

Advocate, Activist, Collaborative Leader



Robert L. Caldwell, Jr
Executive Director

Primary Professional Focus:

Low-income urban community transformation through advocacy for research based and culturally informed public policy, strategic multi-disciplined collaboration and the development of asset oriented social and human service programs and services

- Over 25 years of social service and community development experience
- Award winning developer of social service programs
- Advocacy efforts have resulted in over \$200 million dollars in community development investment
- Developed programs and services that have served over 5000 families
- Proven civic leader and community servant

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Professional Achievements

A Columbus, Ohio native, Robert L. Caldwell, Jr. has been a practitioner and thought leader on the issue of urban poverty for more than twenty-five years. He is the founder or co-founder of several different social and human service initiatives including; The Faith Based Partnership Initiative, an innovative community development effort focused on seeking holistic solutions to the problems faced by underserved urban communities and the P.A.S. Program (Positive Alternative to Suspension), in cooperation with the Columbus Public Schools, to provide academic remediation and social service intervention for students serving out of school suspension. This program won a merit award from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce in 1995. In 1991 he helped develop the R.O.W.T.E.A.M.S. Program (Residents off Welfare Teaching Educating Achieving Motivating Success), which in 1997 won the Governor's Award (Voinovich) for Excellence in Public Service in the State of Ohio. Robert also served as the Managing Director of the YWCA Family Center, Franklin County's (Ohio) only emergency homeless family shelter offering an array of support to homeless families. During his tenure, the shelter served over 1500 families and received national recognition from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. [In 2016 Robert received a Distinguished Service Award from The Ohio State University for his work in the Weinland Park Community.](#)

Community Service Achievements

Robert served the center city community where he and his family live as the founder and immediate past president of the Weinland Park Community Civic Association, a coalition of residents, social service and community organizations and city officials working to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Weinland Park Community; as an Area Commissioner representing Weinland Park on the University Area Commission (a community extension of the Columbus City Council) and as a member of the Board of Directors of Columbus Compact Corporation, the federally designated administrator of Columbus Ohio's Empowerment Zones, charged with the revitalization of Columbus' center city neighborhoods. He is a Senior Co-Advocate for The American Center for Civic Character, a character-based civic leadership development initiative, and Senior Fellow for the Mission Columbus Institute for Community Change, a group of Church & Ministry Leaders working to facilitate collaborative efforts between congregations regardless of their various theological distinctives. In 2007, Robert was appointed to the Mayor's 2012 Bicentennial Commission and served as Safety Committee Co-Chair. **See more on Robert @ <http://www.linkedin.com/in/robertcaldwell1>**

Collaborative Leadership Achievements

The Weinland Park Neighborhood Plan – worked with the City of Columbus Department of Development, community residents and stakeholders as the Committee Chair to develop a comprehensive economic development plan impacting over 100,000 residents, students and employees in living and working in the Weinland Park and South Campus Area.

The Schoenbaum Family Center Development – worked with Columbus Public Schools and The Ohio State College of Education & Human Ecology to facilitate resident and stakeholder involvement in the design and development of a State of the Art community-based child & family development center.

The Holistic Community Assessment Project – worked with Mission Columbus and Central Ohio Youth for Christ to design a holistic community assessment tool to help strategically direct faith community resource investment toward key community issues.