

Calvary Community Development Corporation
"2004: A Year in Progress of Changing Lives"

Last year was a year of progress in changing lives for the Calvary Community Development Corporation. We welcomed aboard two new board members, David Lindenmuth and Patricia Braxton.

At our 2004 banquet, we were challenged by Rev. Reggie Jackson to hold true to our commitment to changing lives and to the development of our young people - "we can change a person's belief about what's possible by exposing them to a movement where they can see their potential." Calvary's vision is to provide a place where young people can find support, nurturing and answers for their lives as they transition step-by-step into adulthood and run as the next generation of leaders in whom we can take pride. To that end, we focused our energies on the development and education of the youth and how we could better serve them. Below is a summary of the programs and projects facilitated under the direction of the Chairman, Officers and Board.

In January, Calvary held its biennial law enforcement mentoring in-service. Approximately 12 officers from the New Castle County-Delaware Police Department, the New Jersey State Police and the Prosecutor of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office engaged in dialogue with the young people of the community. Each officer shared personal experiences and how making wise choices would lead to a productive life. The officers' messages helped the youth to recognize that they are empowered to overcome their environment, peer pressure, and self-doubt by making good choices.

Calvary's support to the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast in January resulted in a full house. Young men and women of Second Baptist Church-Pedricktown and the community were given the opportunity to hone their public presentation skills by participating in various segments of the program.

Strengthening partnerships to enhance the potential of various residents of the community was accomplished by assisting other organizations to achieve their service goals. Calvary, through its partnership with Conectiv, donated ten laptops to the Lighthouse Ministries After School Program in Perms Grove, and one laptop to the Morning Star Baptist Church mentoring program. In addition, Calvary sponsored attendance for two to the summer camp held at Project New Start in Salem.

Today young Americans are excited about civic and political participation. Supporting our young people engaged in government and politics is key to nurturing their continued interest and growth in advocacy/public policy. One of our leading female scholar students conducted non-partisan voter registration sessions at various locations throughout the County. Her activities, while supported and recommended by Calvary, were solely volunteer, self-motivated and self-directed.

At the YMC A in Penns Grove, Calvary consultants facilitated adult instruction seminars in how to manage money and how to fulfill the dream of economic advancement by acquiring assets such as a home, education or business. Appropriate money management and asset building enables people to secure financial stability for the future and contribute to the economic development of the community within which he/she resides.

Youth participation in sports builds character, fitness, and discipline. In 2004 Calvary supported the efforts of the Trinity Elite Track Club based in Paulsboro. The organization provides a healthy recreation program for youth ages 5 to 18. The club had 40 athletes who competed in local and national track programs. Two of the participating athletes placed 3rd in the nation at the national championship in Eugene, Oregon. Another participating athlete, an eighth grader, recently won a \$1,000.00 scholarship from Colgate-Palmolive for winning 1st place in the Colgate games held at Madison Square Gardens.

Finding ways to help every student succeed has not been easy, and it will take the effort of many diverse groups working together to give our children the best possible chance. In October, a collaborative effort of Calvary Community Development Corporation and Salem Community College presented a community forum called "Parent Pride" regarding the impact of the achievement gap among minority students from low socioeconomic communities. Panelists and nearly 100 guests comprised of educators, parents, students, community and business leaders engaged in discussion regarding the issue and collectively

outlined action steps to help all students to do their best in school. Parental involvement was deemed to be key in student success. Sessions promoting increased parent education and participation is scheduled for 2005.

Academic achievement at an early age leads to optimal preparation for altitude-success in higher education. Calvary supported the Rising Stars program directed at Salem Community College. The Rising Stars curriculum provides an innovative and fruitful encounter centered on raising personal standards while also preparing students for educational accomplishment in grade or high school. It is intended to ultimately set the platform for student scholastic achievement at the post-secondary level.

Culminating the year 2004, Calvary sealed its partnership with the Salem County Vo-Tech School's Education Foundation by establishing the "Rev. Dr. Edward W. Dorn" Scholarship in honor of Calvary's founder and Chairman of the Board. Calvary will contribute \$500 per year for five years and Salem County Vo-Tech's Education Foundation will match with \$500 thereby establishing a yearly \$1,000 scholarship for a qualified African-American student. While the process will be administered by the Salem County Vo-Tech, a Calvary board member will be part of the selection process.

Calvary board members attended the Faith Based Conference in Atlantic City sponsored by the Governor, Secretary of State and the Office of Faith Based Initiatives. Calvary joined the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Listserv whereby we receive regular e-mail updates regarding funding, training and employment opportunities relevant to Faith Based Community Initiatives.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the donors, volunteers, consultants, and young people who gave of their time, talent, energy and/or financial support to ensure our success. Without you, we would not have realized our 2004 goals and experienced such favorable outcomes.

Thank you for all you do to make a difference in the community.

Edie A. Corbin Vice President Calvary
Community Development Corporation