



The Re-Builder

*"Today we build
for Tomorrow"*

Creating the Future

SPRINGFIELD, MA

July/August 2016

First Issue of our "Newspaper" Styled Newsletter.

S.C.A.R.F. launches it's newsletter this month!

This summer "Saving Culture, Actively Reclaiming Futures" or S.C.A.R.F. launches again it's newsletter in a "newspaper" style format. At first it will be called the "Re-Builder" because we are all about rebuilding lives by rebuilding (rehabbing) neglected and abandoned houses a municipality might own and having the people who have experienced a traumatic event in their lives (like becoming homeless, being human trafficked, or a victim of any very violent thing) learn how and to repair and restore that home to a level that a Certificate of Occupancy can be granted. We believe that in teaching them to rebuild their building they can see daily progress and this can be a very active part of rebuilding their lives. We will need financial help, donated labor, time and money; but we think the people can be taught to work on the home so it can pass the inspections and be granted a certificate of occupancy. Then other groups can help with things in the future. So this "newsletter" is planned to tell you how we are doing in this project so you can keep up with us and help us reach our goals. We can do the impossible when working collaboratively and share common goals for a much brighter tomorrow than what our people have experienced in the past .



We are told the current costs are much higher by smmertime, 2016. So let's join together and move forward to rehab buildings and people that were broken and neglected so they are once again the lively centers of a healthy community.

scarf.atwebpages.com

*Website made at the beginning of
our R.L.C. Career Initiative grant.*

It seems like "ages ago" when Charlie Knight looked at a city owned house that was in a RFP (Request for Proposal) and thought it could be a good "starter" place to rehab, live in himself, and be a "pilot" for a program to help others.

Sometime after looking at the building and putting in the bid for the house in May of 2016 Charlie, who has been homeless, going to college and living in a SRO (Single Room Occupancy) apartment for many years, was told about the Recovery Learning Community's Career Initiatives Grant program to start up the things like this concept that was just an idea in his head at that time. He made the application and was awarded a grant.

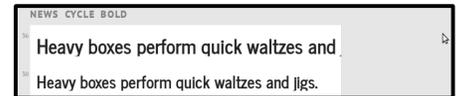
Work began on this newsletter about 8 months into that grant after a name has been figured out, a website created (above) and a promotional piece of literature made that told about S.C.A.R.F. but actually printing this (except for a few copies) has had to wait until now.



R.L.C. Career Initiative grant
makes promotional news items
like this possible .

The Recovery Learning Community Career Initiatives grant created an office for us. Because of it we now have a quality computer and printer to make color laser products, printing them ourselves. The equipment we obtained through this grant also allows us to receive and send fax info.

I assume we could have not gotten as far as we have come and not been able to produce this and the info about us on the back side of this newsletter without that help. With your help this newsletter will be more pages of news.



This newsletter uses three font families, and we have placed where you can get them yourself later in this piece.

Although we know you could most probably substitute "Times New Roman" and "Ariel" (or similar) with good results, these fonts can be obtained free.

The three fonts are:

Cloister Black

<http://www.fontspace.com/dieter-steffmann/cloister-black>

Linux Libertine

<http://www.linuxlibertine.org>

News Cycle

<http://openfontlibrary.org/en/font/news-cycle>

This is being produced the end of July and the next issue will be towards the end of Sept. 2016. Email Charlie for info. at ceknight.sfpd@gmail.com



The 10 “*talking points*” of S.C.A.R.F. !



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).

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

Fifth we would want to work with many associations and groups of contractors, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, roofers, masons, landscapers, architects, engineers, inspectors, flooring and wall cladding people, those that do windows and exterior siding, etc. so that the "assistance" is spread around and everyone does a little and not one company or agency do a lot. The idea is for cooperative and collaborative efforts so that "many hands make light work" and we build community while not placing an undo burden on any particular individual or entity.

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

Seventh we would want to have at least monthly meetings with the folks we are helping with 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 and a host of things that come with home ownership a person who has rented a space before might not know of. These also 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 or Lowes) to come as a group to attend their instructional meetings on "how to do" some aspect of remodeling a property.

Eighth we would also have meetings, maybe quarterly, in which we celebrate achievements, such as a person designated with us as a developer of a city or town owned piece of property. Or the roof is put on and/or insulation has been installed and the work passed city/town inspection and they can now proceed with the next item to be done. In this type of event we also build community but 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.

Ninth we would initially draw our group of "incorporating" people from leaders of the city or town and "stake holders" in this project. But later we would want to have at least one and preferably a minimum of 20 percent of the board of directors come from the ranks of people who have "been there" and experience the difficulties some one having had such a traumatic event in their lives knows of and whom we have helped to have come from that point to becoming a home owner with that equity which comes from their own hard work in making this 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 architectural, sustainable engineered, and as "green as possible" homes is what we would put back into the community as rehabbed and remodeled homes.

You hold the keys to our success

Sit and read is one thing, get up and come help us make this happen is quite another thing. These "talking points" are to "get the conversation started". What you contribute determines the success of this venture & how many we help.

*Rebuilding now
to create a brighter future*

As all work together we can now create a better and brighter future for some and for all of our communities.

Contact Charlie at his email of ceknight.spfd@gmail.com to learn more.

The Re-Builder

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