

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity builds, renovates, and improves housing for low and moderate income homeowners through the seven county metro area. Our Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative focuses on the Rondo/Frogtown neighborhood in St. Paul. We have built over 50 homes in Frogtown and Aurora-St. Anthony. We want Habitat homeowner families to succeed. For them to succeed, the neighborhood needs to succeed. That is why we are participating in efforts like the Frogtown/Rondo Action Network.

Want to get involved with FRAN?  
Contact Damone at 651-503-8724 or 651-222-0399



Keith William Swan

I am a lifelong resident of the Twin Cities. I was raised in the Summit-University neighborhood. I have two brothers and four sisters living. My twin brother, Kevin Swan, died in November 1973 and my sister, Virgie Mae, died in January 1971. I graduated from Central High School and served in the Army National Guard for 22 years. In November 2004 retired with an honorable discharge. After seeing what happened in the Rondo area in the 1960s and 1970s, I felt it was time for me to give back to the community that gave so much to me. I started with the Power of 1 Plus 1 leadership program under the leadership of Rena Moran. I was also a part of the Stops for Us and Save Our Homes campaigns. I took a break for personal reasons, but was then asked to help with FRAN and Power of 1 Plus 1. I have returned to the roots and struggles that my mother fought for in the 60s, 70s, and 80s.



Angela Briggs

I am new to Minnesota; I've lived in St. Paul for one year. Currently, I live on the Eastside with my two sons, Stanley and Samuel. I volunteer at ASANDC and have been involved with FRAN since January 2012. My duties are to keep track of all statistics and assist Damone. I am also a Database Administrator and evaluator as needed. I really enjoy working on this project, because I want to learn about the Frogtown area from the residents and leaders.



FRAN Planning Committee Members (L to R)  
CJ Turner, Alyssa Woodard, Damone Presley, Sally Holzapfel, Stanley Clark, John Slade

Up Coming Events

Community Residents to Action

Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, 5:30 – 7:30pm  
Rondo Community Outreach Library

At this meeting we will be picking which topics to take action on. Next meeting February 12<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm Residents to Action held ASANDC 774 University St. Paul Mn  
Call Damone with questions: 651-503-8724 or 651-222-0399

Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (Frogtown/Rondo Action Network)  
774 University Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104

# Frogtown/Rondo Action Network

**FROGTOWNRONGO  
ACTION NETWORK**

FRAN Planning Committee Members

(Back row L to R)

John Slade  
Keith Swan  
Sally Holzapfel  
Vaughn Larry

(Front Row L to R)

Nieeta Presley  
Tisha Salinas  
Alyssa Woodard  
Damone Presley

(Not pictured)

Stanley Clark  
Ronnell Roberson  
CJ Turner  
Angela Briggs  
Andy Barnett



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What is FRAN?

Frogtown/Rondo Action Network is a coalition of community based organizations (Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (ASANDC) and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity) who joined together to collectively address community priority projects that they will implement. The FRAN Action Agenda is a unique initiative. It is an opportunity not only to help our residents and neighborhood businesses prepare for and survive the Central Corridor Light Rail construction, but to also thrive once it is complete. FRAN was created to coordinate the partnerships of residents and organizations to collectively support change so that everyone in Frogtown and Rondo can prosper.

FRAN's focus is to see the Frogtown and Rondo communities survive, thrive and prosper. If the community works together in a collaborative way and partners with service providers, funders and institutions, those in our community will do better.

Voices of the Community Report Out

On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2012, the Frogtown/Rondo Action Network held its first (Community Voices Report Out) Over 70 people attended to hear the results of 100 one-to-one interviews that had been done over the past year. After presentations from the planning committee and community members, we broke into discussion tables to cover the main topic areas pulled from the interviews. These topic areas included community pride, trusted organizations and people, jobs and the economy, housing, youth, safety, education, physical improvements, health/healthcare/and our elders.

While our interviews are continuing, at the same time that the FRAN committee is building an Action Agenda based on the findings of the interviews. Over 25 people at the Report Out indicated their willingness to work on these issues. We are putting together a plan to match our actions for addressing the community needs and desires.

We would like to thank our community members and community partners for their participation. Our work is funded by Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Through funding from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation



Stanley Clark

I was born in 1955, and I am the fifth of eight siblings. After moving from Kansas City with my mother and siblings, to St. Paul I started at Hallie Q Brown and attended McKinley grade school. Next I attended Mayfield, and J.J. Hill grade schools and spent years engaged in different activities and sports at Oxford playground. School busing started so I had to attend Ramsey Junior High, and then Central High. I moved back to Kansas City to stay with an aunt, where I attended my first all black school called Sumner High. I arrived back in St. Paul a couple of years later and lived on Dayton Avenue. I have never been a suburban sightseer. Most of my daily life, housing, shopping, and schooling has been in the Summit-University, Frogtown, downtown St. Paul, and the Midway Areas.

As a small child, I went to Anchor Hospital for professional care, and then Ramsey Hospital for roughly the next 30 years. I worked at Whirlpool Corp., J.J. Hill, Fisher Nut Co., and many other jobs within the city of St. Paul. I am connected with people in the Frogtown Rondo neighborhoods.



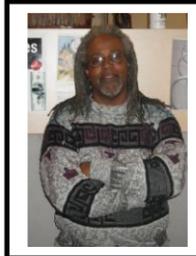
CJ Turner

I was born in St. Louis, and raised in Minnesota since the age of 10. I went to school in St. Paul at Mechanic Art Junior High School, but then it closed down so I went to St. Paul Central High School. In 2004 I started taking public policy classes, focusing on topics from poverty to politics. I am a lobbyist at the state capital and have worked for different politicians, like our State Representative Rena Moran and Senator Sandy Pappas. I also help with Community Action and Take Action Minnesota, and participate in FRAN and the Power of 1 Plus 1 leadership program at ASANDC.



Sally Holzapfel

I was born and raised in South Minneapolis and in May 2012 I graduated from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. I received my Master's degree in Urban Planning and concentrated on Community Development and Housing. In August, I landed at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps VISTA. I will work with Habitat in the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to help build a stronger community in Rondo and Frogtown. Hopefully, my work with FRAN will help do this.



Vaughn Larry

I am a community organizer and the Crime Prevention Coordinator at ASANDC. I was trained at the Organizing Apprenticeship Project, and graduated in 2009. I am a racial equity/racial justice organizer and I am a powerful person. FRAN has taught me what power is and how to use it to help empower others to make change that is needed in our community. I feel that more organizations need to get involved and we as a people need to participate in civic engagement. It is when we the people stand and fight that we see our power...we are all powerful!



Tisha Salinas

I am a mother of five children and a community resident. After I met Damone Presley my whole life changed. He has helped open doors for me. I have always wanted to get involved, but I just did not know how. Thanks to ASANDC I have had opportunities that I did not know existed. I am currently working with FRAN and organizing along with other community residents for change. I am also involved in the Power of 1 Plus 1 leadership program, which develops resident leaders. Our community has a lot to offer and we as residents need to get involved to make positive change in the neighborhood.



Ronnell Roberson

My name is Ronnell Roberson I started working at ASANDC in June 2012. It was the best thing that could have happen for me. I am a student at the UJAMAA Place where they are helping me get my G.E.D. Since I have been working at ASANDC I have learned a lot about community. I heard about FRAN from Damone Presley when he interviewed me. He stated that they were looking for community residents to get involved so I joined FRAN. Now I am fully involved and I am seeing the community survive, thrive, and prosper.



Damone J. Presley

I am the Lead Coordinator of the FRAN project. I am a native of the Rondo community and have also lived in Frogtown. I have seen and heard a lot as a young boy growing up in these neighborhoods. I have seen the changes from when I was a teen to now as a grown man. Changes continue to take place and affect our community, some good, and some not so good. The FRAN work consists of our residents and our community partners working together for the community to survive, thrive, and prosper. We've had the opportunity to listen and hear the concerns of the residents and where we need to get involved. FRAN and the neighborhood working together will enrich the lives of resident families and make our people and community a better place to live. This community is in transition with the light rail, and new businesses will be coming to the area. It is very important that the residents' voices are heard and that they participate in the work being done in the Rondo and Frogtown communities.



John Slade

I was previously the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative staff assigned to the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods. I moved to St. Paul in the early 1980s and now live in Dayton's Bluff. Before joining Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, I worked in the neighborhood as a congregational organizer for the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing. I know that any solution for this neighborhood must serve the needs of low-income residents and people of color.



Nieeta Presley

I am the Executive Director of ASANDC, and have been doing community work and community organizing for over 30 years. I have a BA from Metropolitan State University and previously worked for 16 years at HealthPartners in their Utilization Management Department. During my tenure as Executive Director I have facilitated an expansion of the realm of the organization from the Aurora/St. Anthony neighborhood to all of the neighborhoods in Ward I of St. Paul: Thomas Dale, Frogtown, Summit-University and Lexington Hamline neighborhoods. With our communities becoming more and more diverse in many aspects, I believe that we will need diverse leadership working together on "common ground, for common good" to solve multiple diverse issues



Andy Barnett

I experienced the impact that a group of urban neighbors could have on shaping the vision for their neighborhood in my first job as an AmeriCorps member working in North Philadelphia in the early 1990s, and that has motivated my career ever since. As Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's Manager of Community Engagement, I recognized the transformational potential in FRAN and selected this neighborhood as the site to launch our Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. I am extremely grateful that through FRAN we have been welcomed like family into the neighborhood. Habitat stands ready to continue to be a part of implementing the vision of Frogtown and Rondo neighbors.



Alyssa Woodard

I am currently a third-year student at the University of Minnesota pursuing a Bachelor of Sciences degree in both Family Social Science and Youth Studies. Through the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA) off campus study program, Inequality in America, I worked as an intern under John Slade at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Our NRI focus works with the ASANDC to foster neighborhood development through the Frogtown-Rondo Action Network. Raised in Lynnwood, Washington this internship experience has opened my eyes, and heart, to the great community organizing efforts taking place here in St. Paul. I enjoy working in the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods, where the sense of community pride is strong, and still growing.