



Cozad-Bates House constructed 1853

HOPE NOTES

A newsletter of Restore Cleveland Hope,
a grassroots community organization

Summer 2007

Bringing you up-to-date

Dear Friends,

Let me start with an apology. I am so sorry we did not have a running commentary sent out to keep all of our friends and supporters in the loop. It has been almost a year since the last newsletter and more than a year since our community meeting. When University Hospitals donated the Cozad-Bates House to University Circle Inc., we focused on creating a strong collaboration with UCI and neglected staying in touch with you. Now we're back!

And we will stay in touch. Sending our newsletter, Hope Notes, quarterly will help. Also Cyndi Henderson has designed our new website, www.restoreclevelandhope.org, and Michael Ruffing (with the help of others) will keep it up-to-date. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

While we were away, we have been busy. Several Restore Cleveland Hope Inc. board members have been meeting with Chris Ronayne, Ndeda Letson and other UCI staff on a regular basis. Councilman Kevin Conwell has arranged to have East 115th Street named to honor abolitionist John Malvin. I have continued a steady stream of Underground Railroad workshops, school visits, and university, church, community and historic society talks throughout the area.

And last summer RCH won a spot with the Mandel School for Non-Profit Organizations program for strategic planning consultation. The timing could not have been better for our young grassroots organization. Twenty hardworking board members

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Come Celebrate!

We need your presence at:

JOHN MALVIN WAY STREET-NAMING CELEBRATION

on the front lawn of the Cozad-Bates House,
corner of E. 115th Street and Mayfield Road
5 p.m. on Wednesday June 20, 2007

We will unveil the John Malvin Way sign to honor this bold Cleveland pre-Civil War activist. Malvin was an African American who, in addition to many other civic achievements, led the fight to integrate Cleveland churches, was a guide for freedom seekers, helped establish a school for black children and organized a Negro military company that ignored the Ohio governor's rejection and went east to enlist in the famous Massachusetts 54th regiment.

Cleveland's history is inspiring!
Learn our heritage and celebrate.

For more information, visit
www.restoreclevelandhope.org or call Nicki
Gudbranson at (216) 268-2345.

Letter from Joan

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and community stakeholders committed their time and expertise to the eight-month process. I have thanked all of them many times, but one more public expression of gratitude won't hurt and I want all of you to know who they are. It has been an inspiring eight months.

Trust Consulting:

Eric Dickens, Nada DiFranco, Shelley Greene and Stephanie Raufman

Strategic Planning Committee:

Kathy Baker, John Baker, Fran Stewart, Virginia Mook, Sally Tatnall, LaVonda Napka, Madge Potts-Williams, Jifunza Page, James Greene, Karen Gilliam, Katherine Webber, Janice Eatman, Nicki Gubranson, Carmen Magri, Michael Ruffing, Roberta Steinbacher, Gilbert Doho, June Antoine, Mattie Hemphill and me.

What a creative, thoughtful committee. We showed up on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings for three-hour-workshops and we have created a solid framework for Restore Cleveland Hope Inc. The consulting team was awesome, the work was intense and the consensus passionate. Whew. Wow. We all had such fun working together.

And our task force has quickly begun work on six goals that grew out of our plan.

1. **Formalize the collaboration with University Circle Incorporated.**
Michael will lead this effort, assisted by June, James, LaVonda and Joan.
2. **Expand marketing and communication efforts.**
Fran will lead this effort, assisted by Jifunza.
3. **Formalize leadership efforts.**
John will lead this effort, assisted by LaVonda and Sally.
4. **Establish a business plan and fund-raising program.**
Sally will lead this effort, assisted by Janice.
5. **Develop distinctive educational programs and materials.**
Joan will lead this effort, assisted by Kathy, June, James, Karen, Mattie and Janice
6. **Enhance volunteer engagement.**
Nicki will lead this effort, assisted by Jifunza.

A few other updates:

- By the end of the summer we will have an RCH office space to work out of. Cozad-Bates restoration will take a few years so it will be great to have a temporary office.
- Following the Martin Luther King Convocation address I gave at Case Western University, Restore Cleveland Hope was chosen to be recipient of CWRU's 2007 Basket Raffle that usually raises \$5000-\$7,000.
- CWRU Professor Gilbert Doho's Ethnic Studies class produced a documentary on the Cozad-Bates House for our use.
- This summer we will be working with Janice Cogger, the librarian at John Raper Elementary School, to develop a cross-grade, cross-content Underground Railroad project to be implemented in the fall.
- The school project will be in collaboration with Professor Doho's Case Western Reserve University students when he returns from Cameroon spring 2008.

When we move into our office space we will let you know the location and phone number by posting it on the website. In the meantime, here is my email: gonnawalk439@hotmail.com

Peace and Love,
Joan

If you signed up...

If you signed up to serve on a committee, expect to hear from a Restore Cleveland Hope member soon. We are organizing for the next phase of our mission: restoring the Cozad-Bates House and creating an Underground Railroad Teaching Center.