

# RESTORATIVE HOUSING JUSTICE FUND IMPACT REPORT 2020 - 2023

PREPARED BY:

VIRGINIA RAWLINS, PRESIDENT BUILDING BLOCKS TOGETHER

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities 2024 holds. We will continue to expand the Restorative Housing Justice Fund and remain focused on our commitment to create wealth and equity through real estate for minorities. With your continued partnership, I am confident that Building Blocks Together will reach new heights.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our clients, partners, and donors. Together, we are shaping a future of success and sustainability.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Sincerely,

Virginia Rawlins Building Blocks Together Dear BBT Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the last few years, I am pleased to share our annual report with you. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our journey, and I am proud to highlight the significant achievements and milestones that define our success.

Throughout 2023, Building Blocks Together has remained committed to increasing minority homeownership. Despite the challenges presented by real estate industry, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles and deliver exceptional results.

#### Key Highlights:

- 1. Over 200 African American homebuyers created
- 2. \$1.5 Million Allocated
- 3. 17 Municipalities Covered

These accomplishments reflect the dedication and resilience of our team, coupled with the support of our valued stakeholders. Your trust in Building Blocks Together has allowed us to innovate, adapt, and thrive in a dynamic environment.

100%

Application Approval Rate (for qualified candidates)

\$1.5M

Allocated through the RHJF

**211** 

African American Homebuyer Created



### **VISION**

Empowering minorities through comprehensive homebuyer education, ownership, and development to cultivate wealth, foster financial independence to create thriving and sustainable communities.

## **MISSION**

To create wealth and equity for disenfranchised communities through education, ownership and development.

## RESTORATIVE HOUSING JUSTICE FUND

#### Mission

To undo the historic and continuing injustice and inequality created through redlining and discriminatory housing policies by federal, state and local governments, banks and realtors that people of color, Black communities in particular, experience when attempting to purchase a home of their own. The Touhey Foundation acknowledges that Black homebuyers increased barriers to face homeownership that directly stem from discriminatory policies and seeks to provide funding for buyers to overcome these barriers.

#### Program

The Reparative Housing Justice Fund offers grants of up to \$10,000 to assist Black homebuyers in purchasing a home in the City of Albany. RHJF grants may be used to address a variety of financial barriers to homeownership, including down payment costs, closing cost and other associated home purchase costs.



Round 2 grant recipients pose in front of Cohoes home after receiving \$5,000 RHJF grant from Building Blocks Together

28

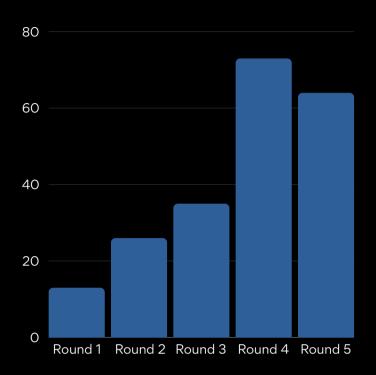
211

African American Homebuyers Created \$42.5M

**Mortgages Sales** 

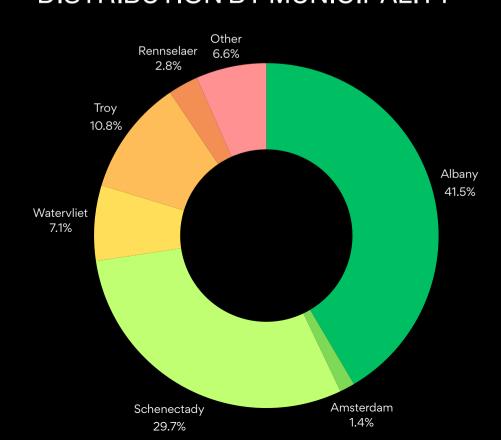
# RHJF: BY THE NUMBERS

APPROVED
APPLICANTS BY
ROUND

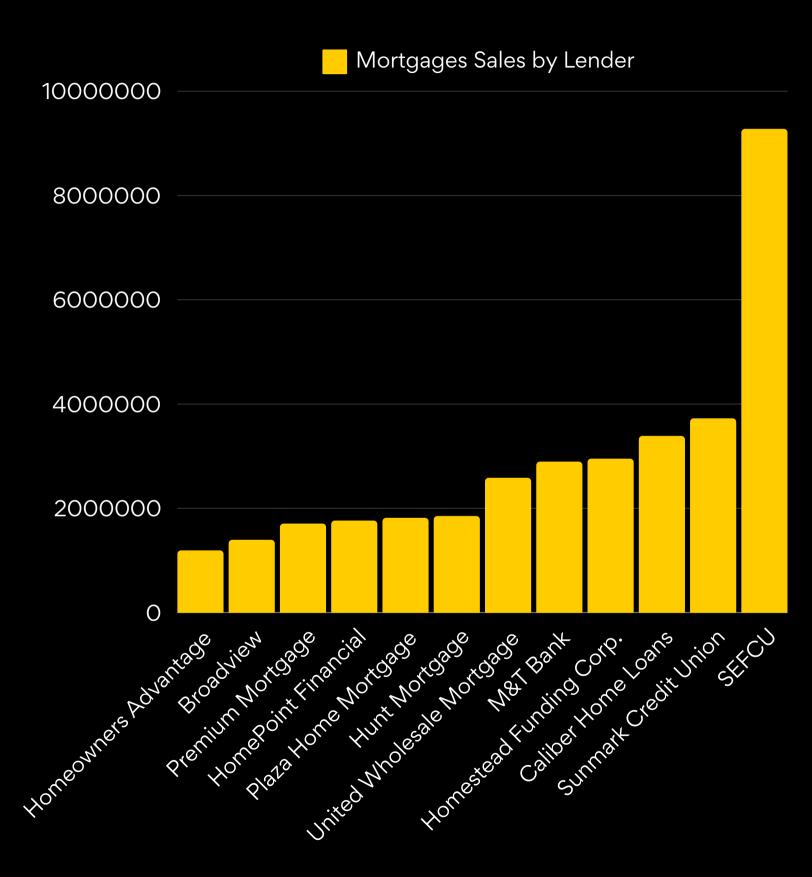


R1:13 R2:26 R3:35 R4:73 R5:64

#### **DISTRIBUTION BY MUNICIPALITY**

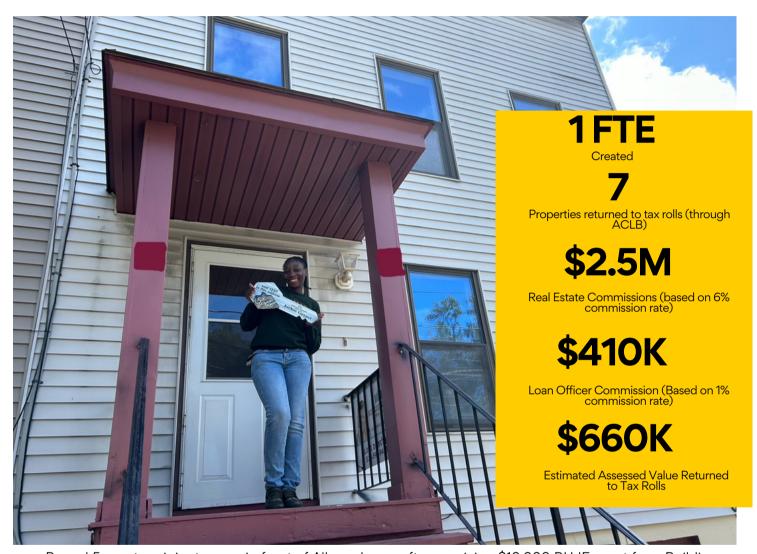


# **RHJF: BY THE NUMBERS**



<sup>\*\*</sup> A total of \$42.5M in mortgages sales was generated. The graph above shows the top lenders that generated \$1M or more in mortgage sales since 2020.

# RHJF ECONOMIC IMPACT



Round 5 grant recipient poses in front of Albany home after receiving \$10,000 RHJF grant from Building Blocks Together

# THE RHJF GRANT POSITIVELY IMPACTS THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

The RHJF grant exceeds its goal of increasing minority homeownership to have a powerful economic impact in the real estate industry as well as contributing to community redevelopment.

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

#### **FUTURE PLAN**

Building Blocks Together plans to continue to administer the Restorative Housing Justice Fund grant over the next year. We hope to distribute \$5 Million in hopes of making a larger impact. Building Blocks Together also hopes to administer other grants that target minority homebuyers and investors.

#### **INOVATION**

Although currently successful, the next phase of the grant is to re-expand the grant to cover the Capital Region. This will give potential homebuyers the option to purchase in neighborhoods that have desired more desirable school districts. Homebuyers will also likely see greater opportunities for their property appreciate more quickly to expanding the grant's footprint. Building Blocks Together believes including Hispanics as potential applicants will lead RHJF 2.0, to have a greater impact.



Round 1 grantee poses in front of Schenectady home after receiving \$5,000 RHJF grant from Building Blocks Together

# CONTACT US

