. Topics for 2014 included Rights for Renters and Home Improvement Grants. Over 50 participants attended.

## Community Outreach

**Housing Fair | Back-to-School Bash** hosted workshops, FREE food and activities for youth – back to school supplies, dental care and other family supportive services, such as ways to recognize housing discrimination. Chase Bank and Fifth Third Bank provided credit repair and mortgage affordability counseling, while DTE provided information on energy efficiency. Over 100 families attended.

**Backyard BBQ** was an exciting event this year. The Shumake Family and Friends Foundation, in conjunction with Abayomi CDC hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Detroit Red Carpet event – serving over 5, 000 homeless and most vulnerable citizens during the Thanksgiving holiday season.



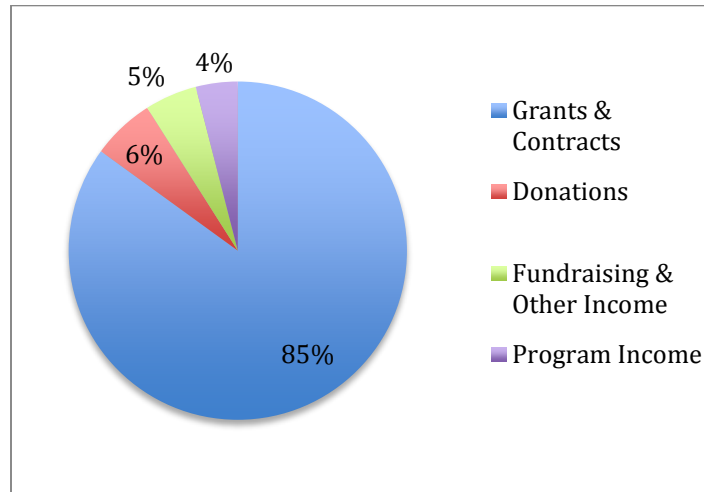
2014

**EVERY DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT**

Abayomi Community Development Corporation annually serves more than 5,000 individuals and families. Abayomi Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) organization has served the Detroit community and surrounding areas for more than 17 years. Led with a vision and mission to develop young people, today we help stabilize neighborhoods and communities' one family at a time.

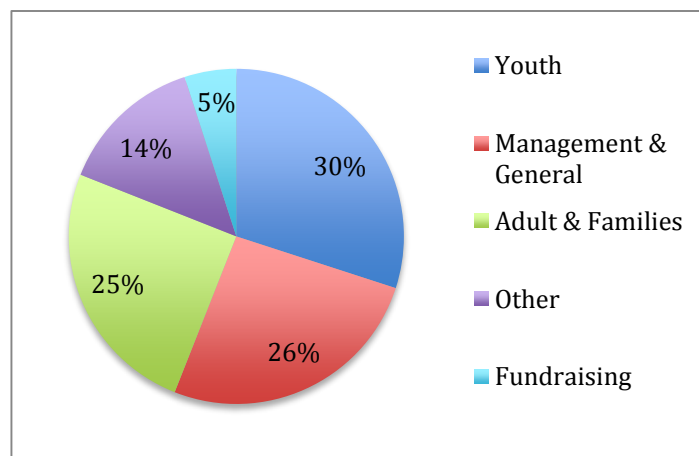
**WHERE DOES ABAYOMI CDC REVENUE COME FROM?**

Revenue and Support for the Year Ended  
December 31, 2014



**HOW IS ABAYOMI CDC REVENUE SPENT?**

Functional Expenses for the Year Ended  
December 31, 2014







Credibility • Integrity • Achievement



Wayne County  
Children Services

Protecting Children and Strengthening Families since 1882



Bank of America



Chemico Mays

Comerica Bank



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