



Saving Culture, Actively Reclaiming Futures

September 11, 2016

To whom it may concern:

The concept of **Saving Culture, Actively Reclaiming Futures** (S.C.A.R.F.) is that we help people that have had a traumatic event happen to them (Rape, becoming homeless, a violent crime victim, etc.) to obtain a municipality owned abandoned or neglected property and help them get it rehabbed to a point of obtaining a certificate of occupancy. Then we work with them for the next 9 years so that they can learn how and do the work themselves in the rest of the remodeling and redecorating that would be so needed. As someone rehabs a property each day there are little accomplishments and in doing many of these themselves we also help these hurt people to heal and rebuild their self confidence.

Qualifying the applicants for services is another issue and the people agree to come to monthly events and do the training needed and work under some supervision and also to assist us in that same decade to help at least rehab 5 other homes in that municipality as well as having a plaque on or near their front door and the door the family goes in and out of most for that same decade that tell who helped.

The first thing in any town is to catalog the available abandoned and neglected homes, often taken through tax taking procedures. Images of the outside of the buildings are obtained and map locations and information about that neighborhood, stores or schools nearby, etc. The municipality might have done this work already. Then a quick assessment is obtained of the amount of work that might be needed to bring the building up to the point of obtaining a certificate of occupancy. We are assuming that most of the plumbing and electrical service and often the heating and ventilation devices must be replaced. If a roof is needed and how much re-glazing of broken windows there is & what other items there are that need to be repaired. How much flooring/foundation needs to be repaired/resurfaced.

When that list is accomplished, we then show it to the people we will be working with to help them rehab this building and turn it into their home. We then have them pick 3 in various parts of the city or town and look at each one of them closer. The people will be taught how to and look up code violations in the past and the registry of deeds back for at least 10 years to show how it has "changed hands". Now we evaluate how the buildings the people picked go with their life styles and what will need to be done for 1st) the certificate of occupancy and 2nd) to rehab the house along the lines of the "Not So Big House" concept promoted by Sarah Susanka so that in the end the amenities proved are not so much in additional square footage as they are in make each square foot a place the family will want to live in and that matches their type of life-style and the way they enjoy living.

We present these things with "client comments" to our "Advisors" (the people in the professional fields that donate or work at a reduced rate to help our people get into and start learning how to rehab these buildings to make this into their home). Before this step is completed a private housing inspector is brought in to assess what really needs to happen now and what can be scheduled in the next few years, 5 years from now, etc. A plan is drawn up that all agree to and the financial resources are obtained.

The idea is to "make this all happen" with the other participants in this venture (lawyers, bankers, and such) and not leave the homeowner with a mortgage for things he/she can do themselves. Part of that plan is not only obtaining the certificate of occupancy but also a consistent training and work plan to have the home owner complete over a 8-9 year period all the other house rehab and remodel work.

The future home owners are instructed in how to keep a visual as well as accounting records of what was obtained and the progress made to show others in the future and to encourage them by seeing what they have already accomplished when things might seem to take a long time to reach completion. At the point of the certificate of occupancy being granted, the home owner will be presented with a customized listing of what to check on for each of the four seasons of the year. This includes things that need to be done (like leaf removal from gutters and checking on furnace operations) on a yearly or twice a year basis and how to look for damage that occurs over the winter and how to prepare for future winters. What to plan on for lawn work while the snow is still on the ground so when it is time to work in the yard a full plan with an idea of what it might cost (both to do it yourself and to hire it done) is done. [It is so very true that sometimes it is cheaper to have a workman come in and do the work when special tools are required that are very expensive.] In that case we would want to work with the contractor to have them agree to put our people to work on something that they can absorb the skill for and also reduced the price accordingly for labor rendered so the contractor did not need to hire additional help.

At the conclusion of the decade, as at the point of the certificate of occupancy being granted, we will have a big party and show off the work done and have the home owners be able to present some of the challenges they overcame and tell of what about the home they are especially proud of now.

We are seeking people with legal, administrative, contracting (architectural, cabinetry, carpentry, civil engineering, electrical, exterior cladding, flooring, heating, insulation, interior cladding and design, landscaping, marketing, masonry, paving, plumbing, roofing, solar, structural engineering, ventilation, window) and other skills to make this happen for these people.

We desire to file for a corporation status as a non-profit both locally and nationally and most probably a sub unit chartered under the non-profit laws of each state or country we operate in. I, Charlie Knight, can not do much more myself. I do not have the expertise or the resources. I have an idea and a goal to help people that have experienced traumatic events rebuild their lives while they also rebuild an area by rehabbing abandoned or neglected houses a city or town might own. We seek many hands in any area so that contractors or persons share in donating time, talent and treasure and this truly becomes a "group effort" & the spirit of "community" is present from the very first look at a site to the celebration of the decade completion and the planned work has been done.

I would ask people of faith to share this idea with their congregations and pray seeing God's guidance as to what, if anything, He would have you do to move this concept along. Within the next 5-10 years we hope to get to a point of celebrating a certificate of occupancy being granted somewhere through our efforts each week of the year. You can be a part of this exciting venture in improving lives.

Are you a professional that would like to be a part of helping someone rehab a house and thus also rebuild their life? If so contact us at our Post Office address and we will get back to you promptly so we can move forward together helping to make this a much better world.

Sincerely I remain your servant praying God will bless you abundantly.



Charlie Charles E.) Knight, founder and concept originator.