WCRP History in Brief

1986 - 1987

Challenges to a bank's lending practices led to resources for community development

WCRP founded; outreach and the development of a plan for the first housing venture.

1989 - 1990

Set-up supportive services program for tenants. First housing venture completed with rehab and rental of eight houses; acquired land for first new construction development

1992

Completed construction of first new construction project (Adolfina Villanueva I, 24 houses); began childcare center construction

1993

1994 - 1997

Obtained land and completed construction for Adolfina Villanueva Townhouses II (30 houses) and Johnnie Tillmon Townhouse development (23 houses)

1995

Fought and Won Not in My Backyard (NIMBY) Battle for Johnnie Tillmon Townhouses

1997

Johnnie Tillmon Townhouses completed (23 houses); began providing community facilities services to other organizations

1998

1999

Began city-wide housing advocacy coalition (Philadelphia Affordable Housing Coalition); led research to study housing needs in Philadelphia; completed Lillia Crippen II (20 houses)

Obtained land and completed construction for Lillia Crippen Townhouses I, and obtained land for Lillia Crippen Townhouses II

2000 - 2002

Through our coalition work, won passage of the Philadelphia Affordable Housing Trust Fund

2003 - 2005

Obtained land for Karen Donnally Townhouses (32) and Iris Brown Townhouses (12) and completed construction of both developments

2005

Convened Eastern North Philadelphia Coalition (ENPC).

2006

Obtained land and completed construction for Evelyn Sanders Townhouses I (40 units). Completed ENPC neighborhood visioning process .

2007 - 2009

WCRP selected by ENPC to house the Community Justice Land Trust. First parcel transferred for Nitza Tufino project into CJLT.

Campaign to Take Back Vacant Land begins. Evelyn Sanders II completed.

2009 – 2010

NIMBY battle stopped Nitza Tufino townhomes.

2011

The Campaign to Take Back Vacant Land pushed City Council to pass legislation that created the city's Land Bank. Our work since passage is to hold the City accountable to implement the Land Bank legislation. By 2019, the Land Bank has only given out 300 properties..

2012 - 2016

Secured land and completed construction in Port Richmond for Grace Townhomes – 36 homes. TBVL continues to grow

2013 - 2019

Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities wages the Development without Displacement campaign and won $71 million over 5 years into the Housing Trust Fund from expiring tax abatements.

2015 - 2019

Secured site control of land and applied for financing for Nicole Hines Townhomes, and began construction (35 homes in Germantown). Secured site control of land for 33 units of rental housing and obtained financing for 5 units for affordable home ownership in Point Breeze.

Indicates major advocacy and political battles