2020, what a year! Through all of the setbacks and hurdles, Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp. had a truly remarkable year. While the COVID-19 global pandemic ravaged the world, and long overdue demands for racial and social justice created historic social unrest across the country, Seventy Five North remained committed to our mission to advance the Highlander neighborhood while responding to the unique challenges presented by an unprecedented year.

Like numerous operations around the country, Seventy Five North transitioned its staff to a primarily work-from-home schedule and limited Highlander’s traditional in-person program agenda and service offerings. Virtual engagement with Highlander residents, business owners, contractors, donors and stakeholders became the norm as social distancing guidelines and other safety protocols became the first line of defense against COVID-19.

Through 2020’s obstacles, we’ve emerged stronger and more resilient than before. We’ve passed the test and we welcome all that 2021 will bring.

Cydney Franklin
President & CEO

BUILD

The Highlander Accelerator continues to be a community hub that is dedicated to connecting neighbors over a cup of coffee. Joby offered his neighbor a place to play chess and enjoy a hot chocolate in between his work.

The Dining Room food hall officially opened its doors in January 2020 with Big Mama’s Kitchen & Catering, Pico and Highlander Bar & Grill. Through options like catering, takeout and curbside service, each business adjusted their operating modes due to COVID-19 restrictions and remained open throughout the year.

ENRICH

2020 forced Seventy Five North to reimagine the Highlander neighborhood’s traditional health and wellness program agenda. We shifted focus to basic needs support while working alongside new and established partners to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing the pandemic’s impact.

The Connect powered by COX

The Highlander Accelerator’s technology lab and digital learning proved a force at a time in need. In partnership with Prairie STEM, a local nonprofit with a mission to advance youth access to science and engineering programs, Prairie STEM created The Connect’s classroom in an effort to support youth access to in-person instruction and internet access, turbulent times and continues.

The Dining Room

In partnership with Howard Kennedy Elementary School and Metropolitan Community College, The School created the Highlander Accelerator to serve the unique needs of North Omaha students dealing with the challenges of virtual learning. The tuition-free program offered rotating groups of students access to in-person instruction and tutoring, internet access, breakfast, lunch and camaraderie.

Drive Through Career Fair

To support North Omaha’s urgent workforce development needs, Seventy Five North teamed up with Employ Omaha, Heartland Hope Mission, the Omaha Housing Authority, Catholic Charities and Salem Baptist Church to administer a drive-through career fair. Employment information was provided to attendees in addition to food boxes, candidate information, voter registration packets and COVID-19 safety protocols.

The Connect

The Connect powered by COX

The Highlander Accelerator’s technology lab and digital learning proved a force at a time in need. In partnership with Prairie STEM, a local nonprofit with a mission to advance youth access to science and engineering programs, Prairie STEM created The Connect’s classroom in an effort to support youth access to in-person instruction and internet access, turbulent times and continues.

The Connect

In partnership with Howard Kennedy Elementary School and Metropolitan Community College, The School created the Highlander Accelerator to serve the unique needs of North Omaha students dealing with the challenges of virtual learning. The tuition-free program offered rotating groups of students access to in-person instruction and tutoring, internet access, breakfast, lunch and camaraderie.

Drive Through Career Fair

To support North Omaha’s urgent workforce development needs, Seventy Five North teamed up with Employ Omaha, Heartland Hope Mission, the Omaha Housing Authority, Catholic Charities and Salem Baptist Church to administer a drive-through career fair. Employment information was provided to attendees in addition to food boxes, candidate information, voter registration packets and COVID-19 safety protocols.
Seventy Five North partnered with Omaha Public Schools in 2015 to transform the school into a college preparatory academy. The organization has been an advocate for students and has provided resources for the school’s success. In addition, Seventy Five North has entered into partnership with the Omaha Public Schools to provide access to ACT Prep courses and other educational opportunities. The organization has also focused on the revitalization of Highlander, a neighborhood in Omaha, by providing funds for housing, commercial development, and community engagement. Othello H. Meadows III, the founding Board Member, has been a key player in the organization’s growth and success.

New Board Members
Seventy Five North welcomes two new Board Members, Bradley Ekwerekwu, Chief Executive Officer at the Learning Community, and Tony Gunter, who is a proven instructional leader and Highlander parent relations. The school is led by longtime superintendent, Cydney Franklin. Seventy Five North’s Board of Directors appoint Cydney Franklin to serve as President & CEO. Cydney joined Seventy Five North in 2015 as a Senior Project Manager and was later promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer.

New Leadership
Seventy Five North’s Board of Directors appointed Cydney Franklin to serve as President & CEO. Cydney joined Seventy Five North in 2015 as a Senior Project Manager and was later promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer.

New Team Member
Shaun Ilahi is hired to serve as the Chief Compliance Officer. Ilahi has extensive experience in the field of compliance and was later promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer. He has served in various roles, including Senior Project Manager and Chief Operating Officer.

COMING UP IN 2021!
Highlander Homes
Highlander Homes is a 51-unit mixed-income project located in the North Omaha neighborhood. The project includes apartments, townhomes, and single-family homes. Seventy Five North has partnered with the Omaha Public Schools to provide access to ACT Prep courses and other educational opportunities. The organization has also focused on the revitalization of Highlander, a neighborhood in Omaha, by providing funds for housing, commercial development, and community engagement. Othello H. Meadows III, the founding Board Member, has been a key player in the organization’s growth and success.

Highlander Development
The Highlander Development project is a 51-unit mixed-income project located in North Omaha. The project includes apartments, townhomes, and single-family homes. Seventy Five North has partnered with the Omaha Public Schools to provide access to ACT Prep courses and other educational opportunities. The organization has also focused on the revitalization of Highlander, a neighborhood in Omaha, by providing funds for housing, commercial development, and community engagement. Othello H. Meadows III, the founding Board Member, has been a key player in the organization’s growth and success.