



Welcome to S.C.A.R.F.
Saving Culture,
*A*ctively
Reclaiming Futures

by CEKnight, founder (2015).

About S.C.A.R.F.

The idea for this venture began many years ago and has been developed through the time Charlie Knight, a formerly homeless person has worked with groups to end homelessness. What follows are about 10 point sin what this entity would be like. Contact him if you would like to be a part of this effort.

First we would work with people who had experienced some sort of a traumatic event in their lives. Like becoming homeless, being raped, etc. that has shattered their sense of security and made them very vulnerable.

Second these people would be willing to work every day as a laborer under direction to repair and rehab the building they would be purchasing.

Third these people would also agree to similarly help us help others in rehabbing at least 5 more buildings after they receive their certificate of occupancy and move into their rehabbed house. (Thus building a sense of community and "investment" in the whole neighborhood or city and not in just their own building).

About S.C.A.R.F. (cont).

Fourth these folks would agree to have two plaques placed on their home at the front door the door the family normally enters through that gives thanks to the individuals and entities that assisted them in making this once abandoned property now their home.

Fifth we want to work with many associations and groups of architects, carpenters, contractors, designers, electricians, engineers, flooring, inspectors, landscapers, masons, plumbers, siding, wall cladding people, window and door installers, etc. so that the "assistance" is spread around and everyone does a little and not one company or agency a lot. The idea is for cooperative & collaborative efforts so that "many hands make light work" and we build community while not placing an undo burden on anyone.

Sixth we want the funding to not be so onerous that a person could not reasonably pay back what is owed and "lose" the home. This is a disaster we would never want happen. But in having them agree to help at least 5 more homes in the next 10 years after their building is done, we create "community" so if any one is having difficulty a particular month they would also spontaneously help with a fund raising "spaghetti dinner", etc. because they are a neighborhood and want to help it grow and become a vibrant and great place for all.

About S.C.A.R.F. (cont).

Seventh we want at least monthly meetings with the folks we are helping - training sessions on particular skills, (how to navigate the city or town rules regarding purchasing and rehabbing property, planning for the costs of taxes and utilities and snow removal and lawn care, etc.) that come with home ownership a person who has rented before might not know of. These would be "community building" meetings on a "pot luck" format with a meal and good fellowship as well as the instructional components. We would also partner with local building places (Like Home Depot) to come as a group to their instructional meetings on "how to do" a remodeling activity.

Eighth we would also have meetings, maybe quarterly, in which we celebrate achievements, such as a person designated as a developer of a city or town owned piece of property. Or the roof is put on and/or insulation has installed passed city/town inspection so they can proceed with the next item.

In this type of event we also build community & invite the people of that city or town to come and share with us in this joy and tell about what we are doing so that they might also want to join with us in this work. Rarely do people get together to celebrate these days and the community gathering on a regular basis to note achievements is a thing we just need to inculcate into our neighborhoods again.

About S.C.A.R.F. (cont).

Ninth, We would draw our group of "incorporating" people from leaders of the city or town and "stake holders" in housing. Later we would want to have at least one and preferably a minimum of 20% of the board of directors come from people who have "been there" and experience the difficulties some one having had such a traumatic event in their lives knows of (like people whom we have helped come from that point to becoming a home owner by their own hard work in making a once abandoned building their home).

Tenth, we want to use the "Not So Big House" principles promoted by the works of Sarah Susanka to build into that abandoned property that the city or town has owned the various "amenities" that speak to the way that home owner (future home owner) lives their lives so that the structure they return to every day (or in the case of a disabled person, elderly person, or mother with young children live in all day) is a place they WANT to be at and enjoy living there. So, the people that will be obtaining and working on rehabbing the home are "on the ground floor" in designing the future home and its landscaping so that it fits best the way they enjoy living. The very best of architecturally & sustainable engineered, and as "green as possible" homes is what we would put back into the community as rehabbed and remodeled homes.

About S.C.A.R.F. (cont).

We would be saving the best of the cultural aspects of a building built maybe many years ago but now remodeled so it can be "sustainable" and functional for today's living and an asset for tomorrow.

We can envision this as being a great solution for some (Not all as a component of this is the people that would own the home being willing to use their own "sweat equity" in working each workday on rehabbing this building into their home) of the individual and family homelessness .

One lady said to our founder, "all I want is a decent home with a yard my kid can play in in safety."

How can anyone be against that!

Our 1st goal is to within 3-5 years be able to celebrate at least one certificate of occupancy being granted each week to an individual/family we have helped.

You can be a part of making this dream a reality and helping not only individuals and families but also the cities and towns that have abandoned building stock & homeless people.

Contact Charlie Knight, founder, at:
ceknight.spfd@gmail.com
or by phone at (413) 732-7077
or email S.C.A.R.F. directly at:
123scarf@gmail.com
or scarf@usa.com



This was created by a formerly homeless person.

What is S.C.A.R.F.? It stands for Saving Culture, Actively Reclaiming Futures.

The symbol is of a scarf joint and of scarfs used to keep cool in summer and warm in winter. Aids to keeping us nice that a house becomes in our lives as well. The scarf joint is used to join pieces of wood to make something one piece of wood could not do by itself We cooperatively and collaboratively to take abandoned city or town own properties; obtain & have the people that would live in them (some one who has experienced a traumatic event in their life like homelessness) work weekdays to rehab them and turn them into their new HOME.

This attempt is to list 10 or so concepts under which we hope to operate this entity so people can get a place to live they helped make a home.