In 1982, in Akron, Grady Appleton and Cazzell Smith dreamed of creating viable, urban neighborhoods. Grady then borrowed $25 to make his dream come true by creating East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC). The goal was to improve access to safe and affordable housing, and today EANDC continues that tradition with a focus on vacant neighborhood lots and the strategic redevelopment of properties.

EANDC is an experienced developer of quality multi-unit properties and single-family homes. A variety of resources are offered to future homeowners, including financial literacy courses, foreclosure counseling, and homebuyer education programs.

As a result of our homeownership promotion counseling and education program, we helped a record 194 new homeowners in 2017, with total loan amounts exceeding $22 million. EANDC is also focused on making homes more environmentally healthy and energy efficient as part of our homeownership preservation effort. In 2017, we provided 1,414 energy audits and helped 41 homes with weatherization issues.

The NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio is a statewide, non-profit organization focused on creating sustainable and affordable housing opportunities for Ohioans. Through its member organizations, over 150,000 individuals and families have benefitted from programs and services in the last 10 years, resulting in stronger communities, thriving local economies and a substantial positive impact on Ohio’s economy.

http://www.ohionwc.org/
There are over 500 vacant lots in East Akron due to the foreclosure crisis. Many of them are eyesores that drag down property values, encourage trash dumping, and attract crime.

In 2013, EANDC spearheaded the creation of the East Akron Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (EANRP), which promotes reuse of vacant lots and encourages the transformation of those lots into neighborhood assets.

Since then, EANDC has transformed vacant lots into pocket parks, gardens, and neighborhood pedestrian paths.

EANDC also focuses on housing development. Middlebury Commons is an upcoming mixed-use project that will provide over 40 senior residential units, in addition to more than 13,000 feet of retail space. The project is expected to be finished by fall of 2019.