

Guiding Principles:

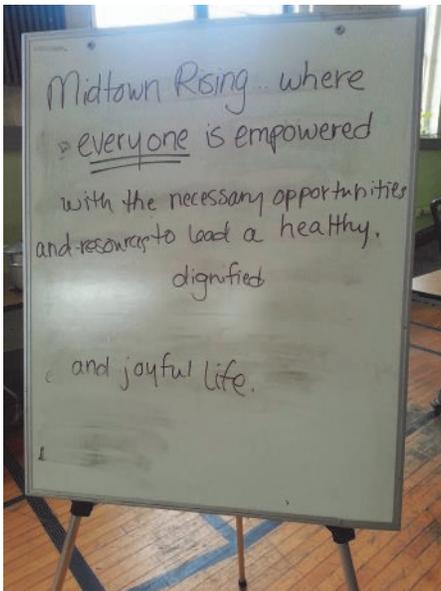
1. Relationships rooted in trust are essential for successful community wellbeing (shalom) and organizational development
2. Present in each and every congregation, community, organization, association, individual, and institution are abundant resources that, when collaboratively organized and applied, will yield wellbeing
3. For too long, society has focused on deficits and scarcity: discover abundance!
4. Strategic planning is not linear: results are best accomplished by following a “U Path” to visioning and strategic planning
5. Place-making is vital to the future of healthy and whole communities: seek the common good (shalom) of the neighborhood



*Communities and
Congregations Together:
for the Common Good of
the Neighborhood*

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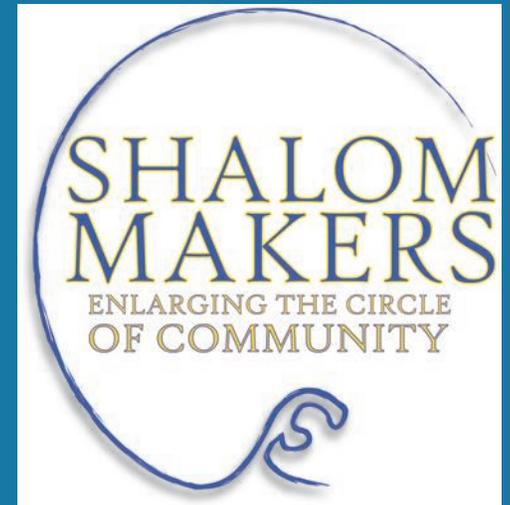
In association with:



Communities of Shalom



Communities First Association



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of the Neighborhood***



Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Processes and Outcomes:

- Discern organizational capacity for ABCD
- Define a community of interest
- Build relations with neighborhood leaders
- Discover gifts (assets) of neighbors and the focus neighborhood: seek abundance
- Partner with community organizations

VISION:

Common good (shalom) in every neighborhood

MISSION:

Inspire, train and coach individuals, community-based organizations, congregations and associations to build and rebuild healthy and whole neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST:

N. David Cooper, MDiv., MSW, CPM

David's strong experiences and training have resulted in the formation of collaborative teams, re-development of congregational buildings, co-creation of affordable housing, improved food security, and transformation of the criminal justice system.

David's pastoral and secular roles in this work range from national trainer, coach and consultant; executive director to community organizer; from project manager to chaplain; and from social entrepreneur to neighborhood resident and international workshop leader. He has also been a state licensed construction contractor.

- Form trust through focused gatherings
- Participate with neighbors to create results based plans
- Collaborate for collective impact
- Measure results
- Celebrate successes

OUTCOMES:

- Trusting, equitable community relationships
- Creative discovery of previously unrecognized resources (assets)
- Connected and engaged people, organizations, institutions, and associations
- Opportunities for mutual learning (shared wisdom)
- Teams that produce and deliver effective community-transforming impacts
- Social, economic, physical, political, and spiritual justice
- Local leaders and coalitions that produce collective, measurable, transformative outcomes
- Revitalized communities and congregations working together for the common good (shalom) of the neighborhood



OUR STORY

A small group of friends and colleagues —national and international church pastors and leaders, community organizers, asset based community developers, nonprofit directors and theologians — gathered to engage with three key issues: mutual encouragement, transformational education, and co-creating neighborhood wellbeing (shalom-making).

A thread running through our group was a deep concern that the traditional model of charity (doing *for* and *to* others) was not only unsustainable; it fails to acknowledge and affirm the intrinsic, self-esteem-building assets with which every person and every neighborhood is endowed. In short, charity to overcome scarcity could not, will not, work sustainably. We were also concerned that charity can exert “power over” those being served. Alternatively, we chose relational “power with” as our foundation upon which to build. As we see it:

Charity could create dependency; however, in its best form, charity may be briefly applied to stabilize situations until community assets are organized and mutually applied to yield sustainable, holistic results among neighbors.

Our little group, we learned later, was among numerous global gatherings; those who have grown weary and depleted of resources for doing *to* and *for* others. Some other groups, Communities of Shalom, ABCD Institute, Christian Community Development Association, and Communities First Association, had the vision and were working *in* and *with* hundreds of neighborhoods across the US and abroad to achieve wellbeing (shalom).

The shalom-making Spirit that guided our first gathering, the same Spirit that is present in neighborhoods across the land, lives on in the vision, mission and work of Shalom Makers — enlarging the circle of community for communities and congregations together to achieve common good in the neighborhood