

*“Restoring Lives, Reviving Hope, Renewing Our Community”*

## THE CDC COURIER

The St. Luke CDC is a nonprofit 501©(3) community based organization located in Paterson, NJ. St. Luke CDC was established by St. Luke Baptist Church in 1997 under the direction of the Rev. Kenneth Clayton to serve as a catalyst for economic and community development in the City of Paterson and Passaic County.

As a not for profit entity, the St. Luke CDC aims to:

- Establish programs and services to the broad and diverse socio-economic needs of the residents of Paterson and Passaic County.
- Provide leadership in and form partnerships with private and public sector institutions to improve the quality of life for residents of Paterson and Passaic County.

### Our strategic areas are:

- Education
- Literacy
- Housing
- Computer Literacy
- Food Security
- Mental Health
- Technology
- Re-Entry Services

### Our Mission

*The mission of the St. Luke Community Development Center (CDC) is to serve as an agent of hope, help and healing in the City of Paterson. We exist to improve the quality of life of city residents, create a better community and to empower individuals to live self-sufficient lifestyles with the proper skills and tools to live.*

139 Carroll Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501

Office: (973) 345-4309  
Fax: (973) 345-9495

[www.stlukecdc.org](http://www.stlukecdc.org)

[stlukecdc@hotmail.com](mailto:stlukecdc@hotmail.com)

*Please follow us  
On Social Media*

 [facebook.com/slcdc](https://facebook.com/slcdc)

 [@stlukecdc](https://www.instagram.com/stlukecdc)

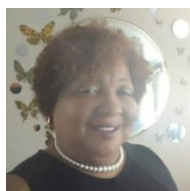
 [@StLukeCDC](https://twitter.com/StLukeCDC)

# History of the St. Luke CDC

The St. Luke CDC (SLCDC) was established in December of 1997 as a partnering entity of the St. Luke Baptist Church. It was organized as an independent 501©(3) Corporation committed to create a better community through various programs.



From 1998 to 2012 Shavonda Sumter served as Executive Director of SLCDC. She was instrumental in laying the foundation of all future work. She led in the creation of the House of Mercy, the Technology Center, and the Freedom School.



Antoinette Brevard served as Executive Director from 2013 to 2019. Under her leadership the SLCDC board was revamped and additional funding sources were secured to support SLCDC programs.

Ms. Brevard hosted two very successful fundraising events to support CDC programs and it was also during her tenure that SLCDC became involved in re-entry. She is also credited for her work in helping SLCDC establish partnerships with the Paterson Alliance, North Jersey Food Bank, the Taub Foundation and other agencies that have helped us broaden our efficiency in all that we do.

In 1998 the St. Luke CDC opened Christhouse which serves as a Food and Clothing Distribution Center. The center is housed at 269 Fair Street, a church owned property and is open three days per week. Staffed by church and community volunteers, the center provides fresh food and quality pre-owned clothes to community residents in need. Food is provided by community donations and local partnerships including the North Jersey Food Bank. Clothing is provided by private donations and through other local partnerships. Twenty people comprise the Christhouse staff.

In 2003 in partnership with the City of Paterson Department of Recreation, the St. Luke CDC established:

- An after school program, (ASAP) After School Assistance Program – The program operates throughout the school year from 3:30pm-6:30pm. The program is housed at the St. Luke Resource Center (128 Carroll Street) and serves 20 children with a staff of four part time employees. There is no cost to attend the program.
- A summer camp, (KKK) Kamp Kreative Kidz – The summer camp operates in July and August of each year. We annually have 100 campers with a paid and volunteer staff of 20. The campers are given the opportunity to share in a mixture of recreational, athletic, educational and artistic programs throughout the summer experience. There is no cost to attend the camp.

In 2003 the House of Mercy was dedicated. HOM is a transitional house for women who are coming out of incarceration, rehabilitation or some type of supervised housing and working on re-acclimating into society. Since its opening, HOM has helped hundreds of women begin their lives again.

In 2004 in partnership with a local developer, SLCDC helped to build two family homes in Paterson's 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

It was also in 2004 that the Summer Youth Employment Program was initiated. This program partnered with a variety of public and private agencies in the North Jersey area to provide meaningful summer employment opportunities for youth of the city.

SLCDC recruited, trained and placed the youth in their respective places of employment and also paid one half of the summer wage for each youth.

In 2005 the St. Luke CDC became host to Paterson's first Freedom School in partnership with the Children's Defense Fund. Freedom School is a summer educational program to help students overcome the summer lag that negatively affects urban children. The innovative curriculum is taught to children in grades K-8 by current college students or recent college graduates who are thoroughly trained by the CDF staff. The literacy based curriculum is also fused with socially conscious themes. The program which is free to participants, also includes community involvement, parent participation and social action. A staff of 15 operates this program.



In an effort to address literacy, the Reading Assistance Program (RAP) was established in 2006. Constance Harrell developed the program and operated it, providing assistance to children and adults. Since 2016 Linda Miller facilitates this program.

The Board of Directors of SLCDC is proud of the programs that it has created and looks forward to continuing to fulfill its mission in improving the quality of life in the City of Paterson.





## **Pivoting In the Pandemic!**

The onset of the coronavirus in March of 2020 caused for our entire nation to shut down in some shape or form. The St. Luke CDC like all other organizations was impacted by the reality of the pandemic. Many of the regular programs sponsored by SLCDC were postponed due to the restrictions and limitations placed on us by local, state and federal officials.

Because of the pandemic, the Reading Assistance Program, ASAP and the Community Computer Lab were closed; Freedom School and Kamp Kreative Kidz did not convene for the summer. The decision not to offer these programs was painful but necessary. The health and safety of the children and adults who are staff in these programs and the people that they serve was (and is) of paramount importance to us. We look forward to resuming these programs as the vaccines for Covid-19 are taken by more people in our community and county.

While these programs did not operate, Christhouse was able to readjust and provide food and clothing to individuals in need through our “Outdoor Giveaways.” Hundreds of people in our community were helped through these efforts of the Christhouse staff and volunteers.

SLCDC was able to enter into a partnership with the Street Keepers and through this partnership was awarded a \$20,000 grant award to assist with curbing violence in our community.

Additionally, SLCDC was awarded a \$10,000 grant award for the Freedom School. This award will be used for Freedom School 2021. We are already working and planning for next year’s summer session which we are sure will be even more needed as many children in our community faced severe learning challenges due to the virtual learning experience.

SLCDC is committed to our mission, “to serve as an agent of hope, help and healing in the City of Paterson....and to improve the quality of life of city residents, create a better community and to empower individuals to live self-sufficient lifestyles with the proper skills and tools to live.”

Thank you for being a partner and supporter of our work.

May the year 2021 be a year of continued progress for you and your family.



# Christhouse

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the Christhouse staff and volunteers remained committed to serving our community and aiding individuals and families dealing with food security issues.

Through the determined efforts of our loyal staff, for the year 2020 we were honored to have served 6,577 individuals. This is a new record for which we are grateful to be engaged in.

Special thanks is extended to Mr. Darrell Bell who leads this program and the faithful volunteers who serve.

Frances Alston  
Sherrie Bass  
Yvonne Bauer  
Mary Brown  
Mary Buckingham  
Bertha Buffaloe  
Charlene Bullock  
Bessie Carter  
Yolanda Harrison  
Hala Hyasat  
Cynthia Josey

Constance Leverett  
Howard Montague  
Lucy Ross  
Mamie Salmon  
Jessie Sims  
Rosetta Sims  
Crystal Sullivan  
Charlene Sumlin  
Camille Thompson  
Daniel Webster  
Elaine Williams



## **In Celebration of Recovery...**



My name is Yvette Elam. I currently reside at the House of Mercy which is owned and operated by the St. Luke CDC. This house provides affordable housing for women re-entering society, providing a haven for them on the road to becoming productive members of the community.

In September of 2018 I was in the process of completing an inpatient treatment program for substance abuse, when informed that I had 30 days to find housing. I became overwhelmed with fear and anxiety as to where I could go post-program. I was working and had money saved, but I wasn't making a lot of money working part-time. This factor contributed to my anxiety.

While in the program, I resumed attending my family's place of worship, St. Luke Baptist Church. I was in the midst of beginning to accept my addiction while revitalizing my spirit. I recalled that St. Luke CDC was still operating the House of Mercy and reached out to Pastor Clayton.

On October 1, 2018 I moved into the House of Mercy. Not only has the St. Luke CDC provided housing for me, but assistance with food and clothing at Christhouse. With the help from these entities, I've been able to move forward on my path becoming a productive member of society.

Each day I wake up and every night when I go to bed, I'm so grateful to have a roof over my head, food, and clothing. I have my independence and new lease on life. Living with women from all walks of life, that have been given the same opportunity as myself. Learning how to disagree without being disagreeable. Challenging each other to be better. House of Mercy is a stepping stone for me on my road to recovery and living life one day at a time on purpose with a purpose. I'm grateful for House of Mercy.



## 2020 Holiday Outreach

Our 2020 “Giving at Thanksgiving” program was a huge success. In partnership with St. Luke Church, SLCDC was able to:

- Provide complete food baskets for families in our community.
- Provide complete food baskets for designated families at Public School #6.
- Provide complete food baskets for designated families at E.W. Kilpatrick School.
- Provide a full Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of House of Mercy.
- Provide a full Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of Fenwick House.
- Provide a full Thanksgiving dinner for the youth residents of YCS (which was served by the youth of SLBC).

For Christmas, SLCDC:

- Provided gift cards to designated families from Public School #6.
- Provided gift cards to designated families from E.W. Kilpatrick School.
- Provided gift cards to families in our community.
- Provided a Christmas dinner for the youth residents of YCS and gave each resident a gift card as a Christmas gift.

The SLCDC board thanks every person who has provided support in these holiday campaigns. Your generosity helped us help others.



# Memorial Gifts In Honor of Robert Boyd

The SLCDC is thankful to Mrs. Jessie Boyd and her family for their kindness in asking family and friends to make donations (in lieu of flowers) to the SLCDC in memory of her late husband, Robert Boyd.

Deacon Boyd was a member of the SLBC Deacons Ministry and was a faithful SLBC disciple. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and church family.

Several donations were given in Deacon Boyd's memory and they were designated for our holiday outreach initiatives.

We are thankful to the Boyd family for their thoughtfulness.



Robert Lee Boyd, Sr., lovingly known as "Bud", was born on June 23, 1933 in Greenville, Pitt County, North Carolina. He was the youngest child of the late Roland Boyd and the late Frances (Dickens) Boyd. In 1939, Robert moved with his parents and two older sisters, Geraldine and Lucille to Morristown, New Jersey. He attended school in Morristown until they moved in 1941 to Paterson. While living in Paterson Robert became attracted to a young woman, he noticed who lived in the same apartment building. Jessie Mae Newman became the love of his life, and after a brief courtship consisting of movie dates and walking Jessie to choir rehearsals, Robert and Jessie married 67 years ago on May 29th, 1953.

Robert joined the Air Force and he and Jessie relocated for a brief time to Cheyenne, Wyoming. After his Honorable Discharge from the Air Force, Robert returned to Paterson. He was very ambitious and at some point, augmented his academic education by taking electrician classes. Robert was very talented and worked as a technician in an electronics business to provide for his family. He courageously followed his entrepreneurial aspiration by partnering with two others to open a Dry Cleaners. The cleaners was opened in the Black community on 12<sup>th</sup> avenue and Rosa Parks Blvd. It was called B.E.S. (Boyd, Edmund and Sams) Dry Cleaners. Once the cleaners closed Robert began working at Colonial Printing Ink Corporation in East Rutherford, NJ as a batch maker. Robert remained at this job until he retired.

Like his father, Robert was a lifelong New York Yankees fan and enjoyed attending many games and watching them on T.V. Also like his father, Robert would often ignore all those around him when the game was on. Robert was also an avid bowler which he did weekly until he physically could not do it anymore. However, he was so stubborn and determined he did not stop bowling until ordered by his doctor. Robert enjoyed reading books and current events in the newspaper and playing games with family and friends. He had a creative gene and liked writing, keeping a journal, and drawing. Many of his drawings were generously given away but there are a couple of them still proudly displayed his home. Robert loved nature which was often the focus of his drawings. He also had a "green thumb" and loved taking care of his plants and watching them grow sometimes so tall that they would seem to take over a room.

Robert was known for his kind and quiet nature. He was quiet but determined and did his best to help those in need. Robert also loved serving and praising our Lord Jesus Christ. During his lifetime he became an active member of both Christ Temple Baptist Church and then St. Luke Baptist Church. At Christ Temple, Robert served as Chairman of the Deacon Board and taught Sunday School. Once he became a member of St. Luke Baptist Church, Robert was also named a deacon. He continued to faithfully serve at St. Luke until his death.

Robert is predeceased by his parents, Roland and Frances, son Robert, Jr., sister Geraldine (husband Uelysee), sister Lucille (husband Samuel), and sister Alice Christine; three sisters-in-law: Myrle, Alice, and Pauline and four brothers-in-law: Lowell, Fred, Harold, and John.

Robert and Jessie had six children: Robert, Jr. (deceased), Sharon Boyd-Jackson (husband Robert) of West Orange, NJ, David (wife Estelle) of Woodland Park, NJ, Allison of Newark, NJ, Steven, and Dawn of Paterson, NJ. Robert also leaves to forever cherish his memory seven grandchildren: Darylle Burns (wife Yolonda), Raymond Young, Chanel Kersey, Brandon Mayes, Kenron Boyd, Denzel Johnson, and Yameer Boyd; and eleven great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and special family friends.



# Community Counseling Center

*"A Partnership With the St. Luke Community Development Center"*



*Feeling Overwhelmed?*

*Seeking Support?*

*Struggling with mental health difficulties?*

**LaToya Gaines, Psy.D.**

**Licensed Clinical Psychologist**

For consultation please email or call:  
[drgaines@cultureofwellnessllc.com](mailto:drgaines@cultureofwellnessllc.com)

646-504-1442

**\*All services provided via telehealth to persons ages 5 and up**

# An easy way to support the work of the St. Luke CDC

- 1) Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
- 2) Search and choose St. Luke Community Development Center
- 3) Begin your purchase



## Welcome to AmazonSmile!

Thank you for supporting **St Luke Community Development Center Inc.**

Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)  
and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com>

### How to make the most of AmazonSmile



#### [Install Amazon Assistant](#)

The easiest way to return to  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Available for:



#### [Watch our video](#)

Learn how charities are using  
AmazonSmile donations

Share AmazonSmile with your  
friends:



Please see <http://smile.amazon.com/about> for program details.

## Welcome New Board Member



In December of 2020 the SLCDC welcomed Briana Drakeford to the SLCDC Board.

Briana is a native Patersonian. She is a graduate of Montclair State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management.

Briana has a passion for nonprofit work. She has been involved in several local organizations including the YMCA, YWCA, HealingSPACE, Oasis For Women, CUMAC, and Girl Scouts of Northern, NJ.

In her current occupation she is responsible for executing fundraising activities as a coordinator for the Charity Committee.

### Board Members

**Kenneth D.R. Clayton**, *President*

**Dionne L. Wade**, *Vice President*

**Gwendolyn Ndubuisi**, *Secretary*

**Mary Crooms**, *Assistant Secretary*

**Davon T. Roberts**, *Treasurer*

**Richard Cook**

**Briana Drakeford**

**Donald Lynch**

**Marc Medley**

**Therese Salmon**

Christhouse **NEEDS** Volunteers!!!



*Help us in assisting and meeting the needs of those in our community.*

If you are interested in volunteering for our monthly food and clothing distributions, please call (973) 345-4309.



# *Donations to St. Luke CDC Are Appreciated!*

## Ways to Support the CDC

*\*All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent.*

### **Givelify Mobile App** (Anytime)

**Select:** Saint Luke CDC  
under charities

### **Online at:**

<http://www.stlukecdc.org/donations.html>

### **Mail in Donations to:**

St. Luke CDC  
139 Carroll Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501

### **Giving Opportunity Through Amazon!**

Please note that when you shop at AmazonSmile on: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Luke CDC. Please bookmark the link and support us every time you shop. Thank you!

[smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3626408](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3626408)