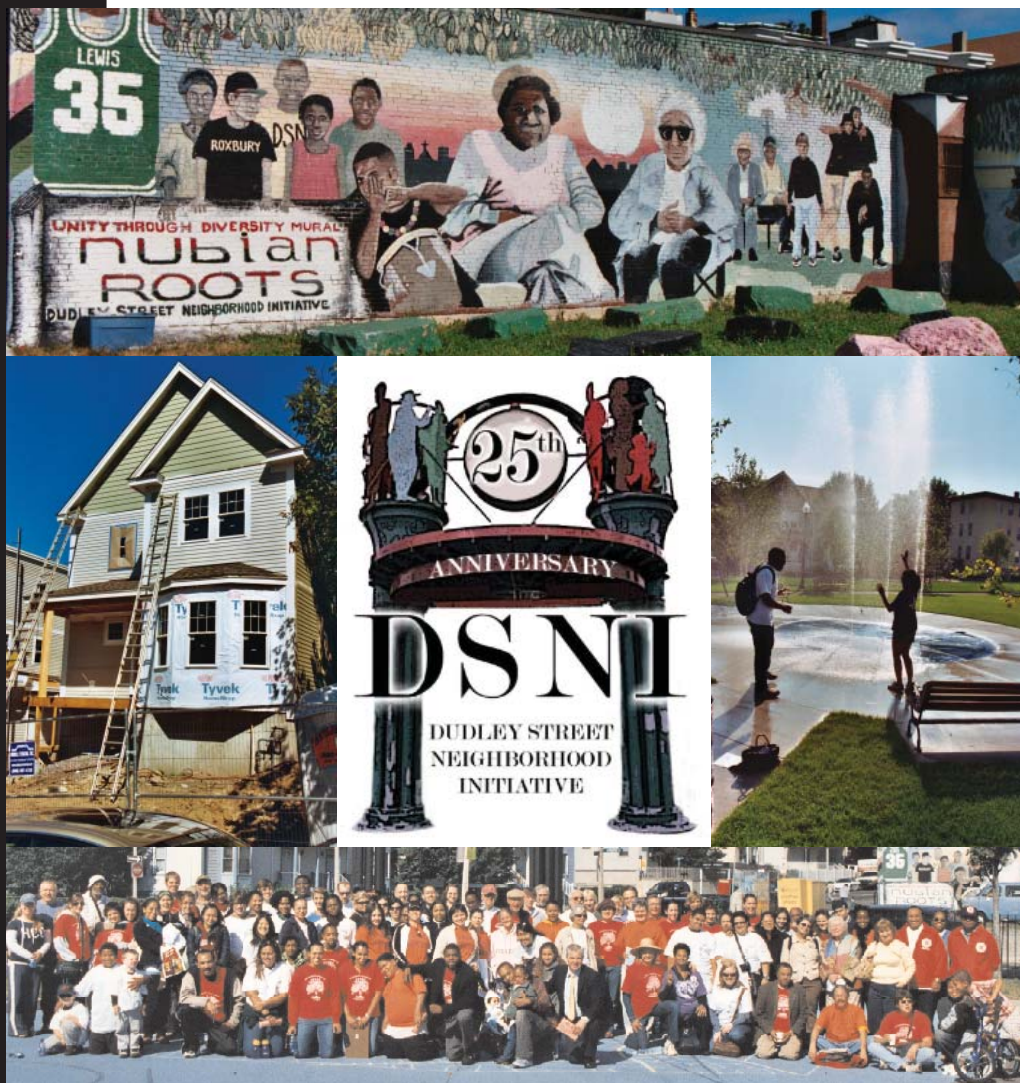


# Annual Report

## Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative



**July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

**25 Years Building the Neighborhood  
and the Community**

June 2009

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
/JUNTA DIRECTIVA  
/JUNTA DIRETIVA  
2007-2009**

***Residents***

Keila Barros, Clerk  
Paul Bothwell  
Myrnairis (Mic) Cepeda  
Evelyn Correa  
Catherine Flannery  
Theresa Glynn  
Carlos Henriquez, President  
Maya Hernandez  
Nicole Jennings  
Alexandra Knowles  
Glenn Knowles, Vice President  
Indira Pereira  
Richard Prophete  
Jeri Robinson  
Cesca Saunders-Webb  
Antonia Silveira  
Lauren M. Thompson  
Joceneia Timas  
Ron Verna, Treasurer  
Kay Williams  
Robert Woodson

***Community Agencies***

Cape Verdean Community UNIDO  
Dorchester Bay EDC  
La Alianza Hispana  
Madison Park DC  
Project Hope  
Urban Pride  
Vine St. Community Center  
W.A.I.T.T House

***Religious Organizations***

Quincy St. Missional Church  
St. Patrick's Church

***Local Businesses***

Ideal Sub Shop  
Suffolk Construction

***Current DSNI Staff***

John Barros  
Jose Barros  
Ros Everdell  
Robert Haas  
May Louie  
Alicia Mooltreay  
Travis Watson  
Jason Webb

Dear neighbors, partners, friends, and supporters,

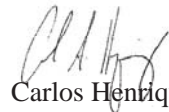
**DSNI is celebrating 25 years** of bringing neighbors and partners together to vision and create our urban village! We've accomplished things that were unimaginable when we began. Our resident-led, bottom-up collaborative change methods have resulted in the transformation of our community. So we have a lot to celebrate, as well as serious challenges that call for our most innovative collective efforts.

The candidates for election to the 2009-2011 DSNI Board of Directors show the depth and breath of resident leadership and the growing collaboration among organizations. We're especially proud of the role and presence of our young people. The physical improvements are no less impressive. We are reaching a milestone as many of the once vacant and scarred lots in the Dudley Triangle is put to productive use and protected against foreclosure on the one hand, and escalating prices on the other, through our community land trust, Dudley Neighbors, Inc. The *Holding Ground* documentary about DSNI brilliantly captured our early history and efforts. The filmmakers are now working on an update film *Gaining Ground*.

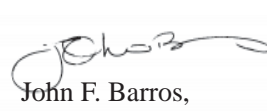
This year, we worked with Wellspring Consulting in a new and timely strategic planning process. We've taken stock of our work and impact, listened to many voices, and analyzed challenges and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses, and the special role that DSNI plays. As the nation faces tough economic times, we want to strengthen the solutions offered through community, and use limited resources for maximum impact within our existing strategic focus areas.

Please join us as we step out to make an even greater difference in the coming years. Together, we know that "anything is possible!"

Thank You,



Carlos Henriquez,  
President, Board of Directors



John F. Barros,  
Executive Director



**Organizational History**

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative is a nonprofit community-based planning and organizing entity birthed out of the passion, ingenuity and determination of Dudley residents seeking to reclaim our neighborhood. DSNI's mission is ***to empower Dudley residents to organize, plan for, create and control a vibrant, diverse and high quality neighborhood in collaboration with community partners.***

In the 1980's, when disinvestment, arson fires and dumping had ravaged the neighborhood and many had given up, DSNI dared to gather the community to develop a comprehensive plan and to articulate a shared vision for a vibrant urban village. We set up a Board structure through which residents would lead an effort that included all neighborhood stakeholders in a democratically-elected, community accountable process.

The community was able to kick-start development and prevent displacement through gaining control over vacant land with eminent domain authority and through the establishment of a community land trust. Once garbage-strewn vacant lots now have beautiful affordable houses, parks and playgrounds, gardens, and businesses.

For 25 years now, DSNI has convened residents and other stakeholders to transform the neighborhood step-by-step to a vibrant, dynamic, and culturally rich community. In an effort to maximize our impact, we have identified high impact drivers of change and organized our work into 3 strategic focus areas (some renamed): 1) Community Empowerment, 2) Sustainable and Economic Development, and 3) Youth Opportunities / Development.



## Community Empowerment

DSNI's focus on community empowerment expresses our fundamental belief in the wisdom and collective power of the community, led by residents, to realize our shared vision.

**Civic Engagement:** The community's voice was strengthened this year as we registered 400 new voters, turned out a record number of voters in the November 2008 election, defeated Question 1, and worked for public policies and budget priorities consistent with the community's vision.

**Resident Development Institute:** Our Leadership Competency series continued to prepare community leaders in relevant experiential learning trainings. Through our Speakers Bureau and Community Tours program, we shared our story and lessons with other community and youth groups, university classes, foundations and government officials, and international visitors.

**The Roxbury Cultural Network** finished a short film, "What I Love about Roxbury."

## Youth Opportunities / Youth Development

DSNI has invested in a ladder of opportunity for neighborhood youth to become leaders and inspire others. This includes jobs and activities with opportunities to grow and to develop confidence, skills and experience to prepare for college, professions and their future.

**GOTCHA** reaches youth in the Dudley St., Uphams Corner and Bowdoin/Geneva neighborhoods with year round jobs. The 6 planning partners – Bird St Community Center, Bowdoin St Health Center, Cape Verdean Community UNIDO, Dorchester Bay EDC, DSNI and The City School – have successfully advocated for jobs, provided trainings, hosted a job fair and employed over 200 youth during the summer and over 50 during the school year working at 25 different worksites.

The youth-led **Dudley Youth Council (DYC)** organizes and addresses youth and neighborhood issues, while developing leadership skills. This year the DYC launched a monthly live local radio show on topics like the presidential elections, Dr. King's Dream, the evolution of hip hop, racial divisions, and violence. DYC also organized game nights, a cookout, and college trips, as well as writing grants and presenting their work to funders and mentors.

DSNI is working with the **Boston Parent Organizing Network** around budget priorities and issues for English Language Learners, as well as partnering with schools in the neighborhood.



## Sustainable and Economic Development

We are guided by the community's mandate for *Development without Displacement* and for the creation of *Family and Community Wealth*.

### Affordable Housing:

- **Dudley Village** (50 units of affordable rental housing & commercial space developed by Dorchester Bay EDC) is complete. This is the first affordable rental housing development on the DNI land trust.
- **Brookford-Dalin-Dean Homes** (18 units of homeownership on the land trust) is complete with a ribbon-cutting planned.
- **Protecting Neighborhood in Foreclosure Crisis:** The Dudley Foreclosure Roundtable is coordinating efforts to help home-owners and renters keep their homes. We are looking at establishing a Dudley Housing Fund to acquire and resell foreclosed homes.

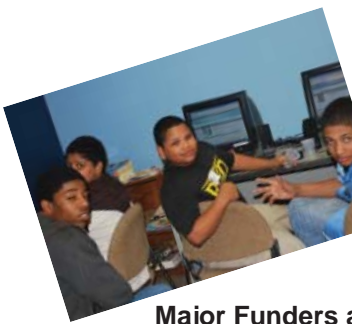
### Community Spaces

- The **Kroc / Salvation Army Community Center** will break ground this summer!
- The new **Dennis Street Park** opened in August 2008.
- DSNI's **Dudley Workforce Initiative** worked with the Salvation Army and Suffolk Construction so local residents can access construction jobs.
- DSNI joined the steering committee of the **Boston Green Justice Coalition**, a partnership to support a sustainable, equitable and clean energy economy.

### Community Planning

- DSNI is working with the **St. Kevin's Area Planning Collaborative** in a community planning process and with the **Fairmount Greenway Collaborative** to connect and develop all the commuter rail stations on the line.
- DSNI continues to participate in the Roxbury Master Plan Oversight Committee

We hosted the **National Community Land Trust Network** annual meeting and CLT Academy, offering neighborhood tours and training.



### Major Funders and Sponsors

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Bank of America  
Bank of America Philanthropic Management  
Best Buy  
Boston After School & Beyond  
Boston Compassion Capacity Tank  
Boston Connects  
Boston Foundation StreetSafe  
Boston Private Bank & Trust Company  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Cabot Family Charitable Trust  
Citizens Bank Foundation  
City of Boston Parks & Recreation  
Civic Engagement Initiative [a funding collaboration that includes Access Strategies, The Boston Foundation, The Hyams Foundation, and the Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation]  
The Hyams Foundation  
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
Ludcke Foundation  
Mix It Up  
Roots & Shoots  
Roxbury Trust Fund  
Stride Rite Foundation  
Suffolk Construction  
Suffolk County DA's Office - Safe Neighborhoods  
Target  
United Way / Youth Venture



### Partnerships and Collaborations

La Alianza Hispana  
Blue Hill Avenue Task Force  
Boston Collaboration for Food & Fitness  
Boston College Graduate School of Social Work  
Boston Parent Organizing Network  
Boston Youth Fund  
Casa Esperanza  
City of Boston  
Civic Engagement Initiative  
College of Public and Community Service/UMass  
Dearborn Middle School  
Discover Roxbury  
Dorchester Bay EDC  
Dudley Neighbors, Inc.  
Emerson Elementary School  
Foreclosure Roundtable  
The Food Project  
Gordon College  
GOTCHA Youth Jobs Collaborative  
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
Madison Park Development Corporation  
Mason Elementary School  
MassVote  
Project Hope  
Quincy Street Missional Church  
Roxbury Cultural Network  
Roxbury Master Plan Strategic Oversight Committee  
Roxbury Neighborhood Council  
RoxVote  
St. Kevin's Area Planning Collaborative  
St. Patrick's Church  
The Salvation Army  
Tufts University - UEP  
Urban Pride  
Vine Street Community Center

DSNI also wishes to acknowledge the hundreds of individuals who have donated during the year. This generosity affirms the spirit and culture of DSNI, where everyone counts.  
THANK YOU TO ALL.

For Financial Audit information please go to our website at [www.dsni.org](http://www.dsni.org)