
PRESS RELEASE

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**New Nonprofit Formed with Goal of Opening
Community Center in Brunswick**

Brunswick, MD - Following a community forum meeting in March to discuss and gauge interest in starting a community center in Brunswick, New Hope Community Partnership, Inc. was launched in April of this year. With the backing of community partners such as the congregation of New Hope United Methodist Church, the partnership was formed with the goal of opening a community center in downtown Brunswick.

“While Brunswick has many great community organizations and activities, we feel that a community center is needed to take our city to the next level,” said Robert Gunter, President, Board of Directors. “Brunswick is slightly disadvantaged due to our geographic isolation from the Frederick area and providing more programs and activities to our city would enhance the quality of life for our residents and bolster the local economy.”

The partnership plans to offer a variety of services and programs once the community center is in place ranging from art, music, theater, and dance programs to cooking classes, mental health services, community nursing and social services for the city’s most vulnerable residents. The community center also plans to offer expanded space for the Brunswick Food Bank. The partnership invites residents to offer their opinions and share what activities and programs they would like to see offered by completing the survey found at <http://www.newhopepartnership.org/#!programs/c1y13>.

The partnership has filed an application with the Internal Revenue Service for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. In the meantime, The Federated Charities Corporation of Frederick has agreed to serve as the partnership’s fiscal sponsor, enabling the partnership to accept tax-deductible contributions while the IRS application is being processed. “Fundraising will be our biggest challenge,” said Gunter. “While we are pursuing some exciting grant opportunities and will seek out contributions from charitable foundations, donations from the public will be critical in supporting the dream of a community center in Brunswick.”

In the immediate future, the partnership is looking for ways to enhance the lives of residents even before the community center is in place. This summer, the partnership is sponsoring an Art Contest in connection with the 2016 Brunswick Railroad Days event. The theme of the contest is “Brunswick Through My Eyes.” Details can be found online at newhopepartnership.org.

In addition, the partnership will be reaching out to local businesses and community groups this summer. “We truly want this to be a partnership and we will look for ways to work with and support existing nonprofits who have worked tirelessly for decades to make Brunswick a better place,” said Rev. Katie Bishop, Treasurer, Board of Directors. “Pulling together and sharing resources, experience and expert know-how just makes sense instead of operating in a vacuum. We look forward to working along side Brunswick’s well established and committed volunteer community.”

In addition to Bishop and Gunter, members of the Board of Directors are Richard Greenwood, Vice President and Angel White, Secretary. After completing its due diligence, the Board of Directors plans to identify a suitable lot or building for use as a community center by the end of October. Committed to transparency, corresponding fundraising goals, milestones and operating budget will be released thereafter.

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New Hope Community Partnership, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission statement is to promote physical, emotional and spiritual development and to improve the quality of life of the residents of the City of Brunswick and surrounding areas.

For more information about New Hope Community Partnership, please visit newhopepartnership.org or email info@newhopepartnership.org.