

2020 Year in Review

Highlights of the past year include:

COVID Response Services: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Isles has had to adapt to a constantly changing environment while continuing to meet the needs of our community. Highlights of our COVID Response Services this year include:

- Made over 1,250 face masks with our Social Profit Center tenant, Inspired Threads. We distributed more than 6,000 (sewn or donated) masks to our customers, residents, local businesses, and other nonprofits.
- Provided 35 students with chromebooks to help them complete their GED and participate in remote classes with Isles Youth Institute
- Delivered 165 pantry bags from local food bank to customers
- Delivered 56 healthy home cleaning kits, 200 do-it-yourself garden grow kits, and over 50 cases of fresh produce to Trenton's most at-risk populations.
- Delivered more than 381 hot meals, sourced from local restaurants, to students and their families, easing their financial burden while supporting local businesses.

Financial Services: Isles continued to offer one-on-one homebuyer and foreclosure counseling to prepare low- and moderate-income individuals for homeownership and avoid foreclosure. We also offered Isles Financial Solutions (IFS), an employer-based financial capability initiative for lower wage workers that includes an innovative mix of financial coaching, credit-building finance, savings products, and group-based learning. This year:

- Isles had 296 customers seeking housing or foreclosure advice or assistance
 - o 142 customers attended Pre-Purchase Workshops
 - o 154 attended one-on-one counseling sessions
 - o 112 customers earned housing certificates (to qualify for financial assistance)
 - o 29 customers purchased a first home.
- 243 customers received IFS services
 - o 53 one-on-one customers completed a budget, credit analysis and action plan.
 - o 190 attended virtual financial workshops (offered virtually during the pandemic)
 - o 28 customers filed their taxes with the assistance of a financial coach.

Isles' Center for Energy and Environmental Training (CEET): CEET is a green collar job training facility, targeting careers in energy efficiency and environmental health. CEET is also a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified training center and is a satellite training center for the National Center for Healthy Housing/Healthy Housing Solutions. Beginning in March, CEET was unable to offer in person trainings, and resumed at reduced class sizes in July. This year, CEET:

- Provided Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers courses (in-person and virtually) to 135 participants
- Provided Air Leakage Control Installer or Building Analyst training and certification course for 17 energy efficiency workers
- Provided Lead-Safe Renovation, Repair, and Paint training and certification for 33 workers.
- Provided 4 Lead worker/Lead Supervisor trainings, offering 19 Lead Abatement certifications
- Offered "The Seven Keys to a Healthy Home" 3 times to reach a total of 18 community members. 2 of these presentations were delivered virtually.

Lead Safety and Healthy Homes: Isles continued to provide retrofits to low-income homes to improve energy efficiency and remove lead, mold/moisture, asthma triggers, fall and burn hazards and other

negative indoor health conditions. In addition, Isles continues to be a strong advocate for lead and healthy homes public education, policy change and increased funding for remediation of lead contaminated homes. This year, Isles:

- Provided 59 In-person Healthy Home Assessments and 11 Virtual Healthy Home Assessments
- Completed 9 lead hazard control (abatement and remediation) projects. Production was ended in March and resumed in July, with many homeowners hesitant to give workers access to their homes during pandemic.
- Advanced groundbreaking lead safe disclosure and rental inspection legislation through NJ Senate Economic Growth committee.
- Worked with DEP and industry experts to begin the development of a multi-service electric mobility program to improve transportation and access in low income communities
- Provided written testimony in support of the Clean Energy Equity Act and participates in the NJ Shines Coalition

Isles Youth Institute (IYI): IYI offers alternative education options for disengaged students seeking their high school equivalency diploma, job skills, and life skills training. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we shifted our classes and trainings to online platforms. In the fall, we welcomed our first cohort that started virtually, and we are now able to provide testing options for students again. This year:

- 5 IYI students participated in our social-distancing graduation with their high school diplomas.
- 44 certifications were earned by IYI students in CPR, OSHA, and Pre-Apprentice Construction Training
- 29 youth participated in meaningful community service projects including volunteering at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, renovating the West Trenton Little League Field and working with The City of Trenton to improve community centers.
- 33 students, community members and alumni participated in various internal and external job training internship opportunities.
- 29 students participated in the Leadership Academy, which included weekly training sessions and workshops on key leadership skills, meeting with city council members, and attending the New Jersey Black Issues Conference (NJBIC) Youth Day.

Community Planning and Development: Isles collaborates with residents and stakeholders to identify community concerns and priorities; create community-led neighborhood plans; and secure resources to sustain neighborhood revitalization efforts over the long term. In addition, Isles leads city-wide research and planning initiatives related to blight reduction, creative placemaking, and food systems. Isles also purchases, improves, and develops real estate in downtown Trenton, and manages and maintains affordable housing units to moderate the market and ensure healthy, safe, affordable housing remains available for long-term residents. In 2020, this work included the following:

- Completed a three-year planning and recommendation process to address brownfield redevelopment in East Trenton
- Developed a cross-sector initiative to address the health, affordability, and safety of housing in Trenton, identifying key policy and data gaps and making recommendations to improve housing quality and enforcement
- Initiated the development of a new Old Trenton Neighborhood plan for the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program, with expanded boundaries and integration of the Creek to Canal Creative District plan
- Partnered with First Presbyterian Church of Trenton to support their efforts to redevelop their properties in Old Trenton, including development of a proposal by Princeton University students and a planning and visioning session
- Provided T-Recs services at the West Ward Recreation Center for nearly 400 youth from November through March (when COVID required closure of community centers)

- Supported a round of small grants in the Trenton Historic Development Collaborative Neighborhood, with funding from I Am Trenton Community Foundation and the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program. The small grants support grassroots, community-based projects, including beautification projects, youth programming, and recreational opportunities.
- In partnership with Community Asset Preservation Corporation (CAPC), a part of New Jersey Community Capital (NJCC), Isles purchased Wood Street Housing, of 46 units of subsidized affordable housing and two commercial units in the Old Trenton Neighborhood. This includes 10 Wood St, where our administrative and CP&D offices are currently located, and 13 neighboring properties. Through CAPC, we have secured nearly \$1.5 million in Opportunity Zone Funding to support renovation and improvements to the properties.

Urban Agriculture: Isles supports 75 community, school, backyard, and institutional gardens. In 2020:

- We worked with 581 elementary school students and 29 teachers on a weekly or biweekly basis.
- 50 youth participated in virtual cooking classes that featured healthy recipes utilizing seasonal produce and easily accessible pantry items.
- Built one new preschool garden and one new garden for the Trenton 9th Grade Academy, and added ten other gardens to our network.
- Sold produce, flowers, honey, and herbs for the seventh year at the Greenwood Avenue Farmers Market and donated more than 1,000 pounds of produce to emergency food suppliers. Additionally, we secured 750 pounds of fresh fruit from partner farms and distributors to donate to public housing and senior facilities that lost power during Hurricane Isaias.
- Held three gardening workshops, trained 12 individuals who completed the year in the Incubator Garden, and distributed approximately 10,000 vegetable seedlings and hundreds of pounds of seeds to school and community gardens.
- Harvested 300 pounds of honey from 12 Isles-managed beehives and received first place in the blind taste test division of the annual NJ Beekeepers Association Honey Show.

Social Profit Center at Mill One is a historic former textile mill on the Trenton/Hamilton border that Isles is converting into a high performing, mixed use regional hub for dozens of social profit organizations. While the pandemic caused some delays in construction, Isles completed a significant amount of work over the past year:

- 69,000 linear feet of sheetrock installed, creating a total of 30 suites for offices, artist studios and flex space.
- Over 200 energy efficient light fixtures were installed on all three floors.
- 25,000 sq ft of flooring restored throughout the building.
- Thousands of linear feet of energy efficient HVAC ductwork and piping installed to provide individually controlled heat and air conditioning to all suites.
- Over 26,000 sq ft of space has been leased and we are proceeding with actively advertising space to larger nonprofit community as well social profit business partners. We expect to open before the end of 2020 and are eager to bring an active and vibrant Social Profit Center to life in 2021