

ACTS *IN ACTION*

ACTS HOUSING

2016 VOL. 3

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of our dedicated donors, staff, and friends, our Longest Neighborhood Table event on September 22nd was a huge success. In this newsletter we shine a spotlight on one of our event speakers, Yussuf Mursal, who has been an ACTS homeowner since 2010 and now pays it forward with his work at Catholic Charities. How exciting that 112 families that ACTS partnered with are seeing fall leaves on their lawns for the first time from their very own homes this year. Many thanks to you for your many contributions, which provide opportunities for ACTS families to turn houses into homes.

Sincerely,

Michael Gosman
Michael Gosman, Executive Director

YUSSUF MURSAL: PAYING IT FORWARD



Yussuf speaks at ACTS Longest Neighborhood Table event.

Yussuf Mursal embodies community. He is a caring husband and father of 5, active in helping others. He currently works for Catholic Charities where his job consists of helping new refugees adapt to American life. Many of these refugees are searching for a place to call home, which is all too familiar to Yussuf. For him, *“A home is a place we all need to stay, and shelter. Deciding where to live is one of the biggest decisions a human will make.”*



Yussuf and his family share a happy home on the Northeast side of Milwaukee.

Yussuf came to the US from Somalia in 2004 as a refugee with his family when a friend directed him to ACTS Housing. With the support of ACTS, he has owned his home now for ten years.

Yussuf shares, *“For me, without having a guide to help you navigate your way to affordable homeownership is a challenge. ACTS help guide your destination and help you overcome detours that may stand in your path as you go toward owning your first home.”*

Now Yussuf directs many of the refugee families he works with at Catholic Charities to ACTS Housing so that they can find a place that is really home, too.

“Deciding where to live is one of the biggest decisions a human will make.”

HOT PROPERTY

2539-41 N 21st St, Milwaukee, WI 53206

Price: \$5,000 (Property requires rehabilitation)

Bed: 4 Bath: 2

For more info Call Mary Leach-Sumlin at:

414-372-3543



KEY SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES



PNC

Molly Schweiger, client and community relations director for PNC Financial Services, vividly remember watching people connect with the ACTS Housing mission at ACTS' inaugural Longest Neighborhood Table event. *"It was so great to introduce people in the community to ACTS; for a lot of them it was their first entry point,"* she said. *"It was a really enjoyable experience and people were just overwhelmed by ACTS and its impact."*

Chris Goller, regional president of PNC, was an event co-chair and Schweiger served on the event planning committee, not to mention PNC was the event's lead sponsor. *"The event was an incredible success and we could have never have done it without the support of PNC,"* said Becky Stoner, ACTS' development and marketing manager.

PNC has supported ACTS for the last three years. In that time, Schweiger said she has developed enormous respect for the ACTS families who become homeowners. *"It's amazing when a family takes a house that looks unlivable and transforms it into a home,"* she said. *"One of the great things about supporting ACTS is that you see such tangible results."*

Philanthropy is a big part of PNC's DNA. In addition to supporting a number of worthy nonprofits, PNC's Grow Up Great program focuses on helping children from birth through age five develop a passion for learning and helps set them on a path to success. Since PNC began Grow Up Great in 2004, it has distributed more than \$105 million in grants that help children prepare for school.

"We focus on early childhood education and economic development," Schweiger said. *"We believe that a bank is only as strong as the community it serves."*



Chris Goller speaks at ACTS Longest Neighborhood Table

2016 IMPACT REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

112

Home Sales

\$295

Avg. Monthly Housing Savings

178

Families Counseled



Event co-chairs Cristy Garcia-Thomas (Aurora Health Care) and Chris Goller (PNC)



A portion of the longest table

We are so thankful for the many individuals, corporations and foundations who gave generously at our Longest Neighborhood Table Event. To see the complete list of supporters, along with pictures and a recap from the event, please visit

**[www.actshousing.org/
longesttable2016](http://www.actshousing.org/longesttable2016)**

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR ACTS HOUSING IN THE SECOND & THIRD QUARTERS OF 2016

Adonai Employment, Inc.
 Amy and Thomas Schleg
 Andrew Ruehl
 Anon Charitable Trust
 Badger Meter Foundation, Inc.
 Bob Gosman
 Charles Hoke
 Cindy and Thomas Kilkenny
 Commerce State Bank
 Dan McKinley
 Edward Treis
 The Francie L Silverman Foundation
 The Croen Foundation, Inc.
 Fred Gosman
 Jay Lauck
 Sarah and Jeremy Hillenbrand
 Jim Lange
 John and Judy Malaney

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
 Michael Mack
 Michael Woods
 Mike Zimmerman
 Natalie Beckwith
 National Insurance Services
 Nationstar Mortgage
 Ocwen Financial Corporation
 Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
 Roxanne Shears
 Sequoia Borgman
 Steve and Ricka Long
 The McGovern Family
 St. John Vianney Parish
 Stand Together
 State Farm Foundation
 Steve and Nancy Einhorn

Stephen Rothe
 The Private Bank
 Tri City National Bank
 Wells Fargo



Left to Right: Gene Manzanet, PNC Bank, Omar Shaikh, SURG Restaurant Group, Dan Sweeney, Wells Fargo, Emily Larsen, BMO Harris Bank, Andrew Ruehl, Wells Fargo, Meagan Porter, Derse

MEET THE ACTS TEAM: JEFF BRAY, SENIOR REHAB COUNSELOR

The Camino de Santiago (the way of St. James) is one of the world's most famous pilgrimages, a 460-mile trek across northern Spain. Jeff Bray walked every step of it in April and used the opportunity to think about and reflect on his life. The Monday after he returned he met with ACTS executive director Michael Gosman and soon after he was hired as the organization's newest senior rehab counselor.

"Jeff has a background in ministry and construction and it's difficult to imagine a better fit for our rehab work at ACTS," Gosman said. "He has already helped the rehab team make great strides in the quality of services we can provide to families." Added Bray: "I had worked as a director of music at churches and also as a handyman/remodeling contractor. I wanted to build on those experiences and do something for the community. You could say that my walk on the Camino de Santiago caused me to contemplate and consider joining the ACTS team, and this is exactly what I was hoping for."

Bray said it is remarkable to see what the families ACTS works with are able to accomplish. *"Having rehabbed three homes myself in my life, I know how hard - emotionally and physically - it can be," he said. "I'm always amazed by what the families can achieve."*

The direct work with ACTS families is one of his favorite parts of the job. *"It's about establishing trust, good communication and clear expectations with ACTS families as to what needs to be done for their rehab projects," he said. Bray said it is special to play a role in helping a family realize their dream of home ownership. "The ACTS families are strong and resilient," he said. "When they move into their home, it has a positive ripple effect on the community."*



Contact Jeff: 414-727-5441 jeff@actshousing.org

ACTS LONGEST NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE EVENT RECAP



A portion of the 256' Longest Neighborhood Table.

White, teal, and silver. Balloons, paddles, and photo booth props. Family style dinner and inspiration from ACTS Homeowners. We were a community like no other--the one that sat at the longest table, 256 feet long to be exact, for an evening. We were honored by the presence and generosity of all who attended. Please join us next year where we hope to expand the table to over 300 feet!

Visit www.actshousing.org/longesttable2016 to see a full list of contributors and all photos from the event!

OUR MISSION

ACTS Housing's mission is empowerment through homeownership.

OUR VISION

ACTS Housing's vision is to create vibrant Milwaukee neighborhoods through homeownership.

OUR SERVICES



Homebuyer Counseling - One-on-one, HUD approved homebuyer counseling for individuals interested in developing a personalized homeownership road map.



Neighborhood Housing - ACTS' licensed realtors represent families in the purchase of affordable central-city homes.



Home Rehab Counseling - Rehab counseling staff represents families during coordination and execution of rehab plans, with a focus on the reclamation of vandalized foreclosures.



2414 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205
www.actshousing.org

acts@actshousing.org • [@actshousing](https://www.facebook.com/actshousing) • [fb.com/actshousing](https://www.facebook.com/actshousing)