



**GREATER ELMWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE**

**GENS**

**mission/program description**

Neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, historic preservation, property management and neighborhood empowerment.

operations	staff	budget
2001	13 full / 5 part	\$800,000
2003	10 full / 1 part	\$1,008,000

**geographic area served**

Elmwood to Trinity Square at the north; Broad Street to the east; Elmwood Avenue to the west; I-95 to the south; plus other areas in Providence.

**key accomplishments**

Elmwood turned a corner in 2003 and so did Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services.

Based on a visionary community plan for Elmwood developed in 2001, the neighborhood embarked on further restoration of homes and buildings, improving the safety and beauty of the streets, and preserving Elmwood's tradition of welcoming people of all incomes, origins and beliefs.

GENS itself has changed over the past three years. It has moved into its new office to Parkis Avenue and refocused its core business to housing development and management, after many years specializing in community based lead hazard reduction programs.

On Melrose and Adelaide Avenues, GENS' restoration of 15 Victorian houses with 47 units proves that affordable housing can be beautiful and improve a whole neighborhood.

GENS purchased 15 buildings, 11 of which contain 106 apartments, 2 carriage houses, 2 vacant lots and 2 stores on Parkis and Elmwood Avenues. The market rate rental income supports operating costs, while owning an entire city block is a strong way of making a positive impact in the community.

**proposed projects**

Parkis Avenue Redevelopment (2 phases, ~ 80 units); 27 Whitmarsh (3 units); Elmwood infill ownership housing (10 units); Elmwood Avenue corridor planning (mixed-use redevelopment sites).

**executive director**

David Knowles

**board president**

Maryclaire Knight

**date founded** 1979

**primary activities**

	%
Affordable housing development	30
Residential property management	30
Homebuyer counseling (pre/post)	5
Commercial/industrial development	5
Community organizing	5
Neighborhood planning	15
Environmental health	10

**housing production/preservation**

**cumulative (1979-2003)**

total # of units	795
total value	\$19,935,000
<b>current (2001-2003)</b>	
rental	142
ownership	11
total # units	153
total value	\$11,750,000

**cumulative commercial development**

total square footage	~6,500 sq. ft.
total value	\$800,000

**loans to 2003**

total # of loans	119
total value	\$975,700

**education/counseling**

total # served	1000's
trained	168

**TOTAL CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY TO 2003** \$21,360,700

**GENS**

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website: n/a